STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

UTTAR PRADESH

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Content

Return of Sacred Piprahwa Relics to India After 127 Years

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the return of the sacred **Piprahwa relics** of <u>Lord Buddha</u> to India after **127 years**, calling it a **proud and joyous moment** for the nation's **cultural heritage**.

- 💡 **Godrej Industries (with government)** played a key role in **acquiring and repatriating the relics,** which were taken abroad during the colonial era, from Sotheby's auction house, ensuring their return to India for display at the National Museum in New Delhi.

About Piprahwa Relics

- 💡 **About:** The **Piprahwa relics**, believed to contain **relics of Lord Buddha**, were excavated by **William Claxton Peppé** in **1898** at the **Piprahwa Stupa in Uttar Pradesh**, believed to be **ancient Kapilavastu**, the **birthplace of Lord Buddha**.
  - ✦ They include **bone fragments** of the Buddha, **soapstone caskets**, **crystal caskets**, **gemstones,** gold ornaments, and other ritual offerings.
  - ✦ An **inscription in <u>Brahmi script</u>** on one casket links the relics directly to Lord Buddha, stating they were deposited by the <u>Sakya clan</u>.
- 💡 **Legal Protection of the Relics:**
  - ✦ India **classifies the relics as 'AA' antiquities (**highest level of legal protection).
  - ✦ Indian law **prohibits their sale or export**, making any **attempt to auction** or remove them illegal.
  - ✦ While most relics were **handed over to the Indian Museum, Kolkata, in 1899**, descendants of **British excavator William Claxton Peppé** retained some relics like Piprahwa relics.

> **Note:** The **relics of the Buddha** were enshrined in **9 stupas** built at various locations after his death, including:
> - 💡 **Rajagriha, Vaishali, Vethadipa,** and **Pava** in **Bihar**
> - 💡 **Kapilavastu**, **Allakappa**, and **Ramagrama** in **Nepal**
> - 💡 **Kushinagar** and **Pippalvina** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

UP's New Chief Secretary: Shashi Prakash Goyal

Why in News?

Senior **IAS officer Shashi Prakash Goyal** has been appointed as the **new Chief Secretary** of Uttar Pradesh, following the completion of the tenure of the current Chief Secretary, **Manoj Kumar Singh**.

- 💡 Goyal will serve until his retirement in **January 2027**.

Key Facts About Chief Secretary

- 💡 **Office:** The office of the **Chief Secretary** in India originated during British rule in **1799** under **Lord Wellesley** and has since become integral to the state's administration.
  - ✦ The **Chief Secretary** serves as the highest-ranking civil servant in a state, overseeing the **state Secretariat** and coordinating **government functions**.
- 💡 **Appointment and Status:** The Chief Secretary is appointed by the **Chief Minister** (in the name of the Governor of the state) from senior **IAS officers** based on factors like seniority, merit, and trust.
  - ✦ The office was standardized in **1973** to equate it with the position of **Secretary to the Government of India**.
- 💡 **Powers and Functions:**
  - ✦ **Advisor to Chief Minister:** Acts as the **principal advisor** on matters of **state administration** and provides guidance on **policy issues**.
  - ✦ **Secretary to the Cabinet:** Prepares the **Cabinet meeting agenda**, records proceedings, and oversees **decision implementation**.
  - ✦ **Head of Civil Service:** Oversees **appointments, transfers, and promotions** within the state civil service and maintains the **morale** of civil servants.
  - ✦ **Chief Coordinator:** Ensures **inter-departmental coordination**, presides over **coordination committees**, and resolves **disputes** between departments.
  - ✦ **Head of Certain Departments:** Directly manages key departments such as **General Administration, Personnel, and Planning**.

↪ **Crisis Administrator:** Leads **relief operations** during crises like **floods**, **droughts**, and **communal disturbances**, representing the state government during emergencies.

Note:

💡 **Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi Appointment as BHU Vice Chancellor:** Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi has been appointed as the **Vice Chancellor** of **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** for a three-year term, as announced by the **President of India.**

↪ Prof. **Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi**, a **1989-batch IIT Kanpur graduate**, has an extensive academic career, having previously served as the **Director of IIT Roorkee** (2017-2022).

↪ He also held leadership roles at **IIT Kanpur**, including as **Head of Electrical Engineering**, **Dean of R&D**, and **Deputy Director**.

India's First Private AI-Augmented Chandigarh University Campus in Unnao

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh has taken a pioneering step in higher education by inaugurating **India's first private AI-augmented multidisciplinary Chandigarh University campus** in **Unnao**, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**.

💡 The university aims to blend modern education with **cutting-edge technology** and India's **cultural heritage**, marking a significant milestone in Uttar Pradesh's educational and technological landscape.

Key Points

💡 **AI-Driven Multidisciplinary Education:** The newly inaugurated university will leverage **artificial intelligence** to enhance **teaching methodologies**, focusing on **research, innovation**, and **holistic growth**.

↪ This aligns with the **National Education Policy's** emphasis on multidisciplinary education.

💡 **Aligning with National Missions:** CM Yogi highlighted the university's alignment with national initiatives like **Startup India**, aiming to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's global presence by fostering **entrepreneurship** and **industry collaboration**.

↪ CM Yogi stated that universities should act as **platforms for career guidance**, **industry-oriented skill development**, and **opportunity gateways** for students.

Education Reforms and Infrastructure in UP

💡 **UP has facilitated the establishment of 23 new private universities** and also hosts the **country's first Ayush University** (Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur) and is building a **sports university (Major Dhyanchand State Sports University).**

↪ Under the new reform, the **state now allows private universities on 50 acres of land in rural areas and 20 acres in urban areas.**

↪ Universities across the state are increasingly committed to improving their NAAC assessments and **NIRF rankings**. As a result, **six state universities have earned A++ grades, two have received A+ grades,** and notable progress has been made in national rankings.

Innovation Potential in UP

💡 **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the **third-largest startup hub** in India, with over 7,200 active startups generating more than 1 lakh jobs. The **state is also home to 8 unicorns**.

💡 An **ambitious AI City project is initiated in Lucknow**, with the goal of creating over **50,000 jobs** through the participation of **more than 400 companies**.

↪ IBM will lead the establishment of the AI Center.

Lucknow as India's First AI City

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh is set to become a leader in artificial intelligence (AI) with a **Rs 10,732 crore investment** aimed at transforming **Lucknow** into **India's first AI** City.

The initiative, launched under the **IndiaAI Mission** approved in March 2024, aims to build a robust **AI ecosystem in the state.**

Key Points

- **Massive Investment in AI Infrastructure:** The **Rs 10,732 crore investment** will fund **10,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**, **multi-modal language models**, and the establishment of an **AI innovation center** in Lucknow.
  - This investment is **67% higher** than any other technology infrastructure in the country.
- **AI Pragya Training Initiative:** As part of the **AI Pragya initiative**, over **10 lakh people**, including **youth, teachers, gram pradhans, government employees**, and **farmers**, will receive training in **AI, machine learning**, **data analytics**, and **cybersecurity**.
  - The training is being supported by global tech giants like **Microsoft, Intel, Google**, and **Guvi**.
- **AI Traffic Management System:** Lucknow will also see the implementation of a **high-tech AI-based traffic management system**, similar to the one being developed in **Varanasi**.
- **AI in Agriculture and Revenue Management:** The **UP Agris Project** will connect **10 lakh farmers** to AI-powered technologies such as **smart irrigation**, **drone mapping**, **pest detection**, and **digital market access**.
  - The revenue department is also using **satellite imaging** and **AI algorithms** for **land consolidation** and **record management**, ensuring **transparency** and reducing disputes.
- **AI in Security and Healthcare:** AI-powered systems such as **CCTV surveillance**, **facial recognition**, **number plate tracking**, and **SOS alert systems** have been integrated across **17 municipal corporations** and **Gautam Buddh Nagar**.
  - Additionally, **AI** is being used to monitor **illegal mining** and **mineral resource protection**. In the **healthcare sector**, the country's first **AI-based breast cancer screening center** has been set up in **Fatehpur**.

Medha Roopam: Gautam Buddh Nagar's First Woman DM

Why in News?

Medha Roopam, a 2014-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as Gautam Buddh Nagar's **first woman District Magistrate (DM).**

- She takes over from **Manish Kumar Verma**, who has been transferred to **Prayagraj**.

Key Points

- **Academic Background:** Roopam secured **All India Rank 10 in the 2014** UPSC Civil Services Examination, and she is **also a national-level rifle shooter** who has won **three gold medals** at the Kerala State Shooting Championship.
- **Family Background:** Roopam's father, **Gyanesh Kumar**, is a retired **Kerala-cadre IAS officer** and the current **Chief Election Commissioner** of India.

71st National Film Awards

Why in News?

The **71st National Film Awards** were officially announced, honoring cinematic excellence from across India **for the year 2023.**

Key Points

- The 2023 edition of the awards covered **31 feature films**, **24 non-feature films**, **27 books on cinema**, and **16 film critics** as part of the expanded scope under the **National Film Awards regulations**.
- **Shah Rukh Khan** won **his first National Award** in a career spanning over 30 years.

National Film Awards
Organizer: The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** organizes the National Film Awards on behalf of the Government of India.
Award Categories: The annual awards are conferred under the following sections: **Feature Film, Non-Feature Film, Best Writing on Cinema** and **Dadasaheb Phalke Award.**

Top National Winners	
Category	**Winner(s)**
Best Feature Film	*12th Fail*
Best Direction	*Sudipto Sen – The Kerala Story*
Best Actor	*Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)*
Best Actress	*Rani Mukerji – Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	*Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*
Best Debut Film of a Director	*Aatmapamphlet*
Best Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values	*Sam Bahadur*

Feature Film Awards	
Award Category	**Film / Artist**
Best Hindi Film	*Kathal*
Best Bengali Film	*Deep Fridge*
Best Marathi Film	*Shyamchi Aai*
Best Background Score	*Animal* (Harshavardhan Rameshwar)
Best Female Playback Singer	*Shilpa Rao – Chaliya (Jawan)*
Best Male Playback Singer	*PVN S Rohit – Baby (Telugu)*
Best Editing	*Pookkaalam* – Midhun Murali
Best Cinematography	*The Kerala Story* – Prasanthanu Mohapatra
Best Costume Design	*Sam Bahadur* – Sachin, Divya, Nidhhi
Best Makeup	*Sam Bahadur* – Shrikanth Desai
Best Choreography	*Dhindhora Baje Re – Rocky Aur Rani* (Vaibhavi Merchant)
Best Sound Design	*Animal* – Sachin Sudhakaran & Hariharan

Acting Awards	
Category	**Winner(s)**
Best Actor	*Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)*
Best Actress	*Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)*
Best Supporting Actor	*Vijayaraghavan (Pookkaalam), Muthupettai Bhaskar (Parking)*
Best Supporting Actress	*Urvashi (Ullozhukku), Janki Bodiwala (Vash)*
Best Child Artist	Sukriti Bandireddi (*Gandhi Thatha Chettu*), Kabir Khandare (*Gypsy*), Treesha Toshar, Shrinivas Pokale, Bhargav (*Naal 2*)

Non-Feature Film Awards	
Award	**Recipient**
Best Documentary	*God, Vulture and Human*
Best Non-Fiction Film	*Flowering Man*
Best Short Film	*Giddh – The Scavenger*
Best Children's Film	*Naal 2*
Best Film in AVGC	*HanuMan*
Best Voiceover	*The Sacred Jack* – Hari Krishnan S
Best Debut (Non-feature)	*The Spirit Dreams of Cheraw*
Best Social & Environmental Values	*The Silent Epidemic*

Sonali Mishra: First Woman DG of RPF

Why in News?

In a historic moment for **Indian Railways**, **Sonali Mishra**, a 1983 batch **IPS officer** from **Madhya Pradesh**, has assumed the position of **Director General (DG)** of the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, becoming the first woman to lead the force in its 143-year history.

Key Points

- 💡 **Appointment:** Sonali Mishra's **appointment** was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the**

Cabinet, and her tenure as DG will extend until her superannuation on **31st October 2026**.

- ✦ She succeeds **Manoj Yadava**, who retired on **31st July 2025**.

💡 **Before her appointment as DG of RPF**

- ✦ Served as **Additional Director General of Police (Selection/Recruitment)** in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ Held additional responsibilities at the **Police Training & Research Institute, Bhopal**.
- ✦ Served as the **Director of the Madhya Pradesh Police Academy**.

💡 **Career**

- ✦ She worked with the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** and **Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- ✦ Gained international experience with the **United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo**.

💡 **Recognitions and Awards**

- ✦ Awarded the **President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service**.
- ✦ Honored with the **Police Medal for Meritorious Service**.

RPF

💡 The **RPF is an armed force** under the control of the Union **Ministry of Railways,** tasked with **protecting railway property, passenger areas, and passengers**.

- ✦ Originally **part of the Watch and Ward set-up of** Private Railway Companies in 1881, it was **reorganised into a statutory body** under the **RPF Act, 1957.**
- ✦ The post-independence era brought significant changes; the **Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act** was passed in 1966 to improve security, and in 1985, the RPF Act was amended, making RPF an Armed Force and **emerged as a Central Police Organization.**
- ✦ **Motto: Yasho Labhasva (Attaining honour).**

FDI in UP Shows Significant Growth

Why in News?

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Uttar Pradesh (UP) has surged significantly in recent years, with the state government reporting significant growth between 2019 and 2023.

Key Points

💡 **Historical Challenges:** Historically, UP struggled with a poor industrial ecosystem that discouraged foreign investors. A combination of factors contributed to this unfavorable environment, including:

- ✦ Low rankings in ease of doing business
- ✦ Absence of a streamlined **single-window clearance system**
- ✦ Insufficient basic infrastructure
- ✦ Unclear **industrial policies**
- ✦ Unstable law and order conditions

💡 **Shift in FDI Trends:** From 2000 to 2017, Uttar Pradesh's FDI was limited to only Rs 3,000 crore, but it has surged in recent years.

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh is now the 11th most attractive state for FDI, with a total inflow of $1.7 billion from October 2019 to September 2024.
- ✦ The **state ranks first in India for the export of consumer electronics,** hosting 196 Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) companies currently operating within its borders.

💡 **Key Policy Reforms**:

- ✦ The UP Investors Summit 2018 set the stage for the state's investment-friendly initiatives.
  - 🖉 The summit attracted investment proposals worth Rs 4.28 lakh crore.
  - 🖉 Building on this success, the Global Investors Summit (GIS) in 2023 drew Rs 33.50 lakh crore in investment proposals.
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Fortune Global 500 & Fortune India 500 Companies' Investment Promotion Policy-2023

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy 2022
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024
- ✦ Uttar Pradesh Global Capability Centres Policy 2024
- 💡 **Project Implementation:** The UP government introduced the concept of **Groundbreaking Ceremonies (GBCs)**.
  - ✦ These events serve as a platform for launching large-scale investment projects statewide, with over 16,000 projects initiated across the first four GBCs, more than 8,000 of which are already operational.
    - 📎 For the upcoming **GBC-5**, the state government is targeting the grounding of projects worth Rs 5 lakh crore, with the potential to scale up to Rs 10 lakh crore by the event's date.
    - 📎 The bulk of the investment has flowed into the **manufacturing**, **services,** and **infrastructure** sectors, with the **manufacturing sector receiving the largest share at 62.25% of the total investment.**

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 FDIs 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
  - ▪ Netherland
  - ▪ 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

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UP Economic Offences Wing Revamped

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Economic Offences Wing (EOW)** has undergone significant restructuring to enhance its capabilities, taking inspiration from the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).**

- The new measures focus on adopting advanced technological tools, accelerating investigations, and **improving public accessibility** to report financial crimes.

Key Reforms and Measures

- **Enhanced Public Access:** A major reform allows citizens easy access to report financial crimes.
  - The state's emergency helpline, **112**, has been integrated with EOW to enable the public to report cases such as **Ponzi scheme fraud, Stamp fraud, Multi-marketing fraud**, etc.
- **Professional Expertise and Training:** The EOW aims to become a robust and trusted institution for both enforcement and public outreach.
  - To enhance the professionalism of its officers, a **day-long workshop** was organized with experts from agencies like the **CBI, Enforcement Directorate**, and other central agencies.
  - The focus of the **workshop was to educate** on various forms of financial crimes, address investigation nuances, and tackle emerging challenges in financial crime enforcement.
- **Public Awareness and Education:** A core part of EOW's strategy is public awareness.
  - The agency has created **eight animated booklets in both digital and print** formats to **educate citizens** about various financial crimes they may encounter and how to stay vigilant and protected.
  - A **short film** on financial crime prevention was also launched to engage the public, along with a **new EOW logo**.
- **Technological Upgrades:** The EOW is now equipped with cutting-edge tools to streamline operations, including **24x7 Case Management Software (CMS)** for real-time case monitoring and faster resolution.

Economic Offences Wing (EOW)

- The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) was **created in 1970 within the CID** to address economic crimes, with an expanded focus in **1972** to include offenses related to 10 government departments.
  - In 1977, EOW was restructured as a separate, specialized investigation branch of the Uttar Pradesh Police.
- In 2006, the **EOW's jurisdiction was further broadened** to include the investigation and inquiry of economic offenses across all government departments.
- In 2018, the government established four police stations within EOW sectors in Lucknow, Varanasi, Meerut, and Kanpur.
- The **EOW is led by the D.G. EOW, with its headquarters in Lucknow**, is divided into five sectors, each managed by an **officer of SP rank.**

Birth Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya

Why in News?

On **2nd August,** PM Modi paid **tributes to Pingali Venkayya** on his 149th birth anniversary, highlighting his immense **contribution in designing India's national flag**, a symbol of the nation's unity, diversity, and independence.

- He also **urged citizens to support the Har Ghar Tiranga movement** by unfurling the **Tricolour at their homes.**
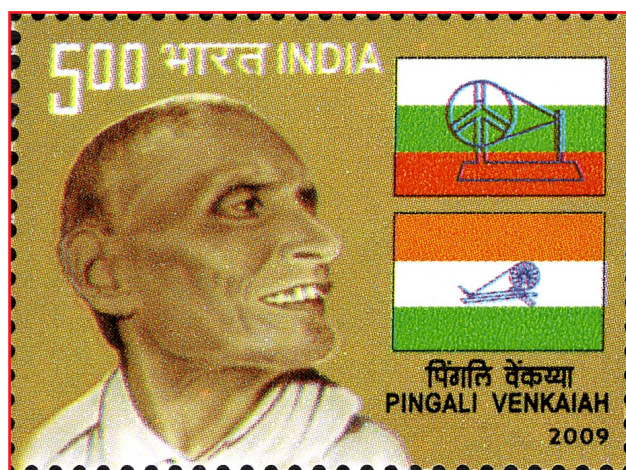
Pingali Venkayya

- 💡 **He was born on 2ⁿᵈ August 1876** in Bhatlapenumarru village, near Machilipatnam, **Andhra Pradesh**, and **passed away on 4ᵗʰ July 1963** at the age of 86.
- 💡 He fought the **Second Boer War (1899-1902).**
- 💡 In **1913,** he delivered a lecture in Japanese in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, called **'Japan Venkayya'.**
- 💡 He was also **known as Patti Venkayya for his research into the Cambodia Cotton.**
- 💡 In 2009, **a postage stamp was released for his contribution.**

Evolution of Flag

- 💡 In **1916, Pingali Venkayya** published a booklet titled **A National Flag for India**, featuring nearly **30 designs** for a **potential Indian flag,** inspired by flags of other nations.
- 💡 **Venkayya's design** for the National Flag was **finally approved by Mahatma Gandhi** in a Congress meeting in **Vijayawada** in 1921.
- 💡 The initial flag, called the **Swaraj flag,** consisted of two red and green bands (representing the Hindus and the Muslims religious communities). The flag also had a **charkha**, which represented **Swaraj.**
  - ✦ Mahatma Gandhi advised Venkayya to add **a white band to represent peace.**
- 💡 The **Flag Committee (1931)** replaced the **red with saffron** and placed saffron on top followed by white and then green. The **charkha was placed on the white band** in the middle.
  - ✦ The **colors stood for qualities and not communities** i.e., the **saffron for courage and sacrifice**, **white for truth and peace**, and **green for faith and strength**. The charkha stood for the welfare of the masses.
- 💡 Post-Independence, a national flag committee under **President Rajendra Prasad** replaced the **charkha with the Ashok Chakra.**

'Operation Mahakal' to Tackle Land Mafia and Extortionists

Why in News?

Kanpur's police have initiated a bold crackdown on **land mafia** and extortion gangs with the launch of **'Operation Mahakal.'**

- 💡 This operation, **launched on 5ᵗʰ August 2025,** aims **to identify, prosecute**, and dismantle illegal land-grabbing activities, involving **not only criminals but also influential individuals aiding them.**

Key Points

- 💡 **Phases of Operation:** The operation is structured in two phases:
  - ✦ **Phase 1 (until 5ᵗʰ September 2025):** Focuses on **compiling a list of suspects involved in land-grabbing** and extortion.
  - ✦ **Phase 2:** From 15ᵗʰ September 2025, action will be taken, including asset confiscation and filing of charges.
- 💡 **Action against Collaborators:** Investigations have uncovered connections between the **land mafia and several white-collar professionals,** including government employees, representatives, and journalists.
  - ✦ The collaboration between these groups will be probed further.

