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Uttar Pradesh Gets Fourth Consecutive Acting DGP

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government appointed **director-general (law and order) Prashant Kumar** as the acting state police chief.

Key Points

- Prashant Kumar is a **1990 batch Indian Police Service officer** with over three decades of experience at various important posts including Additional director general of police of law and order and Meerut Zone.
- He will **also hold the posts of DG (law and order) and DG (economic offences wing)**. He is **likely to continue as acting DGP till his superannuation in May 2025**, if not removed by the state government due to any reason.
- He was considered as the **main person behind implementing** the state government's **zero tolerance policy against crime and mafia**.

YEIDA's Medical Device Park to Boast Gamma Radiation Facility

Why in News?

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) is engaged in developing the Medical Device Park in Greater Noida, **equipped with state-of-the-art facilities**, including the **Gamma Radiation facility for cancer care**.

Key Points

- The efforts include equipping the park with **advanced medical devices** encompassing **cancer care and radiology, imaging technologies, anesthetics, cardiorespiratory equipment**, as well as devices associated with **pacemakers and cochlear implants**.
- Spread across a sprawling 350-acre expanse near **Jewar Airport in Greater Noida**, the Medical Device Park is poised to be a **beacon of innovation**.
- The Medical Device Park, will house **laboratories and center facilities**, streamlining a diverse range of tests in a centralised location.

- This strategic approach aims to **reduce manufacturing costs, optimise medical equipment utilisation, and foster a robust ecosystem for medical device manufacturing nationwide**.

- To catalyze this initiative, the state government has introduced a scheme offering a **one-time grant-in-aid for the establishment of common infrastructure facilities** within the Medical Device Park.
- The **focus is on equipping the park with state-of-the-art equipment** dedicated to cancer care, radiology, imaging, anesthetics, cardiorespiratory support, pacemakers, and cochlear implants.

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)

- It has been created under the **UP Industrial Development Act, 1976** for the systematic development of their respective notified areas abutting Delhi, which if not planned, would have been prone to unauthorized urban growth.
- Some of the **major projects** undertaken by YEIDA are **the Noida International Airport, the Film City, the Medical Device Park, the Logistics Park, and the Personal Rapid Transit**.
- YEIDA also offers various schemes for allotment of plots for residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed land use purposes.

Uttar Pradesh Government on Alert to Check Forest Fires During Upcoming Summer

Why in News?

In a proactive measure to prevent **forest fires** during the upcoming summer season, the UP **government is implementing a series of strategic initiatives**.

- The government is already on high alert and is running **'Forest Fire Safety Week'** from February 1 to February 7 across the state to **raise public awareness on fire prevention measures**.

Key Points

- To bolster monitoring and control efforts, a dedicated **Fire Control Cell** has been **set up in the offices of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Department Head in Lucknow**.

Note:

- The **Chief Forest Conservator (Publicity)** has been designated as the **nodal officer for the state headquarters cell**, responsible for weekly reporting on fire incidents received from subordinate offices to the government.
- At the **divisional level**, the government has mandated the **establishment of control rooms**, ensuring round-the-clock operations.
- Operating 24/7 with three-shift employee deployments, these control rooms will register information in various ranges, ensuring swift action upon detection.
 - The Forest Conservator (Zonal) will also communicate pertinent information to the Chief Forest Conservator.
- **Helpline numbers** have been established for information related to forest fire incidents, with local helpline numbers made available for officers, the general public, and other departments in all districts.
- The **government's monitoring efforts** have **yielded positive results**, leading to a **significant decline** in forest fire incidents **over the last three years**.

Pakistani Mole in India's Embassy in Russia Arrested

Why in News?

The **Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Uttar Pradesh Police** has **arrested Satendra Siwal**, a security assistant at New Delhi's diplomatic mission in Moscow.

- It is revealed that **Pakistan's military spy agency** had **planted a mole at the Embassy of India in Moscow** to obtain **classified information** about the country's relations with Russia, including defence cooperation between the two nations.

Key Points

- He was a **resident of Hapur** and one of the **multitasking staff at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** who was **posted at the Embassy of India in Moscow** as a **security assistant from 2021**.
 - His exposure as an agent of Pakistan's **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)** came almost 14 years **after the arrest of Madhuri Gupta**, a **Grade B officer** of the **Indian Foreign Service (IFS)**, who was **posted at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad** and was used by the neighboring country's intelligence agency for espionage.

- **New Delhi's ties with Moscow** have also been **under the scanner** of the United States and the rest of the West, **after India refused to lend its voice to the clamour against Russia's "special military operations" in Ukraine** and defied American and European sanctions to continue procuring crude oil and military hardware with the former Soviet Union nation.
- The **last public exposure of an ISI mole** in a diplomatic mission of New Delhi had taken place after 10 **Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists** had carried out the **26/11 carnage in Mumbai from November 26 to 28 in 2008, killing 166 persons and injuring many others**.
 - Madhuri Gupta was posted at the High Commission of India in Islamabad when she was lured by the ISI agents, who used her to secure classified information from New Delhi's diplomatic mission in the Pakistani capital.
 - India's intelligence agencies put her under the scanner, and it was confirmed that she was working for the ISI. She was summoned to New Delhi for some official work and was arrested. She was later convicted and imprisoned. She passed away in 2021.

