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**JUNE
2025**



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View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
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Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Salkhan Fossil Park Added to UNESCO Tentative List

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh's Salkhan Fossil Park, also known as Sonbhadra Fossils Park, has been included in [UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites](#).



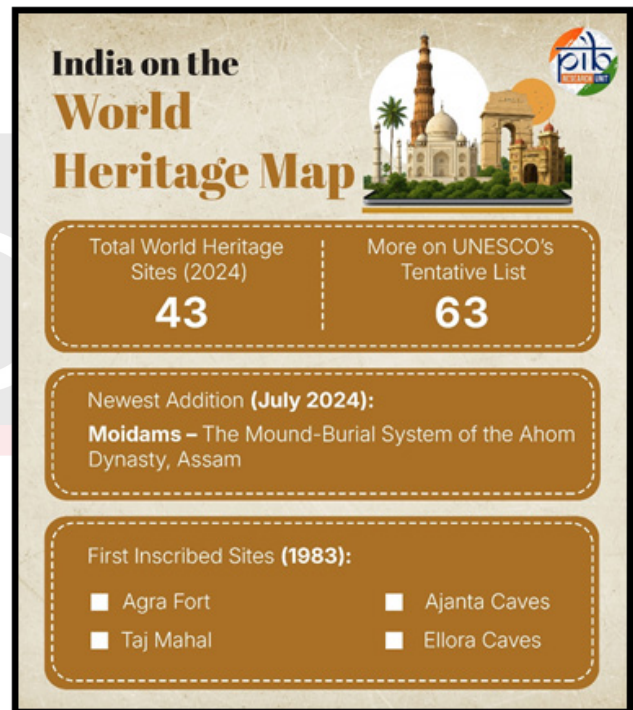
Key Points

About Salkhan Fossil Park:

- ✦ Located in Salkhan village in the **Sonbhadra district** of **Uttar Pradesh**, the park spans 25 hectares within the scenic [Kaimur Range](#), adjacent to [Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#).
- ✦ Though geological interest in the site dates back to the 1930s, it was **officially declared a fossil park in 2002**.
- ✦ Salkhan Fossil Park preserves [stromatolites](#), rare layered sedimentary structures formed by **ancient cyanobacteria** (blue-green algae).
 - **Cyanobacteria**, emerging around **3.5 billion years ago**, were likely the **first organisms to perform oxygenic photosynthesis**, triggering the [Great Oxidation Event](#) (~2.4 billion years ago), which enriched Earth's atmosphere with oxygen, enabling complex life.
- ✦ These photosynthesizing microorganisms belong to the **Mesoproterozoic Era** (1.6–1.0 billion years ago), making the fossils up to 1.4 billion years old.
- ✦ Such formations are globally rare, placing Salkhan among the oldest fossil sites in the world, older than **Shark Bay (Australia)** and [Yellowstone \(USA\)](#).

Challenging Scientific Assumptions:

- ✦ Discoveries at Salkhan have transformed scientific understanding of early life.
- ✦ Previously, scientists believed life began around 570 million years ago, but the ancient stromatolites here predate that timeline.
 - A key development in this scientific observation was the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, between the **UP eco-tourism development board** and the [Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow](#).
- ✦ The fossils provide vital clues into the **Earth's earliest biosphere** and the **evolution of oceanic ecosystems**.



World Heritage Sites (WHS)

- ✦ WHS are locations recognized for their **outstanding universal value to humanity** and are inscribed on the **World Heritage List** for protection and preservation for future generations.
- ✦ These sites may be **cultural, natural, or mixed** in nature. **WHS** are safeguarded under the **World Heritage Convention, 1972**, an international agreement adopted by **UNESCO member countries**.

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- ✦ The Convention outlines the responsibilities of **State Parties** in identifying, protecting, and preserving such sites.
- ✦ The list of WHS are maintained by the international '**World Heritage Programme**', administered by the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee**.
- ✦ **India ratified** the Convention in **1977**.

💡 As of **June 2025**, India has **43 World Heritage Sites** (34 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 2 Mixed) and **63 sites on the Tentative List**.

Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE)

Why in News?

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth visited the **Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE)** in Kanpur, a key **DRDO** laboratory, and **appreciated its contributions to indigenous defence technologies, especially in the context of Operation Sindoor**.

Key Points

- 💡 Recognition for Indigenous Defence Innovations:
 - ✦ DMSRDE received appreciation for its significant **contributions to the development of advanced defence systems and indigenous products**.
 - ✦ Key achievements include:
 - **Bullet Proof Jacket (Level-6)**-- **Lightest bulletproof jacket** in the country
 - Naphthyl Fuel for the **BrahMos missile**
 - High-Pressure Polymeric Membranes for Indian Coast Guard ships
 - **Silicon Carbide Fibres**
 - Activated **Carbon Fabric-based Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Suits**
 - A range of stealth materials enhancing battlefield survivability

Leading in Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration:

- ✦ DMSRDE **carried out the highest number of technology transfers** among all DRDO labs over the past two years.
- ✦ The lab has intensified its focus on collaboration with industry and academia, aligning with the national vision of achieving a developed India (**Viksit Bharat**) by 2047.

Broader Contributions:

- ✦ Showcased innovations in **nano-materials, technical textiles, camouflage systems, coatings, rubbers, and lubricants**.
- ✦ It reinforces DRDO's commitment to developing cutting-edge dual-use technologies.

About DRDO:

- ✦ DRDO was **established in 1958** by merging the **Technical Development Establishment (TDEs)** of the Indian Army, the **Directorate of Technical Development and Production (DTDP)**, and the **Defence Science Organisation (DSO)**.
 - DRDO is the R&D wing of the **Ministry of Defence**, Government of India.
 - It initially had 10 laboratories; it currently operates 41 laboratories and 5 **DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs)**.
- ✦ **Philosophy:** The guiding principle of DRDO is "**Balasya Mulam Vigyanam**" (**Strength lies in science**), driving the nation in both peace and war.
- ✦ **Mission:** Achieve **self-reliance in critical defence technologies** and systems while equipping the Indian armed forces with state-of-the-art weapon systems and equipment, as per the requirements of the three Services.

BrahMos Missile

- 💡 An Indo-Russian joint venture, the BrahMos missile **has a range of 290 km and is the world's fastest cruise missile** with a top speed of Mach 2.8 (about three times the speed of sound).
 - ✦ It is named after the **Brahmaputra River of India** and the **Moskva River of Russia**.

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- It is a two-stage (**solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in the second**) missile.
- It is a multiplatform missile which **can be launched with great accuracy from land, air and sea having multi-capability capabilities** and can operate during day and night despite bad weather.
- It operates on the **"fire and forget"** principle i.e., it does not require guidance after launch.

Operation Sindoor

- About:** Operation Sindoor was a coordinated precision strike operation launched by the Indian Armed Forces on 7th May 2025, in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.
 - It was executed through the coordinated efforts of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, conducted from Indian territory.
 - Unlike past operations with aggressive names meant to project strength, this operation's name was chosen as a **personal tribute to the victims**, particularly the **widows of the Pahalgam attack**.
- Targets:** Under 'Operation Sindoor,' the Indian Armed Forces targeted terror facilities linked to **Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen** in Pakistan and PoJK.
 - These strikes aimed to dismantle terrorist infrastructure used for planning attacks against India.

Green Data Centre in Ghaziabad

A state-of-the-art **Green Data Centre** has been inaugurated in **Sahibabad, Ghaziabad**.

Key Points:

- Project Details:** The project is a joint initiative between Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a PSU under the **Ministry of Science & Technology**, and ESDS.
 - It involves an estimated investment of ₹1,000 crore and will have a 30 MW capacity.
- Infrastructure & Sustainability:** The data centre will use **energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy**, and eco-friendly designs.