Former Governor Satyapal Malik Passes Away

Why in News?

Former Governor Satyapal Malik passed away at the age of 79 **on 5ᵗʰ August 2025**, after battling a prolonged illness.

- 💡 He **served as the Governor of five states**, including Jammu and Kashmir, and played a pivotal role during the historic abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Key points

- 💡 **Early Life:** Malik was born on 24th July 1946, in Hisawada village, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- 💡 **Political Journey of Satyapal Malik:**
  - ✦ **Student Politics**: Began his political career in 1965 at Meerut College.
  - ✦ **Member of Legislative Assembly**: Elected as MLA for Baghpat in 1974.
  - ✦ **Rajya Sabha**: Entered the Rajya Sabha in 1980.

Governor

- 📎 Rejoined the Rajya Sabha in 1984 after a brief period of change.
- ✦ **Lok Sabha**: Elected to the Lok Sabha from Aligarh in 1989.
- ✦ **Governor Positions**:
  - 📎 **Bihar** (2017–2018)
  - 📎 **Odisha** (Additional charge in 2018)
  - 📎 **Jammu and Kashmir** (2018–2019)
  - 📎 **Goa** (2019–2020)
  - 📎 **Meghalaya** (2020–2022)

Governor

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Eligibility Criteria
- Must be a **citizen of India**
- At least **35 years** of age
- Must **not be a member of (either) house** of Parliament/State Legislature
- Must not hold any **office of profit**

'Dual Capacity'
- **Constitutional head of the state** and **Representative of the Union government**

Appointment and Tenure (Part VI)
- Appointed by President **(Article 153)**
- One person can be appointed as Governor for **2+ States (7th Const. Amendment in 1956)**
- Holds the office at the **Pleasure of the President** (maximum **5 years**)

Ending Tenure before 5 Years
- **Dismissal by President** (on advice of the Council of Ministers headed by PM)
  - Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted
- On grounds of **acts upheld by courts as unconstitutional** and malafide
- **Resignation** by the governor

Powers (Part VI)
- Article 161: **Pardoning powers**
- Article 164: Power to **appoint the CM and other Ministers**
- Article 176: **Special Address** by Governor
- Article 200: Power to **(withhold) assent/reserve a bill** (Legislative Assembly)
- Article 213: Power to **promulgate Ordinances**

Responsibilities
- **Appoints** – CM, other Ministers, Advocate General of State, Members of State PSC, judges of HC and districts
- Act as **ex-officio chancellor** of state Universities

Lucknow's Charbagh Railway Station Completed 100 years

Why in News?

On 1st August 2025, Charbagh Railway Station in Lucknow marked its centenary (100 years). Its unique architecture and deep-rooted history symbolize the distinct identity of the city.

Key Points

- **History and Architecture:** The construction of **Charbagh Station** is a beautiful blend of Mughal, Rajasthani, and British architecture.
  - The **foundation of Charbagh Station was laid in 1914 by Bishop George Herbert**, and it was completed in 1923.
  - The building is designed as an amalgamation of Indo-British style of **architecture by J.H Horniman.**
  - On 1st August 1925 C.L Colvin, the agent of East India Railway laid inside the turret of the same building, a **casket containing a coin of those times and a newspaper of the same day** as a call to remembrance of the successful completion of the foundation of the building.
- **Role in the Independence Movement:** Charbagh Station has witnessed the arrival of prominent leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Maulana Azad during the freedom struggle.
  - It is believed that the **first formal meeting between Gandhi ji and Nehru (26th December 1916)** took place at this station, making it an important historical site.

UP Increases Maintenance Allowance for Students

Why in News?

Under the **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme**, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government has **doubled the maintenance allowance for disabled students**, increasing it from ₹2,000 to ₹4,000 per month.

- An increase in the maintenance allowance will **benefit 2,650 disabled students enrolled in 28 residential schools** across the state.
- According to the data of the UP government, over **50 lakh students benefit from the state's scholarship and fee reimbursement programs every year**, including around 14-15 lakh from the Scheduled Castes.

Key Points

- **Excluding Criteria:** The government has made **students above 40 years of age ineligible for scholarships,** whereas previously, there was no maximum age limit for applicants.
  - **Students passing their high school exams from state boards outside UP** will **no longer be eligible for scholarships,** but those from central boards like CBSE and ICSE will still receive them.
  - The amended scheme will also **exclude students of UP campuses run by universities domiciled outside the state** from receiving scholarships.
- **Mandatory:** **DigiLocker** registration will now be **mandatory for scholarship applicants**, enabling automatic **Aadhaar-based data verification** and helping prevent fraud.
- **Increased Amount for SC Students:** For **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students, the yearly scholarship amount will be increased **by Rs 500, taking the total to Rs 3,500 per annum.**
  - Under the **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme,** the **income limit restriction has been removed for children of families engaged in unhygienic professions** such as manual scavenging and working with raw leather, allowing them to avail the benefits of the scholarship scheme.

Note: As per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, there are **21 recognized types of disabilities:** Blindness, Low-vision, Leprosy Cured Persons, Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing), Locomotor Disability, Dwarfism, Intellectual Disability, Mental Illness, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Chronic Neurological Conditions, Specific Learning Disabilities (Dyslexia), Multiple Sclerosis, Speech and Language Disability, Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Sickle Cell Disease, Multiple Disabilities including deaf-blindness, Acid Attack victim, **and Parkinson's disease.**

Nivesh Mitra Portal 3.0

Why in News?

The third-generation version of **Uttar Pradesh's Nivesh Mitra portal** is designed to enhance the ease of doing business by reducing procedural delays and bureaucratic red tape.

Key Points

- **About:** Nivesh Mitra 3.0 is an **advanced, digital single-window platform** launched by the UP Government to **streamline investment processes,** expedite approvals, and enhance the ease of doing business through integration, automation, and AI-powered tools.
- **Features:**
  - **Integrated Digital Ecosystem:** It offers **enhanced interoperability** with both **central and state government portals,** providing a synchronized and unified interface for investor services across departments.
  - **Revamped Common Application Form (CAF):** The dynamic application form is now available in **multiple languages** and adapts to user profiles, making it easier for investors to identify and apply for necessary approvals efficiently.
  - **GIS-enabled Land Bank:** Investors can access centralized, real-time land data using **Geographic Information System (GIS) technology,** enabling efficient land selection and collaboration with nodal agencies.

- **Smart Dashboards & Real-Time Analytics:** The portal provides district-wise KPI rankings, **industrial park ratings,** and actionable insights to assist both investors and the administration in monitoring progress and decision-making.
- **AI-powered Multilingual Chatbots:** Artificial intelligence-based **chatbots** offer instant, multilingual support and grievance redressal, drastically improving response time and user experience.
- **Enhanced Grievance Redressal:** The entire complaint and feedback process is automated and routed through digital channels for transparency and faster resolution.
- **Reduced Service Delivery Timelines:** The platform aims to cut timelines for service delivery by up to 30-50%, minimize procedural delays, and significantly **reduce the need for physical documentation** and visits to government offices.
- **Compliance Reduction & Deregulation:** By **integrating over 4,600 reforms** across 45 departments, including simplification of forms and deregulation of legal requirements, Nivesh Mitra 3.0 aims to create a more business-friendly environment.
- **Extensive Departmental Coverage:** The system **covers over 525 services** from more than 44 departments, including labor, fire, housing, urban planning, and environmental clearances.

National Fish Farmers Day 2025

Why in News?

National Fish Farmers Day 2025 was celebrated is set to be celebrated **on 10th July at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA)** to honor the tireless dedication of fish farmers in strengthening India's food security, meeting the demand for fish-based protein, and driving rural employment.

Key Points

- **Honoring the Legacy:** National Fish Farmers Day commemorates the pioneering work of Professor

Dr. Hiralal Chaudhury and Dr. K.H. Alikunhi in **1957**, who revolutionized Indian fisheries with the **Hypophysation technique**, enabling induced breeding and reproduction in Indian Major Carps.

- ✦ This scientific breakthrough led to the growth of Inland Aquaculture in India.

- 💡 **Key Initiatives and Investments:** The Government of India has **invested ₹38,572 crore in the fisheries sector since 2015**.

  - ✦ **Fish production** has grown from **95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013-14 to 195 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25**.

  - ✦ **India** has become a **global leader in shrimp exports**, crossing ₹60,500 crore, with shrimp production increasing by 270% over the past decade.

State of India's Fisheries Sector

- 💡 **India is the 2nd largest fish producer** and 2nd largest aquaculture nation in the world after China.

- 💡 **India has ascended to become the 4th-largest exporter of marine products**, marking a significant rise from **eighth position in 2014-15**.

  - ✦ Inland fisheries account for over 75% of total output.

- 💡 **Top fish-producing states:** Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka.

ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA)

- 💡 **Established**:

  - ✦ Originated from the **Pond Culture Division of CIFRI in 1949, Cuttack**, Odisha.

  - ✦ Operates under the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**

- 💡 **Mission**:

  - ✦ Focuses on sustainable and diversified freshwater aquaculture practices.

  - ✦ Aims to enhance productivity, quality, water use efficiency, and farm income.

S. Radha Chauhan: New Chairperson of Capacity Building Commission

Why in News?

Mrs. **S. Radha Chauhan** took over as the Chairperson of the **Capacity Building Commission** in New Delhi, succeeding **Shri Adil Zainulbhai**, who had held the position since April 2021.

- 💡 Mrs. Chauhan, a retired IAS officer from the UP Cadre (1988 batch), also served as the Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
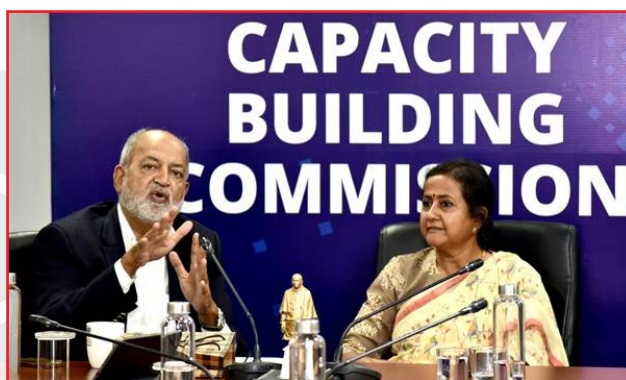
Capacity Building Commission

- 💡 The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) is an **independent body** with full executive authority, operational since April 2021.

- 💡 It is a **three-member Commission,** supported by an internal Secretariat headed by a Secretary.

- 💡 Members are appointed from diverse backgrounds such as the private sector, academia, the public sector, and civil society.

- 💡 The Commission is tasked with driving the **standardisation** and **harmonisation** across India's civil services landscape.

- 💡 As the custodian of civil services capacity-building reforms, the Commission plays a **central role** in the institutional framework of **Mission Karmayogi.**

Mission Karmayogi

- 💡 Mission Karmayogi was launched by the Government of India in September 2020 as a **National Program for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).**
- 💡 It aims to prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more **creative, proactive, professional,** energetic, transparent and technology enabled.

11ᵗʰ National Handloom Day

Why in News?

On **7ᵗʰ August 2025, the Ministry of Textiles** celebrated **India's handloom sector** during the **11ᵗʰ National Handloom Day (NHD)**, focusing on the **theme 'Weaving Innovation into Tradition.'**

- 💡 On **11ᵗʰ NHD**, at Bharat Mandapam, the President of India presented the prestigious **5 Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards for 2024.**

National Handloom Day

- 💡 **Established on 7ᵗʰ August 2015**, **NHD** marks the momentous occasion of the **Swadeshi Movement,** which began on **7ᵗʰ August 1905, encouraging indigenous** handloom weaving **industries**.
  - ✦ NHD celebrates the **skilled craftsmanship** and creativity behind Indian handlooms, recognizing their significance as a cherished cultural legacy.
- 💡 In partnership with the **National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC),** the Ministry also introduced the Exclusive Handloom Expo and the **"Haat on Wheels"** mobile retail initiative.
- 💡 The **"Know Your Weaves Campaign 2025"** was also launched by the Ministry of Textiles as a week-long event from 1ˢᵗ -7ˢᵗ August 2025 in celebration of National Handloom Day.

Handloom Awards

- 💡 **About:** The awards aim to honour excellence in the handloom industry, celebrating individuals and organizations that **set benchmarks in craftsmanship,** innovation, and contribution to the sector's development.

Aspect	Sant Kabir Handloom Award	National Handloom Award
Categories of awards:		
Purpose	Recognizes outstanding handloom weavers for significant contributions to sector growth and tradition.	Celebrates weavers for exceptional craftsmanship, dedication, and innovation.
Eligibility	Outstanding handloom weavers; may include national/state awardees, merit certificate holders, or extraordinary contributors.	Weavers with exemplary craftsmanship, innovation, and dedication.
Cash	Rs. 3.5 lakh	Rs. 2 lakh

Threads That Bind India
A Regional Glimpse of Timeless Traditions
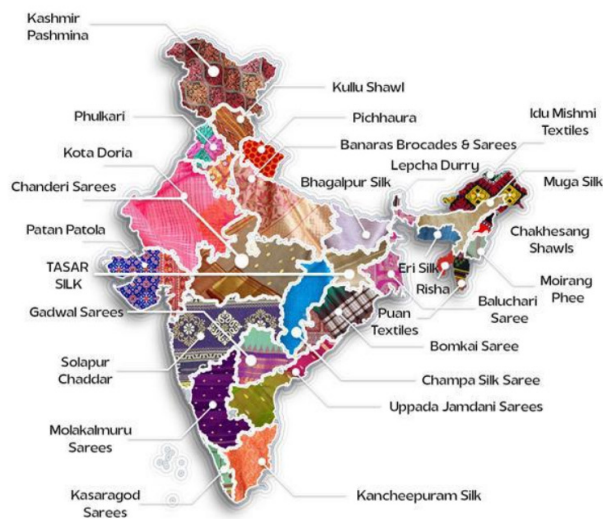
Kashmir Pashmina · Kullu Shawl · Idu Mishmi Textiles · Phulkari · Pichhaura · Banaras Brocades & Sarees · Kota Doria · Lepcha Durry · Muga Silk · Chanderi Sarees · Bhagalpur Silk · Chakhesang Shawls · Patan Patola · Eri Silk · Moirang Phee · TASAR SILK · Risha · Baluchari Saree · Gadwal Sarees · Puan Textiles · Bomkai Saree · Solapur Chaddar · Champa Silk Saree · Uppada Jamdani Sarees · Molakalmuru Sarees · Kancheepuram Silk · Kasaragod Sarees

Source: Ministry of Textiles

Handloom Sector

- **About:** The Handloom sector remains a cornerstone of **India's rural economy** and cultural heritage, providing employment to **over 35 lakh people,** with 70% being women.
- **Global Presence:** India is the **world's sole major producer of handloom fabrics** at a commercial scale, accounting for nearly **95% of global handwoven fabric production.**
  - India's handloom exports continue to find strong demand across global markets, reaching over 20 countries.
  - In the financial year 2024-25, the United States remained the largest destination, accounting for ₹331.56 crore worth of exports.
- **Major Schemes:**
  - **National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP):** It aims to promote the **sustainable growth of handloom weavers** in and outside recognised clusters by forming self-reliant and competitive units.
  - **Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS):** It aims to support handloom weavers by ensuring the availability of quality yarn at affordable prices through the following key objectives and components.
  - **MUDRA Loan:** This **scheme** offers subsidised loans to weavers through banks at a low interest rate of 6 per cent.

WHO–IRCH International Workshop

Why in News?

The **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy** (PCIM&H), **Ministry of Ayush,** hosted the **inaugural session of the WHO–International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) Workshops** on "Safety and Regulation of Herbal Medicines" (Working Group-1) and "Efficacy and Intended Use of Herbal Medicines" (Working Group-3) at its headquarters in **Ghaziabad.**

- **India, as the lead country** for Working Groups 1 and 3, is committed to strengthening international regulatory cooperation through the WHO–IRCH platform.

Key Points

- **About:** The global technical workshop, organized jointly by the **Ministry of Ayush and WHO,** is being held from 6th to 8th August 2025, with senior representatives from WHO Member States, **regulatory authorities, academia, research bodies,** and the herbal medicine industry in attendance.
  - Bringing together experts from across WHO Member States and Observer States, the workshops aim to deliberate on key aspects such as regulatory convergence, quality assurance, and the **clinical relevance of herbal medicines** in traditional systems of **healthcare.**
  - The agenda includes hands-on training sessions in **herbal drug standardisation techniques** such as pharmacognostic, chemical, and elemental analysis.
  - Site visits to **prominent Ayush institutions** are also planned to provide international participants with first-hand exposure to clinical, academic, and manufacturing practices.
  - The workshops have **attracted participants from several countries** under the WHO-IRCH umbrella, including Poland, Nepal, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, etc.

Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)

- Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), is a **subordinate office** under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- Development of Pharmacopoeias and Formularies as well as acting as **Central Drug Testing cum Appellate Laboratory** for Indian systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy are the key fields of activity of PCIM&H.

International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH)

- 💡 International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH), established in 2006, is a **global network of regulatory authorities** responsible for regulation of herbal medicines.

- 💡 Its mission is to **collaborate and share the best practice**s to help WHO in its recommendations to the members on improving the regulation of herbal medicines as well as raise awareness regarding their safe use in health and wellbeing.

World Lion Day 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, in collaboration with the **Gujarat Forest** and Environment Department, marked **World Lion Day 2025 (10th August)** at the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Dwarka district,** Gujarat.

- 💡 The **event celebrated** the conservation achievements under **Project Lion**, aimed at **protecting the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*).**

Key Points

- 💡 The **lion population in Gujarat has risen by 32%** since 2020, increasing from 674 to 891, according to the **May 2025 lion population estimate (16th census**).

- 💡 **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary**, part of the larger Gir Lion Landscape, is home to **17 Asiatic lions**.

Key Facts About Project Lion

- 💡 **Launched**: 2020, to secure the future of Asiatic lions in Gujarat's Gir landscape.

- 💡 **Focus Areas**: Habitat improvement, ecosystem health, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

- 💡 **Technologies Used**:
  - ✦ **Radio-collaring & Camera Traps**: For monitoring lion movements.
  - ✦ **GPS Tracking**: Ensures efficient surveillance of lions and vehicles.
  - ✦ **Automated Sensor Grid**: Includes magnetic, movement, and infrared heat sensors for wildlife tracking.
  - ✦ **GIS**-based Real-Time Monitoring: Facilitates timely analysis and conservation management.

Key Facts About Lions

- 💡 The lion is divided into **two subspecies:** the **African lion** (*Panthera leo leo*) and the **Asiatic lion** (*Panthera leo persica*).
  - ✦ Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions.

- 💡 **Characteristics:**
  - ✦ Lions are known for their distinctive appearance, including a **tawny coat, a tufted tail, and a prominent mane in males.**
  - ✦ They are **social animals and live in groups** called **prides**. A pride typically consists of multiple females, their offspring, and a few adult males.

- 💡 **Distribution and Habitat:** Lions are **found in sub-Saharan Africa,** and a small population exists in the **Gir Forest National Park (India)**.

- 💡 **Protection Status:**
  - ✦ **IUCN Red List:**
    - 📎 African Lion: Vulnerable (Globally)
    - 📎 Asiatic Lion: Vulnerable.
  - ✦ **IUCN Green Status of Species Assessment**:
    - 📎 **Lions: Largely Depleted category**
  - ✦ **CITES:** **Appendix I for populations of India, all other populations are included in Appendix II.**
  - ✦ **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule I and IV

- 💡 **Conservation Efforts in India:**
  - ✦ **Project Lion**
  - ✦ **Asiatic Lion Conservation Project**

ASIATIC LION or INDIAN LION

Scientific Name: Panthera leo persica

Weight: Male: 150-250 kg
Female: 120-180 kg

Length (head and body): Male: 1.7-2.5 m
Female: 1.4-1.75 m

Birth Interval: 18-26 Months

Typical Diet: Carnivorous

Lifespan: 16-18 Years

FUN FACTS

- Lions live in large groups called prides.
- Male lions can weigh over 500 pounds and grow up to eight feet in length.
- Known as the "King of the Jungle," lions live in grasslands and plains, not jungles.
- Female lions and their sisters live together for life, while males stay with the pride until they reach maturity.
- A lion's roar can be heard from up to five miles away.
- Lions spend about 20 hours a day resting or sleeping.
- Male lions patrol their territories regularly.
- Lions prefer to hunt at night, making it easier to catch prey.

Rudrastra – Asia's Longest Freight Train

Why in News?

Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone with the successful trial run of **Rudrastra,** the **longest freight train in India and Asia**, measuring 4.5 km.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** On 7th August 2025, the **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Division** of East Central Railway conducted a trial service between **Ganjkhwaja station in Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh) and Garhwa (Jharkhand),** covering 209 km in 5 hours 10 minutes at an **average speed of 40.5 km/h.**
    - ✦ The train, consisting of six BOXN rakes with **354 wagons**, was **powered by seven engines**—two at the front and one after every 59 bogies—carrying approximately **72 tonnes of goods per wagon**, marking the **largest freight load ever moved** by Indian Railways in a single operation.
    - ✦ The train ran on the **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** from Ganjkhwaja to Sonnagar, and then on the normal track to Garhwa Road.
- 💡 **Significance:** Running Rudrastra as a unified system **reduces logistical overheads,** enhances train capacity, and boosts the speed and efficiency of freight transportation in India.