UP Budget 2024-25 Highlights and Key Announcements

Why in News?

On 5th February, 2024 **Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** presented **the budget for the financial year 2024-2025** in the state assembly.

Key Points

- The **total expenditure** is estimated at **Rs 7,36,437.71 crore**.
- Out of the total expenditure, **Rs 5,32,655.33 crore** has been **allocated for the revenue account** and **Rs 2,03,782.38 crore for capital account**.
- After deducting the total expenditure from the receipts of the consolidated fund, **a deficit of Rs 15,103.89 crore is estimated** in the budget.
- **Three schemes** to push the **agriculture sector**:
 - **State Agricultural Development Scheme**, will have a provision of **Rs 200 crore**.
 - **Rs 200 crore** has been **allocated for the World Bank-assisted UP Agris Scheme**.
 - For the **installation of automatic weather station-automatic rain gauge** in blocks and panchayats has been **allocated Rs 60 crore**.

Note:

- An increase in the amount payable to eligible beneficiaries under the **Destitute Women Pension Scheme** from **Rs 500 per month to Rs 1,000 per month** was announced.
 - A **total of 31,28,000 destitute women** have benefited from the scheme until the third quarter of 2023-2024.
- The **Women Farmer Empowerment Project** aims to provide technical support by forming 200 producer groups in the financial year 2024-2025.
- The **state's budget for 2023-2024** was **Rs 6.90 lakh crore**, which included the **allocation of Rs 32,721 crore for new schemes**.

Article 112

- According to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, the **Union Budget** of a year is referred to as the **Annual Financial Statement (AFS)**.
- It is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government in a Financial Year (which begins on 1st April of the current year and ends on 31st March of the following year).

The Destitute Women Pension Scheme

- It is a State scheme under which destitute or deserted women and widows of 18 years of age or above are given pension as per eligibility criteria laid down in the rules of the scheme.
- The aim of the scheme is to provide social security to women who are unable to sustain themselves with their own resources and are in need of financial assistance.

- Development is underway for **phase one of Noida International Airport**, which is **scheduled to open for commercial operations by the end of 2024**.
- To enhance air connectivity in the state, initiatives are being carried out under **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)** of the Centre and **Civil Aviation Promotion Policy** of the state government.
- For air connectivity, selected airports like **Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Shravasti and Chitrakoot** have been developed. **Development work** of the airports of **Mayorpur (Sonbhadra) and Sarsawa (Saharanpur)** is in progress.
 - A **proposal of Rs. 150 crore** has been made for **expansion of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya**.
 - **Rs. 1,100 crore** has been **proposed for construction, expansion, and strengthening of airstrips** as well as land acquisition.

Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)

- It was launched as a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It was formulated based on the review of **The National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016** and it was planned to remain in force for a period of 10 years.
- Under this Scheme, **Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF)** was created, which funds the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** requirements of the scheme through a levy on certain domestic flights.
 - VGF means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability.

Uttar Pradesh Budget: 1,150 crore Allocated for Noida International Airport

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has **allocated Rs. 1,150 crore** for the upcoming **Noida International Airport at Gautam Buddha Nagar** in the **budget for 2024-25**.

Key Points

- The announcement was made by **UP's Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna** as he tabled the **budget for the fiscal year in the state assembly**.

Lucknow To Get 1500-Acre Aerocity

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Khanna announced that **Lucknow is all set to get its aerocity**. Much like **Aerocities in Hyderabad and Delhi**, it will be the new destination of choice for corporate leaders who have their businesses anywhere across the state.

Key Points

- The **Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway**, which is located close to the aerocity is also getting widened and the 104-km long outer ring road is also close to the proposed location of Aerocity.

Note:

- The name 'Aerocity' is based on the fact that they are usually situated close to airports.
- It has been reported that the Hinduja group is all set to establish its **Electric Vehicles (EV)** plant at the site where the Scooters India plant existed earlier in Sarojini Nagar.
- The upcoming **Noida International Airport at Jewar in Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh will also have an Aerocity spread over 172 acres.

UP to have 21 Airports

Why in News?

Emphasizing the rapid pace of the **aviation sector**, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister informed that the state is **all set to become the first state in India to have 21 airports**.

- The UP government allocated Rs 1,150 crore for the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar under **Budget 2024-25**.

Key Points

- The state has seen rapid growth of aviation infrastructure in the past 9 years.
 - **UP had only 6 airports in 2014, and now the state has 10 airports** including the newly inaugurated **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport** in Ayodhya.
- By March 2024, UP will have **5 more airports, one airport each in Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad, Shravasti, and Chitrakoot**.

Note: Noida International Airport is scheduled to open for commercial operations by the end of 2024, making **UP the only state in India to have five international airports** (other four are Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhya, Kushinagar International Airport, Kushinagar, Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi).

Revenue Receipts of Panchayats Highest in UP

Why in News?

The recently released report titled '**Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions**' by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for the fiscal year 2022-23 sheds light on the financial dynamics of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in India.

