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(CONSOLIDATION)

MADHYA PRADESH

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Leopard Numbers Show 8% Rise from 2018 to 2022

Why in News?

According to a report made public by the Environment Ministry, India's **leopard** numbers rose by 8% from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

Key Points

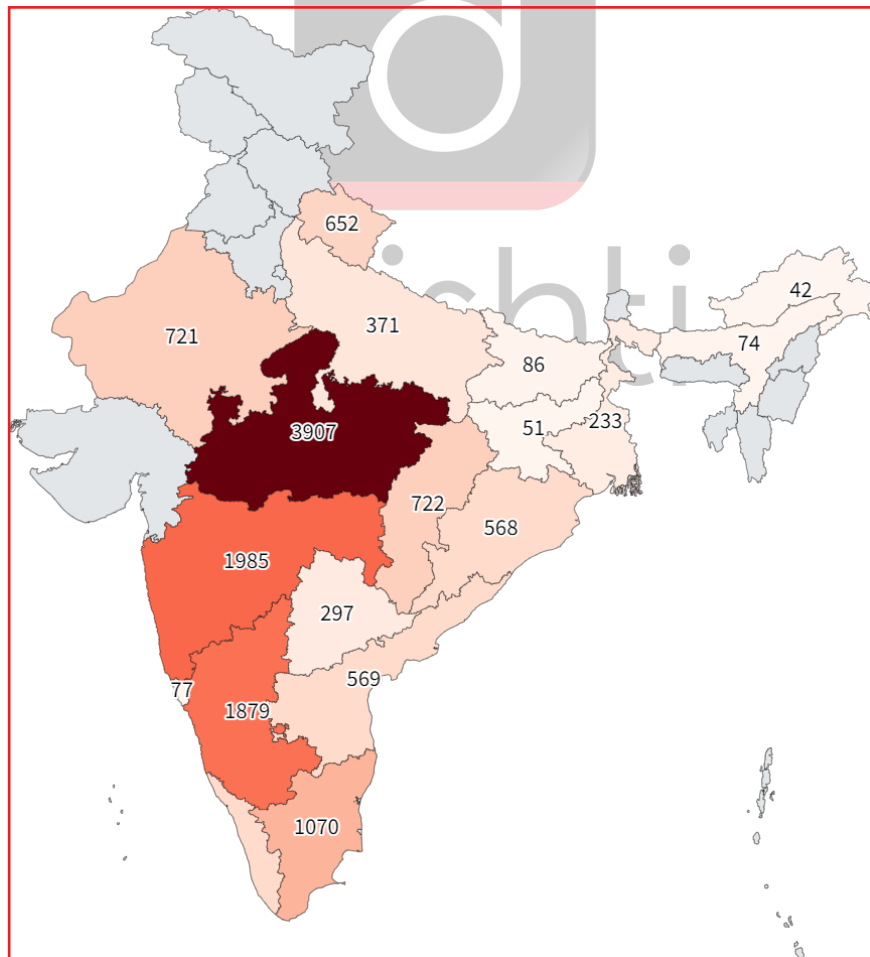
- The **highest number** of leopards were reported in **Madhya Pradesh (3,907)**, only three other States reported over 1,000 animals each — **Maharashtra (1,985)**, **Karnataka (1,879)** and **Tamil Nadu (1,070)**.
- **Uttarakhand reported a 22% decline in the big cat numbers**, due to poaching and **human-animal conflict**.
 - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal saw a collective 150% rise to 349 animals.
- In the analysis coordinated by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, the Shivalik hills and the Gangetic plains

recorded 3.4% yearly decline, while Central India and the **Eastern Ghats**, the **Western Ghats** and the hills of the northeast, and the Brahmaputra flood plains recorded growth of 1.5%, 1% and 1.3% per annum respectively.

- Leopard numbers have declined in **Ramnagar forest division** (Uttarakhand), where tiger numbers have shown a very steep growth in the past four years.
 - The significant increase in leopard population reported in the northeastern States was due to a **"sampling artifact"**, indicating that there were few systematic surveys and fewer cameras installed in previous years.

Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was **established in 1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.



Note:



Central Government Approves National Highways Projects in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has approved **Rs. 3549.48 crore** for construction and strengthening of various **National Highways projects in Madhya Pradesh**.

