



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

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Uttar Pradesh: First State to Have Fire Stations at Tehsil Level

Why in News?

In an event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that Uttar Pradesh will soon become the **first state in the country** to have **fire stations at the tehsil level**.

Key Points

- During the event, the CM virtually inaugurated and **laid foundation stones for 38 fire stations**.
 - The **UP Fire and Emergency Services** was established in the state in the year **1944**.
 - **Until 2017, only 288 fire stations were established** in the state, while in the **last 7 years, over 70 new fire stations** have been set up.
- CM also flagged off **35 firefighting vehicles**.
- He emphasised the need to prioritise **reducing response times** for fire tenders to mitigate loss of life and property.
- The government also established the **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)** in the state.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)

- It constituted under **Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005**, is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.
- The **Central Government contributes 75%** of SDRF allocation for **general category States/UTs** and **90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir)**.
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
- The headquarter of SDRF, Uttar Pradesh is located in **Lucknow**.

MYUVA Scheme

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister is going to launch the

“**Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)**” scheme.

- It is aimed at **nurturing entrepreneurship** among the **state’s youth**.

Key Points

- Under this scheme, the state government aims to prepare **one lakh young entrepreneurs** every year by providing **interest-free loans for projects of up to Rs 5 lakh**.
 - The government has allocated **Rs 1,000 crore in the budget** for the financial year 2024-25 to support this initiative.
- It is designed to empower educated and skilled youth across the state, facilitating self-employment opportunities and fostering the establishment of new **MSMEs (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)**.
 - Beneficiaries who have undergone training in various government-run schemes, such as the **Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, One District One Product Training and Toolkit Scheme**, Scheduled Caste, Tribe, Other Backward Class Training Scheme, and Skill Upgradation (**Kaushal Unnayan**) run by the **Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission**, will be eligible for assistance.
 - Additionally, youth with certificates, diplomas, and degrees from educational institutions will also be entitled to benefits under this scheme.
- Upon successful repayment of the first loan, units will be eligible for second-stage financing, where a composite loan of double the initial amount or up to Rs 7.50 lakh can be provided.

Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana

- The scheme is designed to **uplift traditional artisans and craftspeople** engaged in various occupations like **blacksmithing, goldsmithing, pottery, carpentry, and sculpting**, with a focus on preserving cultural heritage and integrating them into the formal economy and global value chains.
- It will be implemented as a **The Ministry of Micro, Central Sector Scheme**, fully funded by the Government of India.
- **Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)** is the Nodal Ministry for the Scheme.

Note:



Objectives:

- To ensure that artisans are seamlessly integrated into both domestic and global value chains, thus enhancing their market access and opportunities.
- Preservation and promotion of **India's rich cultural heritage** of traditional crafts.
- Assisting artisans in **transitioning to the formal economy** and integrating them into global value chains.

Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission

- The UP Skill Development Mission was established as a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, under the Department of Vocational Education and Skill Development, Government of UP on 13th September, 2013.

UP Government Allocated Funds for Schools and Anganwadi

Why in News?

Recently, In a bid to accelerate development in the **100** underdeveloped cities of the state, the Uttar Pradesh Government has launched the **Aspirational Cities Scheme**.

Key Points:

- As part of this endeavor, the initial focus will be on comprehensively transforming **schools** and **Anganwadi centers** in these cities.
 - A separate plan has been prepared for **Anganwadi centers** in line with the directives of the Chief Minister.
- As per the directives from the Chief Minister, a total of **913 schools** in the **100 aspirational urban areas** of the state will undergo upgrades, with an additional **25 new schools** to be established.
 - In the 100 underdeveloped urban areas of the state, the state government plans to construct new buildings for **348 Anganwadi centers** currently housed in rented or alternative government structures.
- Furthermore, new buildings will be constructed for **348 Anganwadi centers** currently operating in rented or alternative government facilities within these aspirational urban areas.

- The state government has allocated over **Rs 143 crores** for the implementation of these projects.
- 25 new **Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Composite Schools** will also be established at a total cost of **Rs 35.5 crores** with each school to **cost Rs 1.42 crores**. Thus, the state government will spend **Rs 101.83 crores** for the upgradation and the opening of new schools.

Note: The Uttar Pradesh Government has kept 100 urban bodies in the 38 districts of UP in the aspirational urban body category

Okhla Bird Sanctuary Celebrates World Wildlife Day

Why in News?