Key Points

➤ State Revenue Share and Inter-State Disparities:

- Panchayats' share in their respective State's own revenue remains minimal.
 - For example, in **Andhra Pradesh**, **revenue receipts of panchayats form just 0.1%** of the State's own revenue, while in **Uttar Pradesh**, it forms **2.5%**, the highest among states.
- There are wide variations among states regarding average revenue earned per panchayat.
 - **Kerala and West Bengal lead with average revenues** of over Rs 60 lakh and Rs 57 lakh per panchayat, respectively.
 - The revenue was over Rs 30 lakh per panchayat in Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, and Tamil Nadu.
 - States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Mizoram, Punjab, and Uttarakhand have significantly **lower average revenues**, less than Rs 6 lakh per panchayat.

➤ Recommendations of RBI:

- The RBI suggests promoting **greater decentralization and empowering local leaders and officials**. It advocates for measures to enhance financial autonomy and sustainability of Panchayati Raj.

Panchayati Raj Institution

- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** gave **constitutional status** to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and established a system of uniform structure (three tiers of PRIs), **elections**, reservation of seats for **Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes** and women and **devolution of fund, functions and functionaries to PRIs**.
 - **Panchayats act on three levels:** gram sabhas (village or group of small villages), panchayat samithis (block council), and zila parishads (district).
- The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** looks into all matters relating to the Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj Institutions. It was created in May 2004.
- **Number of Panchayats in UP:** 59, 062
- **Number of Blocks in UP:** 826
- **Number of Districts in UP:** 75

Note:

Transforming Major UP Cities into Solar Hubs

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled plans to develop **17 major cities** of the state as **solar cities**, along with **Ayodhya** and **Varanasi**.

Key Points

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh is making efforts to establish Ayodhya as the **state's first solar city**.
 - Preparations are underway to inaugurate a **large-scale solar plant** in **Varanasi**, further cementing **Uttar Pradesh's status** as a **frontrunner** in the **solar energy sector**,"
- A remarkable **14 MW of solar energy** is already being generated in **Ayodhya**, while an additional **40 MW** capacity has already been installed and the production is poised to start soon".
- The **Solar City project** in **Ayodhya** encompasses the installation of over **2,500 solar-powered** street lights, underscoring the city's commitment to sustainability.
 - The CM of UP inaugurated a **solar boat** in **Ayodhya**.
- Ayodhya also **boasts solar-powered amenities** such as **ATMs** and **solar trees** adorning its **40 intersections**, epitomizing the city's embrace of **renewable energy solutions**.
- The focus now shifts to **Varanasi**, where plans are to install **rooftop solar plants** across government buildings.
 - Varanasi is slated to witness the installation of **25,000 rooftop solar plants**, positioning it as a beacon of **solar innovation**.

Projects Worth 10 lakh Crore to be Implemented in Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

At the **Groundbreaking Ceremony (GBC) 4.0**, the Uttar Pradesh Government is set to announce ₹10 lakh crore worth of **Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** covering **14,000 projects**, expected to create 33.50 lakh employment opportunities.

Key Points

- The projected investment rollout for **GBC 4.0** is **five times greater than the cumulative investment of over ₹2.10 lakh crore** implemented in the previous three groundbreaking ceremonies.
 - Over **52% of these projects** will be launched in western Uttar Pradesh, which is also known as **Paschimanchal region**.
 - Around **29% of the MoUs** will be implemented in the **Purvanchal region**, which comprises eastern parts of the state.
 - **14% MoUs** will be implemented in **Madhyanchal**, and **5% in Bundelkhand**.
- These MoUs were signed at the **Uttar Pradesh Global Investors' Summit-2023** organised in **Lucknow in February 2023**.
- Around 3000 people, including eminent industrialists, representatives of **500 companies**, **foreign investors**, **ambassadors**, **high commissioners** and other distinguished guests will attend the **Groundbreaking Ceremony 4.0**.

Previous Groundbreaking Ceremonies

- Three groundbreaking ceremonies have already taken place in the state, bringing investment of over ₹2.10 lakh crore.
- The **first UP Investors' Summit was held in February 2018** in which 1045 MoUs worth ₹4.28 lakh crore were signed.
- The first groundbreaking ceremony took place in July 2018, followed by another in July 2019, resulting in the successful launch of 81 projects with investment of ₹61,792 crore and about 290 projects with investment of ₹67,202 crore, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh Passes Escalator Bill And Lokayukta Amendment Bill, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the **Uttar Pradesh Lift and Escalator Bill, 2024** and **Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024**.

Note:



Key Points

- After the Bill becomes a law, **lifts and escalators cannot be installed without obtaining the approval of the Energy Department.**
 - A **fine will be imposed** on the owner or the institution concerned if they fail to get the repairs done and ignore the standards.
 - A provision has been made in the Bill that **registration will be mandatory** for installing lifts and escalators in public.
 - They will **need to be renewed every five years**, tested annually, and a fee of Rs 1,500 needs to be deposited for this.
- Under the Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the **tenure of the lokayukta and the up-lokayukta has been reduced from eight years to five years** and the maximum age has been increased to 70 years.
- States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Haryana have their own laws for installing lifts, but there was no such provision for it in Uttar Pradesh.
 - Its implementation **will not only curb accidents, but will also strengthen the system.**

Lokayukta

- The Lokayukta is the Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman, executed into power, through and for, each of the State Governments of India.
- It is an **anti-corruption authority**. The object of the Lokayukta system in a state is to investigate grievances, allegations against public servants.