- Connectivity & Resilience:** It will feature a 40 Gbps ring fibre network and dual 10 Gbps connections for cloud integration and disaster recovery.
 - Sustainable features include **rainwater harvesting, reflective roofing, and smart cooling systems**.

Uttar Pradesh Data Center Policy 2021

- Vision & Mission:** To position Uttar Pradesh as the preferred investment destination for the Data Center industry.
 - To develop a world-class **Data Center** ecosystem by attracting global and domestic investment and supporting MSMEs/start-ups.
- Targets:**
 - Develop 900 MW Data Center capacity in the state.
 - Attract investment worth ₹30,000 crore.
 - Establish at least 8 private state-of-the-art Data Center Parks.
- Nodal Agency:** The **Department of IT & Electronics**, Uttar Pradesh, will appoint a Nodal Agency to implement the policy.
- Definitions:**
 - Data Center Park:** Must have a minimum capacity of 40 MW.
 - Data Center Unit:** Should be between >2 MW and <40 MW; captive data centers are excluded.
- Incentives for Data Center Parks:** Data Center Parks are eligible for up to **60% interest subsidy** for 7 years, subject to a maximum of ₹10 crore per year and an overall ceiling of ₹50 crore per park.
 - Land subsidies of 25%** (in Madhyanchal and Paschimanchal) and **50%** (in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal) are available, capped at **7.5% of total project cost or ₹75 crore**, whichever is lower.
 - These land subsidies apply only to the **first 8 parks** notified under the policy and are not applicable to Data Center Units within those parks if already claimed.
 - Stamp duty exemption** is provided—**100% on the first transaction** and **50% on the second**—along with **dual power grid supply**.

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💡 **Incentives for Data Center Units:** Data Center Units can avail a **7% capital subsidy** on fixed capital investment (excluding land and building) up to **₹20 crore**, disbursed over 10 years with a cap of **₹2 crore annually**.

✦ Units are also eligible for **land subsidies—25% in Madhyanchal and Paschimanchal and 50% in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal**, subject to the same overall limit of **7.5% of project cost or ₹75 crore**.

IOC Gets First Woman President

Why in News?

On 23rd June 2025, **Kirsty Coventry** became the **first female and first African president** of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**, coinciding with the IOC's 131st anniversary.

💡 **Thomas Bach**, the outgoing president who completed his 12-year term starting in 2013, now assumes the **honorary title of IOC President**.

Key Points

About Kirsty Coventry

💡 **Olympic Success:** She is **Zimbabwe's most successful Olympian**, having won seven of the country's eight Olympic medals to date.

✦ No African athlete has won more Olympic medals than Coventry, who specialized in backstroke and medley swimming.

💡 **Olympic Medals:** At the Athens 2004 Olympics, she won three medals: a gold in the 200m backstroke, a silver in the 100m backstroke, and a bronze in the 200m medley.

✦ She defended her 200m backstroke title at Beijing 2008 and added three silver medals.

💡 **World Titles and Retirement:** Coventry won three long-course world titles in 2005 and 2009, along with four short-course gold medals in 2008.

✦ She retired from competitive swimming after the **Rio 2016 Olympics**, marking her fifth Olympic appearance.

💡 **Government Role:** In September 2018, she was appointed as Zimbabwe's Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts, and Recreation.

💡 **IOC Involvement:** Elected to the IOC in 2013 as a **member of the Athletes' Commission**, she was re-elected as an individual IOC member in 2021.

💡 **Role as IOC President:**

✦ She will oversee the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 as her first Olympic Games.

✦ She will also be overseeing the selection of the **2028 Summer Games** host city.

• Potential bids from **Qatar and Saudi Arabia** are under consideration, with the IOC's new process allowing fast-tracking of a preferred candidate.

✦ She will hold a **closed-door session** with around 100 IOC members, including current and former heads of state, business leaders, athletes, and Olympic sports leaders.

✦ She emphasized her role as a "guardian" of the Olympic platform, dedicated to inspiring, changing lives, and bringing hope worldwide, while **leading** the International Olympic Committee **for the next eight years**.



International Olympic Committee (IOC)

💡 The IOC is a **non-governmental international organisation** based in Lausanne, Switzerland, that came into existence in 1894.

💡 The **IOC decides the rules and regulations** of the Olympic Games and when and where the next Olympic event will be held.

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- 💡 The IOC is a **permanent organisation that elects its own members**, with each member **speaking French or English** and being a citizen of or residing in a country with a National Olympic Committee.
 - ✦ The IOC is the final authority on all questions concerning the Olympic Games and the Olympic movement.
- 💡 The IOC aims to ensure the **regular holding of the Olympic Games** and foster Olympism and the Olympic movement.
 - ✦ **Olympism is a philosophy that blends sport, culture, education, and international cooperation**, emphasizing the joy of effort, the educational value of good examples, social responsibility, and respect for universal ethical principles.
 - ✦ The goal of the Olympic Movement is to **contribute to building a peaceful and better world** by educating youth through sports practised in accordance with Olympism and its values.
 - The three main constituents of the Olympic Movement are the **IOC**, the **International Sports Federations ("IFs")**, and the **National Olympic Committees ("NOCs")**.

Jahnavi Dangeti

Why in News?

Jahnavi Dangeti, a 23-year-old from Palakollu, West Godavari district, **Andhra Pradesh**, has been selected as an **Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN)** for the 2029 space mission of Titan Space Industries (TSI), a U.S.-based private space research agency.

- 💡 An Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) is an individual who has been **selected by a space agency or organization** for astronaut training, with the goal of qualifying them for **spaceflight missions**.

Key Points

About Jahnavi Dangeti

- 💡 She completed her schooling in Godavari district, then pursued a Bachelor's in Electronics and

Communication Engineering at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab, while her parents, Padmasri and Srinivas, reside in Kuwait.

- 💡 She became the **youngest foreign Analog Astronaut** and the **first Indian** at the **Analog Astronaut Training Centre (AATC)** in Kraków, Poland, in 2022.
- 💡 She has worked with the **International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC)**, sponsored by **NASA**, and contributed to asteroid discovery using the **Pan-STARRS telescope** in Hawaii.
- 💡 Jahnavi has **received multiple awards**, including the People's Choice Award at the NASA Space Apps Challenge and the Young Achiever Award at **ISRO's** World Space Week celebrations.
- 💡 **Union Minister of Civil Aviation** congratulated her for becoming the first Indian to complete NASA's International Air & Space Programme, marking her achievement as a **proud moment for India**.



About Titans Space Mission

- 💡 The **mission, set for 2029**, will be led by Colonel (Retd.) William McArthur Jr., a veteran NASA astronaut.

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- ⚡ The US-based mission will take around five hours, during which time the crew will fly around the planet twice, experiencing **two sunrises and two sunsets**.
- ⚡ The mission will yield close to three hours of **continuous zero gravity**, providing a revolutionary environment for scientific investigation and human spaceflight development.
- ⚡ **Jahnavi** will begin astronaut training in 2026, which will include **flight simulations, spacecraft procedures**, survival training, and medical and psychological evaluations.

Other Key Indian Space Milestones:

- ⚡ **Axiom-4 (Ax-4) Mission (2025):** Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** became the second Indian to travel to space and will be the **first to visit NASA's International Space Station (ISS)**.
 - ✦ The **four-member crew** (Peggy Whitson of the US, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland, and Tibor Kapu from Hungary) will carry out 60 scientific experiments, including **seven contributed by India**.
 - ✦ ISRO's experiments aim to enhance our understanding of space, its biological effects, and **microgravity**, with one key experiment examining the **impact of spaceflight on six types of crop seeds**.
- ⚡ **Russian Soyuz Mission (1984):** **Rakesh Sharma** became the first Indian to fly to space, marking a historic milestone for India's space journey.

CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC), Agra

Why in News?

The government has approved the establishment of the **South Asia regional center** of the **Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP)** in **Singna, Agra district, Uttar Pradesh**.

- ⚡ The CIP regional centre in India will **cater to both domestic farmers** and those in other **South Asian countries**.

Key Points

- ⚡ **Objective:** The primary objective of the project is to **enhance food and nutrition security**, increase farmers' income, and generate employment by **improving potato and sweet potato productivity**, post-harvest management, and value addition.
- ⚡ **Project Cost:** The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated 10 hectares of land for the proposed centre.
 - ✦ The **total cost of the project is ₹171 crore**, with India contributing ₹111 crore and the CIP (International Potato Center) providing ₹60 crore.
- ⚡ **Impact on Employment:** India's potato sector holds significant potential for job creation in areas such as **production, processing, packaging, transportation**, marketing, and the broader value chain.
- ⚡ **Innovation:** The **CSARC (Central Potato and Sweet Potato Research Centre)** will develop high-yielding, nutrient-rich, and **climate-resilient varieties** of potatoes and sweet potatoes, which will accelerate sustainable development not only in India but also across South Asia through world-class scientific research and innovation.
- ⚡ **India's Potato Production:** India is the **second-largest producer and consumer** of potatoes globally, with a production of 51.30 million tonnes in 2020.
 - ✦ Together, India and China account for more than one-third of the global potato production, which totaled 359.07 million tonnes in 2020.
- ⚡ **Key Producing States in India:** **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal** lead potato production, each contributing 15 million tonnes in 2020-21.
 - ✦ Bihar produces 9 million tonnes, with Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab also being significant contributors.

Related Institutions

- ⚡ **International Potato Center (CIP):** It was **founded in 1971**, is headquartered in Lima, Peru, and focuses on potato, sweet potato, and Andean roots and tubers.

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✦ China established the **China Center for Asia Pacific (CCCAP)** in Yanqing, Beijing, in 2017 to serve the **East Asia and Pacific region**.

💡 **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):** The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** operates two institutions **focusing on tuber crops**: ICAR-CPRI (Central Potato Research Institute) in **Shimla**, which works on potatoes, and ICAR-CTCRI (Central Tuber Crops Research Institute) in **Thiruvananthapuram**, which focuses on sweet potatoes.

💡 **Other Agricultural Centre Establishment:** In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture supported the establishment of a regional centre for the **Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** in **Varanasi, India**.

25th Central Zonal Council Meeting in Varanasi

Why in News?

The Union Home Minister and **Minister of Cooperation** chaired the 25th Central **Zonal Council** meeting in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

💡 It was organized by the **Inter-State Council Secretariat** in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Key Points

Key Highlights of the Meeting:

- 💡 A resolution praising the Prime Minister's strong willpower and the **Indian Armed Forces' bravery** was unanimously approved by the Central Zonal Council.
- 💡 The Home Minister highlighted that the Central Zonal Council is the only zonal council where **no issue or dispute exists** between member states, and this is a significant achievement.
- 💡 **Between 2004 and 2014**, only 11 Zonal Council meetings and 14 Standing Committee meetings were held, while between 2014 and 2025, 28 Zonal Council meetings and 33 Standing Committee meetings took place, **marking a twofold increase**.

✦ A total of 1,287 issues have been resolved in these meetings, reflecting a historic and encouraging achievement.

💡 A total of 19 issues were discussed including the implementation of **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)** for the speedy investigation and prompt **disposal of rape cases** against women and children, provision of **brick-and-mortar banking facilities** within the designated radius of every village, and implementation of the **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112)**, among other key issues.

✦ The Home Minister stressed that all states of the Zonal Council should ensure the **eradication of child malnutrition**, bring the dropout ratio down to zero, and strengthen the **cooperative sector**.

✦ The Union Home Minister also urged member states to **boost Gram Panchayat revenues** and create rules to strengthen **India's three-tier Panchayati Raj system**.

Zonal Councils

💡 **About:** Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, as a high-level advisory forum to foster cooperative working among states and to create a healthy inter-State and Centre-State environment.

- ✦ The idea of Zonal Councils was first proposed by former Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** in 1956 during debates on the **States Reorganisation Commission's (Fazal Ali Commission, 1953) Report**.
- ✦ Under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, five Zonal Councils were established.
- ✦ The **seven North Eastern States are not included in the Zonal Councils** and their special problems are looked after by the North Eastern Council, set up under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1972**.
 - The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide **North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002**.

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Composition:

Zonal Council	States
Central Zonal Council	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand
Northern Zonal Council	Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh
Eastern Zonal Council	Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim
Western Zonal Council	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu
Southern Zonal Council	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

Organizational Structure:

- ✦ **Chairman:** Union Home Minister (for all 5 Zonal Councils). He is also the ex-officio Chairman of the North Eastern Council (NEC).
- ✦ **Vice-Chairman:** Chief Minister of one of the member states (by annual rotation).
- ✦ **Members:** The members include the **Chief Ministers**, Lieutenant Governors, or Administrators of the member States and Union Territories.
 - Additionally, from each member state, the **Governor** nominates two ministers as members of the Council.
- ✦ **Advisors:** One nominee from **NITI Aayog** (earlier Planning Commission), Chief Secretaries, and Development Commissioners of the member states.
 - Each Zonal Council has a **Permanent Committee** comprising the Chief Secretaries of member states. State-proposed issues are first discussed by this committee, and unresolved matters are then placed before the full Zonal Council for further deliberation.

Objectives:

- ✦ Bringing out national integration;
- ✦ Arresting the **growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism, and particularistic tendencies**;

- ✦ Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences;
- ✦ Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for the successful and speedy execution of development projects.

💡 **Functions:** Each Zonal Council is an **advisory body** and may discuss and make recommendations about-

- ✦ any matter of common interest in the field of **economic and social planning**;
- ✦ any matter concerning **border disputes, linguistic minorities**, or inter-State transport;
- ✦ any matter connected with or arising out of the reorganization of the States under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Gharial Hatchlings Thrive in Chambal River

Why in News?

The **National Chambal Sanctuary** has seen 1,186 gharial hatchlings born in the Etawah range and 840 in the Bah range, and now they are all frolicking in the **Chambal River**.

- 💡 Gharial eggs incubate for 50 to 60 days, with hatchlings emerging in early June and the hatching phase lasting about a month.

Key Points

Gharials:

- 💡 **About:** The **gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)** is distinct from other crocodilians due to its long snout.
- ✦ **Crocodiles** are the largest surviving reptiles, primarily inhabiting freshwater swamps, lakes, and rivers, with one saltwater species.
 - They are **nocturnal and poikilothermic** (also known as ectotherms or cold-blooded animals, are characterized by their body temperature fluctuating with the surrounding environment).
- 💡 **Distribution:** According to the **Wildlife Institute of India**, gharials were widely distributed in the Brahmaputra, **Ganga, Indus**, and the Mahanadi-Brahmani-Baitarani river systems of India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

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- ✦ Currently, their major populations occur in three **tributaries of the Ganga** (the Chambal and Girwa in India, and the Rapti-Narayani river in Nepal).
- ✦ Odisha is the only Indian state to host wild populations of **all three native crocodilian species** (Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), and Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)).
- 💡 **Population:** India hosts nearly 80% of the global wild gharial population, with around 3,000 individuals across sites like **National Chambal Sanctuary**, Katarnia Ghat, and Son Gharial Sanctuary.
- 💡 **Crocodile Conservation Project:** India launched its CCP at Odisha's **Bhitarkanika National Park** with support from the **United Nations Development Programme** and the **Food and Agriculture Organisation**.
 - ✦ It adopted the "rear and release" method, created protected habitats like Bhitarkanika and **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**, and promoted captive breeding and community awareness, making it a national model for crocodilian conservation.
 - ✦ On **World Crocodile Day (17th June)**, India commemorates 50 years of its Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP) (1975–2025).