Recently, the **World Wildlife Day (WWD)** was celebrated at **Okhla Bird Sanctuary**, highlighting its rich biodiversity and focusing on **Mission LiFE**.

- WWD is celebrated every year on **3 March** to celebrate wild animals and plants.

Key Points

- **Theme for WWD 2024:** The theme for WWD 2024 was "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation." This theme emphasized the role of digital innovations in wildlife conservation efforts.
- **Inter-generational Exchange:** The event served as a platform for inter-generational exchange and youth empowerment through various activities like art, presentations, and conversations on sustainable digital wildlife conservation.
- **Role of Technological Innovation:** Technological advancements such as research tools, communication methods, tracking systems, and DNA analysis have facilitated more efficient and accurate wildlife conservation efforts.
- **Digital Revolution:** The ongoing global digital revolution is breaking down barriers to people-centered digital governance and providing equal opportunities for all to engage in digital transformation for wildlife conservation.
- **Activities Organised:** Various activities were organised at the event, including eco trails, poster making, and on-the-spot hand and face painting, all centered around the theme of WWD 2024.

Note:

Educational Empowerment Initiative for Children

Why in News?

Recently, REC Limited, a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise** under the **Ministry of Power**, has partnered with the **Unit of Science and Educational Development (UNISED)** to support the education of approximately 75,500 children in Siddharthnagar district, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- **Financial Commitment:** REC Foundation, the CSR arm of REC Limited, has committed a financial assistance of **Rs. 9.91 crores** towards this initiative, demonstrating its dedication to social responsibility.
- **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA):** A formal agreement between REC Foundation and UNISED has been signed in New Delhi, solidifying their commitment to improving educational opportunities for underprivileged children in Siddharthnagar district.
- **Objectives:** The collaboration aims to **enhance educational infrastructure** and resources in **government schools** through the implementation of solar energy-operated smart classes and joyful learning resource labs.
 - This initiative is designed to empower students with modern educational tools and foster academic and creative excellence.
- **REC Foundation's Previous Initiatives:** REC Foundation has previously shown support for the education of 12,500 children of ex-servicemen by contributing Rs. 15 crores to the **Armed Forces Flag Day Fund**, further emphasizing its commitment to education and social welfare.

REC Limited

- **About:**
 - REC Limited is a **Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise** registered with RBI as a **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)** and **Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC)**. It plays a crucial role in financing the power infrastructure sector and has diversified into non-power infrastructure sectors as well.
- **Strategic Role:**
 - REC Limited plays a key strategic role in various flagship schemes of the government for the

power sector, including **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA)**, **Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)**, and **National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme**, contributing to strengthening the country's electricity distribution system and achieving 100% village electrification.

<https://youtu.be/ymYyz3li-X8>

Subsidies for Green Hydrogen Projects

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved its five-year **Green Hydrogen Policy**, earmarking 50.4 billion rupees (USD 608 million) for a **subsidy programme** to incentivise enough capacity for the 2028 target.


Key Points

- If successful, the policy would make up **one fifth of India's target of reaching five million tonnes of annual production by 2030**, under its **National Green Hydrogen Mission**.
 - This policy will **target existing demand** mostly in industrial processes such as chemicals and oil refining to **replace grey hydrogen** made using unabated fossil fuels.
 - So far, hydrogen production technology has relied on gas, known as **grey hydrogen**. A significant effort is now under way to **transition from grey hydrogen to green hydrogen**.
- The policy outlines an ambitious goal to produce **one million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually** within the next four years, by 2028.
- Producers, who will be granted **fast-track environmental permitting**, will also be eligible for a full rebate on transmission charges associated with using the intrastate grid, as well as full exemption from electricity tax (for ten years) and stamp duty.
 - Fast Track Permitting incorporates a set of **sound environmental policies and procedures** that promote **smart growth and economic development** across the Commonwealth.
- The State government is also proposing to **lease land for a single rupee per acre per year to state-owned enterprises** setting up green hydrogen projects in the state.

Note:

- Private renewable Hydrogen investors will be eligible for a land lease rate of 15,000 rupees (USD 181) per acre per year.

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 GH₂ and its derivative

COMPONENTS OF NGHM

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

GH₂ 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.