Key Points

- An allocation of **Rs. 776.19 crore** has been approved for **4-laning of 41 km length section of National Highway-146 B** (Shahganj Bypass end to Badi Package-IV) in **Sehore and Raisen districts** of Madhya Pradesh under Hybrid Annuity Mode.
- The project will reduce travel time to reach Jabalpur, Bhopal, Betul and Indore cities and will connect to various National Highway (NH) and State Highway (SH).
- An allocation of **Rs. 1238.59 crore** has been approved for making a 6-lane service road on both sides of Ayodhya bypass from Asharam Tiraha on National Highway-46 to Ratnagiri Tiraha on National Highway-146 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- An approval has been given for the construction of 34 km long Chasale 6 lane Indore Western Bypass under Hybrid Annuity Mode under Package-1 at a cost of Rs 1534.70 crore.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages to Invest in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), the bottling arm of **Coca-Cola in India**, has announced a Rs 350 crore investment in Madhya Pradesh for setting up two manufacturing lines at its **Rajgarh plant**.

Key Points

- The announcement was made during the **Regional Industry Conclave in Ujjain**.
- The fresh infusion of capital will see the introduction of 2 new, state-of-the-art manufacturing lines at HCCB's factory in Rajgarh, that will produce **Affordable Small Sparkling Packs (ASSP)** and **Juice Tetra Packs**.

- HCCB has already invested over Rs 311 crore in Madhya Pradesh since 2000 in its Rajgarh plant.
 - The company operates **13 factories spread across India**, where it manufactures and sells 37 different products across 8 categories.

Adani Group to Invest Rs 75,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

During the Regional Industry Conclave in Ujjain, the **Adani Group** has announced a substantial investment of Rs 75,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh, signaling a significant expansion of its financial commitment to the state.

Key Points

- The Adani Group is earmarking an additional Rs 5,000 crore for the establishment of a 4-million-tons-per-annum **clinker unit in Chorgadi**.
- The group plans to set up two **cement grinding units in Dewas and Bhopal**, boasting a combined capacity of 8 million tons per annum, with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore.
- Group is also planning for substantial investments in fuel distribution, surpassing Rs 2,100 crore.
 - This investment will predominantly focus on fortifying the city gas distribution network in **five geographical areas, namely Bhind, Burhanpur, Anuppur, Tikamgarh, and Alirajpur, covering City Gas Distribution (CGD), Liquefied natural gas (LNG), Electronic Vehicle (EV)**.
- The power generation capacity will also be amplified with Rs 30,000 crore at its Mahan Energen plant in Singrauli, escalating it from the existing 1,200 megawatts to an impressive 4,400 megawatts.

The Regional Industry Conclave

- It was a two-day Investor Summit, **commenced in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, encompassing 20 districts such as Bhopal, Ujjain, and Indore.
- A total of 56 projects are anticipated to draw investments surpassing Rs 74,000 crore, with the potential to generate employment for over 17,000 individuals.
- **35 participating companies have collectively proposed investment projects** totaling Rs 74,711 crore during the Industry Conclave.

Note:

Madhya Pradesh Economic Survey 2022-23

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh recorded a **16.34%** growth in **2022**, an **economic survey report** tabled in the **MP state assembly**.

- The state's gross domestic product has increased from **₹71,594 crore** to **₹13,22,000 crore**.

Key Points

- **Economic Growth of Madhya Pradesh:** The state recorded a significant economic growth of 16.34% in 2022, as stated in the economic survey report presented in the state assembly.
- **Increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Madhya Pradesh's GDP rose from ₹71,594 crore to ₹13,22,000 crore in 2022, indicating substantial economic progress.
- **Per Capita Income Growth:** The per capita income increased from ₹11,718 in 2002 to ₹1,40,500 in 2022-23, showcasing improvements in individual income levels.
- **Reduction in Debt Percentage:** The debt percentage decreased from 39.5% to 22.6% in 2021-2022, indicating a positive trend in fiscal management.
- **Industrial Growth:** The industrial growth rate surged from -0.61% in 2001-02 to 24% in 2022-23, demonstrating the state's economic diversification and development.
- **Revenue Collection and Taxation:** There has been continuous growth in revenue collection and state tax collection, with a 7.94% increase over three years, reflecting effective fiscal policies.
- **Employment Situation:** Despite the rise in new employment registrations to 8 lakh, the actual job creation seems to be minimal, with only 21 individuals securing jobs. This raises concerns about the effectiveness of employment generation initiatives.
- **Opposition's View:** The opposition leader criticized the economic survey, labeling it as a "number game" and highlighting discrepancies between employment registrations and actual job placements.

Madhya Pradesh: Queen On The Wheel

Why in News?

Recently, **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** flagged off the '**Queen On The Wheel**' women biking tour to promote **tourism** in the state and empower women travelers.

- The women biking tour will come to an end on the occasion of **International Women's Day (8th March)**.