Kenya Eliminated Sleeping Sickness

Why in News?

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially certified **Kenya as free from human African trypanosomiasis**—commonly known as **sleeping sickness**—marking a significant public health victory for the nation.

- 💡 With this achievement, **Kenya becomes the tenth country globally to eliminate the disease** as a public health challenge.

💡 This is the **second** <u>neglected tropical disease</u> **eliminated in Kenya,** following the country's WHO certification as **Guinea worm disease-free in 2018**.

Key Points About Sleeping sickness

💡 **Sleeping sickness**, caused **by protozoan parasites** transmitted by **tsetse flies**, is characterized by **initial symptoms such as fever, headaches**, and joint pain.

💡 In advanced stages**, patients suffer from neurological effects, disrupted sleep patterns**, confusion, and behavioral changes.

   📌 The **sleeping sickness is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.**

💡 Sleeping sickness significantly **reduces the productivity of both humans and cattle (zebu cattle** raised by **Maasai tribes** of eastern Africa)**.**

Disease Eradicated by India

💡 **India has eradicated** <u>Smallpox</u> (1980), <u>Polio</u> (2014), **Plague, Rinderpest** (the Cattle Plague), **Yaws** and **Maternal And Neonatal Tetanus** (2015), **trachoma (2024)**.

   📌 India received <u>Guinea worm</u> **disease-free certification** status from the WHO in 2000.

Diseases Targeted for Elimination in India
💡 **Malaria:** Achieve zero indigenous cases by 2030.
💡 **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF):** Achieve <1% microfilaria rate in endemic areas (elimination by 2030).
💡 **Kala-azar:** Achieve annual incidence of <1 case per 10,000 population at block level.
✦ Certification requires 3 years of sustained elimination.
💡 **Tuberculosis (TB)**: End TB by 2025 under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Lucknow Invited to ASEAN Forum as Knowledge City

Why in News?

Officials of **Lucknow Municipal Corporation** were invited to attend the meeting of **ASEAN** **Governors & Mayors Forum (AGMF)** in Kuala Lumpur as a **'Knowledge City',** after gaining recognition for its initiatives in cleanliness, green development, and **sustainable urban management.**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The AGMF, originally the **ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) in 2011,** was founded to highlight **local contributions to ASEAN integration.**
    - ✦ In 2018, AMF was accredited as an entity associated with ASEAN, due to ASEAN member states' official recognition of its common goals and contribution to **ASEAN's community building.**

ASEAN
Association of Southeast Asian Nations

8 Dialogue Partners of ASEAN

Founded: By signing ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) (1967)
Founding Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand
Secretariat: Indonesia, Jakarta
Chairmanship: Rotates annually
ASEAN Summit Meetings: Occur biannually
ASEAN Economy:
  ○ Combined GDP: ~ USD 3.66 trillion (2022)
  ○ Total Exports: USD 1.73 trillion (8.24% of global exports in 2021)
  ○ Major Export Item: Monolithic Integrated Circuit, Palm Oil, Data Processing Equipment
ADMM+Meeting: Platform for ASEAN and its 8 Dialogue Partners (India, Australia, US, Japan, S. Korea, China, Russia and New Zealand)
  ○ First Convened in: Hanoi, Vietnam (2010)

Drishti IAS

- **Participants:** The AGMF is being held from **10th August 2025 to 15th August 2025,** bringing together governors, mayors, urban experts from Asia, and international organizations such as the German Corporation for International Cooperation **(GIZ), United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)**, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific **(UNESCAP).**

- **Objective:** The forum aimed to **exchange knowledge on proven urban management** models, sustainable growth, climate action, and citizen participation.

- **Recognition:** Lucknow was **one of six Indian cities** selected to share its experiences in urban management at this prestigious event, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards sustainability and better urban governance.

  - ✦ Mayor **Sushma Kharkwal**, Municipal Commissioner **Gaurav Kumar**, and Additional Commissioner **Arvind Kumar Rao** presented the city's innovative projects.

  - ✦ Key projects highlighted during the event included the establishment of the **Shivri Solid Waste Processing Plant,** along with other initiatives.

Shivaji Memorial in Agra

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has asserted its plan to construct a **memorial** dedicated to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Agra's Kothi Meena Bazar,** marking a significant step in **promoting tourism and cultural unity**.

Key Points

- The UP government **will fully fund the project,** with no external collaboration.

- Construction of the project will be **led by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation.**

- The government is **preparing to begin work on the memorial and museum**, with a focus on ensuring cultural and historical accuracy.

Key Monuments in Agra and Their Builders

- **Agra was founded by Sultan Sikandar Lodi of the Lodī dynasty in 1504.**

- **Agra Fort**
  - ✦ **Builder:** Akbar (initial construction), Shah Jahan (major structures)
  - ✦ **Prominent Buildings:**
    - ◈ **Moti Masjid:** Built by Shah Jahan
    - ◈ **Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - ◈ **Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - ◈ **Jahangiri Mahal:** Built by Akbar
    - ◈ **Sheesh Mahal (Turkish Bath):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - ◈ **Gardens:** Built in Charbagh style, typical of Mughal architecture

- **Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula**
  - ✦ **Builder:** Noor Jahan (wife of Jahangir)
  - ✦ **Uniqueness:** First Mughal structure **made entirely of white marble**.

- **Taj Mahal (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**
  - ✦ **Builder:** Shah Jahan
  - ✦ **Uniqueness:** Finest example of Mughal architecture, built i**n memory of Mumtaz Mahal (Arzuman Bano Begum)**. Known for its grandeur and opulence.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- **About:** Born on **19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort, Pune** was a visionary leader from the **Bhonsle clan** and the **founder of the Maratha Empire**, known for **resisting the Mughal Empire** and striving for self-rule. - **Major Battles:** Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Pavan Khind, **Sacking of Surat, Battle of Purandar, Battle of Sinhagad**, and Battle of Sangamner.   ✦ The **Wagh nakh**, was used by Shivaji **to kill Afzal Khan** in the 1659 Battle of Pratapgad. - **Titles: Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.**

- 💡 **Administration:** Centralized administration with the **Ashtapradhan (Council of Eight Ministers),** abolished the Jagirdari System, implemented the **Ryotwari System**, and built a strong naval force for coastal defense.
  - ✈ **Shivaji** is renowned for his **innovative guerrilla warfare tactics**, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped the **Maratha Military Landscapes.**

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Why in News?

To mark the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the **MP postal department,** in collaboration with the **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS),** has organized a **three-day philatelic exhibition.**

- 💡 The event was inaugurated by Chief Postmaster General Vineet Mathur and Director of IGRMS, Prof. Amitabh Pande.

International Day of Indigenous Peoples

- 💡 **About:** Observed annually on 9th August, following the **UN General Assembly's** recognition of this day in **December 1994.**
  - ✈ The day recognizes the first meeting of the **United Nations Working Group** on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.
- 💡 **Theme for 2025:** "Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures."
- 💡 **Key Facts Related to Indigenous Peoples Globally:**
  - ✈ There are an estimated **476 million Indigenous Peoples** in the world living across 90 countries.
  - ✈ They make up less than **6% of the world's population,** but account for at least 15% of the poorest.
  - ✈ They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures.

2025 Equator Prize

- 💡 The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** has announced the **ten Indigenous-led,** community-based organizations selected for the 2025 Equator Prize, recognizing their environmentally focused solutions that align with this **year's prize theme, "Nature for Climate Action."**
- 💡 **Bibifathima Swa Sahaya from India**, one of the winners, supports village farmers through **multi-cropping, seed bank**s, and solar-powered processing, blending traditional knowledge with regenerative agriculture and renewable energy.

Key Facts Related to Tribals in India

- 💡 **About:** In India, the term 'Adivasi' refers to various ethnic and tribal groups recognized as the aboriginal population, with Scheduled Tribes (STs) being those indigenous communities acknowledged by the government for special protection and support.
  - ✈ According to the 2011 census, these ancestral groups make up approximately 8.6% of India's general population, which adds up to around 104 million people.
- 💡 **Essential Characteristics:** According to **the Lokur Committee (1965),** the essential characteristics of the tribes are:
  - ✈ Indication of Primitive Traits
  - ✈ Distinctive Culture
  - ✈ Shyness of Contact with the Community at Large
  - ✈ Geographical Isolation
  - ✈ Backwardness
- 💡 **Constitutional Provisions for STs:**
  - ✈ **Article 15(4):** Special provisions for the advancement of other backward classes (it includes STs)
  - ✈ **Article 29:** Protection of Interests of Minorities (it includes STs)
  - ✈ **Article 46:** The State shall ensure the welfare of weaker sections (including Scheduled Tribes) and protect them from injustice and exploitation.

- ✦ **Article 275:** Allocation of special funds from the Union Government to the State Government for enhancing the welfare and administration of Scheduled Tribes.
- ✦ **Article 350:** Right to conserve distinct language, script, or culture.
- ✦ **Article 330 and 332:** Reservation of seats for STs in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures.

Bijnor Jail Honors Sachindranath Bakshi

Why in News?

Sachindranath Bakshi, an unsung hero of the Kakori Train Action, has been **honored at his memorial in Bijnor Jail,** where he was once imprisoned after being sentenced to life imprisonment.

- 💡 The **memorial, named 'Smritika'**, was inaugurated on **11th August 2023** and includes a **statue of Bakshi**, along with the **engraved names of 419 freedom fighters** who were held in the jail during the British era.

Key Points

- 💡 **Role in Kakori Train Action (9th August 1925):** Bakshi, alongside revolutionaries **Ashfaqullah Khan**, **Chandrashekhar Azad** and **Rajendra Lahiri**, played a pivotal role in the **1925 Kakori Train Action**, where they looted the British treasury for the cause of India's independence (**procuring arms).**
  - ✦ **He attacked the guard's compartment** and seized a chest of money.
- 💡 **Bakshi's Contribution:** He had purchased the tickets and pulled the emergency chain, leading to the revolutionary act.
- 💡 **Bakshi's Legacy:** After his arrest, Bakshi was sentenced to life imprisonment, unlike his fellow revolutionaries who were executed.
  - ✦ His memoir, **'Kranti Ke Path Par'**, reflects his emotional turmoil about the disparity in their fates.

- ✦ Later, he was released and continued to participate in politics after India's independence.
- 💡 **Historical Insight:** He led protests and hunger strikes (53 days) to **demand recognition for freedom fighters as political prisoners.**

Sachindranath Bakshi

- 💡 **Born:** 25th December 1904 (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)
- 💡 **Death:** 23rd November 1984 (Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh)
- 💡 **Role:** Prominent freedom fighter, founder of **Hindustan Republican Army (HRA)**
- 💡 **HRA Formation:** 1924, aimed at armed struggle against British colonial rule
- 💡 **Initial Contributions:**
  - ✦ Propagated HRA ideals in **Varanasi**.
  - ✦ Moved to **Jhansi** to expand HRA's base.

Kannauj FSL Achieves ISO 9001:2015 Certification

Why in News?

The **Kannauj Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)** in Uttar Pradesh has become the **first laboratory in the state** to receive the prestigious **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System** certification.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** On 8 August 2025, the certificate was formally presented to **Rajeev Krishna**, the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, by **Naveen Arora**, Additional Director General of Police, Technical Services Headquarters.
  - ✦ The certification recognizes the laboratory's high standards in forensic examinations and analysis, which significantly supports <u>law enforcement agencies</u> in the region.
  - ✦ The laboratory made **significant improvements** across various operational areas, such as upgraded equipment, storage, staff services, sample collection, and audits to meet ISO 9001:2015 standards.
- 💡 **Significance:** The certification not only **strengthens the operational framework** of the Kannauj laboratory but also **increases the credibility** of the forensic evidence it provides in judicial proceedings.

Forensic Laboratories in UP
💡 As of mid-2025, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has a **total of 12** (Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, and Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Kannauj, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Gonda, Aligarh, and Moradabad) **operational forensic science laboratories** and is in the **process of establishing 6** (Ayodhya, Basti, Banda, Azamgarh, Mirzapur, and Saharanpur) more labs, which will raise the **total to at least 18 forensic labs in the state.**

ISO 9001:2015 Certification
💡 ISO 9001:2015 Certification is an **internationally recognized standard** for Quality Management Systems (QMS), published by the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO).**   ✦ **ISO** is an independent, **non-governmental international organization** that unites global experts to establish best practices. 💡 Organizations of any size or sector can pursue this certification to **demonstrate their ability to consistently provide products** and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. 💡 The benefits include **boosted customer confidenc**e, improved efficiency, easier market access, and a structured approach for continuous business improvement.

Centenary of Kakori Train Action

Why in News?

A hundred years ago, on **9th August 1925**, ten young revolutionaries, including **Ram Prasad Bismil**, and **Sachindranath Bakshi**, executed a daring heist on the British railway treasury, known as the <u>**Kakori Train Action**</u>.

- 💡 To honor the revolutionaries of the Kakori Train Action, **Uttar Pradesh has rebranded** its famous **Dussehri mangoes from the Kakori-Malihabad region** under the new name **'Kakori Brand.'**

Key Points About the Kakori Incident

- 💡 **Event:** The incident involved the **robbery of the Number 8 down passenger train (**from **Shahjahanpur to Lucknow).**
  - ✦ The train was **carrying official British cash (railway collections)**, intended for use in revolutionary activities aimed at undermining British colonial rule.
- 💡 **Key Figures**: Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Manmathnath Gupta, and Rajendra Nath Lahiri, all prominent members of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).**
  - ✦ In this case 17 were jailed, 4 transported for life and **4 (<u>Ram Prasad Bismil</u>, <u>Ashfaqullah</u>, Roshan Singh, and Rajendra Lahiri) were hanged.**
- 💡 **Impact on the Freedom Struggle:** The **Kakori Train Action** gave the **HRA** a much-needed financial boost, allowing it to expand and eventually transform into the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**, led by **Chandrashekhar Azad.**

HRA
💡 The **HRA was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur** by Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, and Sachin Sanyal, with an aim to **organise an armed revolution to overthrow the colonial governmen**t and establish in its place the **Federal Republic of United States of India** whose basic **principle would be adult franchise.**

HSRA

- 💡 The HSRA determined to **overcome the Kakori setback**, the younger revolutionaries, **inspired by socialist ideas**, set out to **reorganise Hindustan Republic Association** at a historic meeting **in the ruins of Ferozshah Kotla in Delhi** (September 1928).
- 💡 Under the **leadership of Chandrashekhar Azad,** the name of **HRA was changed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).**
- 💡 The participants included **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, Bhagwati Charan Vohr**a from Punjab and Bejoy Kumar Sinha, Shiv Verma, and Jaidev Kapur from the United Provinces.
- 💡 The HSRA decided to work under a collective leadership and adopted socialism as its official goal.

World Elephant Day 2025

Why in News?

On 12th August 2025, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, hosted the **World Elephant Day** celebration in **Coimbatore.**

- 💡 A specialized workshop on **Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)** was also held, providing a platform for **elephant range states** to share challenges and discuss mitigation strategies, in line with **Project Elephant's** focus on community participation and scientific solutions to address human-elephant conflicts.
- 💡 A nationwide awareness program also aims to engage approximately 12 lakh school children from around 5,000 schools across India.

World Elephant Day

- 💡 World Elephant Day was co-founded on **12th August 2012,** by Canadian Patricia Sims and the **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation** of Thailand.
- 💡 Since its inception of global awareness building, it has partnerships with 100 elephant conservation organizations worldwide and reaches countless individuals across the globe.
- 💡 The theme for 2025 is **"Bringing the world together to help elephants".**
- 💡 **World Elephant Society,** established in November 2015 as a **nonprofit organization,** aims to support the annual World Elephant Day campaign.
  - ✦ The organization **educates the public** on global elephant conservation efforts, particularly around World Elephant Day.

Asian Elephant | African Savanna Elephant | African Forest Elephant

Facts About Elephants

- **Three Species:** African savannah elephant, African forest elephant, and Asian elephant.
- **Size:** African savannah elephants are largest (up to 4 meters tall and 6,800 kg in weight).
- **Lifespan:** Wild elephants typically live 60 to 70 years of age.
- **Diet:** Elephants are herbivores
- **Trunk:** Their trunk is a versatile tool used for breathing, smelling, touching, grasping, and producing sound.
- **Tusks:** Elephant tusks are actually **enlarged incisor teeth** and can be found on elephants at 2 years old.
  - ✦ Elephants have been targeted for their ivory tusks, driving the illegal wildlife trade and causing severe declines in their populations.
- **Intelligence:** Elephants have the largest brain of any land animal.
- **Social Structure:** Female elephants live in family groups called herds, led by a matriarch.
- **Reproduction:** Elephant pregnancies last about 22 months, and calves weigh 200–300 pounds at birth.
- **Conservation Status (IUCN Red List Status):**
  - ✦ Asian elephants: **Endangered (EN)**
  - ✦ Savannah elephants: **Endangered (EN)**
  - ✦ Forest elephants: **Critically Endangered (CR)**

India's Role in Elephant Conservation

- India is home to **nearly 60% of the world's** wild elephant population.
- India has established **33 Elephant Reserves** and 150 identified Elephant Corridors, according to the Report on Elephant Corridors in India, 2023.
- India has granted elephants the status of <u>National Heritage Animal.</u>
- In India, Asian Elephants are categorized under **Schedule I** of the <u>**Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**</u>.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Why in News?

The **Department of Posts has announced the Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana** for the year 2025-26, offering **scholarships to students from classes 6 to 9.**

- The selected students will receive a **monthly scholarship of ₹500 to promote interest in philately**.

Key Points

- **Eligibility:** The scholarship will be **awarded based on academic performance**, results from a **quiz organized by the Department of Posts**, and a **philately project (**philately is the collection and study of Postage stamps).
  - ✦ Students who have **secured a minimum of 60%** marks or equivalent grades in the **previous year's examination are eligible** to apply.
  - ✦ A **5% relaxation will be given to students from** <u>scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.</u>
  - ✦ To apply, **students must be members of their school's philately club,** or if such a club doesn't exist, they must have an individual philatelic deposit account.
  - ✦ Students can submit their **applications at the Philately Bureau at the General Post Office (GPO).**
- **Objective:** The **objective of the scholarship** is to **"Promote Philately among children at a young age** in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and **supplement the academic curriculum** in addition to providing a **hobby that can help them relax and de-stress".**
- **Significance:** Stamp collection **provides educational insight into the socio-economic and political context of its time**, serves as a stress-relieving hobby, fosters social connections, and enhances memory skills through organizing and cataloging information.

India Post

- **Establishment:** On 1st October 1854 by **Lord Dalhousie (**Governor-General of British India)
- **Historical Timeline**
  - **1766:** Robert Clive set up postal system under East India Company (called "Company Mail")
  - **1774:** Warren Hastings opened Calcutta General Post Office- first public post office
  - **1854:** Lord Dalhousie brought postal service under British Crown
- **Current Network Size**
  - **Total Post Offices: 164,999 Post Offices (**Rural: 149,164 (90% of total) and Urban: 15,823)
  - **Global Status: World's largest postal network**
- **Organizational Structure**
  - **Ministry:** Ministry of Communications, Government of India
  - **Circles:** 23 postal circles across India
- **Services:**
  - Banking and financial services
  - Postal Life Insurance (PLI)
  - India Post Payments Bank
  - E-commerce and retail services
  - Government scheme disbursements (pensions, MGNREGA)

UP: Second Fastest Growing Economy

Why in News?

As per data of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, **Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged as the second fastest-growing state** in India in terms of **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP),** with its growth **rate accelerating from 5.5% to 8.9%.**

- **Tamil Nadu** holds the **top position** with a GSDP **growth rate of 11.19%.** Small states like Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have also posted significant growth rates of 9.66%.

Key Points About Economic State of UP

- Uttar Pradesh ranks as **India's third-largest economy** after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (**NITI Aayog**).
  - UP has set an **ambitious goal of becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2029.**
  - It has **identified 10 key sectors critical to achieving this target**, with a focus on law and order, agriculture, infrastructure, industrial development, social security, and more.
- In **FY 2023–24, Uttar Pradesh's GSDP stood at ₹25.48 lakh crore**, up from ₹22.58 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year.
- The state experienced a **23% increase in per capita income** from FY 2016–17 to FY 2019–20.
- The **agriculture sector's contribution** to GSDP increased from 13.7% to **16.8% in FY 2023–24.**
  - Meanwhile, the **secondary sector** accounts for **23% of the GSDP**, while the **tertiary sector contributes 45%.**
- Uttar Pradesh **contributes 8% to India's national GDP.**

106th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

Why in News?