Expected Outcomes by 2030

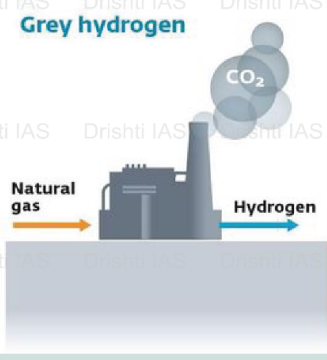
- ◆ Atleast 5MMT GH₂ annual production
- ◆ Rs 1 lakh crore fossil fuel import savings
- ◆ 6 lakh jobs
- ◆ 50MMT CO₂ annual emissions averted
- ◆ ₹ 8 lakh crore investment

HYDROGEN AND GREEN HYDROGEN

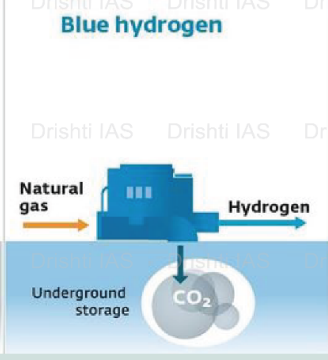
Hydrogen is the most common element in nature but exists only in combination with other elements. It has to be extracted from naturally occurring compounds (like water).

Green Hydrogen (GH₂) is made by splitting water through an electrical process called electrolysis, using an electrolyser powered by renewable energy (RE).

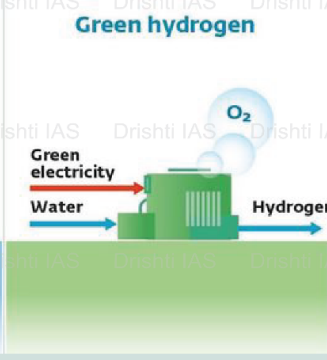
Grey hydrogen



Blue hydrogen



Green hydrogen



Note:

Hydrogen

- Hydrogen is one of the most abundant elements on earth for a **cleaner alternative fuel option**.
- **Type of hydrogen** depend up on the process of its formation:
 - **Green hydrogen** is produced by **electrolysis of water using renewable energy (like Solar, Wind)** and has a **lower carbon footprint**.
 - Electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen.
 - **By Products:** Water, Water Vapor.
 - **Brown hydrogen** is produced **using coal** where the emissions are released to the air.
 - **Grey hydrogen** is produced from **natural gas** where the associated emissions are released to the air.
 - **Blue hydrogen** is produced from natural gas, where the **emissions are captured** using carbon capture and storage.
- **Uses:**
 - Hydrogen is an energy carrier, not an energy source and can **deliver or store a tremendous amount of energy**.
 - It can be used in **fuel cells** to generate electricity, or power and heat.
 - Today, hydrogen is most commonly used in petroleum refining and fertilizer production, while transportation and utilities are emerging markets.
 - Hydrogen and fuel cells can provide energy for use in diverse applications, including distributed or combined-heat-and-power; backup power; systems for storing and enabling renewable energy; portable power etc.
 - Due to their high efficiency and **zero-or near zero-emissions operation**, hydrogen and fuel cells have the potential to **reduce greenhouse gas emission** in many applications.

Uttar Pradesh Provides Skill Training Under Project Praveen

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has provided skill

training to over 61,000 boys and girls in the state through 'Project Praveen'.

Key Points

- Under this scheme, youths are being provided **free skill training and new-age courses** to get prepared for the job market.
- This project is meant for **students in classes 9 to 12**, studying in higher secondary schools in the state.
 - Students are **receiving daily free training alongside their regular studies** in trades aligned with their interests, such as the IT sector, electronics, beauty, healthcare, apparel, and accounting.
- 'Project Praveen' is being operated under a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Secondary Education and the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission**.
- The primary objective of this project is to revamp the education system and curriculum of the state.
- Project Praveen was **initiated as a pilot project in 2022-23**.
 - During this period, 20,582 students received training across 150 government secondary schools. Besides, Kasturba Gandhi Girls School was also linked to this scheme, facilitating training for 3,450 girl students.
 - For the year 2023-24, a total of 315 government secondary schools have been included under the Project.
 - So far, skill development training has been provided to **61,400 students** through these institutes.
- All courses offered are certified and approved at the all-India level by the **National Council for Vocational Education and Training**.
 - Upon completion of training and assessment, students are awarded certificates that hold validity throughout the country.
- Students undergoing training under Project Praveen are given training by private training centres in the school itself.
 - These trainers are certified under the **Training of Teachers (TOT) program** and registered under the **Skill Development Mission**.