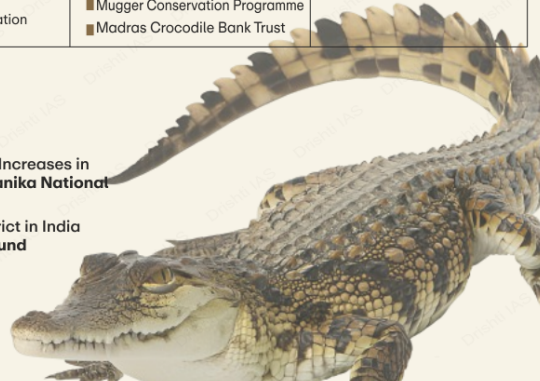
CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

India harbours three diverse crocodile species—Mugger, Saltwater, and Gharial—found in distinct habitats nationwide.

Aspects	Gharial	Mugger/Indian Crocodile	Saltwater Crocodile
Scientific Name	<i>Gavialis Gangeticus</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Palustris</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Porosus</i> 
Distribution: India	Viable Population: National Chambal Sanctuary (U.P, Raj, M.P) Small Non-Breeding Population: Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha)	Throughout India	East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkanika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans)
Distribution: Neighbourhood	Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River	Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar	Across Southeast Asia
Special Feature	Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout	Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout	Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout
Habitat	Freshwater	Freshwater	Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands
IUCN Status	CR	VU	LC
CITES Status	Appendix I	Appendix I	Appendix I
CMS Status	Appendix I	-	Appendix II
WPA, 1972 Status	Schedule I	Schedule I	Schedule I
Threats	Dams, Pollution, Sand mining	Habitat Destruction	Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss
Government Initiatives	■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1975	■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1975 ■ Mugger Conservation Programme ■ Madras Crocodile Bank Trust	Indian Crocodile Conservation Project, 1975

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS

- 📅 **17th June:** World Crocodile Day
- 📊 **Annual Reptile Census, 2023:** Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles (**Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas**)
- 📍 **Odisha's Kendrapara District:** Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found



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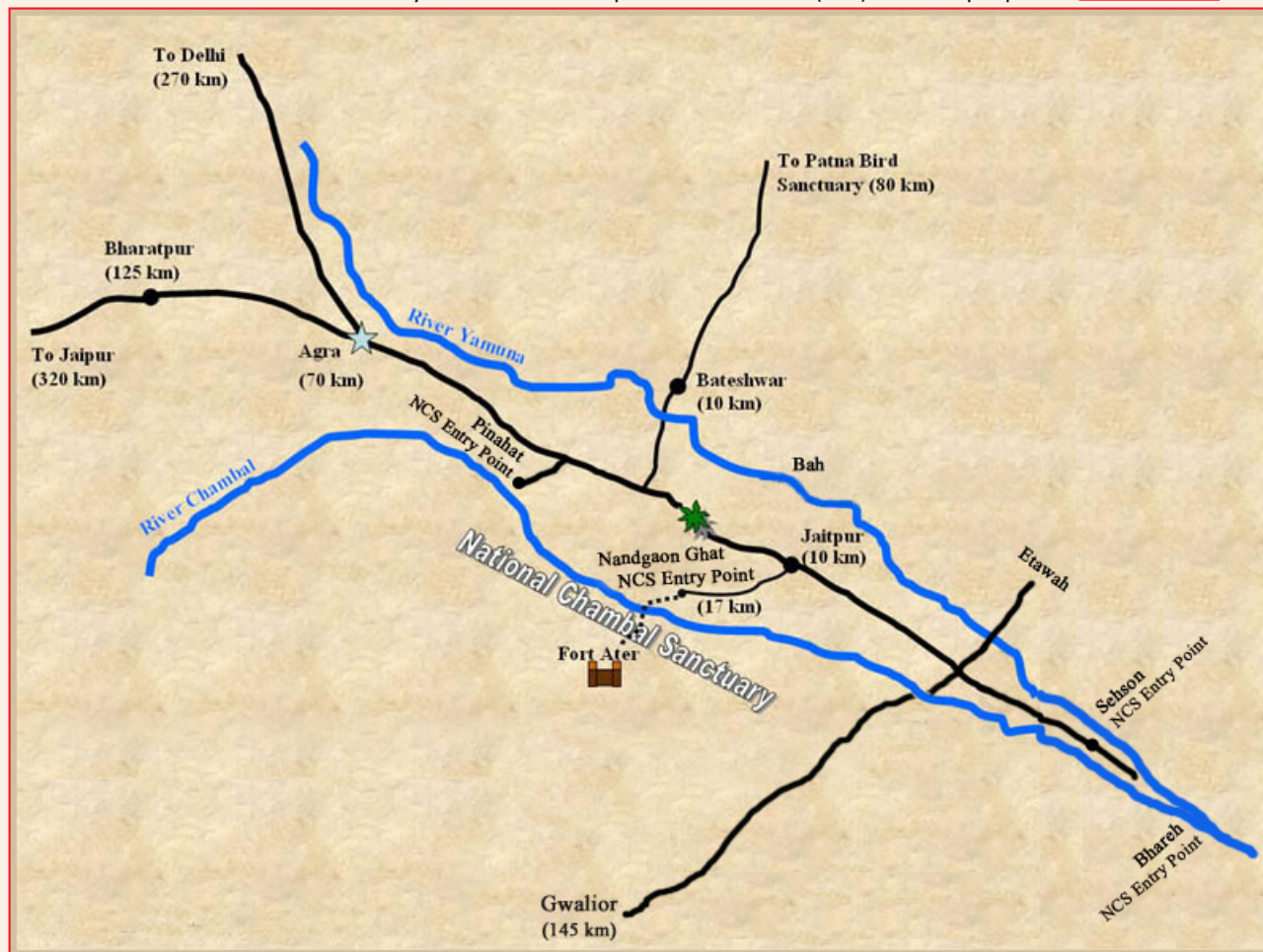


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National Chambal Sanctuary

- It was set up in 1979 as a riverine sanctuary along an approximately 425 km length of the Chambal River.
- Its ravines stretch over 2-6 km wide along the **Chambal River** near the tri-point of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
- The National Chambal Sanctuary is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is a proposed **Ramsar site**.



UP to Set up Four Modern Rescue Centres

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is establishing **four modern rescue centres** to manage the increasing encounters between **people and large carnivores**.

Key Points

About Rescue Centres

- The **forest and wildlife department** is establishing **four modern rescue centres** to address and **reduce human-wildlife conflicts**, especially involving large carnivores like **tigers, leopards, and jackals**.
- These rescue centres will be **strategically located across key regions**: Western UP, Terai, Awadh, and Bundelkhand, to provide safe shelter for wild animals that stray into human settlements.

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HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT



When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sonitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State – Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**



- 💡 The specific locations for these centres include **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary** (Meerut), **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**, **Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary** (Maharajganj), and **Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary** (Chitrakoot).
- 💡 The state government has allocated Rs 57.2 crore for the establishment of these rescue centres, emphasizing the importance of the initiative.

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Human-Animal Conflict

💡 **Definitions:** Human-animal conflict refers to situations where human activities, such as agriculture, infrastructure development, or resource extraction, **come into conflict with wild animals**, leading to negative outcomes for both humans and animals.