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai (12th August 1919 - 30th December 1971), widely recognized as the **Father of India's Space Programme**, was remembered and celebrated on his **106th birth anniversary** on **12th August.**

Key Points

- **Early Life and Education:**
  - He was **born in Ahmedabad,** Gujarat, into an affluent Jain family. Sarabhai was one of eight children of Ambalal and Sarla Devi.
  - Undergraduate degree in **Physics and Mathematics** from Cambridge University.
  - Pursued a PhD under Nobel laureate **C.V. Raman** at IISc, Bangalore, with the thesis titled **"Time Distribution of Cosmic Rays,"** published in 1942.

- 💡 **Institutional Legacy:**
  - ✦ **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1947, PRL marked the beginning of Sarabhai's journey in institution building.
  - ✦ **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad:** Played a pivotal role in its creation.
  - ✦ **Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad:** Founded in 1966 to promote science education.
  - ✦ **Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad:** Co-founded with his wife, Mrinalini Swaminathan.
  - ✦ **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram:** A hub for India's space missions.

- 💡 **Contributions to Indian Space and Nuclear Programs:**
  - ✦ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** He founded the **ISRO**, emphasizing the importance of space technology for societal development.
  - ✦ **Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE):** Conceptualized with NASA, **SITE** beamed educational programs to rural areas, laying the foundation for programs like **Doordarshan's Krishi Darshan.**
  - ✦ **Aryabhata Satellite:** Initiated the fabrication of **India's first satellite, Aryabhata,** launched in 1975 from a Russian cosmodrome.
  - ✦ **Atomic Energy Commission:** Took over as chairman after Homi Bhabha's death, advancing **nuclear science.**

- 💡 **Awards and Honors:**
  - ✦ **Awards:**
    - 📎 **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award** (1962)
    - 📎 **Padma Bhushan** (1966)
    - 📎 **Padma Vibhushan** (posthumously, 1972)
  - ✦ **Distinguished Positions:**
    - 📎 President, Physics Section, Indian Science Congress (1962)
    - 📎 President, General Conference of the IAEA, Vienna (1970)
    - 📎 Vice-President, Fourth UN Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy (1971)
  - ✦ **Title:** **Mahatma Gandhi** of Indian Science (By former President **APJ Abdul Kalam**).
  - ✦ **Legacy:**
    - 📎 **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** was named in his honor.
    - 📎 A lunar crater, **"Sarabhai Crater,"** was named after him.

UP's MSME Industrial Estate Management Policy 2025

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has given its approval for the **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Industrial Estate Management Policy (2025)**, designed to promote industrial growth by **simplifying land allocation and improving** facilities for businesses.

- 💡 The new policy is set to replace 19 outdated government orders issued since 1978.

Key Features of the Policy

- 💡 **Land Allocation**: Land, sheds, and plots in industrial estates will be allocated via lease/rent through auction or e-auction modes.
  - ✦ Successful bidders will pay 10% of the reserved price as earnest money, with the remaining balance payable in lump sum or installments over one to three years. Immediate payments will be eligible for a 2% discount.
- 💡 **Reservation for SC/ST Entrepreneurs**: **10% of all plots and sheds** will be reserved **for SC/ST** entrepreneurs.
  - ✦ If no eligible applicant comes forward, the plots may be reallocated to other categories to ensure continuous development.
- 💡 **Price Structure**: The policy introduces fixed reserved prices for industrial plots in various regions for FY 2025-26, including Madhyanchal, Pashchimanchal, Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.

✦ The rates will increase by 5% annually, starting from 1st April each year.

💡 **Preferential Rates for Anchor Units**: Special rates may be offered to anchor units expected to drive significant MSME growth in the estates.

💡 **Infrastructure Facilities**: Industrial estates will be equipped with essential amenities, including common facility centers, power substations, fire stations, women's hostels, dormitories, crèches, eco-friendly parks, training institutes, and health services.

💡 **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**: The **Commissioner and Director of Industries will oversee the implementation of SOPs** for land allocation, property transfer, revitalization, subletting, and surrender.

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing and Services Enterprises	**Investment:** Not more than Rs. 2.5 crore **Annual Turnover:** not more than Rs. 10 crore	**Investment:** Not more than Rs. 25 crore **Annual Turnover:** Not more than Rs. 100 crore	**Investment:** Not more than Rs. 125 crore **Annual Turnover:** Not more than Rs. 500 crore

Mega Tinkering Day 2025

Why in News?

In a **first-of-its-kind** nationwide innovation movement, the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog,** hosted **Mega Tinkering Day 2025**, marking a significant milestone in India's innovation landscape.

Key Points

💡 **About:** The nationwide event brought together over **10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** across all **35 states and Union Territories** of India.

  ✦ The event witnessed **4,73,350 students** from **9,467 ATL-equipped schools** participating in a hands-on challenge to design and build a do-it-yourself **(DIY) vacuum cleaner** using everyday materials from their labs.

💡 **Event Format:**

  ✦ **Virtual & Simultaneous**: The event was **held virtually** and simultaneously in schools **across India**, with regional participation across North (Leh, Ladakh, Kargil, Kashmir), South (Kanniyakumari), West (Bhuj, Kutch), East (Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh), and **Aspirational Districts** (Virudhunagar).

  ✦ **Collaborative Learning**: The online format enabled students to **collaborate in real-time,** despite geographical distances.

Atal Innovation Mission

💡 **About:** Launched by NITI Aayog in 2016, AIM **promotes innovation and entrepreneurship** by fostering a problem-solving mindset in students and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in **universities and research institutions.**

  ✦ **AIM 2.0 aims to scale and pilot new initiatives** to expand and strengthen India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, building on the success of AIM.

Key Programs

Frontier Program
Expanding ATLs in underserved areas

Atal Tinkering Labs
Fostering innovation in schools through hands-on technology

Language Inclusive Program of Innovation
Supporting non-English-speaking innovators

Atal Incubation Centres
Supporting startups with mentorship and funding

Atal New India Challenges
Addressing national challenges with technology-based solutions

Atal Community Innovation Centres
Promoting innovation in underserved regions

18ᵗʰ International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics

Why in News?

The **18ᵗʰ International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)** is being held at Mumbai, India, from 11ᵗʰ to 21ˢᵗ August 2025.

- 💡 This is the **second time that India is hosting the IOAA,** after the **2016 edition in Bhubaneswar.**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The **IOAA** is an **annual competition** for secondary school students (Classes 10 to 12), featuring a rigorous selection process to qualify for the **international level.**
  - ✦ The IOAA was **conceived in 2006** to address the increasing global interest in astronomy among high school students, with its **first edition** held in **Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2007.**
- 💡 **Organiser:** The event is organised by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE),** an autonomous institution under the umbrella of the Department of Atomic Energy.
  - ✦ It is also supported by the Government of India through its **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** via the **Vigyan Pratibha Project** of HBCSE.
- 💡 **Theme of the Olympiad:** The theme for this year's event is **'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam'**, reflecting the ancient Indian idea that **"the world is one family under the one sky".**

- **Logo:** The **IOAA 2025 logo features the Gateway of India**, a GSLV rocket representing India's lunar mission, a spider symbolizing telescopes in the letter **"O",** tri-coloured comets above the Gateway, and a colour scheme inspired by the Milky Way galaxy.

18th **ioaa**
MUMBAI, INDIA – 2025

- **Participants:** The Olympiad has attracted **over 300 high school students** from **64 countries**. During the event, students participate in several **challenging exams** covering **theoretical**, **observational**, and **data analysis** aspects of astronomy.

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)

- HBCSE is a **National Centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**, which is a Deemed University in Mumbai.
- HBCSE is the **nodal centre** of Olympiad programmes in mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, and biology.
- Another important programme of HBCSE is the **National Initiative on Undergraduate Science (NIUS),** concerning tertiary science education in India.

Astronomy

- Astronomy is the science that **studies celestial objects** such as stars, planets, comets, galaxies, and the universe as a whole.

Astrophysics

- Astrophysics is a branch of astronomy that **uses the principles and laws of physics** (such as gravity, thermodynamics), to **understand and explain the physical process**es that govern how celestial objects behave, form, and evolve.

Alert for Bird Flu in UP

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh has issued a **state-wide alert** due to the growing **threat of Bird Flu (H5N1),** directing relevant departments to implement strict safety protocols to protect animals and birds, especially in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

- CM Yogi has instructed to **reinforce safety measures in zoos, bird sanctuaries, national parks**, wetlands, and cow shelters to prevent any outbreak of Bird Flu.

Key Facts About Bird Flu

- **About:** Bird flu (avian influenza) is a highly contagious viral disease **caused by avian influenza A viruses,** particularly subtypes **H5N1 and H5N8**, affecting both wild and domestic birds.
- **History of Human Cases: First human cases** were reported in **1997 (Hong Kong).** Most have occurred in Asia and were linked to close contact with infected birds.
- **Transmission:** H5N1 spreads primarily **through direct contact with infected live or dead birds** or contaminated environments (e.g., live bird markets).
  - ✖ **Human infections of H5N1** are **rare**, with a **high fatality rate** (~60%), much **higher than Covid-19** (~3%).
  - ✖ **Transmission from mammals to humans** has been observed, **but airborne and sustained human-to-human transmission are not confirmed**.
    - 🖉 H5N1 is listed as a priority disease under WHO R&D Blueprint.
- **Symptoms:** Common symptoms include high fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches.
  - ✖ Severe cases can **lead to respiratory failure or neurological complications**. Some individuals may remain asymptomatic despite exposure.
- **Treatment:** Current seasonal flu vaccines do not protect against H5N1.
  - ✖ **Antiviral drugs** like oseltamivir are effective, especially when administered early in high-risk or severe cases.

Types of Influenza Virus				
Type	**Hosts**	**Impact on Humans**	**Key Features**	**Public Health Relevance**
Influenza A	Humans, birds, pigs, other animals	High – causes pandemics and severe epidemics	Subtypes (H1N1, H5N1) based on HA & NA proteins	Major global concern; pandemic potential
Influenza B	Humans	Moderate – seasonal flu outbreaks	Two lineages: B/Yamagata and B/Victoria; slower mutation	Seasonal flu impact; affects vulnerable groups
Influenza C	Humans (rare)	Low – mild respiratory illness	No epidemics; long-lasting immunity	Limited concern; self-limiting
Influenza D	Cattle and other animals	None	No human infections; animal monitoring	Veterinary relevance; no human threat

Third President's Gallantry Medal to Ajay Sahni

Why in News?

Senior IPS officer **Ajay Kumar Sahni**, known for leading 52 encounters, has been awarded the **President's Medal for Gallantry** for the **third time** in his career.

💡 **Sahni, a 2009-batch officer** from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was **honored with the President's Medal** for his exceptional courage during a high-risk operation in **Meerut on Republic Day (26th January 2020),** praised for his gallantry, leadership, and dedication under life-threatening circumstances.

Gallantry Awards

💡 **About:** They are given to the **personnel for displaying raw courage,** unparalleled bravery and total disregard to personal safety in the line of duty.

- ✏ These gallantry awards are **announced twice in a year,** first on the occasion of the **Republic Day** and then on the occasion of the **Independence Day.**

💡 **Types:**

- ✏ **Gallantry Awards in the Face of the Enemy:**
  - 📎 **Param Vir Chakra (PVC)** for most conspicuous bravery
  - 📎 **Mahavir Chakra (MVC)** for acts of gallantry
  - 📎 **Vir Chakra** for acts of bravery
- ✏ **Gallantry Awards Other than in the Face of the Enemy:**
  - 📎 Includes **Ashoka Chakra**, **Kirti Chakra**, and **Shaurya Chakra**.

💡 **Order of precedence of the Awards:**
- ✦ Param Vir Chakra
- ✦ Ashoka Chakra
- ✦ Mahavir Chakra
- ✦ Kirti Chakra
- ✦ Vir Chakra
- ✦ Shaurya Chakra

CIVILIAN AND GALLANTRY AWARDS

CIVILIAN AWARDS

Bharat Ratna
- India's highest civilian award; instituted in 1954
- Awarded for exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour
- Award includes certificate & medallion (no monetary grant)
- Recommended to President by the PM
- Can be given (max) thrice per year

Padma Awards
- Instituted in 1954; announced annually on eve of Republic Day
- Recognises achievements in all fields/disciplines involving public service
- Categories: Padma Vibhushan > Padma Bhushan > Padma Shri
- Recommended by Padma Awards Committee (constituted by PM annually)
- Suspended twice - 1978-79 and 1993-97
- Max no. of awards per year - 120

GALLANTRY AWARDS
- Wartime Gallantry instituted on 26th January 1950
- Peacetime Gallantry instituted on 4th January 1952
- Announced twice a year - Republic Day and Independence Day
- Order of Precedence - Param Vir Chakra > Ashoka Chakra > Mahavir Chakra > Kirti Chakra > Vir Chakra > Shaurya Chakra

- Eligibility -
  » All officers of all ranks (Army, Navy, IAF), Reserve forces, Territorial army
  » People providing nursing services under any of the above forces

Wartime Gallantry Awards
- Param Vir Chakra
- Maha Vir Chakra
- Vir Chakra

Peacetime Gallantry Awards
- Ashoka Chakra
- Kirti Chakra
- Shaurya Chakra

Drishti IAS — The Vision

UP Police's 'Operation Savera'

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Police** has launched **'Operation Savera'** in the Saharanpur region to curb drug trafficking and promote a drug-free society.

- The initiative, directed by **CM Yogi Adityanath** and **DGP Rajeev Krishna**, targets the entire chain of illegal narcotics, from manufacturers to peddlers.

Key Points

- **Objective:** The operation focuses on **illegal drug manufacturers, intermediaries, suppliers, and peddlers** across the three districts of the Saharanpur range.
  - Police will **dismantle trafficking networks**, targeting both **forward and backward linkages** of the drug trade.
- **Legal Mandate:** Strict legal action will be taken under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**, and **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act, 1988**, including **confiscation of properties** acquired through illicit drug activities.
  - Ongoing NDPS cases will be reviewed to ensure **convictions of guilty persons**.
- **Awareness:** **Awareness campaigns** will educate society, especially **students**, about the harmful effects of drug abuse.
  - Visits to **de-addiction centers** are planned to assess facilities and challenges, and coordinate with departments for **rehabilitation support**.

Note: Earlier, the **Kanpur Police** had launched **'Operation Mahakal'** on 5th August 2025 to **crack down on the land mafia, extortion gangs**, and influential individuals supporting them.

UP's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath **inaugurated the state's first green hydrogen plant** and the **second of its kind in the country** at Khanimpur village, Gorakhpur district.

India's Green Hydrogen Milestones
• **Kandla Port** in Gujarat is the site of **India's first Make-in-India Green Hydrogen Plant,** advancing the country's Net-Zero goals.
• Jindal Stainless Limited in Hisar is **India's first off-grid green hydrogen plant** dedicated to the **stainless steel industry,** making it a global first for the sector.
• **Adani Group** commissioned **India's first off-grid 5 MW** green hydrogen pilot plant in **Kutch, Gujarat,** pioneering renewable-powered hydrogen production.

Key Points

- **About:** The plant, set up by **Torrent Gas and Torrent Power,** marks a significant milestone in **India's transition to clean energy.**
  - As part of a pilot project, the plant will blend up to **2% green hydrogen with natural gas** (CNG and PNG), which will be supplied to domestic households, CNG stations, and industries via the local gas grid.
- **Significance:** The project is the **largest** green hydrogen and natural gas blending initiative in the country's city gas distribution sector, expected to **cut carbon emissions** by 500 tonnes annually and establish Uttar Pradesh as a key hub for green hydrogen due to its abundant water resources.
- **Green Hydrogen Policy:** The **Uttar Pradesh Green Hydrogen Policy 2024** enables Ease of Doing Business by promoting investments and setting up of Green Hydrogen / **Green Ammonia** production facilities and Green Hydrogen-based product manufacturing units.
  - Uttar Pradesh envisions taking the production capacity of Green Hydrogen / Green Ammonia up to **1 million metric tonnes per year by 2028.**
  - The policy includes a **30% capital subsidy,** which can go up to 40% for the first four projects in the state.

## Green Hydrogen

- 💡 Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into **hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂)** through **electrolysis powered** by renewable energy sources like solar power, or via biomass gasification.
- 💡 Its uses include **fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs)**, industrial uses such as fertilizers and the refineries sector, and transportation sectors like road and rail.
- 💡 **Other Types of Hydrogen:**

Grey Hydrogen	**Blue Hydrogen**	**Green Hydrogen**
Process: Steam Reforming	Process: Steam Reforming With Carbon Capture	Process: Electrolysis
Source: Natural Gas	Source: Natural Gas	Source: Renewable Energies

Black Hydrogen	**Pink Hydrogen**	**Turquoise Hydrogen**	**Yellow Hydrogen**
Process: Gasification	Process: Electrolysis	Process: Pyrolysis	Process: Electrolysis
Source: Coal	Source: Nuclear Energy	Source: Natural Gas	Source: Solar Energy

Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Why in News?

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, along with **President Droupadi Murmu** and other dignitaries, paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his **seventh death anniversary (16th Aug)** at his memorial, **'Sadaiv Atal'**, in New Delhi.
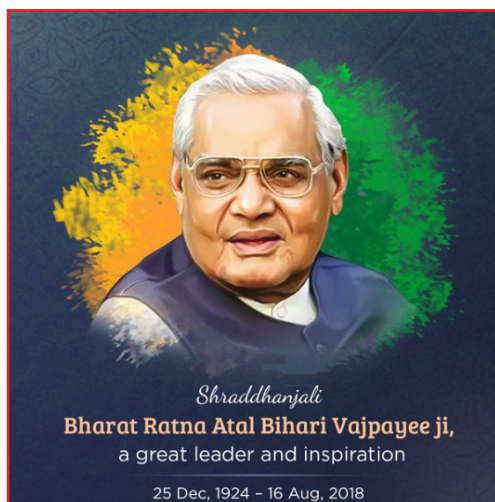
Shraddhanjali
Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji,
a great leader and inspiration
25 Dec, 1924 – 16 Aug, 2018

Key Points About Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- 💡 **Atal Bihari Vajpayee:** Born on 25th December, 1924 in the **erstwhile princely state of Gwalior** (now a part of Madhya Pradesh).
  - ✦ He entered in national politics during the **Quit India Movement (1942)** which hastened the end of British colonial rule.
- 💡 **Professional Career:** In 1947, Vajpayee started working as a journalist for newspapers of **Deendayal Upadhyaya — Rashtradharma** (a Hindi monthly), **Panchjanya** (a Hindi weekly) and the dailies **Swadesh and Veer Arjun.**
  - ✦ Later, influenced by **Syama Prasad Mookerjee,** Vajpayee joined the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951.**
- 💡 **Political Journey:** He served as **India's Prime Minister three times** (1996; 1998–2004): **first term** (16th May – 1st June **1996, about 13 days**), **second term** (19th March 1998 – 13th October 1999), **and third term** (13th October 1999 – 22nd May 2004).
  - ✦ He was elected **nine times to the Lok Sabha** and **twice to the Rajya Sabha.**
- 💡 **Awards and Recognition:** He was conferred with the **country's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2015** and second-highest civilian honour, the **Padma Vibhushan in 1994.**
  - ✦ As a parliamentarian, Vajpayee was awarded with the **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award for Best Parliamentarian in 1994,** which defines him as "a role model par excellence for all legislators."
  - ✦ His birthday is observed as **Good Governance Day.**
- 💡 **Demise:** A revered former Prime Minister, he passed away on 16th August 2018.
- 💡 **Key Achievements:**
  - ✦ He launched the **Golden Quadrilateral Project**, creating a network of four national highways connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.

- ✦ Through **second-generation economic reforms,** he liberalized India's economy, fostering industrial growth and attracting foreign investment.
- ✦ He led the nation during the **Pokhran Nuclear Tests (1998),** which established India as a nuclear power while emphasizing peace and non-aggression.
- ✦ He inaugurated **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** in 2000 **for better connectivity and transportation** in **rural India.**

Eternal Flame of Homeopathy Award to Dr PK Shukla

Why in News?

Senior homeopathic physician **Dr PK Shukla** from Lucknow was awarded the **Eternal Flame of Homeopathy Award** for his outstanding contributions to homeopathy.

- 💡 The award was presented by cricketing legend **Sunil Gavaskar** at the **4th All India Homeopathy Research Summit 2025**, held on **16th August 2025** at **JW Marriott, Goa**, and organised by **Burnet Homeopathy Private Limited**.

Homeopathy

- 💡 Homeopathy is a medical system that **stimulates the body's natural healing ability, using highly diluted substances** to enhance effects and reduce side effects.
- 💡 Introduced in India in the 18th century, **World Homeopathy Day** is observed every **10th April** to honor its founder, **Dr. Hahnemann**.

> **Note: Crosspathy** is the practice where **healthcare professionals provide treatments or prescribe medicines beyond their recognized expertise**, such as AYUSH practitioners (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) performing procedures or prescribing drugs usually reserved for allopathic (modern) medicine.

AYUSH Systems of Medicine

AYUSH encompasses Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homeopathy, with Ayurveda having a documented history of 5000+ years.