Note:

Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)

- The UP Skill Development Mission was established as a society registered under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**, under the Department of Vocational Education and Skill Development, Government of UP on **13th September, 2013**.
- A **National Skill Development Policy** was launched in **2009** with the aim of skilling **500 million persons by 2022**. Under the National Plan, the State of Uttar Pradesh **aims to skill over 4 million youth by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan**.
- In order to achieve this target and provide employable skills to the youth of the State, the UPSDM has been instituted.
 - It is **mandated to coordinate all skill development initiatives**, leveraging on **State Skill Development Policy**.
 - It empanelled Private Training Partners in addition to Government Training Partners for conducting skill development training.

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)

- NCVET was established as a regulatory body by the Government of India on **5th December 2018**. It has been fully operational since 1st August 2020.
- It serves as an overarching national regulator with the aim of setting standards, **developing comprehensive regulations**, and improving the **vocational education, training, and skilling ecosystem**.
- The primary objective of NCVET is to ensure strong industry **interfacing and implement effective regulations** that enhance the quality and outcomes of vocational education and training.

The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)

- It aims to create **convergence across sectors and States** in terms of **skill training** activities.
- It also aims to expedite decision making across sectors to achieve skilling at scale with speed and standards.

177 Development Projects Inaugurated in Sonbhadra

Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas, virtually inaugurated and

laid the foundation stone for 177 development projects in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- The projects worth Rs 10 crore 41 lakh are funded from Shri Puri's **MPLAD (Members of Parliament Local Area Development) fund**.
- Sonbhadra is **among the top five districts out of 112 in the overall performance of the Aspirational Districts Programme** continuously from January 2018 to March 2024.
- The minister assumed responsibility for overseeing Sonbhadra's development initiatives in 2018 under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme.

MPLAD Scheme

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** which was announced in December 1993.
- **Objective:**
 - To enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets in the areas of drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc. primarily in their Constituencies.
- Since June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan)**, conservation of water through rain water harvesting and **Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana**, etc.

Aspirational Districts Programme

- It was launched in 2018 which aims to **transform districts** that have shown relatively **lesser progress in key social areas**.
- Aspirational Districts are those districts in India that **are affected by poor socio-economic indicators**.

PM Launches Projects Worth Over ₹34,000 Crore

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated numerous development initiatives totalling ₹34,000 crore.

Key Points

- In a significant boost to the civil aviation sector, the

Note:



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Prime Minister initiated the groundwork for **multiple airport projects nationwide**.

- He unveiled **12 new Terminal Buildings** at airports including **Pune, Kolhapur, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Delhi, Lucknow, Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Moradabad, Shravasti, and Adampur**.
- He laid the foundation stones for three new Terminal Buildings at Kadapa, Hubballi, and Belagavi Airports.
- He also inaugurated the **Light House Project (LHP)**, which has facilitated the construction of over **2000 affordable flats with modern amenities**.
- The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation **744 rural road projects** valued at more than ₹3700 crore, constructed under the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**.
- These projects encompass a cumulative length of over 5,400 kilometers of rural roads in Uttar Pradesh, benefiting approximately 59 districts in the state.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- **Launched on:** 25th December, 2000.
- **Objective:** To provide connectivity, by way of an all-weather road to unconnected habitations.
- **Eligibility:** Unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States, Deserts and Tribal Areas as per 2001 census) in the core network for uplifting the socio-economic condition of the rural population.
 - An **Unconnected Habitation** is one with a population of designated size located at a distance of at least 500 meters or more (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) from an All-weather road or a connected Habitation.
 - **Core Network:** It is that minimal Network of roads (routes) that is essential to provide Basic access to essential social and economic services to all eligible habitations in the selected areas through at least single all-weather road connectivity.
- **Latest Funding Pattern:** The fund allocation to states has been made in subsequent years commensurate with the value of projects sanctioned to states.
 - The Union Government bears 90% of the project cost in respect of projects sanctioned under the scheme in North-Eastern and Himalayan States, whereas for other states the Union Government bears 60% of the cost.