Investment in Uttar Pradesh Experiencing a Significant Surge

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India will perform “**bhoomi puja**” to bring an investment of **₹10.11 lakh crore** to ground at the Groundbreaking Ceremony (GBC) being organised at the **Indira Gandhi Pratishthan (IGP)** in **Lucknow** from 19th to 21st February, 2024.

Key Points

- The projects involve more than **14,000 units** in various sectors such as **non-renewable energy, information technology, automobile**, and **film city**.

- This is going to be a **quantum leap** in terms of investment from **₹60,000 crore** at the first groundbreaking ceremony held in Lucknow on **July 29, 2018** to **₹10.11 lakh crore now**.
- The state government has also prepared an exhibition on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, featuring a team from **ETH Zurich University, Switzerland**.
- The **film city project**, which will be set up in over **230 acres of land** with an investment of **₹ 1,500 crore**, is one of the most attractive investments in the state.

UPDIC Poised to Make India 'Atmanirbhar' in Defence Production

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)** is attracting **investments** of ₹24,510.60 crore and aims to **generate 41,667 employment opportunities**.

Key Points

- Major companies like **BrahMos Aerospace, Tata Technologies, and Adani Defence Systems** have proposed investments in the corridor.
- UPDIC is witnessing significant **progress, attracting major investments** and demonstrating commitment to **make India 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in the defence and aerospace sector.**
- **34 investment projects** worth **₹3585.85 crore** are ready to be included in the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony.
 - These **projects are spread across Aligarh, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow** nodes of the defence industrial corridor and would generate over **8,530 employment opportunities**.
- The Government of UP is investing in developing basic infrastructure across nodes, creating a conducive environment for investors.
 - **IIT Kanpur and IIT (BHU) Varanasi** have been **nominated as Centres of Excellence**, conducting research and filling critical R&D gaps.
- UPDIC is transforming the State into a **major hub for defence and aerospace manufacturing**, contributing to India's self-reliance and economic growth.
 - It has collaborated with financial institutions to offer customized loans and cater to the specific needs of MSMEs and start-ups in the defence and aerospace sector.

Note:

Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)

- It is an aspirational project that intends to reduce foreign dependence on the Indian Aerospace & Defence Sector. **It was inaugurated in 2018.**
- The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) was made the **nodal agency to execute this project** in conjunction with various other state agencies.

Uttar Pradesh's Mega Investment Drive

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is about to host the fourth edition of the **Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC@IV)** in Lucknow which is aimed at implementing investment proposals worth Rs 10 lakh crore.

Key Points

- **The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)** is poised to initiate 15% of the proposals at this ceremony, amounting to Rs 1.5 lakh crore.
- **These mega projects include:**
 - **Integrated Township in Chandauli:** A Rs 7,000 crore integrated township, covering 333 acres, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during GBC@IV.
 - **World Trade Center Development in Chandauli:** The development of integrated townships and malls by the World Trade Center Noida Development Company will generate an additional 12,000 jobs in Chandauli.
 - **Manufacturing Ventures:** Projects by Bharat Heavy Electricals, Apex Welfare Trust, and Anita Distillery will collectively create employment opportunities for thousands in sectors such as industrial goods production, healthcare, and biofuel production.
- The implementation of these projects is expected to **catalyze economic growth** and development across several districts, including **Chandauli, Lalitpur, Basti, Etah, Bulandshahr, Amethi, Moradabad, and Jhansi.**
- The planned investments are poised to **create over 3,500 units across 45 districts**, significantly contributing to **job creation and economic empowerment.**
- This massive influx of investment is expected to bolster Uttar Pradesh's economic prowess and **contribute to India's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth.**

Previous Groundbreaking Ceremonies

- Three groundbreaking ceremonies have already taken place in the state, bringing investment of over ₹2.10 lakh crore.
- The first UP Investors' Summit was held in February 2018 in which 1045 MoUs worth ₹4.28 lakh crore were signed.
- The **first groundbreaking ceremony took place in July 2018**, followed by another in July 2019, resulting in the successful launch of 81 projects with investment of ₹61,792 crore and about 290 projects with investment of ₹67,202 crore, respectively.

Green Industry Base

Why in News?

The state government will position **Uttar Pradesh as a state with 'green industry base'** in the **Ground Breaking Ceremony** scheduled on 19th February, 2024.