💡 **Implications:**

- ✦ **Economic Losses:** Human-animal conflict leads to **financial hardships** for farmers and herders due to crop destruction, infrastructure damage, and livestock loss.
- ✦ **Safety Risks:** Wild animals, especially predators like tigers and lions, pose serious threats to human safety, with the potential for injury or death.
- ✦ **Ecological Imbalances:** Killing predators **disrupts ecosystems** by causing prey population surges, leading to environmental harm.
- ✦ **Conservation Challenges:** Negative perceptions from human-animal conflict **hinder conservation efforts** and the implementation of protective measures for wildlife.
- ✦ **Psychological Impact:** The conflict causes fear, anxiety, and trauma, especially among individuals directly affected by animal attacks or property damage.

💡 **Government Measures to Tackle Human-Animal Conflict:**

- ✦ **The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** The Act establishes **legal provisions** for hunting prohibition, wildlife habitat protection, and the creation of protected areas.
- ✦ **The Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** India, as a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, ensures that the Act aligns with existing forest and wildlife laws.
- ✦ **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016):** The Plan emphasizes enhancing protected areas, **conserving endangered species**, controlling wildlife trade, and promoting research and education.

- ✦ **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** NDMA provides **guidelines for integrating disaster prevention** and mitigation into development plans and projects across Ministries and Departments.

Lucknow's Bid for UNESCO City of Gastronomy

Why in News?

Famous for its culture, cuisine, and heritage, **Lucknow** has **officially submitted its nomination** to UNESCO's Creative Cities Network under the "City of Gastronomy" category.

Note: Currently, **Hyderabad is the only city in India to hold the title of "City of Gastronomy"** under the UCCN.

Key Points

💡 **UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN):**

- ✦ It was **created in 2004** to promote cooperation with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.
 - **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11** aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- ✦ The **network covers seven creative fields:** crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- ✦ In the **gastronomy sector**, **member cities include** Alba (Italy), Arequipa (Peru), Bergen (Norway), Belem (Brazil), Bendigo (Australia).

💡 **Indian Cities in the UCCN (as of 2023):**

- ✦ A total of 10 Indian cities are part of the UCCN across different creative fields: **Kozhikode** (Literature), **Gwalior** (Music), **Jaipur** (Crafts and Folk Arts), **Varanasi** (Music), **Chennai** (Music), **Mumbai** (Film), **Hyderabad** (Gastronomy), **Srinagar** (Crafts and Folk Arts).

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ISRO Tests Model Rocket in UP

Why in News?

The **Astronautical Society of India (ASI)**, in collaboration with **InSPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)** and **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, successfully conducted rocket launch trials in preparation for a student model rocketry competition set for October 2025.

Key Points

- 💡 **Astronautical Society of India (ASI):** The ASI was established in 1990 to promote the growth and development of astronautics in India.
 - ✦ It actively supports the interests of developing countries in astronautics through its role in the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)**, Paris, where it serves as a voting member.
- 💡 **Student Model Rocketry Competition:** The upcoming IN-SPACe CANSAT and Model Rocketry India Student Competition 2024–25 in Kushinagar offers undergraduates hands-on experience in designing, building, and launching **CANSATs** and model rockets to explore space technology.
 - ✦ CANSATs are **miniature satellites that fit inside a soft drink can**. These payloads are launched to a few hundred meters using sounding rockets and descend with parachutes.

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)

- 💡 **About:** IN-SPACe is a single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS).
 - ✦ It was formed following the space sector reforms in 2020 to enable and facilitate the participation of private players.
- 💡 **Key Functions:** IN-SPACe promotes, authorizes, and supervises space activities of non-governmental entities, including building launch vehicles, providing space services, sharing ISRO's infrastructure, and establishing new space facilities.
 - ✦ IN-SPACe serves as the interface between ISRO and NGEs, helping streamline private sector engagement in space missions.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- 💡 **About:** ISRO, headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, operates under the Department of Space, is India's national space agency focused on advancing space science and technology for national and global benefit.
- 💡 **Historical Background:** ISRO evolved from the **Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR)**, established in 1962 under the vision of **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**.
 - ✦ In 1969, ISRO was formally created, replacing INCOSPAR and expanding its role in space technology. In 1972, the Department of Space was set up, and ISRO was brought under its administrative control.
- 💡 **Core Objectives:** ISRO/DoS aims to develop and apply space technology to meet various national needs, including:
 - ✦ Communication and broadcasting
 - ✦ Meteorological services
 - ✦ Resource monitoring and management
 - ✦ Navigation and positioning systems
- 💡 **Major Achievements:** ISRO has built key space systems in India for **television, weather forecasting, and satellite-based resource mapping**.
 - ✦ It has developed indigenous launch vehicles like the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** and **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)** to place satellites into desired orbits.

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ISRO LAUNCH VEHICLES

BACKGROUND

First rocket developed by ISRO - **SLV** (Satellite Launch Vehicle)

Successor of SLV - **Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV)**

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

About

- The **Workhorse of ISRO**
- 3rd gen, 4-Stage launch vehicle (1st, 3rd stages - solid fuel; 2nd, 4th stages - liquid fuel)

Capacity

- Delivers **earth-observation/remote-sensing satellites**
- Used to launch satellites of **lower mass (~1400 Kg)**

4 Variants:

- PSLV-CA PSLV-QL PSLV-DL PSLV-XL

Launches Satellites in

- Low inclination LEO Sub-GTO GTO

Important Launches

- First successful launch - October **1994**
- Chandrayaan-1** (2008)
- Mars Orbiter Spacecraft** (2013)

PSLV is 1st Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages



Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)

About

- 4th Gen, 3-staged** launched vehicle
- Much more powerful rocket, carries satellites much deeper into space
- Has an **indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage**

Capacity

- Delivers **communication-satellites**
- Carries heavier satellites (~2200 kg to GTO)
- Carries 10,000-kg satellites to LEO

Launches Satellites in

- Primarily Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) (~36000 Km altitude)

Important Launches:

- Chandrayaan-2** Upcoming **Gaganyaan**



Launch Vehicle Mark-III

About

- Aka **GSLV Mk-III**
- 3-stage launch vehicle** (2 solid propellant and 1 core stage comprising liquid and cryogenic stages)

Capacity

- 4,000-kg** of satellites into **GTO**
- 8,000 kg** of payloads into LEO

Launches Satellites in

- GTO Medium Earth orbit (MEO)
- LEO Missions to moon, sun

Mk-III versions have made ISRO entirely self-sufficient in launching its satellites



Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

About

- Developed specifically for **small and micro-satellites**

Capacity

- Satellites up to 500 kg

Launch Limit

- 500 km planar orbit (LEO)** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre



ULBs to Get Funds From State Sector Scheme

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has empowered **urban local bodies (ULBs)**, including nagar nigams, nagar palikas, and nagar panchayats, to directly **execute infrastructure projects worth up to Rs 10 crore** without seeking approval from the urban development department.

- This move aims to **address financial constraints** and enable ULBs to meet the infrastructure needs of their communities, particularly for **public-interest projects**.

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Key Points:

- 💡 **Expanded Scope of Infrastructure Works:**
 - ✦ Initially, the urban development department permitted ULBs to handle drainage works with increased spending limits. This flexibility has now been **expanded to include a wide range of civil works**.
- 💡 The types of works now allowed under this scheme include:
 - ✦ Construction or **extension of sewerage lines**, sewerage treatment plants, pumping stations, and water supply systems.
 - ✦ Installation of water meters, tube wells, overhead tanks, and rainwater harvesting systems.
 - ✦ **Water recycling** and water treatment infrastructure.
- 💡 **Additional Permissible Works:** ULBs are also authorized to undertake the following projects:
 - ✦ Desilting of water bodies.
 - ✦ Construction of retaining walls.
 - ✦ Tree plantation initiatives.
 - ✦ Installation of **solar lights**.
- 💡 **Funding Mechanism:**
 - ✦ These projects can be financed through the **increased budgetary allocations** available to ULBs, as well as provisions under the state sector scheme for program implementation. This ensures that funds are **readily accessible** to carry out the infrastructure work.