- **Construction of Rural Roads:** The Rural Roads constructed under the PMGSY will be in accordance with the provision of the **Indian Roads Congress (IRC)**.
 - IRC is the **Apex Body of Highway Engineers** in the country.
 - The IRC was set up in **1934**.
- **PMGSY - Phase I**
 - PMGSY - Phase I was launched in December, 2000 as a 100 % **centrally sponsored scheme**.
 - Under the scheme, 1,35,436 habitations were targeted for providing road connectivity and 3.68 lakh km. for upgradation of existing rural roads in order to ensure full farm to market connectivity.
- **PMGSY - Phase II**
 - The Government of India subsequently launched **PMGSY-II in 2013 for upgradation of 50,000 Kms of existing rural road network** to improve its overall efficiency.
 - While the ongoing PMGSY - I continued, under PMGSY phase II, the **roads already built for village connectivity were to be upgraded** to enhance rural infrastructure.
 - The cost was **shared between the centre and the states/UTs**.
- **PMGSY - Phase III**
 - Phase III was approved by the Cabinet during July **2019**.
 - It gives priorities to facilities like:
 - Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)
 - GrAMs are retail agricultural markets in close proximity to the farm gate that promote and service a more efficient transaction of the farmers' produce.
 - Higher Secondary Schools and
 - Hospitals.
 - Under the PMGSY-III Scheme, it is proposed to consolidate **1,25,000 Km** road length in the States. The duration of the scheme is **2019-20 to 2024-25**.

Uttar Pradesh on Alert After CAA Implemented Across Country

Why in News?

An alert was issued in Uttar Pradesh after the announcement of **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019** implementation.

Note:

Key Points

- The DGP headquarters has ordered officers to remain on alert while **additional forces** have been deployed in **sensitive areas**.
 - To **monitor social media** to control content that can instigate the public.
 - The police across the state have been instructed to **patrol concerned areas** on foot.
 - **CCTV** and **drone cameras** will be deployed to monitor the situation in the state.
- The development came after the Union Home Ministry officially notified the rules for the implementation of the CAA.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019

- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (**Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the **Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920**.
 - The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

Uttar Pradesh to Rename 8 Railway Stations

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** has given its approval to the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename **eight railway stations** in **Amethi district**.

Key Points

- The purpose of this decision is to preserve the **cultural identity and heritage of the region**.
 - The proposal, forwarded by the government suggests renaming Kasimpur halt as Jais City and renaming several intermediate stations like Jais as Guru Gorakhnath Dham, Bani as Swami Paramhans, Misrauli as Maa Kalikan Dham, Nihalgadh as Maharaja Bijli Pasi, Akbarganj as Maa Ahorwa Bhawani Dham, Warisganj as Amar Shahid Bhale Sultan, and Fursatganj as Tapeshwarnath Dham.

Uttar Pradesh to Install 100 Telemetric Weather Stations to Monitor Drought

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh government announced plans to establish **Telemetric Weather Stations (TWS)** to monitor drought situation in the **100 most drought-prone tehsils** in the State, including all tehsils in the **seven districts of Bundelkhand region**.

Key Points

- The initiative aims to combat the persistent drought conditions in Uttar Pradesh, after knowing the temperature, solar radiation, wind speed etc of the various locations in the state through TWS.
 - It will be strategically placed at a distance of 7-10 kilometres from existing **Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)** and **Automatic Rain-Gauge Stations (ARG)**, in spaces measuring 10 x 10 metres.
- **Hamirpur, Banda, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Mahoba and Chitrakoot** districts comprise the Bundelkhand region which **faces challenges of drought every year**.
 - **Automatic Weather Station (AWS):** The automated type of conventional weather station and it is used to monitor weather in remote areas or when manpower is insufficient.
 - **Automatic Rain-Gauge Stations (ARG):** Defined as a "meteorological station at which observations are made and transmitted automatically.

Uttar Pradesh Government Invites Private Players to Invest in E-Mobility

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has invited private players to invest in its e-mobility push. The State has proposed to introduce 50,000 electric buses across 75 districts over the next five years.

Key Points

- The **Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC)** has floated a tender, inviting bids for the supply, operation, and maintenance of 5,000 e-buses on gross cost contract basis.