Key Points

- **Participants:** A total of **25 women bikers** from across India, including a **Brazilian rider living in Nagpur**, are participating in the tour.
- **Objective:** The tour aims to establish Madhya Pradesh as a **safe and empowering** destination for women travelers, promoting women empowerment and adventure tourism.
- **Itinerary:** The bikers will visit **Chanderi, Kuno National Park in Sheopur district, Gwalior, Orchha, and Khajuraho**, experiencing the beauty and culture of these places.
- **Safety Precautions:** Complete safety precautions have been taken, including ambulance and support vehicles with mechanics accompanying the riders. Insurance has been provided for all participants, and the route has been thoroughly checked for support in case of emergencies.

International Women's Day

- Women's Day was **first celebrated back in 1911 by Clara Zetkin**, who was a German. The roots of the celebration had been in the labour movement across Europe and North America.
 - However, **it was only in 1913 that the celebrations were shifted to 8th March**, and it has remained that way ever since.
- International Women's Day **was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975**.

Note:



Madhya Pradesh Ratlam's Riyawan Garlic Receives GI Tag

Why in News?

Recently, the flavourful garlic from Riyawan village in Jaora tehsil of Ratlam district has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.

Key Points

- The GI registration process for Riyawan Garlic was initiated in January 2022 by the **Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)** Riyawan Farm Fresh Producer Company in Chennai.
- Riyawan Garlic is renowned for its **unique quality and high yield**, with each bulb containing five to six cloves. Known for its **pungent and robust flavour**, this garlic variety also boasts a **higher oil content** compared to others.
 - The GI tag opens up new opportunities in international markets, complementing the state government's efforts to promote Ratlam's garlic as a district product.
 - The garlic variety is already in **high demand within the country** under the name **RiyaWan Silver Garlic**.
 - For two decades, garlic has been cultivated using traditional methods in Riyawan village of **Piploda tehsil**.
- Riyawan has earned a reputation as the pioneer village for seed development, due to its unique qualities such as **white curtain, bud size, and medicinal value**. Its high storage capacity allows for long-term preservation.

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
 - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- **Legal Framework and Obligations:**
- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- It is governed and directed by the **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**.
 - Furthermore, the significance of protecting industrial property and geographical indications as **integral components of intellectual property** is acknowledged and emphasised in Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention.

Madhya Pradesh Launches Air Ambulance

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh government has inaugurated a new mixed-aircraft air ambulance service, known as the **PM Shri Air Ambulance Service**.

Key Points

- The **PM Shri Air Ambulance Service**, is intended to provide access to medical services for residents of the state, **operating both a helicopter and a fixed-wing air ambulance**.
- The service was inaugurated by the Chief Minister at the **Ujjain Regional Industry Conclave**.
- The service will offer better access to advanced medical care, particularly for those in rural or poorer areas, and significantly reduce transport times to healthcare facilities.

Madhya Pradesh to Boost Regional Connectivity with Two New Airports

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** has announced plans to develop Guna and Shivpuri airports in Madhya Pradesh under the **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme**.

Note:

UDAN Scheme


- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** was launched as a **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- It was formulated based on the review of the **National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016** and it was planned to remain in force for a period of 10 years.
- Under this Scheme, **Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF)** was created, which funds the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** requirements of the scheme through a levy on certain domestic flights.
- VGF means a grant one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability.
- Phases of the Scheme:
 - **Phase 1** was launched in **2017**, with the objective of connecting underserved and unserved airports in the country.
 - **Phase 2** was launched in **2018**, with the aim of expanding air connectivity to more remote and inaccessible parts of the country.
 - **Phase 3** was launched in **November 2018**, with the focus on enhancing air connectivity to hilly and remote regions of the country.
 - **Phase 4** of the UDAN scheme was launched in **December 2019**, with a focus on connecting islands and other remote areas of the country.
 - **Phase 5** of the UDAN scheme was launched in **2023**, with the focus on increased air connectivity, reduced airfares, creating more jobs, boosting tourism, trade and economic development, and achieving last-mile connectivity.
 - **UDAN 5.2** focuses on achieving last-mile connectivity through small aircraft such as Category 1A (<9 seats) and Category 1(<20 seats).

Key Points

- This initiative aims to improve **regional air connectivity** and make air travel more accessible for residents in these areas.
- **Guna Airport**, owned by the state government, was identified for development under the **UDAN 5.2 scheme**. MoCA has **allocated ₹45 crore** for its development.
- **Shivpuri Airport**, located in the Shivpuri district and also owned by the state government, will be developed under UDAN 5.2. This airport is designated for operation with **9-seater aircraft**.
 - **Spirit Air**, a **new startup airline**, has placed bids for the Shivpuri-Bhopal route.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** will play a crucial role, providing Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS)/Air Traffic Management (ATM), and Aeronautical Information Services (AIS). It will manage the operation and maintenance (O&M) of both the airports.