MOOLAH MATTERS


Funds to be granted to ULBs from state sector scheme to augment urban infrastructure

All kinds of civil works eligible for increased funding

Limit of nagar panchayats increased to ₹1 cr

Limit of nagar palikas increased to ₹2 cr

Limit of nagar nigams increased to ₹10 cr



Uttar Pradesh Government Highlights Growing Shift Towards Maize Cultivation

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has highlighted the **growing shift towards maize cultivation** among progressive farmers, attributing this trend to the **crop's economic benefits, minimal water requirements**, and high nutritional value.

Key Points:💡 **Key Facts About Maize:**

- ✦ It requires **less water** and offers significant nutritional benefits, making it a sustainable option for many.
- ✦ The ideal sowing window for maize is from 15 June to 15 July. If irrigation is available, **sowing can begin in late May**, allowing for early growth before the onset of heavy rains.
- ✦ With the **adoption of modern farming techniques**, maize yields can potentially reach up to 100 quintals per hectare.
- ✦ **Currently, Tamil Nadu leads with an average yield of 59.39 quintals per hectare, while Uttar Pradesh has a lower average of 21.63 quintals per hectare**, indicating ample room for growth.
 - A significant shift towards maize farming is being observed in **Barabanki**, traditionally known for **mentha cultivation**.
- ✦ Maize is considered the **"Queen of Grains"** due to its rich nutritional content, including **carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins**, and minerals.
 - Maize is gaining attention for its multiple uses, such as in the production of sweet corn, baby corn, **biofuels**, and **bioplastics**.
- 💡 **Government Support for Farmers:** The state government has introduced initiatives like the **Quick Maize Development Programme** and assured **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)**.

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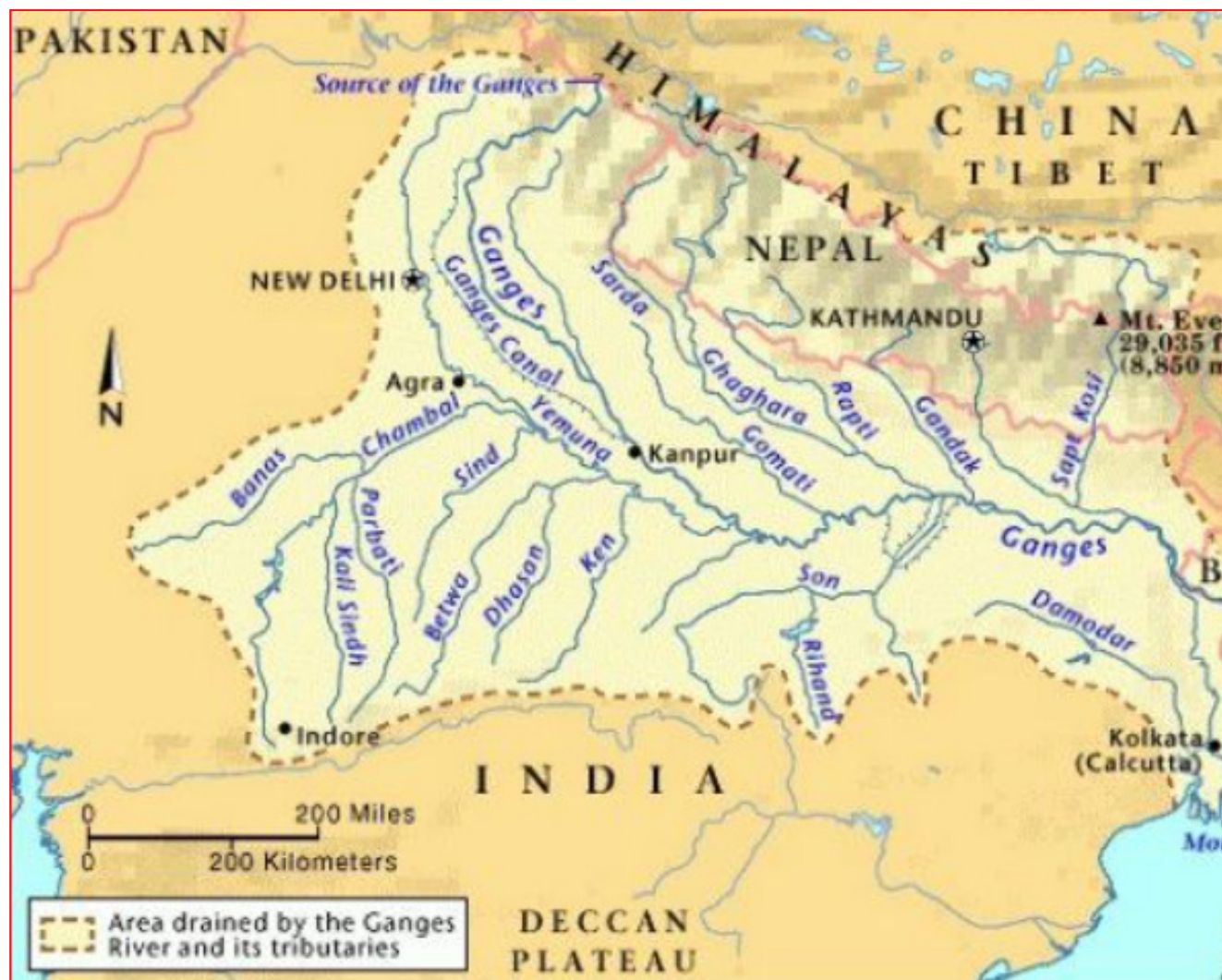


- ✦ For the 2024-25 season, the MSP for maize is set at Rs 2,225 per quintal.
- ✦ Procurement began on 15 June and will continue until 31 July across several districts.
- 💡 **Target for Maize Production by 2027:** The state government has set an ambitious target to **double maize production** by 2027.

Sharda River

Why in News?

Several people drowned after being caught in the strong currents of the Sharda River near Devraghat in the Sitapur district.



Key Points

- 💡 **About the Sharda River:**
 - ✦ **Origin and Course:**
 - The Sharda River, also known as the **Kali River** in its upper reaches, **originates in Uttarakhand**.

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- It rises in the **Great Himalayas**, on the eastern slopes of the **Nanda Devi** massif.
- Flowing generally south-southwest, the river forms the boundary between **Uttarakhand (India)** and **western Nepal**.
- After descending from the mountains, it enters the **Indo-Gangetic Plain** at Barmdeo Mandi in Nepal.
 - As the river widens above the Sarda Barrage, it is referred to as the **Sarda River**.
- After crossing into India, the Sarda River flows southeastward through northern Uttar Pradesh.
- It eventually joins the **Ghaghara River** southwest of **Bahraich**, covering a total length of approximately 480 km (300 miles).

✦ **Major Tributaries:**

- Key tributaries of the Sharda River are **Dhauliganga River**, **Goriganga River**, **Sarju River**.

✦ **Sarda Barrage and Canal System:**

- The Sarda Barrage, located near **Banbasa in Uttarakhand**, plays a significant role in irrigation.
- It serves as the **origin of the Sarda Canal**, completed in 1930, which is one of northern India's longest irrigation canals.

Ghaghara River



💡 **Origin and Upper Course:**

- ✦ The Ghaghara River is a **major left-bank tributary of the Ganges River**.
- ✦ It **originates as the Karnali River** in the high Himalayas of the southern **Tibet Autonomous Region in China**.
- ✦ Flowing southeast through Nepal, it descends from the mountains and cuts across the **Siwalik Range**.

💡 **Formation of the River:**

- ✦ After crossing the Siwalik Range, the river splits into two branches.
- ✦ These branches reunite south of the India-Nepal border, forming what is known as the Ghaghara River.