Key Points

- The industries department will project its **solar, biofuel, pumped storage**, and **EV battery ecosystem** to attract new players.
 - According to the officials, UP's capacity to produce solar energy was 22.38 gigawatt (GW) which is significantly higher than many states.
 - The state is **coming up with a Green Energy Corridor** that has a land bank of approximately 1,54,000 hectares for solar use. Government has approved six solar parks with capacity of 3,600 MW.
- **25% of total EVs** in India are used in UP. The state has already developed a **network of 450 plus active charging stations** while another 100 plus are in the pipeline with locations already identified along expressways, public places, and buildings.
 - An exercise of EV planning for **seven freight smart cities** is underway.
- UP has approved eight projects in Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli with cumulative capacity of 13,250 MW.
- Considering that UP alone can consume 1/5th of the target under **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, the state has come up with single window approval for setting up compressed **biogas plant, biodiesel/ ethanol production plant.**

Note:



NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

OBJECTIVE

- Decarbonise energy/industrial/mobility sector
- Develop indigenous manufacturing capacities
- Create export opportunities for GH_2 and its derivative

COMPONENTS OF NGHM

- Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT)
- Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP) (PPP for R&D)

Expected Outcomes by 2030

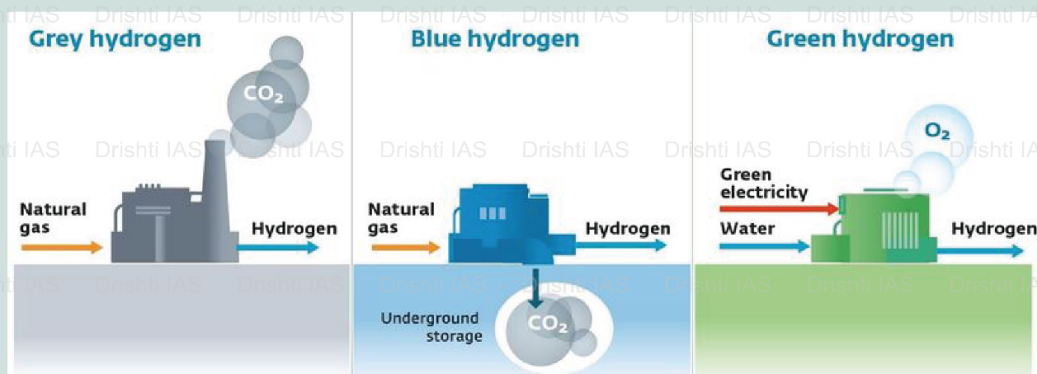
- ◆ Atleast 5MMT GH_2 annual production
- ◆ Rs 1 lakh crore fossil fuel import savings
- ◆ 6 lakh jobs
- ◆ 50MMT CO_2 annual emissions averted
- ◆ ₹ 8 lakh crore investment

GH_2 is not commercially viable at present; current cost in India is around ₹350-400/kg.
The National Hydrogen Energy Mission aims to bring it down under ₹100/kg.

HYDROGEN AND GREEN HYDROGEN

Hydrogen is the most common element in nature but exists only in combination with other elements. It has to be extracted from naturally occurring compounds (like water).

Green Hydrogen (GH_2) is made by splitting water through an electrical process called electrolysis, using an electrolyser powered by renewable energy (RE).



Note:

PM to Lay Foundation of Kalki Dham Temple

Why in News?

The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the **Shri Kalki Dham Temple** in **Sambhal district**.

Key Points

- The temple is being constructed by the **Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust**.
- The inauguration programme will be **attended by many saints, religious leaders and other dignitaries**.
- The Prime Minister will also launch 14,000 projects across UP worth more than Rs 10-lakh crore at the **fourth Groundbreaking ceremony** for investment proposals received during the **Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 (UPGIS 2023)**.
 - The projects relate to sectors like manufacturing, **renewable energy**, Information Technology and IT-enabled services, food processing, housing and real estate, hospitality and entertainment, education, among others.

Western Disturbances to Bring Rain to Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

According to the **India Meteorological Department**, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and parts of Uttar Pradesh are expected to receive light to moderate rain, thunderstorms, and hailstorms in the coming days with an intense spell of **snowfall in the western Himalayan region**.

Key Points

- A fresh active **Western Disturbance** is projected to affect northwest India. The weather system is expected to have widespread impacts, with **diverse weather conditions** observed across multiple regions.
- The Western Disturbance is expected to cause significant changes in usual weather patterns, and communities are advised to stay prepared for these changes.
 - Authorities have been urged to gear up for any necessary measures to ensure public safety.

Western Disturbances

- These are a series of **cyclonic storms that originate in the Mediterranean region, travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India**.
 - A Western Disturbance **collects moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea** and traverses over **Iran and Afghanistan before hitting the western Himalayas**.
- While the storm systems occur throughout the year, they travel to India mostly between **December and April because the trajectory of the subtropical westerly jet stream**, which transports them, shifts during the winter months to the rim of the Himalayas.
 - For the rest of the year, the jet stream travels from above the **Himalayas to the Tibetan Plateau and China**. Its trajectory changes as per the position of the Sun.
- **Significance for India:**
 - Western Disturbances are the **primary source of snowfall that replenishes the Himalayan glaciers** during winter.
 - These glaciers **feed major Himalayan rivers like the Ganga, Indus and Yamuna** as well as myriad mountain springs and rivulets.
 - These low-pressure storm systems **help farmers in India grow their rabi crop**.
- **Issues:**
 - The Western Disturbances are **not always the harbingers of good weather**. Sometimes WDs can cause **extreme weather events like floods, flash floods, landslides, dust storms, hail storms** and cold waves, destroying infrastructure and impacting life and livelihoods.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an **agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India**.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi**.
- IMD is also **one of the six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the World Meteorological Organization.