Note:





UDAN SCHEME

Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik




FEATURES:	ABOUT:	BENEFITS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting Small and Medium cities with big cities through air service Providing affordable, economically viable, and profitable air travel Extending financial incentives to selected airlines to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) Launched in October 2016 and operational for a period of 10 years Formulated in Pursuance of the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016 Udan 5.0 is the latest project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratisation of the Aviation Sector Employment Generation Boost to Tourism Sector Connecting smaller airports, special helicopters and sea plane routes.

Lifeline UDAN:
Air transport of medical cargo and essential supplies across India at the time of the Covid-19.

Krishi UDAN:
To assist farmers in transporting agricultural products

International UDAN:
To connect India's smaller cities directly to some key foreign destinations.



Note:

Workshop On 21st Livestock Census in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** organised a workshop on 'Count of Pastoralists and their Livestock in 21st Livestock Census' in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- This workshop was organised to have better idea on the **practice of Pastoralism**, their habitats, routes in different areas etc. and to arrive at a common consensus on different issues like inclusive definition of Pastoralist, data to be collected and methodology to collect data.
 - The department conducts livestock census across the country **every 5 years since 1919**. The 21st livestock census is due in 2024.
- The livestock census is the main **source of data** for proper **planning and formulation of the Livestock Welfare Programme** for bringing further improvement in this sector.
- It **covers all domestic animals** and head counts of these animals which includes various **species of animals/poultry birds** possessed by the households, household enterprises/non-household enterprises at that site Breed-wise with their age, sex.

Note: National Livestock Mission (NLM) scheme has been restructured for **2021-22 to 2025-26**. The scheme focuses on **entrepreneurship development and breeds improvement** in poultry, sheep, goat and piggery, including feed and fodder development.

Delhi Introduced A Scheme Similar to Madhya Pradesh's 'Ladli Behna' Scheme

Why in News?

The Delhi government has announced **Rs 1,000 per month to all women above 18 years in the national capital** under the **Mukhyamantri Samman Yojna**.

Key Points

- The new initiative is strikingly similar to **Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana**.
 - It was launched by the then Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in March 2023, under which women from lower- and middle-class homes would receive a monthly transfer of Rs 1,000 into their accounts.

Ladli Behna Yojana

- The scheme was launched on **8 March 2023** on the commemorations of **International Women's Day**, by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- The main objective of starting the scheme is to make the **women of the state financially empowered and self-reliant**.
- **All the women of the state**, irrespective of caste and religion, **will be eligible** to avail the benefit of this scheme.
- Eligible women will be given financial assistance of **Rs.1,000/- per month**.

Roadshow in Stockholm

Why in News?

Recently, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board announced its upcoming **roadshow event** tailored for the travel trade industry in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

Key Points

- This exclusive roadshow presents an exceptional opportunity for travel professionals, media, bloggers, and influencers to delve into the diverse tourism landscape of Madhya Pradesh, India, and forge **mutually beneficial partnerships with local tourism authorities**.
- Through this roadshow, **Madhya Pradesh Tourism aims to:**
 - Highlight the **state's key tourism destinations**, including **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites** including the **Khajuraho Group of Monuments**, the **Sanchi Stupa**, and the **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters**, **national parks**, **wildlife sanctuaries**, historical landmarks, and vibrant cultural festivals.
 - Showcase sustainable tourism practices and conservation efforts undertaken by Madhya Pradesh Tourism to **preserve the state's natural and cultural heritage**.

Note:



- Foster partnerships and collaborations between Madhya Pradesh Tourism and **Swedish travel agencies, tour operators, media, and influencers** to promote tourism exchange between the two regions.
- Provide insights into the unique travel experiences and opportunities available in Madhya Pradesh, such as **wildlife safaris, cultural immersion, adventure tourism, and eco-tourism** initiatives.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)

- It was **established in 2017** with an objective to promote tourism in Madhya Pradesh.
- The core objectives of the Board are **development of tourism** with public, private partnership in a sustainable manner, **investor facilitation, skill- development, publicity/promotion of tourist destinations nationally & internationally**, identification and development of tourism infrastructure.

Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)

- These temples were built during the **Chandella dynasty**, which reached its pinnacle between 950 and 1050.
- Only 20 temples remain, belonging to two different religions namely-**Hinduism and Jainism**, including the famous Temple of Kandariya decorated with intricately and beautifully carved sculptures.