Ayurveda

- **Samhita Period (1000 BC):**
  Emerged as mature medical system
  - **Charaka Samhita:** Oldest and most authoritative text
  - **Sushruta Samhita:** Gives fundamental principles and therapeutic methods in eight specialties

- **Main Schools:**
  - **Punarvasu Atreya -** School of physicians
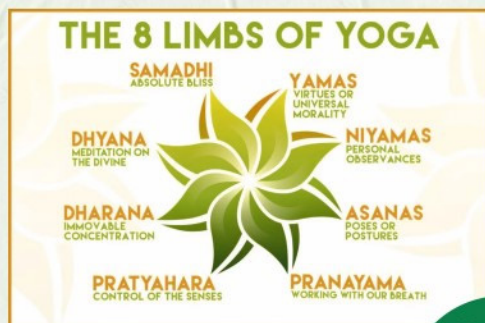 - **Divodasa Dhanvantari -** School of surgeons

Lord Brahma is believed to be the 1st proponent of Ayurveda

Branches of Ayurveda:

- Kayachikitsa (internal medicine)
- Shalya Tantra (surgery)
- Shalakya Tantra (disease of supra-clavicular origin)
- Kaumarabhritya (paediatrics)
- Agada Tantra (toxicology)
- Bhootavidya (psychiatry)
- Rasayana Tantra (rejuvenation and geriatrics)
- Vajikarana (eugenics & science of aphrodisiac)

Yoga & Naturopathy

THE 8 LIMBS OF YOGA

- SAMADHI — ABSOLUTE BLISS
- YAMAS — VIRTUES OR UNIVERSAL MORALITY
- DHYANA — MEDITATION ON THE DIVINE
- NIYAMAS — PERSONAL OBSERVANCES
- DHARANA — IMMOVABLE CONCENTRATION
- ASANAS — POSES OR POSTURES
- PRATYAHARA — CONTROL OF THE SENSES
- PRANAYAMA — WORKING WITH OUR BREATH

Yoga first propounded by Maharishi Patanjali in systematic form Yogsutra

- **Naturopathy:** Healing with help of 5 natural elements - Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Ether
  - Based on theories of self-healing capacity of body and principles of healthy living
  - Encourages a **person-centred approach** rather than disease-centred

Unani

Pioneered in Greece, developed by Arabs as 7 principles (Umoor-e-Tabbiya)

- Based on the framework of teachings of **Buqrat** (Hippocrates) and **Jalinoos** (Galen)
  - Hippocratic theory of **four humors** viz. blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile
- **Recognised by WHO** and granted official status by India as an alternative health system

Siddha

Dates back to 10000 – 4000 BC; Siddhar Agasthiyar - Father of Siddha Medicine

- Preventive, promotive, curative, rejuvenative, and rehabilitative health care
- **4 Components:** Latro-chemistry, Medical practice, Yogic practice & Wisdom
- Diagnosis based on 3 humors **(Mukkuttram)** and 8 vital tests **(Ennvagai Thervu)**

Sowa Rigpa

Origin: Lord Buddha in India before 2500 years

- Traditional medicine in Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.
- Recognised in India by Indian Medicine Central Council Act,1970 (As amended in 2010)

Homeopathy

German physician Dr. Christian F. S. Hahnemann codified its fundamental principles

- Medicines prepared mainly from natural substances (plant products, minerals, animal sources)
- Brought in India by European missionaries - 1810; official recognition - 1948
- **3 Key Principles:**
  - *Similia Similibus Curentur* (let likes be cured by likes)
  - Single Medicine
  - Minimum Dose

Drishti IAS

UP Universities Shine on Sodhganga Portal

Why in News?

On University Grants Commission's (UGC) **Sodhganga portal, three universities** from **Uttar Pradesh** secured places among the country's **Top 10 institutions** in terms of uploaded research theses.

Key Points

- On the **Shodhganga portal, which hosts over 6,20,000 theses from 840 universities nationwide, Uttar Pradesh's institutions** have emerged as significant contributors, with **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Kanpur University, and Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** securing prominent positions—underscoring the state's growing emphasis on higher education, research, and academic excellence.

- **Top 10 National Universities:**
  - Anna University (17028 theses)
  - University of Madras (15396)
  - University of Calcutta (14837)
  - Savitribai Phule Pune University (13403)
  - University of Mumbai (12527)
  - Andhra University (10736)
  - Aligarh Muslim University (10709): 7th among top contributors (1st in UP).
  - Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University (10279): 8th among top contributors (2nd in UP).
  - Panjab University (9890)
  - Banaras Hindu University (9600): (3rd in UP).

- **Other UP Universities' Contributions:**
  - **Lucknow University:** 8,683 theses
  - **Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut:** 3,645 theses
  - **Bundelkhand University:** 2,335 theses
  - **Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University:** 1,161 theses
  - **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow:** 462 theses

Shodhganga: A Digital Repository of Indian Theses

- **About:** Shodhganga is a digital **repository of Indian electronic theses and dissertations**, hosted and maintained by the **INFLIBNET Centre**.
  - It provides open access to M.Phil. and Ph.D. research, ensuring wider visibility, reducing duplication, and enhancing research quality across Indian universities.

- **Mandate:** Under the **UGC (Minimum Standards & Procedure for Award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree) Regulation, 2009 (amended 2016)**, all researchers are required to submit electronic versions of their theses to facilitate global access and preservation.

- **Significance:**
  - "Shodh" means research; "Ganga" symbolizes India's rich cultural heritage. Together, Shodhganga represents the reservoir of Indian intellectual output.
  - It prevents duplication of research, promotes quality, and preserves scholarly work digitally.

- **University Integration:**
  - Universities can maintain their own institutional repositories while using Shodhganga as a central backup.
  - Metadata from distributed repositories is harvested centrally to provide unified access to all theses.

153rd Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo

Why in News?

On 15th August 2025, PM Narendra Modi paid tribute to the philosopher and freedom fighter Sri Aurobindo on his **153rd birth anniversary**, acknowledging his profound impact on India's nation-building journey.

- He highlighted that **Aurobindo's philosophy and spirituality guided** the nation's growth toward realizing its potential.
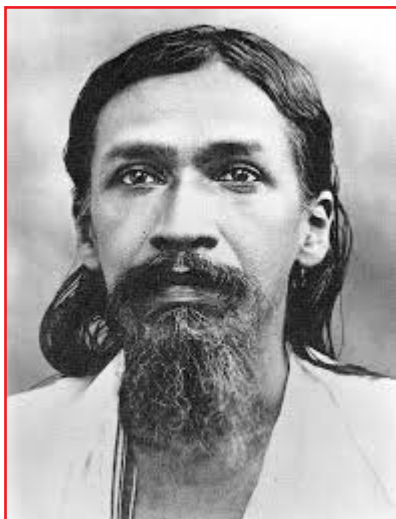
Key Facts About Sri Aurobindo

- 💡 **About:** Aurobindo Ghose was born in **Calcutta on 15th August 1872.** He was a yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist who propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution.
  - ✦ He died on 5th December 1950 in Pondicherry.
- 💡 **Education:**
  - ✦ His education **began in a Christian convent school** in Darjeeling.
  - ✦ He entered the **University of Cambridge,** where he became proficient in two classical and several modern European languages.
  - ✦ He **returned to India in February 1893** at the age of twenty-one and **commenced his service in the Baroda State.**
  - ✦ He began the study of **Yoga and Indian languages, including classical Sanskrit.**
- 💡 **Indian Revolutionary Movement: From 1902 to 1910, he partook in the struggle** to free India from the British. As a result of his political activities, he was **imprisoned in 1908 (Alipore Bomb case).**
- 💡 **Spirituality:** In Pondichéry, he **founded a community of spiritual seekers (1910),** which took shape as the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.**
  - ✦ He believed that the **basic principles of matter, life, and mind would be succeeded through**

terrestrial evolution by the principle of supermind as an intermediate power between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite.

- 💡 **Literary Works:**
  - ✦ In 1906, he became the **editor of Bande Mataram,** an English newspaper (founded by Bipin Chandra Pal in 1905).
  - ✦ Bases of Yoga
  - ✦ Bhagavad Gita and Its Message
  - ✦ The Future Evolution of Man
  - ✦ Rebirth and Karma
  - ✦ Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol
  - ✦ Hour of God
- 💡 **The Five Dreams of Sri Aurobindo:** In 1947, upon India's independence, Aurobindo shared his five dreams, which included **a free and united India, the resurgence of Asia, a global union for a fairer life, India's spiritual gift to the world, and a transformative step in human evolution towards higher consciousness and societal perfection.**
- 💡 **Auroville:** Auroville, founded **by Mirra Alfassa (The Mother) in 1968,** is an **experimental township in Pondicherry** that embodies **Aurobindo's vision of a global, spiritually** united community.
  - ✦ Endorsed by **UNESCO in 1966,** it emphasizes sustainable living and addresses humanity's future cultural, environmental, social, and spiritual needs.

Karikot Village Wins ICRT Award 2025

Why in News?

Karikot village, located in the **Bahraich** district of Uttar Pradesh, has been selected for the prestigious **Indian Subcontinental Responsible Tourism (ICRT) Award 2025.**

- 💡 This award is presented by the **ICRT India Foundation** and is supported by the **Ministry of Tourism.**

Key Points

- 💡 **ICRT Award 2025:** The award honors leaders in **sustainable tourism,** emphasizing the reduction of

negative impacts and the enhancement of positive ones, and will be presented in **New Delhi** on 13ᵗʰ September 2025.

- ✦ **Categories:** The awards ceremony will recognize institutions under various categories, like **One to Watch, Silver, and Gold**.
- ✦ **Criteria:** The panel evaluated entries based on **authenticity, replicability, community involvement,** and long-term impact.
  - 🖉 Karikot stood out for its **innovative and community-driven approach** to rural tourism, making it a prime example of sustainability and impact.
- 💡 **Karikot Village Model:** Karikot, located near the India-Nepal border and adjacent to the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, sees tourism initiatives driven primarily by the Tharu tribal community, focusing on homestays, eco-tourism, and cultural immersion experiences.
  - ✦ These initiatives have helped revive traditional Tharu crafts, cuisine, and **folk arts**, turning Karikot into a living museum of Tharu heritage.
  - ✦ Karikot's community-driven and sustainable tourism model has created **long-term benefits** and new livelihood opportunities, especially for **women and youth.**
- 💡 **Uttar Pradesh's Rural Tourism Strategy**: **Karikot**'s recognition underscores the state's effort to make rural tourism a key development focus, supported by initiatives like the **UP Bed & Breakfast and Homestay Policy 2025** and **eco-tourism promotion.**

Tharu Tribe
💡 **Meaning of 'Tharu':** The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavir, meaning followers of Theravada Buddhism.
💡 **Habitat:** The Tharu community belongs to the **Terai lowlands,** amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas.
✦ Terai is a region of northern India and southern Nepal running parallel to the lower ranges of the Himalayas.
✦ The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

- 💡 **Scheduled Tribe:** Tharu is a scheduled tribe in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
- 💡 **Occupation:** Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
- 💡 **Language:** They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the **Indo-Aryan subgroup,** and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi.

ICRT India Foundation

- 💡 ICRT India Foundation was founded in 2017 to support and expand **Responsible Tourism in India.**
- 💡 It backs the **Cape Town Declaration of Responsible Tourism (2002)** and promotes its principles.
- 💡 The Foundation signed and supports the **2022 Responsible Tourism Charte**r, signed on Magna Carta Island.
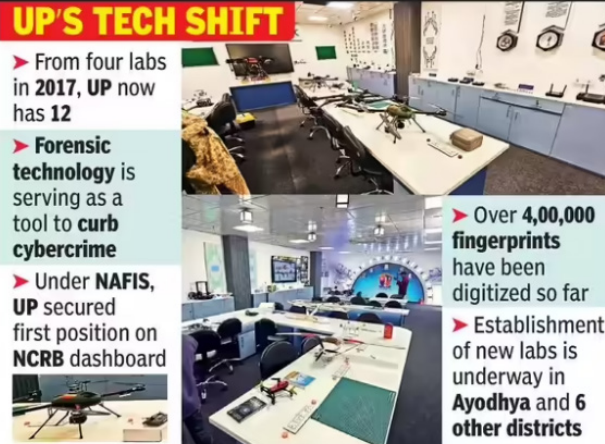
India's 1ˢᵗ Drone Forensic Lab

Why in News?

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, a **drone forensic lab** has been established at the **Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS) in Lucknow**.

UP'S TECH SHIFT
- ▶ From four labs in **2017**, UP now has **12**
- ▶ **Forensic technology** is serving as a tool to **curb cybercrime**
- ▶ Under **NAFIS**, UP secured first position on **NCRB** dashboard
- ▶ Over **4,00,000 fingerprints** have been digitized so far
- ▶ Establishment of new labs is underway in **Ayodhya** and **6 other districts**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The lab was inaugurated by **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** Yogi Adityanath and is conceptualized

and established by **Milind Raj,** an expert in robotics and drone technology, also known as the **'Drone Man of India.'**

💡 **Functions:** The lab will enable police to **track, decode, and investigate drones** in real-time, helping forensic experts determine the **drone's flight path, take-off location,** payload capacity, and potential hazards like explosives.

✦ It will facilitate **forensic postmortems of drones** to assess their intent and threat potential, helping law enforcement understand drones used in **unlawful activities.**

💡 **Training:** The lab will serve as a **training center for police personnel** and forensic experts, offering hands-on experience with **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).**

✦ It will help build a **dedicated drone force within UP Police,** enabling swift responses to incidents involving drones for security surveillance, crowd monitoring, and potential criminal activities.

💡 **Technological Innovation and Future Impact:** The lab is equipped with advanced data acquisition tools, **reverse-engineering systems,** customized kits, and hi-tech computing systems, making it possible to trace and analyze drones used in unlawful activities.

💡 **Applications:** The lab's applications include **safeguarding sensitive zones like borders,** prisons, and airports, as well as aiding in **disaster management** and search-and-rescue operations.

Varanasi: India's First City to Install Solar Panels Between Railway Tracks

Why in News?

Varanasi is the first city in India to install **portable solar panels** between railway tracks, promoting **sustainable energy.**

💡 This **pilot project** at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) supports Indian Railways' goal of reducing its **carbon footprint** and achieving **net-zero emissions.**

Key Points

💡 **About:** The installation features **solar panel system spanning 70 meters** of railway track, with **28 panels of 15 kWp capacity,** generating **880 units** per kilometre daily and a power density of 220 kWp per kilometre.

💡 **Panel Design:** The solar panels are **removable for easy maintenance** and seasonal adaptation, mounted on sleepers with an indigenously designed installation procedure to ensure secure and safe attachment without disrupting train traffic.

✦ Rubber mounting pads reduce vibrations from passing trains, epoxy adhesive secures the panels, and the space between tracks eliminates the need for extra land acquisition.

💡 **Environmental and Operational Impact:**

✦ **Energy Generation Potential:** The scheme is expected to produce an estimated **3.21 lakh units per kilometre** per year.

✦ **Indian Railways Network:** With a track length of **1.2 lakh km,** this technology has the potential to be deployed extensively across the network, especially on yard lines.

📎 The solar panels complement existing **rooftop solar power plants** installed within BLW premises, further strengthening Indian Railways' renewable energy commitment.

Chevening-Atal Bihari Vajpayee Scholarship Scheme

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)** for the **Chevening-Atal Bihari Vajpayee Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme.**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The MoU was signed in Lucknow by **Lindy Cameron**, the British High Commissioner to India, in the presence of **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.**
  - ✦ The UP Cabinet recently approved the scheme, with the state government **allocating Rs 2 crore** for the program in the current financial year (2025-26).
  - ✦ The scheme will provide **five meritorious students** from Uttar Pradesh with the opportunity to **pursue master's degrees at leading UK universities** every year.
- 💡 **Objective:** The scholarship aims to **empower meritorious students** from Uttar Pradesh by enabling them to achieve excellence in education, research, and leadership at the international level.
  - ✦ It is designed to **transform the state's education system** and prepare students for global leadership roles.
- 💡 **Program Timeline:** The program will begin in the **2025-26 academic session** and run for **three years,** with the potential for renewal from the **2028-29 session.**
- 💡 **Financials:** The scholarship will **cover tuition, examination** and research fees, living allowances, and airfare to and from the UK.
- 💡 **Cost:** The estimated total cost per student is between **£38,048 to £42,076** (Rs 45–48 lakh).
  - ✦ **State Contribution:** Approximately **£19,800** (Rs 23 lakh).
  - ✦ **FCDO Contribution:** The remainder of the funding.

- 💡 **Student Selection: Five students** will receive full scholarships **each year** to study at prestigious UK universities, including the **University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, the University of Edinburgh, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.**
- 💡 **Strategic Importance:** The scheme reflects the growing collaboration between India and the UK, particularly after Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** recent visit to the UK, where he signed the **Trade Agreement** and **Vision 35**, opening new avenues for business and education.

World Humanitarian Day

Why in News?

On August 19th, **World Humanitarian Day** is observed to recognize the dedicated efforts of those who risk their lives to assist others in times of crisis. It also serves as a day to show support for the millions of people whose lives are endangered due to **conflict and disasters.**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** World Humanitarian Day, led by the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**, advocates for the well-being, dignity, and survival of people affected by crises, as well as the safety of humanitarian workers.
- 💡 **History:** On 19th August 2003, a bomb attack on the **Canal Hotel in Baghdad** killed **22 humanitarian aid workers,** including **Sergio Vieira de Mello**, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq.
  - ✦ In his honor, the **United Nations General Assembly** adopted a resolution to designate this day as **World Humanitarian Day (WHD).**
- 💡 **Theme:** This year's theme calls for ending attacks on humanitarians and civilians and ending impunity under International Humanitarian Law, urging those in power to **#ActForHumanity.**
 - ✦ The **#ActForHumanity** campaign with a call for:

- 📎 **Protection** of humanitarian workers and the civilians they serve
- 📎 **Upholding international humanitarian law**
- 📎 **Funding** the vital lifelines that humanitarian aid provides

104th Birth Anniversary of Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma

Why in News?

On the occasion of **Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma's 104th birth anniversary**, the **ninth President of India (served from 25th July 1992 to 25th July 1997)**, President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
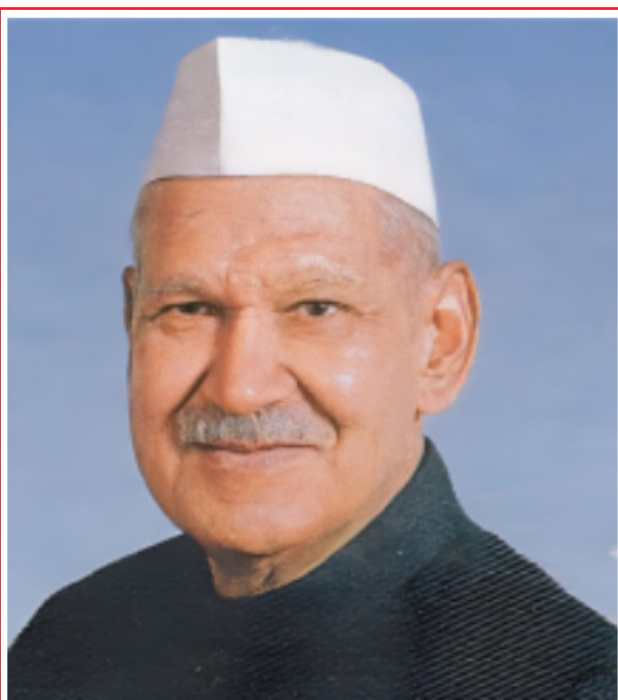
DR SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA

9th President Of India

Key Facts About Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma

- 💡 **About:** Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, born on **19th August 1918 (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)**, was an esteemed lawyer, politician, and the **President of India**.

- ✦ He played a crucial role in India's independence struggle and made significant contributions in various political capacities.

- 💡 **Education:** Dr Sharma pursued his higher education at **Agra** and **Lucknow Universities**.
  - ✦ After obtaining a doctorate in law from **Cambridge University**, he attended **Lincoln's Inn** in London and **Harvard University**.
  - ✦ He began his legal practice in **1940** in **Lucknow**.

- 💡 **Literary Work:** He was also a noted poet and writer. He authored several books and edited prestigious publications such as the **Lucknow Law Journal (1941-43) and Socialist India (1971-74).**

- 💡 **Political Journey:** He became a **member of the erstwhile Bhopal Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1956** and went on to serve as the **youngest Chief Minister of the state.**
  - ✦ He was **re-elected to the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1956 to 1971** and also served as the **Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Maharashtra.**
  - ✦ In **1971, he was elected to the Lok Sabha** and served as the **Minister of Communications from 1974 to 1977**.

- 💡 **Vice-Presidency and Presidency:** In **1984, Dr. Sharma was elected as the eighth Vice President of India,** serving in that role for **two terms** until **he was elected as the President of India in 1992.**
  - ✦ In **October 2000, President Shri K.R. Narayanan** released a special commemorative **postage stamp in honor of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.**

- 💡 **Death:** Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma passed away on 26th **December 1999**, following a massive heart attack.

Some Facts About the Office of the President of India
💡 **Two Terms**: The only President of India to have served two terms is **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**.
💡 **Presidential Deaths**: So far, **two Presidents**, **Dr. Zakir Hussain** and **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**, have passed away during their term in office.

💡 **Acting President**: When **Dr. Zakir Hussain** passed away in May 1969, the then **Vice-President, V.V. Giri** became the acting President.