Note:



Uttar Pradesh Invokes ESMA

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government invoked [the Essential Services Maintenance Act \(ESMA\), 1968](#) banning strikes by government employees in all State government departments, corporations, and authorities for a period of six months.

- The decision came during ongoing farmers strike called by various union organisations.

Key Points

- Under sub section (1) of the section-3 of the **Uttar Pradesh Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1966 (UP Act No 30 of 1966)**, the State government prohibited strike for a period of six months.
- The Act gives the police the **power to arrest the employees violating provisions** without a warrant and **imprisonment for a term** which may extend up to one year or **a fine** which may extend to ₹1,000 or both, to any person who instigated a strike which was illegal under the Act.
- In the past, the UP government had banned strikes for six months during the peak of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), and again in May 2021.

The Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968

- It was **enacted in 1968** to ensure the **delivery of certain services**, which if obstructed would affect the normal life of the people.
- It is a law made by the Parliament of India under **List No. 33 in Concurrent List of 7th Schedule of Constitution of India**.
- **Services fall under this category are:**
 - Services relating to **public conservation, sanitation, water supply, hospitals, or national defence** are essential.
 - Any establishment involved in producing, delivering, or distributing **petroleum, coal, electricity, steel, or fertilizer** also gets classified as providing essential services. Aside from that, any banking-related service may be subject to ESMA.
 - This statute also applies to communication and transportation services and any government initiative relating to the acquisition and distribution of food grains.

UP Received Four Times more FDI in 2019-23 than in 2000-17

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the **'UP: An Emerging Destination for Foreign Investment in India'** conference.

Key Points

- During the conference, the CM informed that UP received **four times more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2019-23 in comparison to 2000-2017**.
 - According to the official statement, the state government will fulfill the targets set for UP by the Prime Minister in a time bound manner.
 - The state has changed its image in the last 6-7 years. Seven years ago, UP used to be the **BIMARU state of the country**.
- According to the CM, the increased investment is the result of improved law and order situation.

BIMARU

- It is an acronym for **Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**, a grouping of states that have historically **lagged in economic and social indicators**.
- These states are characterised by **high levels of poverty, low literacy rates, and poor infrastructure**.
- **There are a number of factors that have contributed to this, including:**
 - **Lack Of Investment:** These states have historically received less investment from the central government than other states in India. This has led to a lack of infrastructure development, which has made it difficult for businesses to operate in these states.
 - **Poor Governance:** The BIMARU states have also been plagued by poor governance. This has resulted in corruption, nepotism, and a lack of transparency. This has made it difficult for businesses to operate in these states and has also discouraged investment.
 - **High Population Growth:** The BIMARU states have also experienced high population growth rates. This has put a strain on resources and has made it difficult for the governments of these states to provide basic services to their citizens.

Note:

FDI and FPI



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

About:

- Investment made by foreign entities/individuals in **businesses and assets** located in a different country

FDI Routes:

Automatic Route:

- No prior government approval required
- Up to 100% allowed in non-critical sectors

Government Approval:

- Necessary in certain sectors or for investments above specific thresholds
- Administered by **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and RBI

Examples of Approval via Auto and Govt Route:

- Banking (Private sector): up to 49% (auto) + above 49% and up to 74% (Govt)
- Defence: up to 74% (auto) + above 74% (Govt)
- Healthcare (Brownfield): up to 74% (auto) + above 74% (Govt)
- Telecom Services: up to 49% (auto) + above 49% (Govt)

Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB):

- Comes under Ministry of Finance
- Responsible for processing FDI proposals – facilitated by **Foreign Investment Facilitation Portal (FIFP)**
- Making recommendations for Government approval

Govt's prior approval is mandatory for FDI from countries sharing land border with India (China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan)

India's Top 5 FDI Sources (FY 2022-23):

- Mauritius
- Singapore
- USA
- Netherlands
- Japan

India's Top Sectors Attracting FDI (FY 2022-23):

- Services Sector
- Computer Software & Hardware
- Trading
- Telecommunications
- Automobile Industry



Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

About:

- Investments made by foreign individuals, institutions, or funds in financial assets
- Known as Fly by Night or Hot Money

Imp Features:

- Purchase of financial assets** occur without gaining ownership
- Passive investment approach
- Investors earn returns through **dividends, interest, and capital appreciation**

Example:

- Stocks, Bonds etc.

Regulatory Body:

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Difference between FDI and FPI

Features	FDI	FPI
Nature of Investment	Long-term	Short-term
Objective	Long-term presence in a foreign country	Earning quick returns on investments
Control	Significant (over the invested entity)	No or limited control
Investments in	Tangible assets (e.g., factories, buildings)	Financial assets (e.g., stocks, bonds)
Returns	Profits, Dividends, and Capital appreciation	Dividends, Interest, and Capital appreciation
Policy Regulations	Govt policies and sector-specific regulations	Flexible regulations and easier entry/exit
Impact on Economy	Job creation, technology transfer, and economic growth	Short-term liquidity and impact on stock market performance



UP Emerging as Country's Growth Engine

Why in News?