Note:

- In the first phase, 5,000 e-buses will be deployed during the next financial year 2024-25 itself.
 - Apart from the supply, operation and maintenance of e-buses, the bidder will also take care of the allied electrical and civil infrastructure.
 - They will be permitted to operate on the existing inter-district routes on a revenue sharing model.
- The deployment of e-buses will phase out carbon emitting 12,000 diesel buses from the state public mobility fleet.

Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC)

- It is a public sector passenger road transport corporation which services Uttar Pradesh, India, and adjoining states of North India.
- It operates as a state and interstate bus service and has the largest fleet of buses in North India.
- The corporate office of the corporation is **located in Lucknow**.
- UP Government Roadways was renamed as Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) on 1 June 1972 under the provisions of the **Road Transport Act, 1950**. The objectives of this undertaking were:
 - The development of the road transport sector correlated to which would lead to the overall development of trade & industry.
 - The coordination of the road transport services with other modes of transport.
 - To provide an adequate, economical & efficiently coordinated road transport service to the residents of the state.

Bundelkhand to Become New Power House

Why in News?

Recently, **10 solar energy projects have been launched in Bundelkhand**, which will generate over **3,000 megawatts of electricity**. The entire region is set to become the **new energy hub of Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

- The solar energy production plants will be established in **Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, and**

Mahoba districts of Bundelkhand. Three solar power units are being set up in Jhansi district alone.

➤ The Projects are:

- In **Jhansi district**, a 600 MW solar plant is being established by Tusco at the cost of Rs 3,430 crore, with the potential to create 300 job opportunities.
 - Fourth Partner Energy Private Ltd will set up a 100 MW solar plant at Rs 1,200 crore, adding more than 1,000 employment opportunities.
 - Sun Source Energy is set to begin a 135 MW open-access solar power project worth Rs 600 crore, with the potential to create 2,000 jobs.
- A 600 MW solar power plant is being established by Tusco in **Lalitpur district** at the cost of Rs 3,450 crore, which will create 300 employment opportunities.
 - A 10-15 MW solar power project will be set up by Surya Urja Four Private Ltd at a cost of Rs 150 crore, which will generate employment opportunities for 200 people.
- Avada Ind Solar Private Ltd will set up a 750 MW solar power project in **Banda** at a cost of Rs 350 crore.
 - A 15 MW solar power project is also being established by Sunsure Solar Park Private Ltd at a cost of Rs 62 crore.
- In **Chitrakoot**, Tusco Ltd will set up an 800 MW solar power project at the cost of Rs 4,700 crore. This will provide employment to 400 people.
 - Shree Cement Private Ltd will set up a solar power plant worth Rs 202 crore.
- Tusco Ltd is establishing the 155 MW Arjun Sagar Floating Solar Power Project worth Rs 1008 crore in **Mahoba**, which will create jobs for 78 people.
 - IB Vogt Solar Four Private Ltd will also set up a solar power project in Mahoba at the cost of Rs 80 crore.
- Other major projects being implemented in Bundelkhand region include:
 - Railway's LBH coach project and track work plant worth Rs 2,840 crore.
 - a private university by **Sant Maa Karma Manav Samvardhan Samiti** worth Rs 501 crore.
 - stone mining project worth Rs 30 crore, and a gun propellant project worth Rs 20 crore.

Note:

Section 144 Imposed in Lucknow

Why in News?

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has imposed **Section 144 Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** in Lucknow till **17th May, 2024** in the wake of upcoming **Lok Sabha elections and festivals**.

Key Points

- The Lok Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh for the year 2024 will be conducted in seven phases, spanning from **19th April to 1st June**.
- The **election schedule**, announced by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**, will commence from the **sugarcane belt in the western region** of the state and conclude in **Purvanchal**, often described as the **rice bowl of UP**.
 - **Vote counting** is set to take place on 4th June, 2024.

Section 144 CrPC

- This law **empowers the magistrate of any state or union territory in India** to pass an order prohibiting the gathering of four or more people in a specified area.
- It is **imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger** of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property.
- This order can be **passed against a particular individual or general public**.
- Features of Section 144:
 - It **places restrictions on handling or transporting** any kind of weapon in the given jurisdiction.
 - The **maximum punishment for such an act is three years**.
 - According to the order under this section, **there shall be no movement of public** and all educational institutions shall also remain closed.
 - Further, **there will be a complete bar on holding any kind of public meeting** or rallies during the period of operation of this order.
 - It is **deemed a punishable offence to obstruct law enforcement agencies** from disbanding an unlawful assembly.
 - It also **empowers the authorities to block internet access** in the region.
 - The ultimate purpose of Section 144 is to **maintain peace and order in the areas** where trouble could erupt to disrupt the regular life.