💡 **Key Tributaries:**

- ✦ **Major tributaries** that join the Ghaghara from the north include **Kuwana River**, **Rapti River**, **Little Gandak River**.
- ✦ These tributaries contribute significantly to the river's volume and have helped shape the extensive **alluvial plains of northern Uttar Pradesh**.
 - In its lower reaches, the Ghaghara is **also known by other names Sarju River, Deoha**.
 - It was referred to as Sarabos by the **2nd-century Greek geographer Ptolemy**.

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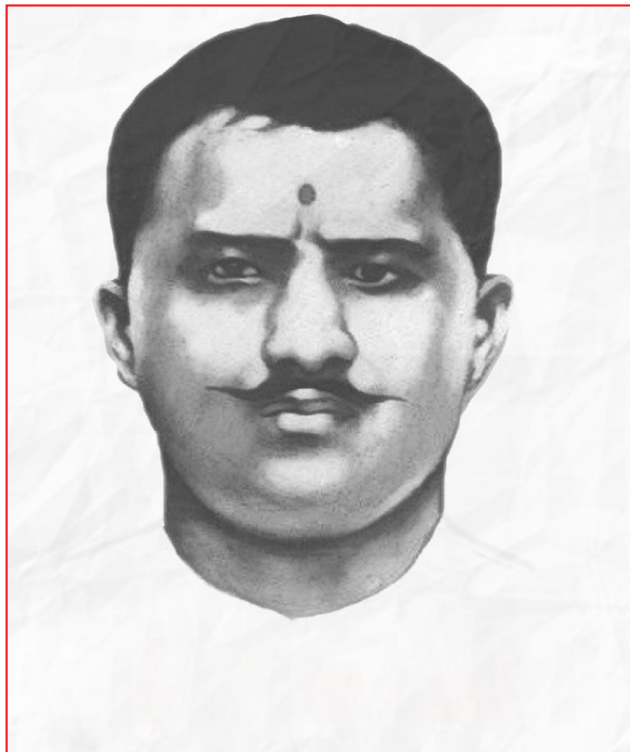
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Birth Anniversary of Ram Prasad Bismil

Why in News?

On 11th June 2025, the birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Ram Prasad Bismil** was commemorated. Renowned for his revolutionary spirit and poetic brilliance, he played a pivotal role in India's struggle against **British colonial rule**.



Key Points

Birth and Early Life:

- ✦ Ram Prasad Bismil was born on **11th June 1897** in **Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh**.

Early Influences and Ideology:

- ✦ Bismil joined the **Arya Samaj**, founded by **Dayanand Saraswati** in **1875**, and began writing under pen names like 'Bismil', meaning 'wounded' or 'restless'.
- ✦ He embraced revolutionary ideals after reading about the death sentence awarded to Bhai Parmanand, an Arya Samaj missionary and nationalist.

- ✦ At the age of 18, he expressed his anguish through the powerful poem '**Mera Janm**'.
- ✦ He **supported armed revolution**, believing it to be a **more effective path to independence** than **Gandhi's non-violent approach**.

Major Contributions:

✦ Mainpuri Conspiracy:

- Disillusioned with the Congress's moderate stance, Bismil **founded a revolutionary group** named **Matrivedi**.
- He was involved in the **Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918**, wherein the police found a few young people, including Bismil selling books that were prescribed by the government.
- He and his associates carried out three successful raids to loot government funds to support their cause.

✦ Formation of Hindustan Republican Association (HRA):

- In 1924, Bismil co-founded the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** with **Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Ashfaqulla Khan, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Jadugopal Mukherjee**.
- He drafted most of HRA's manifesto, envisioning a federal "United States of India" established through armed revolution.

✦ Kakori Train Action:

- In 1925, Bismil, along with **Chandrasekhar Azad and Ashfaqulla Khan**, led the Kakori train robbery to fund revolutionary activities.
- They successfully looted the train near Kakori, but British authorities arrested them within a month.
- After an 18-month-long trial, Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, and Roshan Singh were **sentenced to death under the Kakori Conspiracy Case**.

Literary Contributions:

- ✦ Bismil **wrote stirring patriotic poetry in Hindi and Urdu** that inspired countless Indians to join the freedom struggle.

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- Bismil's poem '*Sarfroshi Ki Tammana, Ab hamare Dil Me hai*' became a clarion call for the Indian Freedom movement.

- ✦ His works reflected deep concerns for social justice, human dignity, and equality.

💡 Martyrdom:

- ✦ The British executed Bismil on 19th December 1927 at Gorakhpur Jail.

Note: In August 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed 'Kakori Kand' to 'Kakori Train Action', stating that the word 'Kand' (meaning 'incident' or 'scandal') carries a negative connotation and undermines the significance of this historic act in India's freedom struggle.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 Campaign

Why in News?

As part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched a **tree plantation drive** to plant 40,000 trees along the **Delhi–Dehradun Corridor** in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

- 💡 **Nationwide Impact of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0':**
 - ✦ As part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' initiative, NHAI has already planted over 5.12 lakh trees along National Highways across India.
 - ✦ The **second phase** was **launched by the Prime Minister** on World Environment Day, 5th June, 2025.
 - It aims to **honor mothers by encouraging tree planting in their names**, combining environmental conservation with a tribute to motherhood, symbolizing how mothers, like trees, nurture and sustain life.
 - ✦ **The campaign envisions:**
 - Complete saturation of tree plantations along highways

- Involvement of multiple stakeholders including government bodies, local authorities, and communities
- Creation of a green, resilient, and sustainable National Highway network

💡 National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

- ✦ **About:** NHAI was set up under the **NHAI Act, 1988** under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.
- ✦ **Objective:** It has been entrusted with the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), along with other minor projects for **development, maintenance and management**.
 - NHDP, started in 1998, is a **project** to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major **highways** in India to a higher standard.
 - **Vision:** To meet the nation's need for the provision and **maintenance of the National Highways network** to global standards and to meet the user's **expectations** in the most time-bound and cost-effective manner and **promote economic well-being** and quality of life of the people.

50 years of National Emergency

Why in News?

50 years ago, on 12th June 1975, the Allahabad High Court invalidated Indira Gandhi's 1971 election in the Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Shri Raj Narain Case, 1975 leading to the declaration of a National Emergency (NE) on 25th June 1975 that continued till March 1977.

Key Points

- 💡 **Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Shri Raj Narain Case, 1975:**
 - ✦ **About:** It is a landmark in India's **constitutional and democratic history**, arising from the **1971 general elections**, where **Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** defeated **socialist leader Raj Narain**, leading to a legal challenge on grounds of **electoral malpractices**.

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✦ **Electoral Context and Allegations:** Raj Narain alleged that Indira Gandhi misused government machinery and public funds for electoral gain, violating the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court seeking to invalidate her election on grounds of these alleged malpractices.

✦ **Allahabad High Court Verdict:** The court found Indira Gandhi guilty of misusing government machinery for election campaigning.

- As a result, her election was invalidated and she was disqualified from holding Prime Ministerial office.

✦ **Appeal in Supreme Court:** Indira Gandhi appealed the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court, seeking both a stay on the High Court's order and an opportunity to contest its findings.

✦ **Declaration of Emergency:** Amidst political turmoil, on 25th June 1975, Indira Gandhi's government declared a National Emergency, leading to the suspension of civil liberties, press censorship, and postponement of elections.

💡 Key Facts About National Emergency:

✦ **About National Emergency:** NE is proclaimed by the President under Article 352 when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by War, External Aggression (external emergency), or Armed Rebellion (internal emergency).

- The 38th Amendment Act, 1975 allowed the President to issue Emergency proclamations on grounds of war, external aggression, armed rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, while the 44th Amendment Act, 1978 replaced "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion".

✦ **Territorial Extent:** NE can extend to the whole of the country or only a part of it. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 enabled the President to limit the operation of NE to a specific part of India.