★ Following this, V.V. Giri resigned to contest the presidential election.

💡 **CJI as Acting President**: After V.V. Giri's resignation, **Chief Justice M. Hidayatullah** served as the officiating President from **20ᵗʰ July 1969** to 24ᵗʰ **August 1969**.

Note: Justice Hidayatullah is the **only person in Indian history** to have served in all three highest constitutional offices: **Chief Justice of India**, **Acting President** and **Vice President**.

S.No.	Name	Term Start	Term End	Duration	Key Details
	Presidents of India (1950-2025)				
1	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	26ᵗʰ January 1950	13ᵗʰ May 1962	12 years, 107 days	**First President of India; Only President to serve two terms**
2	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	13ᵗʰ May 1962	13ᵗʰ May 1967	5 years	Philosopher-President; **Teacher's Day celebrated on his birthday**
3	Dr. Zakir Husain	13ᵗʰ May 1967	3ʳᵈ May 1969	1 year, 355 days	**First Muslim President; Died in office**
Acting	V.V. Giri	3ʳᵈ May 1969	20ᵗʰ July 1969	78 days	Acting President after Zakir Husain's death
Acting	Justice Mohammad Hidayatullah	20ᵗʰ July 1969	24ᵗʰ August 1969	35 days	**CJI acted as President; V.V. Giri resigned to contest election**
4	V.V. Giri	24ᵗʰ August 1969	24ᵗʰ August 1974	5 years	Won as independent candidate against official Congress nominee
5	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	24ᵗʰ August 1974	11ᵗʰ February 1977	2 years, 171 days	**Died in office during Emergency period**
Acting	B.D. Jatti	11ᵗʰ February 1977	25ᵗʰ July 1977	164 days	Acting President; Former Chief Minister of Karnataka
6	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	25ᵗʰ July 1977	25ᵗʰ July 1982	5 years	**First President elected unopposed**
7	Giani Zail Singh	25ᵗʰ July 1982	25ᵗʰ July 1987	5 years	**First Sikh President**
8	R. Venkataraman	25ᵗʰ July 1987	25ᵗʰ July 1992	5 years	**Former Vice President and Defence Minister**
9	Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	25ᵗʰ July 1992	25ᵗʰ July 1997	5 years	**Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**
10	K.R. Narayanan	25ᵗʰ July 1997	25ᵗʰ July 2002	5 years	**First Dalit President; Career diplomat**
11	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	25ᵗʰ July 2002	25ᵗʰ July 2007	5 years	"People's President"; Missile Man of India
12	Pratibha Patil	25ᵗʰ July 2007	25ᵗʰ July 2012	5 years	**First Woman President of India**
13	Pranab Mukherjee	25ᵗʰ July 2012	25ᵗʰ July 2017	5 years	Veteran politician; Former Finance Minister
14	Ram Nath Kovind	25ᵗʰ July 2017	25ᵗʰ July 2022	5 years	Second Dalit President; Former Governor of Bihar
15	Droupadi Murmu	25ᵗʰ July 2022	Current	3+ years	Current President (2025); **First tribal woman President**

10th Anniversary of National Anubhav Awards

Why in News?

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for the Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, awarded the 8th "National Anubhav Awards" during the ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, alongside the **57th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop.**

Key Points

- **Awards 2025:** The **10th anniversary** of the Anubhav Awards in 2025 highlighted significant milestones in governance and **diversity.**
  - **One-third of this year's awardees were women,** reflecting the increasing presence of women officials in governance.
  - A total of **15 awardees from 11 ministries and departments** were honored, including officers from a public sector bank and a **central public sector enterprise for the first time.**
- **Notable Awardees:**
  - **M. Venkatesan**: Recognized for his service during critical times, including the 2014 Kashmir floods and Ukraine evacuation of 2022.
  - **Hukum Singh Meena**: Led the digitization of land records in over 6.4 lakh villages.
  - **Shalini Kacker (SBI)**: Instrumental in **Direct Benefit Transfer,** pension reforms, and Digital Life Certificate campaigns.
  - **O. Virupakshappa (Department of Posts)**: Expanded postal savings and insurance schemes in rural areas.
  - **Saju P.K. (CRPF)**: Served in sensitive operational areas like Assam and Pulwama.
- **Pre-Retirement Counselling:** The event included pre-retirement counselling to inform soon-to-retire employees about pension procedures, health benefits, investment options, and income tax matters.
- **New Initiatives Launched:** The event saw the release of several initiatives, including:

- Guidelines for the **Digital Life Certificate Campaign 4.0.**
- A **Coffee Table e-Book** highlighting success stories from Special Campaign 2.0.
- Plans have also been announced to use **artificial intelligence** to analyze memoirs submitted on the Anubhav portal.

National Anubhav Awards
- **About:** The Anubhav Awards, initiated by the **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)**, is designed to recognize and document the experiences of retiring and retired Central Government employees.   - **Launched in March 2015** on the direction of the Prime Minister of India, the objective is to create a culture of sharing experiences, fostering good governance and administrative reforms through the Anubhav Portal. - **Eligibility:** Retiring Central Government employees/pensioners are eligible. Write-ups published on the **Anubhav Portal,** during the time frame notified by DoPPW, are considered for the awards.

UP Leads in PM-Surya Ghar Yojana

Why in News?

In July 2025, Uttar Pradesh (UP) became the **leading state** in the country for daily solar installations under the **PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.**

Key Points

- **About:** In July, UP surpassed Gujarat (830/day) and Maharashtra (781/day) by installing **891 solar units per day,** compared to being behind them in April 2025.
  - The state has set a new daily solar installation target of 1,300 to further scale up efforts.
- **Key Strategies:** UP is prioritizing solar installations in its development strategy, with a revised focus on training and empowering **Surya Mitras** (solar

workers), emphasizing **entrepreneurship** and customer satisfaction.

- ✦ As part of this effort, the **five best-performing Surya Mitras** were felicitated during an in-house program marking **Akshay Urja Diwas.**

💡 **Impact:** The state's efforts have led to the expansion of the <u>renewable energy</u> **vendor network**, which has grown from 86 vendors at the launch of the <u>PM Surya Ghar Scheme</u> to over 3,000 vendors currently.

- ✦ This growth is driving employment in the solar sector and supporting UP's goal of becoming a **one trillion-dollar economy by 2029.**

💡 **Long-Term Goals:** UP plans to achieve **22 gigawatts of installed solar capacity** by 2027, supported by a favorable policy framework and public-private partnerships to accelerate progress.

Category	Details
State Solar Potential	23 GW
Installed Solar Power Capacity	2,632 MW
Solar Capacity to be Added under PM KUSUM Scheme	2,000 MW
Total Electricity Generation Capacity (by FY 2028)	40,191 MW (30,003 MW operational)
Uttar Pradesh Solar Energy Policy 2022	14 GW of Utility Scale Solar Energy power projects planned by FY 2028
Green Power Tariff	Rs. 0.54 per kWh (50% of additional cost)
Net Billing / Net Feed-In	Introduced under UPERC for Rooftop Solar PV Grid-Interactive System (Gross/Net Metering)

Key Facts About PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

💡 **About:** The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in **February 2024** by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), aims to provide free electricity to **one crore households** by installing rooftop solar panels.

- ✦ With a total budget of Rs 75,021 crore, the scheme is planned for implementation until FY 2026-27.
- ✦ It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month** and provides a subsidy covering up to **40% of the installation cost,** promoting widespread solar energy adoption across the country.

💡 **Eligibility:** Indian citizens, homeowners, valid electricity connection, and no prior solar subsidy.

💡 **Implementation:** It will be implemented by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and State Implementation Agencies (SIA) at the state level.

💡 **Key Components:**

- ✦ **Central Financial Assistance (CFA):** Provides financial support to residential consumers for installing rooftop solar panels through the National Portal.
- ✦ **Model Solar Village:** Create one Model <u>Solar Village</u> per district, promoting solar energy adoption.

Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham is Plastic-Free Zone

Why in News?

The **Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham** in **Varanasi** was officially declared a **plastic-free zone** from **11th August 2025**.

Key Points

💡 **About:** A series of **measures were introduced to eliminate plastic** use within the temple premises, making it a model of sustainability and eco-friendliness.

💡 **Initiative and Ban:** Following a complete ban on <u>single-use plastics</u> ahead of the **Shravan month**, the authorities at **Kashi Vishwanath Dham** have also imposed a blanket ban on **plastic utensils** used

for carrying **water**, **milk** for offerings, and **plastic baskets** used for carrying flowers and other worship materials.

- **Eco-Friendly Alternatives:** To support this initiative, **vendors** were provided with **eco-friendly baskets** made of **bamboo strips** and **stainless steel** along with other **metal utensils.**

Shree Kashi Vishwanath Temple

- **Location:** Varanasi, on the western bank of the Ganga River, India's holiest river.
- **Significance:**
  - **Oldest surviving city** and **cultural capital of India.**
  - It enshrines the **Jyotirlinga of Shiva**, **Vishweshwara (Vishwanath)**, which is **one of the twelve Jyotirlingas.**
  - The temple has been a spiritual center for many great saints such as **Adi Shankaracharya**, **Ramkrishna Paramhansa**, **Swami Vivekananda**, **Goswami Tulsidas**, **Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati**, **Gurunanak**, etc.
- **Temple Construction:**
  - Built in **1780** by **Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar** of **Indore.**
  - **Naubatkhana (Naqqar Khana)** was added in **1785** by **Collector Mohd. Ibrahim Khan** (at the behest of Governor General Warren Hastings).
  - In **1839**, **Maharaja Ranjit Sing**h donated gold to cover two domes; the third dome remains uncovered.

Renaming of Jalalabad to Parashurampuri

Why in News?

The Union Home Ministry has officially approved the **renaming of Jalalabad town** in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district to **Parashurampuri.**

Key Points

- **About**: The **Union government** has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to notify the new name, **Parashurampuri,** and register it in both **Devnagri (Hindi)** and **Roman (English) scripts,** along with **all regional languages.**
  - The Uttar Pradesh government, in its request to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), had emphasized that Jalalabad is recognized as the **birthplace of Parashuram,** the saint, and is home to an **ancient temple** dedicated to him.

- **History:** Jalalabad was established **around 1560** and was named after **Mughal emperor Jalal-ud-din Muhammad Akbar** (Son of Humayun), popularly known as **Akbar the Great.**
  - The state government began developing Jalalabad as a **tourist destination in 2016.**

- **Process of Renaming District:** The Centre has no role in altering or creating districts, as states have the authority to make such decisions, but the **Home Ministry is involved** when a **state seeks to change the name of a district or railway station.**
  - The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance.
  - A no-objection certificate may be issued after examining their replies.

SHAHJAHANPUR TEHSIL MAP

Legend
District Boundary
Tehsil Boundary

Copyright © 2015 www.mapsofindia.com
(Last Updated on 15th Sep 2015)
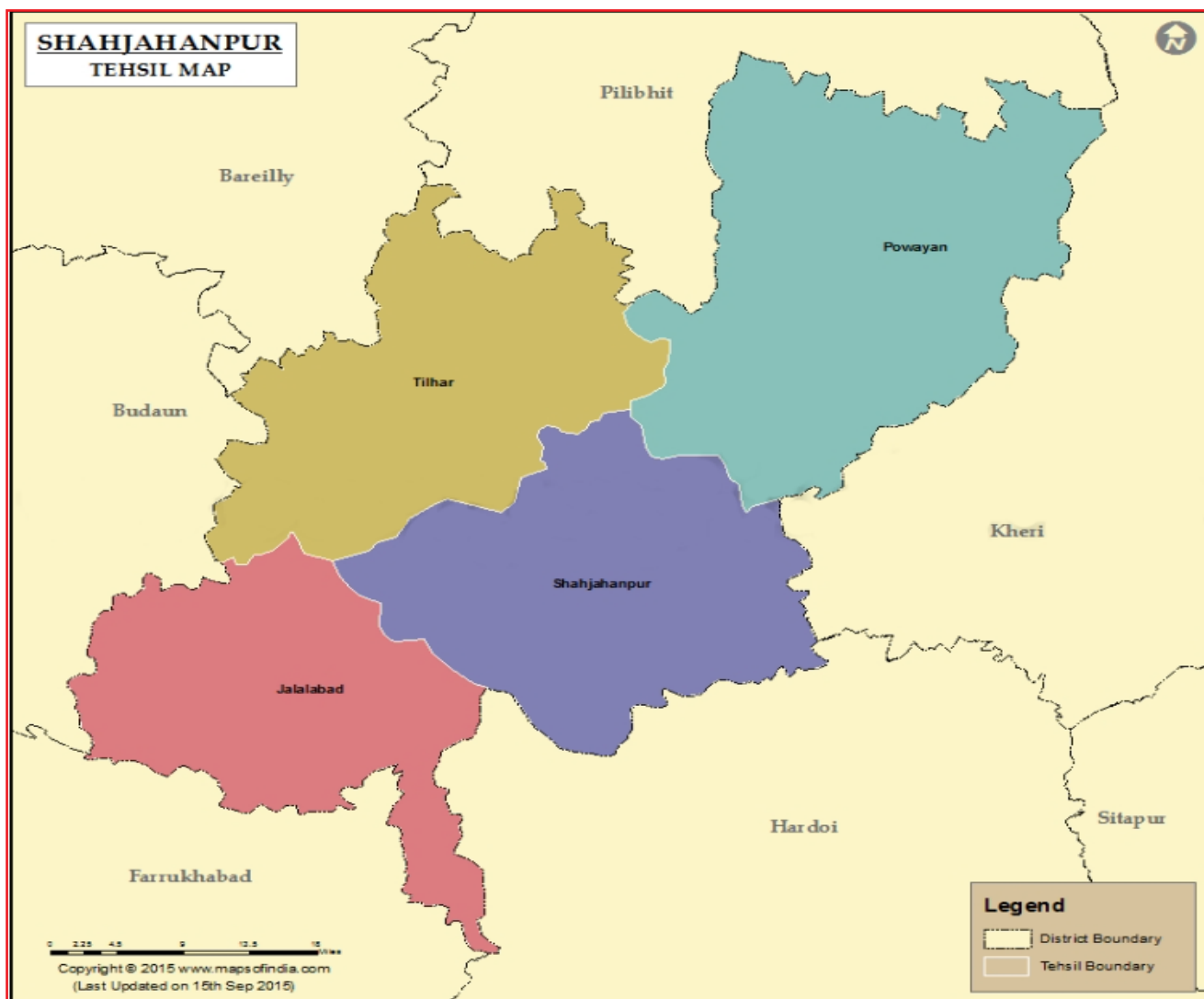
Places Previously Renamed in UP

Old Name	New Name	Old Name	New Name
Allahabad	Prayagaraj	Faizabad	Ayodhya
Mughalsarai Railway Station	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar	Jhansi Railway Station	Veerangana Laxmi Bai
Banaras	Varanasi		

Uttar Pradesh Footwear, Leather, and Non-Leather Area Development Policy 2025

Why in News?

In a move to enhance UP's status in the global footwear, leather sector, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has approved the **Uttar Pradesh Footwear, Leather, and Non-Leather Area Development Policy 2025.**

Key Features of Policy

- 💡 **Export Boost**: The policy seeks to boost Uttar Pradesh's share in <u>leather and non-leather exports</u> by **attracting international investments,** with dedicated investment drives conducted in countries like **China and Japan.**

- 💡 **Modernization**: Emphasis on **upgrading technology,** modernizing production facilities, and launching **training programs** to improve product quality and generate employment.
  - ✦ Establishment of **Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in the leather and footwear sector.
  - ✦ Grants to support <u>**IPR (Intellectual Property Rights)**</u> development, covering up to **Rs. 1 crore** per unit.

- 💡 **Skill Development**: Training centers will focus on **upskilling youth**, with specialized courses designed in partnership with educational institutions.
  - ✦ Targeted to create approximately **22 lakh jobs** in the sector over the **next five years,** with a significant focus on **employing women and people with disabilities.**

- 💡 **Dedicated Leather Parks**: The government will create **large plots of land** and establish **dedicated leather parks** with plug-and-play facilities, waste treatment plants, and state-of-the-art infrastructure.
  - ✦ **Kanpur, Agra, and Unnao** will see the establishment of **mega-leather parks** to cater to growing demand.
  - ✦ Special incentives for setting up operations in underserved areas like **Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.**

- 💡 **Financial Incentive:** The policy includes provisions to support both new and existing businesses by **providing incentives and subsidies** for setting up new leather parks and clusters.
  - ✦ **25% Capital Subsidy** for setting up leather parks or clusters on 50+ acres.
  - ✦ **100% Exemption on Stamp Duty** for land purchase related to the project.
  - ✦ Reimbursement of **50% transportation costs** for exporting products to markets outside Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan for the **first three years.**

- 💡 **Sustainability Focus: 50% Reimbursement** for adopting <u>carbon credit certification,</u> renewable energy certifications, and energy audits.
  - ✦ **75% Subsidy** for obtaining international sustainability certifications.
  - ✦ Support for adopting **biodegradable tanning agents** and <u>waterless dyeing technologies.</u>

Industry Insights

- 💡 **Market Positioning**: UP is one of India's leading hubs for leather and footwear, contributing nearly **46% of India's total leather exports.**
- 💡 **Key Locations**: **Agra** is renowned as the **'Footwear Capital of India,'** while Kanpur is a major player in leather accessories and saddlery.
- 💡 **Estimated Market Size**: The market size of **UP's leather industry** is valued at approximately **$3.5 billion**, with the footwear segment being a significant contributor.

First Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025

Why in News?

The **inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025** will be held at **Dal Lake** from **21st August 2025 to 23rd August 2025**, with over 400 participants competing in **rowing, canoeing, and kayaking.**

- 💡 This will be the **2nd Khelo India event** in Jammu & Kashmir, following the Khelo India Winter Games in **Gulmarg**, further establishing the region as India's winter sports hub.
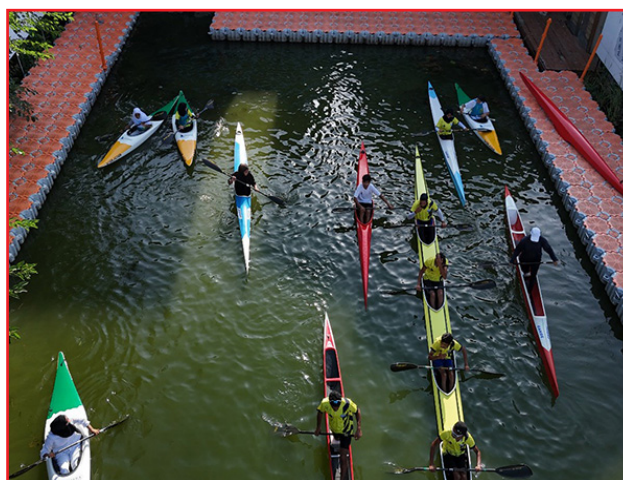
Key Points

- **About: KIWSF 2025** is being organised jointly by the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** and the **Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council** under the government's **Khelo Bharat initiative.**
- **Objective:** It aims to **expand grassroots sports**, generate local employment, and upgrade infrastructure.
- **Events:** It will be the **first consolidated Open-age category championships** where all 14 kayaking and canoeing events and the 10 rowing events are Olympic events.
  - ✦ There will also be three demonstration events – water skiing, shikhara boat spring, and dragon boat race.
- **Qualifications:** The November 2024 kayaking and canoeing nationals in Tehri (Uttarakhand) served as a qualifier, with the top 15 in singles and doubles, and the top eight in fours, advancing to KIWSF.
  - ✦ For rowing, the top eight from the nationals held in Bhopal in March 2025 will take part.
- **Participants:** The KIWSF will include **athletes from 36 states and Union Territories**, with the absence of a Services team.
  - ✦ The Games will feature **almost equal representation**, with 409 athletes competing for medals, including 202 women.
  - ✦ **Madhya Pradesh (44),** Haryana (37), Odisha (34), and Kerala (33) will have the largest contingent at KIWSF 2025.
  - ✦ **Gujarat**, Puducherry, and West Bengal will have the smallest teams.

Khelo India
- **Launched by the Indian government in 2017,** Khelo India aims to revitalize the **nation's sporting culture** by engaging children at the grassroots level and enhancing infrastructure and academies for various sports.   - ✦ The initiative began with the **Khelo India School Games in 2018** in New Delhi, and after the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** joined in 2018, the games were renamed to Khelo India Youth Games, with the **first edition held in Pune** in 2019.

- The Khelo India movement introduced the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG),** Khelo India University Games (KIUG), and Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) as annual national sports events where youth from various states and universities showcase their skills and compete for medals.
  - ✦ A new addition to the Khelo India calendar, the Khelo India Water Sports Festival and the **Khelo India Beach Games**, which took place in **Diu** in May 2025, highlight the expansion of events under this initiative.
- The Khelo India Youth Games, which started in 2018 with 18 sports, expanded to 27 sports in 2025 when held in Bihar, with competitions organized in the **Under-17** and **Under-21** categories for both boys and girls.
- The Khelo India Centres initiative, part of the **Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) scheme**, focuses on strengthening sports infrastructure at the grassroots level in India.

India's Performance at IOAA 2025

Why in News?