According to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, the 'new **Uttar Pradesh**' is emerging as the **growth engine of the country**. It is transitioning from being 'Uttam Pradesh' to becoming 'Udyam Pradesh'.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh has **55% of the country's expressways** and also has the **highest number of airports**.
- Uttar Pradesh has set an **ambitious goal of becoming a one trillion dollar economy**.

- To achieve this, the state is focusing on enhancing skill development, scaling up industries, and accelerating growth.
- According to the CM, Uttar Pradesh is on the path to transform India's labour force into an economic powerhouse.

Agra's Jama Masjid Metro Station Renamed

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh metro has renamed the **Jama Masjid station in Agra to Mankameshwar Mandir**.

Note:

Key Points

- The metro service on the **priority corridor** is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi between 25 and 28 February.
- The **Jama Masjid station was the third and final underground metro station** on the priority corridor of six stations from the Taj Mahal to the Jama Masjid.
- According to the Mythological stories, Mankameswar Mandir had been established by Lord Shiva himself in the Dwapar Yug when he had come to Mathura for the darshan of Lord Krishna's child form. Shiva had stayed at this site on the way to Mathura from Kailash and vowed to establish a Shivalinga if he was able to hold Krishna in his arms.

Uttar Pradesh Forms Committee to Look into Farmer Demands

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister formed a **three-member committee** to look into the grievances of the **state's farmers whose land was acquired in the Noida, Greater Noida and the Yamuna Expressway areas** for development purposes.

Key Points

- The **farmers from Noida and the Greater Noida villages** have been **protesting** for the past two months **demanding a 64.7% hiked land compensation, better rehabilitation facilities for their families, permission to use residential plots for commercial purposes, jobs** for their children and **better healthcare** facilities, among other benefits.
- The committee will hold discussions with farmers and also with other stakeholders to take the necessary steps.
 - The Noida and the Greater Noida CEOs will support this committee in addressing farmer issues and the **committee will submit its report in three months** before the state government.

Uttar Pradesh to Tap into CSR Funds for Development Projects

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government will turn towards corporates to enlarge the state's **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** reserves for socioeconomic development.

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh is among the top five states who corner most of the CSR funds from companies. Others include **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.
- **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013** mandates certain companies to allocate 2% of their average profits from the preceding three financial years towards CSR activities.
- The state has also acknowledged the contribution of leading private sector companies on a large scale through CSR funds.
 - In 2014-15, UP garnered only about Rs 148 crore that grew to Rs 435 crore in 2017-18. In 2021-22, UP saw a CSR spending of Rs 1,321 crore that surged to around Rs 1,500 crore in 2022-23.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- The concept of CSR is the **idea that companies should assess and take responsibility** for their effects on the environment and on social welfare, and to **promote positive social and environmental change**.
- **The four main types of corporate social responsibility are:**
 - Environmental Responsibility
 - Ethical Responsibility
 - Philanthropic Responsibility
 - Economic Responsibility
- The CSR provisions within **Companies Act, 2013 is applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore** and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more.
 - The Act requires companies to set up a **CSR committee** which shall recommend a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy to the Board of Directors and also monitor the same from time to time.

Note:

Companies Act, 2013

- It is an **Act of the Parliament which was enacted in 1956**. It enables the companies to be formed by registration, sets out the responsibilities of companies, their executive director and secretaries.
- **In 2013**, the Government amended the **Indian Companies Act, 1956 and added a new Act called as Indian Companies Act, 2013**.
 - The Companies Act, 1956 was replaced partially by the Indian Companies Act 2013.
 - It became an act and finally it came into force in September 2013.
- **In 2020**, the Parliament of India passed the **Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020** to further amend the **Companies Act and decriminalise various compoundable offences as well as promote ease of doing business** in the country.
- Reduction in penalties for certain offences as well as in timeline for rights issues, relaxation in CSR compliance requirements and creation of separate benches at the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** are among the proposed changes too.

Uttar Pradesh to Soon Have 21 Airports

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister announced that emphasising the rapid pace of the aviation sector, **UP is all set to become the first state in India to have 21 airports**.

Key Points

- According to the Union Minister of Civil Aviation, the state has seen rapid growth of aviation infrastructure in the past 9 years.
 - Uttar Pradesh had only 6 airports in 2014, and now the state has 10 airports including the newly inaugurated airport in Ayodhya.
 - UP will have **5 more airports**, one airport each in **Azamgarh, Aligarh, Moradabad, Shravasti, and Chitrakoot**.
- Under the state budget 2024-25, the Uttar Pradesh government allocated Rs 1,150 crore for the upcoming **Noida International Airport in Jewar** of **Gautam Buddha Nagar district**.
- The proposed funds align with the objectives of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)** of the

Government of India and the **Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Promotion Policy**.

Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN)

- The scheme was **launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation** for regional airport development and regional connectivity enhancement.
- It is a **part of the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016**.
- The scheme is **applicable for a period of 10 years**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Improve the air connectivity to remote and regional areas of India.
 - Development of remote areas and enhancing trade and commerce and tourism expansion.
 - Enable common people to access air travel with affordable rates.
 - Employment creation in the aviation sector.

Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Promotion Policy

- The Civil Aviation Promotion Policy of Uttar Pradesh was **launched in 2017**.
- It intends to provide the necessary direction for the growth of this sector in the state.
- To **improve the air connectivity through development of new routes** under RCS by providing incentives and also to facilitate inter-connectivity of non-RCS airports of U.P.
- To give a **boost to agro-exports**, other perishable goods, manufacturing and e-commerce businesses in UP by supporting the **development of air cargo hubs** and fulfillment centers.
- To facilitate the growth of **Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)** facilities in the state.

UP to Help India Become Self-Reliant in Defence Production

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the **Ammunition Manufacturing Complex** of Adani Group in the **Defence Corridor** at Sadh in Kanpur.

Key Points

- He pointed out that all **six nodes** of the defence corridor are actively contributing to India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- **IIT Kanpur and IIT BHU** have been designated as **Centres of Excellence** for the Defence Manufacturing Corridor in UP.

Note:

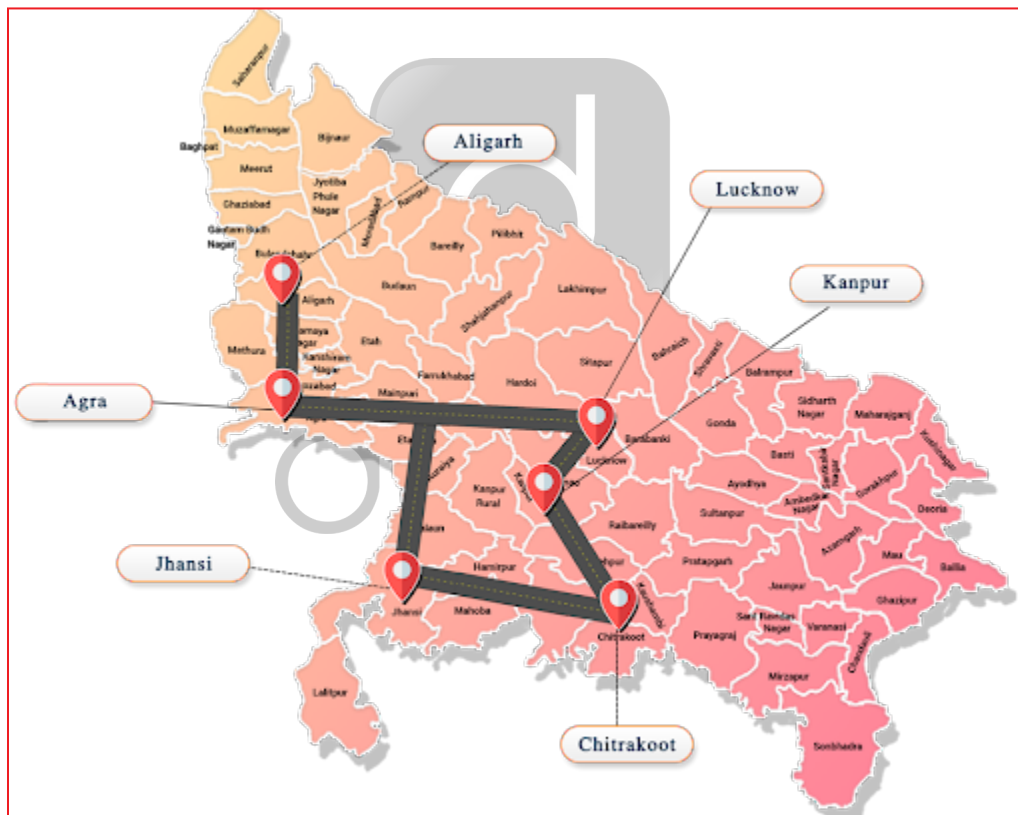
- The CM also announced that after 46 years of the establishment of Noida, the state government is going to establish a **new industrial city** in the form of **Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA)**.

Defence Industrial Corridor of UP

- It is an aspirational project that intends to **reduce foreign dependency** of the Indian **Aerospace & Defence Sector**.
- It includes **6 nodes** – Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Chitrakoot, Jhansi and Lucknow.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)** is the **nodal agency** to execute this project in conjunction with various other state agencies.
- It aims to **bring up the state as one of the largest & advanced Defence manufacturing hubs** and put it on the world map.

Defence Corridors

- A **defence corridor** refers to a route or a path along which domestic productions of defence equipment by **public sector, private sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** are lined up to enhance the operational capability of the defence forces.
- It will **help in making the nation self-reliant** in the field of defense production and promoting **'Make in India'**, which will **reduce our imports and promote the export of these items** to other countries.
- It will provide a **fillip to the defence manufacturing ecosystem** through synergistic development of technologies, promote the **growth of private domestic manufacturers**, including **MSMEs and Start-Ups**.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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Key Points

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Summary