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)

- These shelters are located within the foothills of **Vindhya range**, on the southern edge of the central Indian plateau.
- Unearthed in the form of five clusters of natural rock shelters exhibiting paintings that date back to the **Mesolithic**, and other periods succeeding it.
- The cultural traditions of the inhabitants in surrounding areas are very similar to those displayed in the paintings.

Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)

- It is the **oldest Buddhist sanctuary** in existence and was a major Buddhist centre in India until the 12th century A.D.
- Consists of monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries) all in different states of conservation most of which date back to the **2nd and 1st centuries B.C.**

Madhya Pradesh HC Orders ASI Survey of Bhojshala Complex

Why in News?

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh High Court directed the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** to conduct a scientific survey of the **Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex** situated in the **Dhar district**.

Key Points

- The site is an ASI-protected, 11th Century CE monument. Under an agreement with the ASI, puja is performed in the temple by Hindus every Tuesday and Namaz offered every Friday.
- The court has ruled or decided that **there is a necessity to clarify or reveal the true essence and identity of the entire monument** under the maintenance of the Central government.
- The court concluded that it is the **constitutional as well as statutory obligation** of the **ASI to hold the scientific survey of the site** at the earliest **under Section 16 the Monument Act, 1958.**
 - The court asked the ASI to **photograph and videograph the survey** as well as unlock and open the locked/sealed rooms, halls of the whole complex and prepare a complete inventory of each and every artifact, idol, deity, or any structure found in the said locked, sealed halls, and rooms, and submit the same along with the respective photographs.
- This archaeological site at Dhar also bears **ancient inscriptions** that attracted the early attention of **colonial Indologists, historians and administrators.**
- **John Malcolm** mentioned Dhar in 1822, along with building projects such as the dams planned and completed by King Bhoja.
- Earlier in September 2023, the guards reportedly found an idol of **Goddess Vagdevi**. However, the administration had denied the claim of the idols 'appearing' and removed it.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.**

Note:



- It administers more than **3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites** and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out **surveys of antiquarian remains**, exploration and **excavation of archaeological sites**, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was **founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham**—the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.

Bhojshala Complex

- The Bhojshala literally translates from Sanskrit as the ‘**Hall of King Bhoja**’ is an historic temple located in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.
- King Bhoja hailed from the **Paramara dynasty** of central India, and was renowned as a patron of education and the arts, to whom major Sanskrit works on poetics, yoga and architecture are attributed.
- The 11th-century Bhojshala is an ASI-protected monument. Hindus believe it is a temple of Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati) but the Muslim side disputes it claiming that it is Kamal Maula Mosque.

Note: The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958** provides for the **preservation of ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites** and remains of national importance.

Madhya Pradesh to Launch Aircraft Services

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government will launch **air services to promote tourism in the State** by introducing **two twin-engine aircraft**.

Key Points

- These two air services for tourism will be named ‘**PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Sewa**’ and ‘**Dharmik Paryatan Heli Sewa**’.
- Under these services **two eight-seater twin-engine aircraft will be introduced**.
- The operator would select the route from main airports like **Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Khajuraho**, besides other airstrips in the state.

Madhya Pradesh Approves Ken-Betwa Link Project

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the establishment of a **Chitrakoot Development for the holy town’s development** and gave nod to the Rs 24,293 crore **Ken-Betwa link project**.

Key Points

- After the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Chitrakoot also witnessed a huge influx of devotees. **Lord Ram had spent 11 years in exile in Chitrakoot.**
 - The state cabinet has approved Rs 20 crore for the Chitrakoot Development authority.
- The **Ken-Betwa project** will benefit the three states—**Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.**
 - The project will bring an additional 6,57,364 hectares of drought affected areas in Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Datia and Vidisha, Shivpuri, Raisen under irrigation.
 - Drinking water facility can be extended to a population of 44 lakh people.
- The cabinet also approved extension of the **Chief Minister Solar Pump Scheme**, which will now be implemented as “**Pradhan Mantri Krishak Mitra Surya Yojana**”.
- The scheme will be implemented by the Madhya Pradesh Power Development Corporation as per the guidelines issued under the **Kusum ‘B’ scheme** of the Union government.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthaan Mahabhiyan Yojana (PM-KUSUM)

- It was launched in March 2019 by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, to subsidize farmers to install solar irrigation pumps for cultivation.
 - Each farmer will **receive a 60% subsidy** to set up tube wells and pump sets.
 - They will also get **30% of the total cost as a loan from the Government.**
- The **primary objective** of the PM-KUSUM Scheme is to make cutting-edge technology available to our farmers and provide sources for de-dieselized irrigation to the agricultural sector.