India's national team emerged victorious at the **18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2025**, held in **Mumbai** from **15th to 21st August**, winning **four gold medals** and **one silver medal**.

- The event, which saw participation from **288 students** across **63 countries**, marked another milestone for India's reputation in global science education.

Key Points

- **Gold Medalists from India** are:
  - ✦ **Aarush Mishra** from **Bengaluru**
  - ✦ **Banibrata Majee** from **Delhi**
  - ✦ **Panini** from **Patna**
  - ✦ **Akshat Srivastava** from **Kolkata**
- **Silver Medalists from India** are:
  - ✦ **Sumant Gupta** from **Gurugram** secured the silver medal, completing India's impressive medal haul.

- **Competition Highlights:** This year's IOAA gathered **288 students** from around the globe, who participated in a series of practical and theoretical evaluations.
  - ✦ **Iran** stood out as the top performer, with **all five of its team members securing gold medals.**
- **Closing Ceremony and Awards:** The IOAA concluded on **21st August 2025**, with a grand closing ceremony.
  - ✦ **145 medals** were awarded, including **50 golds**, **44 silvers**, and **51 bronzes**. **Anil Kakodkar**, Chancellor of **Homi Bhabha National Institute**, congratulated the winners, praising their pursuit of scientific excellence and India's increasing investments in **astronomy** and **space research**.
- **Global Participation:** Countries like **Australia** and **Hong Kong** celebrated their **first-time successes**, with **Australia** securing a silver medal and **Hong Kong** also achieving a silver.
  - ✦ **Italy** won three bronze medals, reflecting the growing global interest in space science education.
- **About IOAA:** The **IOAA**, established in **2007**, is a premier global event for high-school students passionate about astronomy and astrophysics. This year, the event was organized by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE)**, a part of the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**.

Inauguration of the Kunj

Why in News?

Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh inaugurated **"The Kunj", a flagship retail** and cultural destination dedicated to celebrating and promoting the **diverse heritage** of Indian handicrafts and handlooms, located in New Delhi.

Key Points

- **About:** The **Kunj is a pioneering initiative focused on empowering artisans**, improving **market access**, and reimagining the **craft sector** with a design-driven, experiential approach.
  - ✦ Conceived and developed by the **Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts),** this initiative aims to transform the craft sector through its unique design-led perspective.
- It is **India's first initiative** of its kind, designed to promote crafts on a large scale, aligning with the central government's vision of taking artisans **"from gaon to global."**
- The Kunj marks the start of a **three-month inaugural celebration,** offering a curated mix of retail showrooms, live craft demonstrations, artisan-led workshops, culinary experiences, and immersive exhibitions.
- The success of this initiative is anticipated to serve as a **model for similar projects** across India, strengthening the country's role as a global hub for **traditional craftsmanship** and handmade excellence.

UP Police's Savera Yojana

Why in News?

In observance of **World Senior Citizens' Day** on 21st August 2025, the UP Police's emergency wing, **UP-112,** launched a special initiative to reconnect with elderly residents enrolled in the **Savera Yojana.**

- The initiative focused on ensuring the **safety, well-being, and dignity of senior citizens** by conducting wellness checks and providing on-the-ground support.
- Police teams across districts contacted thousands of enrolled senior citizens to **inquire about their health, safety concerns,** and any challenges they were experiencing.

Savera Yojana

- **Launched:** The initiative was **launched** by Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath on **26th October 2019.**
- **Objective:** It aims to establish a **regular community-connect with the citizens** and resolve their personal and collective problems at the initial stage itself, in order to create a sense of security and safety among the citizens.
- **Registration:** Senior citizens can call **UP-112 to register,** and upon registration, they will receive security assistance from the nearest Police Station or Police Response Vehicle if needed.

- **Special Cell:** A **special Senior Citizen Cell** has been constituted at the **district level** and in every police station to help resolve issues concerning senior citizens.

World Senior Citizen Day

- **World Senior Citizen Day** is celebrated every year on **21st August** to acknowledge the contributions of **senior citizens**, raise awareness about the challenges they face globally, and highlight the growing importance of the **silver economy.**
  - ✦ Silver Economy refers to all economic activities, goods, and services catering to senior citizens.
- World Senior Citizen Day began in 1988 when US President Reagan designated 21st August to honor seniors and promote supportive policies.
- It is different from the **International Day of Older Persons.** The **United Nations General Assembly** designated **1st October** as the International Day of Older Persons, which was first observed in 1991.

National Space Day Celebration

Why in News?

On **National Space Day**, observed on 23rd August, all schools in Lucknow celebrated India's advancements in space science.

- A new educational module, **India - A Rising Space Power**, developed by **NCERT**, was also launched as part of the celebration.
- The event aims to inspire students toward careers in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)**, with special assemblies, exhibitions, workshops, and online/offline sessions with experts.
- Resources like **Diksha, Nishtha** and the **India on the Moon portal** will also be used to keep students informed about space exploration.

National Space Day

- **About:** The National Space Day commemorates the successful soft landing of the **Chandrayaan-3** **Mission's Vikram Lander** and the deployment of the **Pragyan Rover** on the Moon on **23rd August 2023.**
  - ✦ With the launch of Chandrayaan-3, **India became the fourth nation** to **successfully land on the Moon and the first to reach its southern polar region.**
  - ✦ India celebrated its **first National Space Day** on 23rd August 2024.
- **Theme 2025: Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities**
- Events:
  - ✦ The **National Meet 2025**, themed **"Leveraging Space Technology for Viksit Bharat 2047,"** gathered leaders to explore space tech's role in advancing national priorities across various sectors.
  - ✦ **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)** organised a workshop with the theme "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."
- **Significance:** It highlights India's space exploration capabilities and aims to inspire future generations to pursue careers in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)**, contributing to India's ongoing space endeavours.

India's Space Milestones

- 2025 Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) launched
- 2023 Chandrayaan-3 lands successfully on the Moon
- 1962 INCOSPAR formed under Department of Atomic Energy
- 2013 Mars Orbiter Mission launched
- 1969 ISRO established
- 2008 Chandrayaan-1 launched
- 1975 Aryabhata, India's first satellite, launched
- 1980 SLV-3 successfully places Rohini RS-1 in orbit

Source: ISRO

GB Nagar and Shravasti Tops in Complaint Redressal

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh** government released its **grievance redressal report** through the **Integrated Grievance Redressal System**, highlighting districts with the highest citizen satisfaction.

Key Points

- **Police Complaint Redressal: Gautam Budh Nagar** topped with a **98.72% satisfied feedback rate**, followed by Pilibhit (98.23%), Ballia (96.04%), Basti (95.43%), and Shravasti (95.14%).
- **District Magistrate Complaint Redressal: Shravasti** led with **90.2% satisfaction**, followed by Shahjahanpur (89.08%), Balrampur (83.44%), Hamirpur (82.15%), and Bareilly (80.11%).
- **Mechanism for Transparency:** Complaints cannot be closed by officers against whom they are filed; senior officials such as ADM, ASP, DCP, or DCP-level officers review resolutions and personally interact with complainants.

PM to Inaugurate SEMICON India 2025

Why in News?

PM Narendra Modi is set to **inaugurate the 4th edition of SEMICON India 2025** on **2nd September 2025** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.**

- The event will be **India's largest semiconductor and electronics exhibition,** bringing together global leaders, industry experts, policymakers, and students to showcase advancements in the semiconductor ecosystem and reinforce India's vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat.**

Key Points

- **SEMICON India:** SEMICON India is one of eight annual SEMICON expositions globally hosted by **SEMI**, connecting executives, experts, and innovators in the semiconductor and electronics ecosystem.

- **SEMI:** SEMI is a global industry association with over **3,000 member companies** and 1.5 million professionals worldwide, working to accelerate collaboration in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.
- **Theme:** *Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse.*
- **Participation:** 33 countries, 50+ global CXOs, 350 exhibitors, 50+ visionary speakers, 6 international country roundtables, and 9 state pavilions.
- **Focus Areas:** Fabs, advanced packaging, smart manufacturing, AI, supply chain management, sustainability, workforce development, design innovations, and start-ups.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM): ISM**, under **MeitY**, is the nodal agency for the **Semicon India Programme**, facilitating sustainable and globally competitive semiconductor manufacturing in India.
  - ISM evaluates proposals, coordinates with governments, manages fiscal incentives, and ensures India becomes a trusted global hub for semiconductor and electronics manufacturing.

Shubhanshu Shukla Honoured in Lucknow

Why in News?

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the **first Indian to travel to the International Space Station (ISS)**, received an overwhelming welcome upon his return to Lucknow, his hometown.

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** organized a special felicitation ceremony at **Lok Bhawan**, where **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** honored Shubhanshu Shukla and his family.

Key Points

- **Scholarship:** The CM announced the **establishment of a scholarship in Shubhanshu's name** for students pursuing **space technology**, highlighting that it had been four decades since an Indian had the opportunity to travel to space.

✦ The **state's active participation** in space technology was also underscored, with **more than a dozen institutions** in Uttar Pradesh now offering related courses.

💡 **Postal Stamp: India Post also** launched a **postal cover and stamp** in honor of Shubhanshu's space mission.

💡 **Mobile Innovation Programme: City Montessori School (CMS)**, Lucknow, in collaboration with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (**AKTU**), launched the **"Shubhanshu Shukla Innovations Express"**, a mobile innovation programme to celebrate his feat.

💡 **Role in Disaster Management**: The CM also emphasized the crucial role of space technology in improving the management of natural disasters.

Shubhanshu Shukla

💡 Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is the first Indian astronaut to travel to the International Space Station (ISS) on a private mission in 2025.

✦ It was led by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, and Shubhanshu Shukla served as the mission pilot.

💡 He is also the astronaut-designate for India's human spaceflight program, Gaganyaan.

💡 He boarded the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center in Florida as part of the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4), a joint venture between NASA and ISRO.

💡 The Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) involves astronauts from India, Poland, and Hungary and is the first such collaboration in over 40 years.

💡 The astronauts spent 14 days aboard the ISS conducting scientific experiments, educational outreach, and commercial activities with NASA and ISRO.

💡 Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to travel to space in 1984 aboard the Soviet Soyuz T-11 mission under the Interkosmos program.

Lok Samvardhan Parv

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, Government of India, is organizing the 5th edition of Lok Samvardhan Parv from 26th August to 4th September, 2025, in Kochi, Kerala.

💡 The event, marking the **first-ever Lok Samvardhan Parv in Kerala**, will showcase over 100 artisans and 15 culinary experts from across the country.

Key Points

💡 **About:** Lok Samvardhan Parv is a **flagship initiative** by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, designed to empower artisans, craftspersons, weavers, culinary experts, and entrepreneurs from **minority communities** by providing them with market linkages and national exposure.

💡 **Objective:** The festival aims to **celebrate India's vibrant diversity** and provide a platform for these communities to showcase their art, craft, and culinary talent.

✦ This initiative is aligned with the government's vision of promoting **inclusive development** and self-reliance among minority communities.

💡 **Crafts**: The festival will showcase a wide variety of traditional crafts, including:

Craft/Art	Region
Zari and Chikankari	Uttar Pradesh
Phulkari embroidery	Punjab
Madhubani paintings	Bihar
Blue Pottery	Rajasthan
Pashmina weaving	Ladakh
Bastar Iron Craft	Chhattisgarh
Channapatna wooden toys	Karnataka
Nettippattam making	Kerala

India's Minority Communities

💡 **Minority Communities:** The **Central Government determines minority status** under the National Commission for Minorities Act (NCMA), 1992, officially recognizing Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains (added in 2014), and Zoroastrians (Parsis) as minority communities.

✦ Together, they constitute around 19.3% of India's total population (Census 2011).

✦ While most states follow the central list, some, like Maharashtra, may have their own (e.g., Jews are a notified minority in Maharashtra).

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ✦ **Article 29** protects minorities' rights to **preserve their distinct language,** script, and culture, and prohibits discrimination based on religion, race, caste, or language.
  - ✦ **Article 30** grants minorities the right to establish and manage educational institutions.
- **Institutions to Protect Minority Rights:**
  - ✦ **Ministry of Minority Affairs:** Established in 2006, carved out from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, coordinates programs for the socio-economic development of minority communities in India.
  - ✦ **National Commission for Minorities (NCM):** Created under the NCMA 1992, the **NCM** safeguards the interests of minority groups in line with the Constitution and laws enacted by the Parliament.

National Teachers Awards 2025

Why in News?

Madhurima Tiwari (Mirzapur) and **Ram Lal Singh Yadav (Bhadohi)** from Uttar Pradesh have been selected for the National Teachers Awards, to be conferred on Teachers' Day (5 September 2025).

- Teachers' Day marks the birth anniversary of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan** (1888-1975).

National Teachers Awards

- **About:** The awards, established in 1958, are presented annually on Teachers' Day (September 5) by the **President** or **Vice President** of India, under the supervision of the **Ministry of Education (MOE).**
  - ✦ The **National Teachers Awards (NTA)** are given annually to exceptional teachers from across the country in recognition of their contributions towards improving the **quality of education and student development.**
  - ✦ It carries a certificate of merit, a cash award of Rs. 50,000, and a silver medal.

- **NTA 2025: Forty-five teachers** from across India will be recognized in 2025 for their **dedication, innovation,** and contributions to improving student enrollment, reducing dropout rates, and introducing creative teaching methods.
- **Significance:** The NTA recognizes **primary, middle, and secondary school teachers** for their outstanding efforts to improve education, inspire students, and make a tangible difference in their communities.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

- **Birth:** He was born into a Telugu family in Tiruttani town of Tamil Nadu, on 5th September 1888.
- **Academic Achievements:** He held several prestigious positions, including the King George V Chair at Calcutta University from 1921 to 1932, the second Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University from 1931 to 1936, and the fourth Vice-Chancellor of **Banaras Hindu University** from 1939 to 1948.
  - ✦ Moreover, he was Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics at the University of Oxford from 1936 to 1952.
- **Political Career:** He became the first **Vice President of India (1952-62)** and later the second President of India (1962-67).
- **Philosopher:** He is widely acknowledged in philosophical circles as a **"bridge-builder"** between India and the West.
- **Recognition:** In 1954, he was awarded the country's highest civilian award, **Bharat Ratna.**
  - ✦ In 1931, he was awarded with **knighthood** by King George V, former King of Britain, for his remarkable academics.

India to Lead Executive Board of AIBD

Why in News?

India has been elected as the **Chairman** of the **Executive Board of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** during the 23rd AIBD General Conference, held from 19th to 21st August 2025 in **Phuket, Thailand.**

💡 This marks a significant milestone, as India last held the position of AIBD Executive Council Chairman in 2016.

AIBD General Conference (GC 2025)

💡 **About:** The 23rd GC 2025 and Associated Meetings of AIBD brought together global stakeholders in electronic media, with a **focus on promoting a dynamic and cooperative media landscape** across the Asia-Pacific region through policy discussions and resource sharing.

  ✔ **India is also the chairman of AIBD GC**, with **Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO of Prasar Bharati**, serving as the **President** of the AIBD GC until August 2025.

💡 **Theme:** The theme for the current year was **"Media for People, Peace & Prosperity"**.

💡 **Significance:** It highlights the **global confidence in India's leadership** in the field of broadcasting and sets the stage for India to play an even more **strategic and influential role** in shaping media development worldwide.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

💡 **Foundation:** It was founded in 1977 under UNESCO's guidance, with India as a founding member.

  ✔ The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),** and the **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)** are founding organizations of the Institute, and they are non-voting members of the General Conference.

  ✔ **Prasar Bharati**, India's public service broadcaster represents the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the organization.

💡 **Membership:** It is a **unique regional inter-governmental organization** with over 92 member organizations from 45 countries.

💡 **Secretariat:** Its secretariat is situated in **Kuala Lumpu**r and is hosted by the Government of Malaysia.

Earth Overshoot Day 2025

Why in News?

Earth Overshoot Day occurred on **24th July** this year(2025), marking the **earliest date ever** when humanity's demand for ecological resources surpasses what the Earth can regenerate in a year.

💡 This means humans have consumed an entire year's worth of resources in **under seven months.**

A Year's Worth Of Earth's Resources Used Up In 7 Mths

Month in which Earth Overshoot Day came in these yrs...

JULY	AUG	SEPT
2023, 2024, 2025	2005, 2010, 2015, 2020	1995, 2000

DEC	NOV	OCT
1972	1975, 1980, 1985	1990

Key Points

💡 **Definition**: Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for **ecological resources and services** exceeds the Earth's capacity to regenerate them in that year.

💡 **Inception**: The idea of Earth Overshoot Day was first proposed by **Andrew Simms** of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation.

  ✔ The **New Economics Foundation** partnered with **Global Footprint Network** in 2006 to launch the campaign. Since 2007, the **World Wide Fund (WWF)** has collaborated on the initiative.

💡 **Calculation**: **Global Footprint Network** hosts and calculates the event based on the **National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts**, maintained by **York University**.

  ✔ The **data is updated annually** to reflect the most accurate and current global consumption patterns.

💡 **Formula:**

$$\text{Earth Overshoot Day} = \left(\frac{\text{Earth's Biocapacity}}{\text{Humanity's Ecological Footprint}} \right) \times 365$$

💡 **Biocapacity vs. Ecological Footprint:**

✦ **Biocapacity**: The amount of **ecological resources** Earth can regenerate in a given year (e.g., forests, grazing lands, croplands).

  🔗 Represents the Earth's productive land and sea areas, including forests, grazing lands, cropland, and fishing grounds.

✦ **Ecological Footprint**: The total demand humanity places on these resources (including food, timber, space for urban infrastructure, and carbon dioxide absorption).

  🔗 Measures a **population's demand** for resources like food, fiber, timber, and space to absorb CO_2 emissions from **fossil fuels.**

💡 **Global Impact**:

✦ **Ecological Deficit**: When a region's demand exceeds its ecological supply, it runs an ecological deficit. This deficit is addressed by **importing resources, over-exploiting local ecosystems** (like overfishing), and emitting CO_2 into the atmosphere.

✦ **Global Overshoot**: At a global scale, **ecological deficit and overshoot** are synonymous, as there's no net import of resources to the planet.

Sadak Suraksha Mitra Initiative

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh Transport Department** launched the **Sadak Suraksha Mitra (SSM)** programme, initiated by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH),** to **engage youth** in road safety measures and reduce accidents and fatalities.

Key Points

💡 **About:** The initiative is launched in partnership with the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** and seeks to train and deploy volunteers through the **MYBharat platform.**

💡 **Target:** The program targets youth aged 18 to 28 with no pending traffic challans, with the first phase set to **cover 100 districts nationwide.**

💡 Training Programs:

✦ **General Volunteers**: A **one-week training program** will be provided, which includes basic first aid and road safety awareness.

✦ **Civil Engineering Graduates**: A **15-day training program** focused on road safety audits, black spot identification, awareness initiatives, and field surveys.

💡 **Recognition:** Outstanding volunteers will be recognized for their contributions with certificates and **'Good Samaritan'** awards.

💡 **Implementation:** The initiative will be implemented in **28 districts across Uttar Pradesh,** including Kanpur Nagar, Bulandshahr, Prayagraj, and Agra, among others.

💡 **Program Oversight:** The **District Road Safety Committees (DRSC)** will ensure the implementation, including volunteer onboarding, training, and monthly performance reviews, following **MoRTH's 12-step roadmap.**

💡 **Outcome:** The expected outcomes include a **reduction in road crashes and injuries,** improved emergency responses, increased youth engagement in road safety, and strengthened **district-level road safety systems** through structured training, field studies, and data-driven reporting.

Ayurveda Day 2025

Why in News?

Ayurveda Day, first observed in **2016,** will now be celebrated on **23 September every year**, replacing the earlier practice of celebrating it on **Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).**

Key Points

💡 **About:** With the **fixed date of 23 September,** Ayurveda Day is poised to gain a permanent position in the global calendar, contributing to worldwide **health**, **well-being**, and **ecological sustainability** through the rich tradition of Ayurveda.

- Ayurveda spread globally through **trade and cultural exchanges**, influencing traditional medicine practices in **Tibet, China,** and beyond.
- Ayurveda Day has evolved into a **global movement,** highlighting Ayurveda's recognition as a **traditional medicine system in 24 countries,** with over 100 nations importing its products.

💡 **Ayurveda Day 2025:**

- **The theme for 2025 is "Ayurveda for People & Planet,"** emphasizing **global wellness** and environmental sustainability through Ayurveda.
- The 2025 celebrations will focus on addressing global challenges like **lifestyle disorders, climate-related diseases,** and **stress management,** with Ayurveda promoted as a viable solution.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** will lead activities, including **Awareness campaigns, Youth engagement programs, Wellness consultations, and International collaborations.**

💡 **Milestones of Ayurveda Day 2024:** The **9th Ayurveda Day (2024)** marked significant achievements in India's healthcare sector:

- Inauguration of **Phase II of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).**
- Launch of **four Centres of Excellence in Ayurveda.**
- Introduction of **"Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan"**

💡 **Significance:** The **first all-India NSSO survey** reaffirmed Ayurveda as the **most used treatment system** in both rural and urban India.