Deepak Kumar New Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the **Election Commission** has approved **Senior IAS officer Deepak Kumar** as the new **Home Secretary** of Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- Deepak Kumar, a 1990 batch IAS officer, is presently **Additional Chief Secretary of Finance and Basic Education**.

Chief Secretary of State

- **Appointment:**
 - The Chief Secretary is **'chosen'** by the Chief Minister.
 - As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is taken in the name of the Governor of the State.
- **Position:**
 - The post of Chief Secretary is the **senior-most position in the civil services** of the states and union territories of India.
 - The position is a cadre post for the **Indian Administrative Services**.
 - The Chief Secretary is the **chief advisor to the Chief Minister** in all matters of the cabinet.
- **Tenure:**
 - The office of Chief Secretary has been excluded from the operation of the tenure system.
 - There is **no fixed tenure** for this post.

Election Commission of India

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January **1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day)**. The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India**, and the offices of the **President and Vice President** in the country.
- It is not concerned with the elections to **panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.

Note:

Uttar Pradesh: Major Producer and Exporter of Pharmaceutical Products

Why in News?

According to Chief minister Yogi Adityanath, from being a pharma consumer state, **Uttar Pradesh** is fast moving towards becoming a **major producer and exporter of pharmaceutical products**.

Key Points

- The CM said that the government was building a **Pharma Park spread over 2,000 acres** in **Lalitpur** and was also planning to develop a Medical Device Park.
- He also laid the foundation stone for a **pharmacy building at the Madan Mohan Malviya University of Technology in Gorakhpur**.
 - During the event, the CM also **distributed smartphones and tablets to students** under the **Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme**.

Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme

- Under this scheme, students enrolled in various teaching/training programs of higher/higher **educational institutions, graduate, postgraduate, diploma, skill development, paramedical and nursing students** etc. will get the benefit of this scheme.
- The state government will **distribute tablets/smart phones to the students** through their respective university/college/institute.
- The devices will help in spreading awareness about the various developmental schemes and programs of the government among the students.

Trineta App 2.0

Why in News?

Recently, UP Police adopted **Trineta app 2.0**, a digital platform for crime prevention and investigation.

Key Points

- With over 9.32 lakh criminal records now digitized within Trineta's database, frontline officers will possess the capability to swiftly **identify suspects during security checks**.

- It can be used by all police personnel of Inspector and above rank as per requirement.
 - Police personnel can input and access comprehensive **crime-related information**, including crime histories, FIR details, interrogation reports, audio recordings, photographs, rewards, incarceration details, and seizure records.
 - It **empowers law enforcement with facial recognition capabilities**, enabling swift identification of suspects based on photographic data.
- The **Crime GPT feature** enables instant access to comprehensive information regarding criminals and criminal activities, streamlining investigative processes.
- Trineta 2.0 also facilitates the search for missing individuals through photograph linking and facial recognition technology, bolstering efforts to locate and reunite missing persons with their families.

Allahabad High Court Declares UP Madrasa Education Act Unconstitutional

Why in News?

Recently, the Allahabad High Court ruled that the **Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004**, is "unconstitutional" and violates the principle of secularism, and ordered the state government to accommodate current students in the formal schooling system.

Key Points

- The petitioner had challenged the **constitutionality of the UP Madarsa Board** as well as objected to the management of madarsa by the **Minority Welfare Department**, rather than the education department.
- The petitioner and his counsel submitted that the Madarsa Act **violates the principles of secularism**, which is the **basic structure of the Constitution**, fails to provide quality compulsory education up to the age of 14 years/Class-VIII as is mandatorily under **Article 21-A**; and fails to provide universal and quality school education to all the children studying in madaras.
 - There are about **25,000 madrassas in UP** of which 16,500 are recognised by the UP Madrasa Education Board. Of them, 560 madrassas receive grants from the government. Apart from this, there are 8,500 unrecognized madrassas in the state.

Note:

- In 2004, the Madarsa Education Act was enacted by the government. Similarly, the **Sanskrit Education Council** has also been formed in the state.
 - The objective of both the boards was to **promote languages like Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit.**
- According to the UP Madrasa Education Board Chairman the board will study the decision and decide the further course of action.