Note:

- The **main objectives** of this scheme are:
 - The solar pumps assist our farmers in much more effective and eco-friendly irrigation as these are capable of generating safer energy.
 - In addition, the pump sets comprise an energy power grid that generates more energy than diesel-driven pumps.
 - Farmers will be able to sell the extra power to our Government directly to enhance their income.
- **KUSUM** comprises 3 components that have **different features**:
 - **Component A:** Install a total of 10GV grid-connected stilt-mounted decentralized solar plants and other renewable energy-based power plants. Each plant is sized up to 500 KW to 2MV.
 - **Component B:** Install stand-alone solar pumps of up to 7.5HP individual capacity and worth 17.50 lakh.
 - **Component C:** Provide financial support to Solaris 10 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps of 7.5HP of capacity each.

Ministry of Minority Affairs Approves Projects Under PMJVK Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved projects under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Scheme** for 'Establishment of Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore Campus with the total estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore.

Key Points

- These projects were approved for strengthening **infrastructural development** pertaining to development of **Jain philosophy**, fostering academic collaboration, promoting interdisciplinary research, **preservation of language** via **digitisation of manuscripts**, community outreach via hubs establishment.
- The project by the university will be undertaken for preservation and promotion of Jain Heritage, enhancing **global understanding of Jainism** and its principles and practices and developing a support for community engagement.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK Scheme)

- The Central Government renamed and restructured the **Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP)** as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK).
- The programme **aims to develop socio-economic and basic amenities** assets like school, college, polytechnic, girls hostel, ITI, skill development centre etc for the minority communities.

Jainism

- It came to prominence in the **6th century BC**, when **Lord Mahavira** propagated the religion.
- There were **24 great teachers**, the last of whom was Lord Mahavira.
- These twenty-four teachers were called **Tirthankaras**—people who had attained all **knowledge (Moksha)** while living and preached it to the people.
- The first Tirthankara was **Rishabhatha**.

Jain Literature

- Jain literature is classified into **two major categories**:
 - **Agam Literature:** Lord Mahavir's preaching was methodically compiled by his followers into many texts. These texts are collectively known as Agams, the sacred books of the Jain religion. Agam literature is also divided into two groups: **Ang-agama and Ang-bahya-agams**.
 - **Non-agam Literature:** This consists of commentary and explanation of Agam literature and independent works, compiled by elder monks, nuns, and scholars.
 - They are written in many languages such as Prakrit, Sanskrit, Old Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannad, Tamil, German, and English.

Six Madhya Pradesh Heritage Sites Included in Tentative UNESCO List

Why in News?

Recently, six heritage sites in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the tentative **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) list**.

Key Points

- The sites included in the new list included **Gwalior Fort, the Historical Group of Dhamnar, Bhojeshwar**

Note:

Mahadev Temple, Rock Art Sites of Chambal Valley, Khooni Bhandara, Burhanpur, and God Memorial of Ramnagar, Mandla.

- In 2010 efforts were started to include the underground water structure **Khooni Bhandara** in the **list of UNESCO's World Heritage**.
 - In 2013, a UNESCO team came to see this structure. All the shortcomings pointed out by them were rectified.
 - Now the district administration, municipal corporation administration and Madhya Pradesh government have prepared an action plan to provide facilities here.

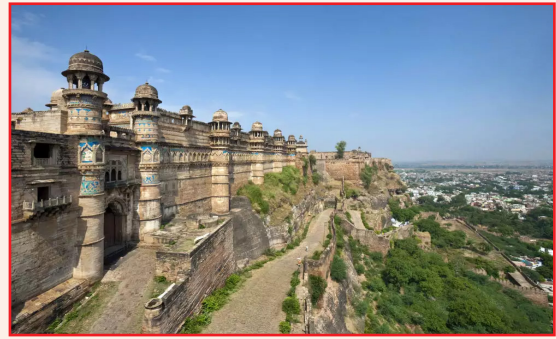
Khooni Bhandara



- It is an underground water management system comprising **eight waterworks** built in the historical city of **Burhanpur in Burhanpur district** of Madhya Pradesh.
- These Mughal period waterworks of Burhanpur form one of the most significant historic water systems in India.
- Built on a **similar Persian qanat approach** as also in the existing historic towns of Aurangabad and Bidar these water systems in Burhanpur were **constructed in 1615 CE**.

Gwalior Fort

- The Gwalior Fort is a hill fort near Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The fort has existed at least since the 10th century, and the inscriptions and monuments found in the fort indicate that it may have existed as **early as the beginning of the 6th century**.



- It has been held by many dynasties like the **Hunas, the Gurjara – Pratiharas, the Kachchhapaghatas, the Tomars, the Lodis and the Mughals**.
- The Fort contains several temples and structures.