Initiatives Taken For Development of Ayurveda

- 💡 **National Ayush Mission**
- 💡 **New Portals on Ayush Sector**
- 💡 **ACCR Portal and Ayush Sanjivani App**

IMS For Atal Residential Schools

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the **Integrated Monitoring System (IMS)** for **Atal Residential Schools** at the **Rozgar Mahakumbh 2025** held at **Indira Gandhi Pratishthan**, Lucknow.

Key Points

💡 **About:** The Integrated Monitoring System (IMS) will oversee **18 Atal Residential Schools in Uttar Pradesh,** benefiting around 18,000 students who will receive **free food and lodging** upon selection, with the schools being **digitally monitored.**

- **Atal Residential Schools** aims to provide **modern, quality education** to the children of workers, particularly those registered under the **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOC) Board.**
- Named after former **Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee,** the schools serve students from classes 1 to 12, including **Bal Vatikas.**

💡 **Features:**

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System:** The **Atal Command Centre** serves as the command hub, enabling **digital monitoring** of the schools.
- **Real-Time Attendance Management:** Daily updates on the **attendance** of students and staff.
- **Academic Monitoring:** Students' profiles, academic progress, exam results, and report cards will be tracked and accessible online.
- **Staff Profiles:** Information about teachers and staff will be integrated, ensuring **accountability** and **discipline.**
- **Financial Management:** Transparent records of budgets, expenses, and billing are maintained on the **ERP system.**
- **CCTV Integration:** Live monitoring of **school campuses,** enhancing security and discipline.
- **Student Profiles:** Detailed evaluation of each student's personal details and **academic progress** will be monitored through the system.

Rozgar Mahakumbh 2025

- **About:** Rozgaar Mahakumbh 2025 is **Uttar Pradesh's largest integrated employment and placement initiative**, designed to bridge the gap between potential and opportunity.
- **Initiatives:**
  - **Shram Nyay Setu Portal:** The portal aims to provide **quick, transparent, and time-bound justice** for workers by enabling online settlement of labor disputes and offering 24/7 services.
  - **Industrial Tribunal Website & E-Court Portal:** These portals were launched to facilitate **efficient legal proceedings** and the resolution of **worker-related disputes**.
  - **Basic Education:** The IMS System will be introduced in basic education, with the first phase focusing on the establishment of **57 CM Abhyudaya and Composite Schools**.

UP to Host India's First World Boxing Cup

Why in News?

India will host the World Boxing Cup (men's and women's) for the **first time in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh,** from 13th- 24th November 2025, at the Vijay Pathik Sports Complex.

- The event will feature 450 boxers from over 80 countries, along with approximately 150 officials, and will coincide with the **World Boxing Congress** on 23rd November 2025.

Boxing World Cup

- **About:** It is an **annual series** where elite boxers **compete across multiple stages** throughout the year to accumulate ranking points.
  - The year culminates in a **Finals event,** bringing together top-ranked boxers for the final trophy.
- **Boxing World Cup (2023-2025):**
  - The first World Boxing Cup competition was held in Cologne, Germany, in October 2023.

- The 2024 series took place across England, the USA, and Mongolia, culminating in a Finals event in England in November 2024.
- For 2025, events will be held in Brazil, Germany, and Kazakhstan, with the **Finals in India in November 2025.**

- **World Boxing Cup 2025:** The event marks **India's first time hosting** the prestigious competition, with the **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)** being a major contender for the bid.
  - India has previously hosted the **Women's World Boxing Championship** twice (2018 and 2023 in Delhi).
  - The **World Boxing Congress** was also held in Greater Noida in 2017.
- **Other Major Boxing Events:**
  - **U19 World Boxing Championships (October 2024):** Held in Colorado Springs, USA, with over 180 male and female boxers aged 17 and 18.
  - **Elite World Boxing Championships (September 2025):** The first event will take place in Liverpool, England, from 4-14 September 2025.
  - **Elite World Boxing Championships (2027):** Astana, Kazakhstan, will host the 2027 event following a successful bidding process.

World Boxing

- **About: World Boxing,** since the latter part of 2023, has been committed to **organizing high-quality competitions** to help boxers develop and progress.
  - The organization collaborates with **National Federations** and key stakeholders to deliver competitive opportunities for both male and female boxers at various levels.

Boxing Federation of India (BFI)

- **About:** It is the **national body** overseeing amateur boxing, promoting the sport domestically, and representing India in international events like the **Olympics and World Championships.**

💡 **Leadership**: **Pramod Kumar** has recently been elected as the Secretary-General of the **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)**, and **Ajay Singh** as its President.

✦ **Pramod Kumar** had represented India in the **5000m sprint** at the **1986 Asian Games** in Seoul.

✦ He won **two gold medals** at the **1985 South Asian Gam**es in Dhaka, bringing recognition to Indian boxing.

Project Aarohan

Why in News?

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in collaboration with Vertis Infrastructure Trust, launched **'Project Aarohan'** to support the educational aspirations of **toll plaza employees'** children, with the launch ceremony held at NHAI Headquarters in **New Delhi.**

Key Points

💡 **About:** The program aims to **address financial barriers** and promote equal access to quality education for students from **economically weaker sections (EWS),** first-generation learners, and marginalized communities, including **Scheduled Castes (SC)**, **Scheduled Tribes (ST)**, **Other Backward Classes (OBC)**, and **minority groups.**

💡 **Objective:** The program combines **financial assistance** with **structured mentorship, skill-building workshops**, and **career guidance** to enhance the overall educational experience of the students.

✦ The initiative aims to equip students not only for higher education but also for future **employment** and **entrepreneurship**.

💡 **Funding:** The first phase of the project has been allocated a fund of ₹1 Crore for the financial year **2025-26**.

✦ The project will support **500 students from Class 11** to their final year of graduation, offering an **annual scholarship of 12,000 rupees** for the financial year 2025-26.

✦ **Fifty bright students** aiming for postgraduate and higher studies will receive scholarships of 50,000 rupees each.

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)

💡 The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) was established by the **NHAI Act, 1988,** to oversee the development, maintenance, and management of national highways.

💡 NHAI's key responsibility is implementing the **National Highways Development Project (NHDP),** which covers 50,329 km of highways, and improving road infrastructure for smoother traffic flow.

💡 With a total length of **132,499 km**, national highways carry about **40% of the total road traffic in India,** despite making up **only 2% of the road network**.

115th Birth Anniversary of St Mother Teresa

Why in News?

The **115th birth anniversary of Saint Mother Teresa** was celebrated on **26th August 2025**, at **Mother's House**, Kolkata.

Key Facts About Mother Teresa

💡 **Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu** in 1910 in **Skopje, Ottoman Empire (now North Macedonia),** dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor.

✦ Her journey began at the age of 12 when she felt called to serve as a missionary.

💡 **In 1928, at the age of 18, she** moved to India, where she took her vows in 1931. For 17 years, she taught at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta.

💡 Mother Teresa founded the **Missionaries of Charity on 7th October 1950,** after receiving approval from the Vatican.

✦ Her order, which expanded globally, focuses on caring for the destitute, including refugees, the elderly, and those suffering from **AIDS**, among others.

- By the 1990s, the **Missionaries of Charity had over one million Co-Workers across 40 countries**, spreading Mother Teresa's spirit of compassion.
  - **She received numerous accolades**, including the **Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971), the Nehru Prize (1972), and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979** for her tireless work in promoting peace and understanding.
- Mother Teresa **passed away on 5th September 1997,** leaving behind a lasting legacy of compassion and service.
  - She was **canonized (declared as a saint)** by **Pope Francis in 2016**, further cementing her status as one of the most beloved humanitarian figures in the world.

> **Note: Mother Teresa** remains the **only naturalised citizen** to have been **awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna (1980).**
> - She is also one of **only two foreigners** to have **received the Bharat Ratna**. The **other is Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, known as the "Frontier Gandhi," who was honoured in 1987.

India to Host FIDE World Cup 2025

Why in News?

PM Narendra Modi expressed India's pride in hosting the **prestigious FIDE World Cup 2025**, marking its **return to Indian soil after more than two decades (23 years).**

- The tournament will **take place in Goa from 30th October to 27th November** with a **USD 2 million prize purse** and three berths for next year's Candidates Tournament.
- The **206-player field includes top players** such as World Champion D Gukesh, Magnus Carlsen, Fabiano Caruana, and India's R Praggnanandhaa.

Key Points

- **India's Previous Hosting:** India last organized the **FIDE World Cup in 2002 in Hyderabad,** where **Viswanathan Anand won** the tournament with Rustam Kasimdzhanov as the runner-up.

- **About Chess:** Chess originated in northern India during the **Gupta Empire around the 6th century CE,** known as **chaturanga.**
  - **Played on an 8×8 board**, it reflected **real-life warfare strategy with pieces** representing infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots.
  - The **game spread to Persia as shatranj,** then to Europe, where it evolved into modern chess by the 15th century, with key modifications like the queen and bishop's enhanced powers.
- **International Chess Day:** In **2019, the UN declared 20th July as International Chess Day,** recognizing its role in promoting education, peace, and gender equality, supporting the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 4), (SDG 11 and 16),** and **(SDG 5).**
- **FIDE:** The **FIDE World Cup 2025 is organized by FIDE** (International Chess Federation), which is the governing body for chess worldwide.
  - The All India Chess Federation (AICF) is serving as the local organizer in collaboration with FIDE.
  - In **1924, FIDE was founded in Paris,** formalizing chess as an international sport.

> **Read more: FIDE World Cup 2025 to be Hosted in India**

Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2025

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Defence** announced that over 700 personnel from the **Armed Forces** and the **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff** will participate in the Multilateral Exercise 'BRIGHT STAR 2025' from 28 August 2025 to 10 September 2025.

- The exercise, **hosted by Egypt** in collaboration with the United States and involving multiple countries, including India, will last for 13 days.

Key Points

- **About:** Exercise Bright Star is a **biennial multilateral military exercise** hosted by **Egypt** in collaboration with the **United States** since **1980.**

✤ It is one of the **largest Tri-Service multilateral exercises** in the region. The last edition of the exercise took place in **2023**, with participation from several countries, including India.

💡 **Activities and Features:** The exercise will feature a **comprehensive spectrum of military activities**, including:

✤ **Live Firing Exercises**: Demonstrating the operational capabilities of the **Indian Army**, **Indian Navy,** and **Indian Air Force**.

✤ **Command Post Exercise**: Designed to enhance **joint planning**, **decision-making**, and **operational coordination** among participating forces.

✤ **Short Training Exercises**: These exercises will focus on various aspects of **modern warfare** and will be conducted by all three services.

✤ **Subject Matter Expert Interactions**: Discussions and collaborations with experts across multiple domains of **contemporary military operations**.

💡 **Significance:** India's participation in **Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2025** highlights its **commitment to regional peace, stability, and security**. The exercise also aims to foster enhanced **jointness**, **interoperability**, and **cooperation** between the **Indian Armed Forces** and other friendly nations.
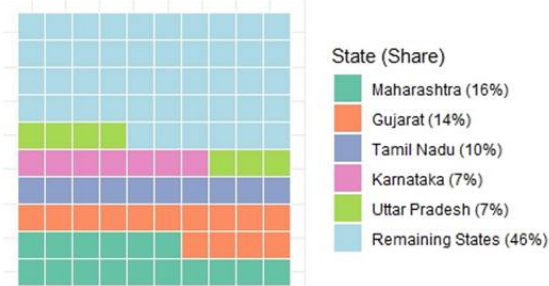
UP Leads India's Industrial Surge
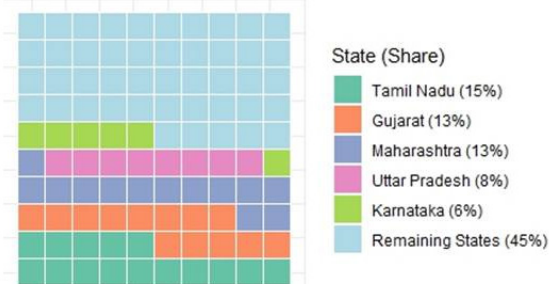
Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh (UP) has set a new benchmark in industrial development, according to the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023-24** released by the **Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

💡 The state has outperformed all major industrial states on **three key parameters: gross value added (GVA)**, number of factories and employment generation.

Top 5 States by Share of GVA

State (Share)
- Maharashtra (16%)
- Gujarat (14%)
- Tamil Nadu (10%)
- Karnataka (7%)
- Uttar Pradesh (7%)
- Remaining States (46%)

Top 5 States by Share of Employment

State (Share)
- Tamil Nadu (15%)
- Gujarat (13%)
- Maharashtra (13%)
- Uttar Pradesh (8%)
- Karnataka (6%)
- Remaining States (45%)

Key Points

💡 **Gross Value Added (GVA):** The state's **GVA** rose from **Rs 1.34 lakh crore in 2022-23** to **Rs 1.67 lakh crore in 2023-24**, reflecting a **25.03%** increase.

✤ This is more than **double the national average** of **11.9%**. As a result, Uttar Pradesh has secured the **top rank among Indian states** for GVA growth.

💡 **Number of Factories:** UP has witnessed a significant increase in the number of factories, growing from **19,102 in 2022-23** to **22,141 in 2023-24**—a growth of **15.91%**.

✤ This growth is nearly **seven times higher** than the national average of **2.7%**.

✤ Uttar Pradesh holds an **8.51% share** of the total number of factories in India, ranking **4th in the country** after **Tamil Nadu** (15.43%), **Gujarat** (12.81%), and **Maharashtra** (10.20%).

💡 **Employment Generation:** **Employment in UP's** industrial sector grew from **14.86 lakh in 2022-23** to **16.26 lakh in 2023-24**, representing a growth of **9.37%**—well above the **all-India average of 5.9%**.

✦ Uttar Pradesh has joined **Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka** among the **top 5 states** for industrial employment. The state's share in national employment stands at **8%**.

Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

💡 **About:** The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the primary source of industrial statistics in India.

- ✦ It began in 1960, using 1959 as the base year, and has been conducted annually since then, with the exception of 1972, in accordance with the Collection of Statistics Act of 1953.

- ✦ Since ASI 2010-11, the survey has been conducted under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, which was amended in 2017 to extend its coverage to All India.

💡 **Implementing Agency:** The National Statistical Office (NSO), a part of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), conducts the ASI.

- ✦ The MoSPI is responsible for ensuring the coverage and quality of the released statistics.

💡 **Scope:** The ASI extends to the entire country. It covers all factories registered under Sections 2(m)(i) and 2(m)(ii) of the Factories Act, 1948.

UP Announces Firecracker Ban in NCR Districts

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has **declared a complete ban** on the manufacturing, storage, sale, and use of firecrackers in the **National Capital Region (NCR) districts** of the state.

Key Points

💡 **Coverage:** The ban applies to **eight districts** under the Delhi-NCR region, including Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bulandshahr, Hapur, Baghpat, Shamli, and Muzaffarnagar.

💡 **Legal Framework:** The ban is implemented ahead of the festive season, including Dussehra and Diwali, in compliance with a **Supreme Court directive** to reduce pollution levels in the NCR.

- ✦ The violation will invite imprisonment for up to five years and a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, or both under **Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

  - 🔖 **Section 15** empowers the Central Government to instruct any authority or officer to act for environmental protection.

- ✦ For repeat offenses, an **additional fine of Rs 5,000 per day** will be imposed until compliance is achieved.

💡 **Objectives of the Ban:**

- ✦ **Air Pollution Control:** The ban is aimed at **addressing the annual surge in air pollution** during the festive season, particularly caused by the use of firecrackers.

- ✦ **Public Health Protection:** The measure seeks to **protect public health** from the harmful effects of air pollution, especially during the high-pollution months.

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

💡 The EPA, 1986, was passed by the Parliament in the wake of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, highlighting the urgent need for a comprehensive law to protect the environment and public health.

💡 EPA enacted under **Article 253** of the Constitution (empowers the Parliament to enact laws for implementing international agreements) to fulfill international commitments made at the **1972 Stockholm Conference.**

💡 The Act empowers the Central Government to prevent, control, and respond to environmental pollution. It allows the Centre to set standards, regulate emissions, shut down polluting industries, and control essential services.

💡 **Article 48A** directs the State to protect the environment, forests, and wildlife, while **Article 51A** makes it the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment.

World Water Week 2025

Why in News?

World Water Week, a leading global conference on **water-related issues**, was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 24th - 28th August 2025.

- 💡 During the event, the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was recognized as a global inspiration for river revival and community-driven efforts.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Established in **1991**, this event is organized by the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** and provides a critical platform for the exchange of knowledge, solutions, and commitments related to water management.

- ✦ The 2025 edition, marking its 35th year, focused on the theme *'Water for Climate Action'*, highlighting the role of water in tackling climate change and achieving sustainable development.

- 💡 **India's Role:** During World Water Week 2025, NMCG was part of the session *'River Cities Reimagined: Climate-Smart and Basin-Centric Urban Development'*, which highlighted the role of **river-centric urban development** in ensuring climate-resilient cities.

  - ✦ The session highlighted the benefits of **sustainable urban planning** and the need for **basin-centric approaches** that consider the entire river ecosystem.

  - ✦ The session was led by NMCG, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Namami Gange Mission

- 💡 **About:** It is a **flagship programme** for the rejuvenation of the **Ganga River** and its tributaries by reducing pollution, improving water quality, and restoring the river's ecosystem.

- 💡 **Implementation:** Under the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the winning bidder handles STP development, operation, and maintenance.

  - ✦ 40% of costs are paid post-construction, 60% over the project's lifespan.

Key Pillars of NGP
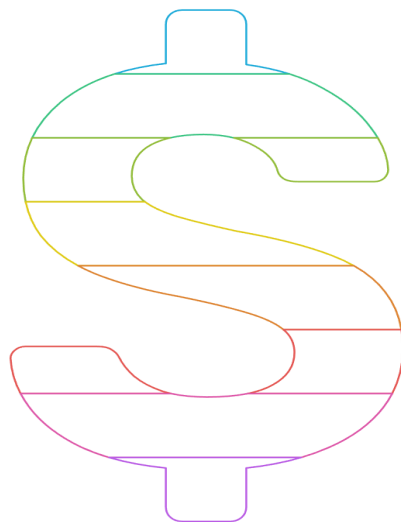
Sewerage Treatment Infrastructure
Managing wastewater effectively

River-Surface Cleaning
Removing solid waste and pollution

Afforestation
Planting trees and restoring green cover

Industrial Effluent Monitoring
Protecting the river from harmful discharges

River-Front Development
Creating public spaces for engagement

Biodiversity
Enhancing ecological health

Public Awareness
Educating citizens on conservation

Ganga Gram
Developing model villages along the river

India Water Week (IWW)

- 💡 The **Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India,** conceptualized and launched <u>India Water Week</u> **in 2012,** and it is now organized **biannually.**
- 💡 It is aimed at **addressing critical challenges** pertaining to water management and fostering innovation in water-related technologies and practices.
- 💡 IWW has evolved into a **crucial platform in global water diplomac**y, facilitating dialogue, innovation, and knowledge exchange on critical water-related challenges.

AI-Powered UP Skill Gap Dashboard

Why in News?

The <u>Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)</u> has launched an innovative tool called the **AI-powered UP Skill Gap Dashboard** to enhance employability across the state.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The initiative marks the **first time AI is being used to assess** district-wise skill needs in Uttar Pradesh, aiding in the **creation of livelihood opportunities** at the local level.
- 💡 **Features:**
  - ✦ **AI and Data Analytics Integration**: The dashboard employs **advanced <u>machine learning algorithms</u>** and <u>data analytics</u> to analyze district-specific sectors and employment data.
    - 🖉 It receives **district-wise data** for major sectors and industries, as well as **trade-specific demands** from training partners.
  - ✦ **District-Specific Skill Assessment**: The dashboard helps identify skill gaps in various districts, providing a comprehensive **skill assessment**.
    - 🖉 It recommends the necessary training based on the **sector-specific growth** and **employment needs** in each district.
- 💡 **Benefits:**
  - ✦ **District-Level Skill Development**: The dashboard offers a **scientific analysis** of skill needs across districts, indicating areas that require trained manpower.

- 🖉 It helps in better allocation of **training targets** based on local requirements, improving **employability** within each district.
- ✦ **Reduction of Attrition**: By ensuring that training is aligned with local job markets, the dashboard helps reduce **attrition** due to candidates seeking jobs outside their home districts.
- ✦ **Involvement of Industries as Training Partners**: For the first time, industries have been involved as **training partners** in the skill development process.
  - 🖉 More than **45 industries** are now actively contributing to **industry-specific training** efforts.
- ✦ **Training Partner Evaluation**: Training partners are evaluated based on their **past performance** in training and placement.
  - 🖉 The top-performing partners are allocated training targets, ensuring that **high-quality training** is provided to candidates.
- ✦ **AI-Powered Insights for Training Target Allocation**: The dashboard uses **real-time data scraping** and **primary research** to project sector-wise **training targets**.
  - 🖉 It maps the **top industries**, **job roles**, and **skill gaps** in each district, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information for training programs.
- 💡 **Integration:** The system integrates with a <u>Large Language Model-powered chatbot</u> to provide **interactive support** for UPSDM.
  - ✦ The AI-based tool offers real-time assistance, guiding users through the process and answering queries related to training and employment.

Key Points

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Summary

Key Points

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