UP Madrasa Education Act, 2004

- The legislation was **enacted in 2004** to **streamline madrasa education**, defining it as education in Arabic, Urdu, Persian, Islamic studies, Tibb (traditional medicine), philosophy and other specified branches.
- The board was then reconstituted, comprising a **chairperson, director, principal** of the state-run Oriental College in Rampur, a **legislator** each representing the **Sunni and Shia sects**, an **NCERT representative**, heads and teachers of Sunni and Shia institutions, and a science or Tibb teacher.

Article 21 (A)

- Right to Education declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the **age of six to fourteen years.**
- This provision makes only elementary education a Fundamental Right and not higher or professional education.
- This provision was added by the **86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002.**
- Before the 86th amendment, the Constitution contained a provision for free and compulsory education for children under **Article 45 in Part IV** of the constitution.

Uttar Pradesh: First State to Issue 5 Crore Ayushman Cards

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first state in India to issue five crore Ayushman cards.**

Key Points

- The **Ayushman Bharat Scheme**, aimed at providing **financial protection to economically disadvantaged**

individuals against healthcare costs, has seen remarkable progress in Uttar Pradesh.

- With a total of **50,017,920 Ayushman cards issued, benefiting 74,382,304 individuals**, the state has emerged as a frontrunner in implementing this crucial initiative.
- The process of issuing Ayushman cards has been streamlined, with **panchayat assistants, Kotedars, and Asha workers** conducting **door-to-door visits** to facilitate card creation for residents.
 - Eligible beneficiaries can also obtain their cards at the Gram Panchayat Bhawan within their respective villages.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Uttar Pradesh has seen a total of 3,481,252 health claims filed, with an impressive settlement rate of 92.48%.
 - This indicates the scheme's effectiveness in providing timely assistance to those in need.

Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- It is the **world's largest health insurance scheme** fully financed by the government.
- **Launched in 2018**, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family** for secondary care and tertiary care.
 - Health Benefit **Packages covers surgery, medical** and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.

Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra Spearhead India's Post-Pandemic Growth: SBI Report

Why in News?

According to the latest findings from the **State Bank of India (SBI) Research**, out of the **235 basis point (bp) growth, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh emerged as frontrunners**, contributing 56 and 40 bps, while the remaining 90 bps stemmed from other states.

Key Points

- The Indian economy has demonstrated **resilience in the wake of the Covid-19** pandemic, with the average real **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth surging to 8.1%, a substantial increase from the 5.7% growth witnessed in the pre-pandemic period.

Note:

➤ **According to the report:**

- On the **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** front, **Gujarat** has notably doubled its economic output, marking a 2.2 times increase over the last decade.
- Following closely behind are states such as **Karnataka, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Sikkim, and Madhya Pradesh**, showcasing significant economic momentum and development.
- While some states such as **Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh** have **maintained stable per capita income growth** trajectories, others like **Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi, and Goa** have experienced deceleration in this aspect.
- The report highlights a significant reduction in state-wide inequality in terms of per capita **Net State Domestic Product (NSDP)** following the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The SBI Research team **emphasised the importance of continued policy support and targeted interventions** to sustain and **enhance economic growth momentum** across all states.
- It serves as a **resource for policymakers, economists, and stakeholders**, providing insights into the evolving dynamics of the Indian economy and guiding future development initiatives.

Basis Points

- These are a **unit of measure** used to describe the **percentage change in the value of financial instruments** or the **rate change in an index or other benchmark**.
- One basis point is **equivalent to 0.01%** (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

Masaan Holi

Why in News?

Recently, Masaan Holi, a **special two-day event** was celebrated in **Varanasi**. During which **devotees put ashes from funeral fires and a pink powder (gulal) on each other**. This event is also seen as a **way to celebrate death**.

Key Points

- The ritual of Masaan Holi Varanasi is believed to celebrate the **Holika-Prahalad mythological event with the pyre ashes**.
- The **use of pyre ashes** in Masaan Holi Varanasi **symbolises the shortness of life and the cyclical nature of a person's existence** in this materialistic world.
- It is believed that the ashes used in Masan Holi possess **purifying properties that cleanse the body, mind, and soul of impurities**.
- By smearing each other with ash during Holi, people seek **spiritual rejuvenation and internal purification**.

Note:



drishti

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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