Historical Group of Dhamnar



- The Dhamnar caves are located on a hill near the village of Dhamnar in the Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- This rock cut site consists of a **total of 51 caves of varying sizes carved into the laterite hill**.
- The hill consists of two groups of structures, the **series of Buddhist caves and the hindu temple complex known as the Dharmarajeshwara temple, also called Dharmanath temple**.

Bhojeshwar Mahadev Temple



Note:

- The Bhojeshwar Temple is an **incomplete Hindu temple** in Bhojpur village of Madhya Pradesh.
- The temple's construction is believed to have started in the 11th century, during the reign of the **Paramara king Bhoja**.
- The construction was **abandoned for unknown reasons**, with the architectural plans engraved on the surrounding rocks.

Madhya Pradesh to Have 3,500 'Pink' Booths

Why in News?

Around **3,500 'pink' booths**, to be **managed exclusively by women** government personnel, are expected to be set up in the state.

Key Points

- The Lok Sabha election 2024 in **Madhya Pradesh for 29 seats**, polling will take place in four phases on **April 19, April 26, May 7 and May 13** and votes will be counted on June 4.
- According to **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** Anupam Rajan, **5.64 crores** voters, including **2.90 crores males, 2.74 crores female and 1,228 third gender electors**, are registered in the state.
 - In addition, there are 118 overseas voters and 74,835 service electors (Army personnel posted at borders and other places), taking the number of total voters in Madhya Pradesh to more than 5.65 crore.
 - In the **2023 assembly elections**, the voter turnout was **77.82%**.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

- According to **section 13A of the Representation of the People Act 1950**, and **section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, the Chief Electoral Officer of a State/ Union Territory is authorised to supervise the election work subject to the overall superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission.
- The **Election Commission of India designates an Officer of the Government** as the Chief Electoral Officer in consultation with that State Government/ Union Territory Administration.

ASI Excavates Gupta Era Site in Madhya Pradesh to Find Relics

Why in News?

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is excavating the site in Nachne village of Madhya Pradesh's **Panna district** to find relics of one of the oldest temples of India and to study the condition of ancient temples.

Key Points

- The site is in close proximity to two ancient temples- a **Gupta-Era Parvati Temple-** and **Chaumukhi Temple**, built by the **Kalachuri Dynasty**.
- The excavation work is underway on Chaumukh Nath Temple premises, which houses an **8th-century four-faced Shiva Linga**.
 - As per ASI, the Shiva Linga has been carved out with remarkable vitality, especially the **fierce open-mouthed face of the god on its south side**.
 - As of now, ASI excavated two mounds and after brushing off centuries of earth, layers of bricks have been undiscovered.
- The **objective of excavation** in Nachna is to see the **condition of ancient temples in India** and how temples evolved and developed.
- The site has **eight archaeological mounds** and the **excavation team has got permission to dig two mounds**.

Chaumukhi Temple



- It is located in the **Panna district** of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is dated to the **9th century Kalachuri Dynasty** era.
- These temples illustrate a North Indian style of Hindu temple architecture.

Note:

Parvati Temple



- Parvati temple of Nachna is dated back to the **Gupta period**. It was built in the **5th century**.
- This temple is Constructed on a terrace, 35 feet wide, this temple is composed of a small square sanctum, 15 feet side.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the **premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage** of the nation.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities **include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.**
- It was **founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham**-the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the **“Father of Indian Archaeology”**.
- It oversees all archaeological undertakings within the nation by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, of 1958**.

CAG Report Raises Concern on Rising Pollution in Kshipra

Why in News?

According to the report of the **Comptroller and Auditor general (CAG) of India**, despite interventions of several state government agencies, **Kshipra river** continues to remain polluted.

Key Points

- It points out that because of the **mismanagement of the Kshipra sub-basin** and the **indiscriminate exploitation of groundwater**, the natural flow of the river has been reduced.
- The report states that **waste of local urban bodies has been flowing into the river**.
- **Insufficient treatment of industrial waste, pollution on the riverbed** have led to deterioration of Kshipra water quality and its tributaries.
- The CAG has recommended in its report that **Madhya Pradesh pollution control board** must ensure proper and sufficient watch on industries.
- The report on the public works department mentions **delay in completion of under-construction bridges in the state** and stated that out of 72 sample bridges which were examined across five divisions between October 2020 and September 2021 only nine had been completed on time.

Kshipra River

- It is a **perennial river of Madhya Pradesh state**
- It **originates in the Vindhya Range** from a hill called **Kakri-Tekdi**, which is in the north of Dhar and situated at a distance of 11km from Ujjain.
- This river is 195 km long, out of which 93 km flow through Ujjain.
- It flows across the **Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River**.
- **Religious Significance:**
 - The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the **Kshipra originated from the heart of Varaha**, Lord Vishnu’s incarnation as a boar.
 - Also on the banks of the Kshipra is Sage Sandipani’s ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu’s eighth incarnation, had studied.

Note:



- It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.
- The holy city of Ujjain is **located on the right bank of the Kshipra River**. The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years, a yearly celebration of the river goddess Kshipra.
- Its major tributaries are **Khan and Gambhir**.

India's First SSLNG Plant in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas dedicated to the nation **India's first small-scale liquefied natural gas (SSLNG)** unit at **GAIL (India) Ltd's** in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- The government aims to increase the share of **natural gas** in its **primary energy mix to 15% by 2030** from a little more than 6% at present.
 - This is because natural gas is far less polluting than **conventional hydrocarbons like coal and oil**; it is also **cheaper than oil**, more than 85%

of India's requirement for which is met through costly imports.

- Natural gas is seen as a **key transition fuel in India's journey towards green energy and future fuels**.
- However, a **major challenge** in scaling up gas consumption lies in the **transportation of gas to places that are not connected** by the country's natural gas pipeline grid.
- **Small-Scale Liquefied Natural Gas (SSLNG):**
 - It refers to the **liquefaction of natural gas** and its transportation using unconventional means in a significantly **smaller-scale operation than the usual large-scale liquefaction, regasification, and transportation infrastructure and processes**.
 - The SSLNG chain can start from a large-scale LNG import terminal from where the LNG, instead of being regasified and supplied through pipelines, can be transported to consumers by cryogenic road tankers or small vessels.
 - The chain can also start at locations with ample natural gas supply or production, where small liquefaction plants can be set up.
 - The SSLNG unit at Vijaipur, which is GAIL's largest gas processing facility, is an example of the latter kind of location.

How Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is made



1. Cleaned
Natural gas is cleaned of impurities

2. Liquefied
Becomes liquid after being cooled to approx -160C

3. Transported
Easier and safer to move (takes up 600 times less space)

Note:

Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh Sworn in as New Lokayukta of Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, **Justice Satyendra Kumar Singh** was appointed as the new **Lokayukta (anti-corruption ombudsman)** of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- He took the oath of office in the ceremony administered by **Governor Mangubhai Patel** at Raj Bhavan.

Lokayukta

- The Lokayukta is the **Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman**, executed into power, **through and for, each of the State Governments of India**.
- It is an **anti-corruption authority**. The object of the Lokayukta system in a state is to **investigate grievances, allegations against public servants**.
- The origin of the Lokayukta can be drawn to the **Ombudsman in Scandinavian countries**.
- In India, the **Administrative Reforms Commission, (1966-70)**, had recommended the creation of the **Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta in the states**.
- Before the passing of the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act in 2013**, several states in India passed laws for creating the Institution of 'Lokayukta'.
 - Maharashtra was first in this respect with its Lokayukta body **established in 1971**.

Cooperative Societies Under Ambit of RTI for First Time in Madhya Pradesh

Why in News?

In a recent landmark order, **all cooperative societies in Madhya Pradesh**, involved in **grain procurement and the operation of ration shops** have been brought under the ambit of **Right to Information Act (RTI), 2005** with immediate effect.

Key Points

- **State Information Commissioner (SIC)** has also mandated the **proactive disclosure of ration shop salesperson's salaries on the district portal** to ensure transparency and accountability.
- It is aimed at **ensuring justice for farmers and common citizens** by subjecting cooperative societies to RTI Act.

Cooperative Societies

About:

- Cooperatives are organizations **formed at the grassroots level by people to harness the power of collective bargaining** in the marketplace.
 - This can mean **different kinds of arrangements**, such as using a common resource or sharing capital, to derive a common gain that would otherwise be difficult for an individual producer to get.
- In agriculture, cooperative dairies, sugar mills, spinning mills etc. are **formed with the pooled resources of farmers who wish to process their produce**.

Jurisdiction:

- Cooperatives are a state subject under the Constitution, meaning **they come under the state governments' jurisdiction**, but there are many societies whose members and areas of operation are spread across more than one state.
- Cooperatives of more than one state are **registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS) of 2002**.
 - Their board of directors has representation from all states they operate in.
 - Administrative and financial control of these societies is with the central registrar, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control over them.

State Information Commission (SIC)

- It is constituted by the State Government.
- It has **one State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC)** and not more than 10 SICs to be **appointed by the Governor** on the recommendation of the Appointments Committee headed by the Chief Minister.



Note:



drishti

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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