✦ **Parliamentary Approval:** As per the 44th Amendment Act, 1978, NE must be approved by both Houses within one month by a special majority (originally two months).

- If the Lok Sabha is dissolved at the time of declaration, the Rajya Sabha's approval remains valid, but the reconstituted Lok Sabha must approve it within **30 days of its first sitting**.

✦ **Duration:** It continues for **6 months**, and can be extended to an indefinite period with approval of Parliament for every 6 months (44th Amendment Act 1978).

✦ **Revocation:** It can be revoked anytime by the president without the requirement of approval by Parliament.

- The Lok Sabha can pass a resolution to disapprove the continuation of a National Emergency. If one-tenth of its total members submit a written notice to the Speaker (if in session) or to the President (if not in session), a special sitting must be held within **14 days**. The resolution must be passed by a simple majority.

✦ **Judicial Review:** The 38th Amendment Act, 1975 made the Emergency declaration immune to judicial review. This was later reversed by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978.

- In the Minerva Mills case, 1980, the Supreme Court held that a Proclamation of NE can be challenged if it is mala fide, based on irrelevant or extraneous facts, or is absurd or perverse.

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve Boasts Butterfly Diversity

Why in News?

Known for its large tiger population, the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR), Uttar Pradesh, now boasts **180 species of butterflies**, signaling a healthier ecosystem and enhanced conservation efforts.

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Key Points

💡 Rise in Butterfly Species:

- ✦ A recent survey by the **University of Lucknow** recorded over 110 butterfly species in DTR, up from the earlier known count of just 45.

✦ Migratory and Rare Species:

- **Migratory butterflies** from **Uttarakhand** contribute to the growing diversity in Uttar Pradesh.
- Rare and notable species identified include **Common Mormon**, Common Mine, Common Lime, Tawny Coaster, Gaudy Baron (rare), Striped Tiger, Common Tiger (both sexes), Grey Count (rare), Commander.

✦ Significance:

- Butterflies, known as **bio-indicators**, are highly sensitive to climate change and thrive only in ecologically sound environments.
- This sharp increase **signals a healthier and more balanced ecosystem**.

💡 About Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR):

✦ Background:

- Conservationist Billy Arjan Singh played a key role in securing the **National Park status for Dudhwa in 1977**.
- It was later designated a **Tiger Reserve in 1987**.

✦ Composition:

- The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) includes:
 - ✦ Dudhwa National Park
 - ✦ Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary
 - ✦ **Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Buffer zones from North Kheri, South Kheri, and Shahjahanpur forest divisions.

✦ Flora and Fauna:

- The region represents a **Tarai-Bhabar ecosystem** of the **Upper Gangetic plains**.
- The vegetation is primarily North Indian **Moist Deciduous Forest**.

- The reserve is known for its rich biodiversity, home to a wide variety of flora and fauna including the **Bengal tiger**, **Indian rhinoceros**, **swamp deer**, **leopard** and several species of birds.

✦ Biodiversity and Conservation Status:

- Dudhwa National Park, covering an area of 490.3 sq km, is **home to 135 tigers**, out of a total of **205 tigers in Uttar Pradesh**, marking a significant increase from 82 tigers in 2018.
- In the **2022 All-India Tiger Census**, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) was **ranked fourth in India** for its tiger population.

Note:

- 💡 In 2015, **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to designate the **"Blue Mormon"** (*Papilio polymnestor*) as its state butterfly.
- 💡 This butterfly is the **second largest in India**, only behind the Southern Birdwing.



Namami Gange Mission

Why in News?

On **World Environment Day 2025 (5th June, 2025)**, a special event under the **Namami Gange Mission** was held in **Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh**, focusing on **ecological restoration, sustainable practices**, and modern technology for river conservation.

Note: The **Ganga rejuvenation programme** was recognised as one of the world's top 10 ecosystem restoration initiatives at the **UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal**.

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Key Points

Key Highlights of the Event:

✦ Sewage and Pollution Control Measures:

- **Sewage Treatment Plants** across the Ganga basin are preventing untreated wastewater from entering the river.
- **Strict action against polluters** was emphasized, along with the critical role of community river **guardians (Ganga Praharis)**.

💡 Promotion of Natural Farming:

- **Natural farming** was promoted to **reduce chemical fertilizer use**, improve soil health, and prevent runoff into rivers.
- **Traditional bio-inputs** were recommended to support sustainable agriculture and water conservation.

💡 Role of Technological Integration:

- Modern tools like **drones** and **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) surveys** are being used to identify pollution hotspots and track drains entering the river.
- A mobile library, **Pustak Parikrama**, was launched by the **National Book Trust (NBT)** to promote environmental awareness across rural and semi-urban areas.

💡 Ecological Restoration Actions:

- **Fish fingerlings** and **turtles** were released at Basi Ghat to restore aquatic life.
- The rescue centre for **Gangetic dolphins** and **freshwater turtles** plays a crucial role in conservation of endangered species.

✦ Tree Plantation and Afforestation:

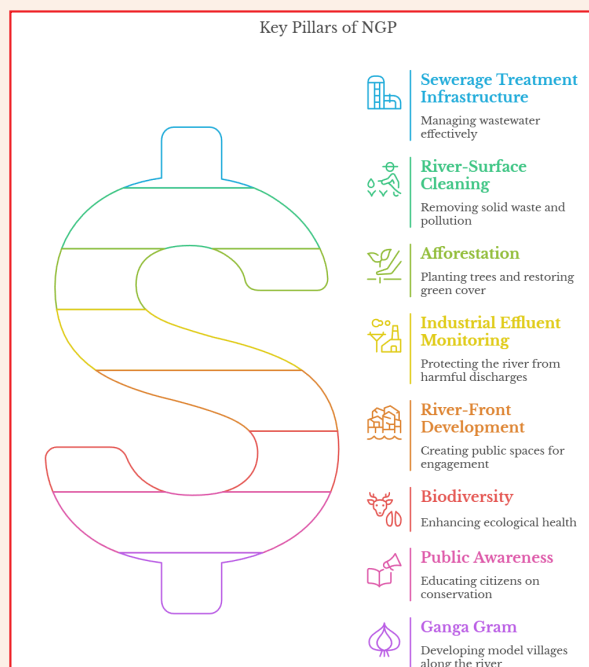
- Several trees were planted under the **"Ek Ped, Maa Ke Naam" initiative**, reinforcing afforestation's role in ecological balance.

Namami Gange Programme

💡 **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:** Its implementation has been divided into **Entry-Level Activities** (for immediate visible impact), **Medium-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 5 years of time frame) and **Long-Term Activities** (to be implemented within 10 years).

💡 8 Pillars of NGP:



💡 Key Interventions:

- ✦ **Pollution Abatement (Nirmal Ganga):** Setting up **sewage treatment plants (STPs)**, reducing industrial and domestic waste discharge.
- ✦ **Improving Ecology and Flow (Aviral Ganga):** Restoring **natural flow** and **biodiversity**, implementing water conservation measures.
- ✦ **Strengthening People-River Connect (Jan Ganga):** Promoting **community participation and awareness**, involving **local stakeholders** in conservation efforts.

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- ✦ **Facilitating Research and Policy (Gyan Ganga):** Supporting scientific research and studies, formulating evidence-based policies.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

- 💡 **About:** It aims to honor mothers by encouraging tree planting in their names, combining environmental conservation with a tribute to motherhood, symbolizing how mothers, like trees, nurture and sustain life.
 - ✦ It was launched by the Prime Minister on World Environment Day, 5th June, 2024.
- 💡 **Objective:** To promote environmental preservation, increase forest cover, and support sustainable development while honoring mothers.
- 💡 **World Record Achievement:** On 22nd September 2024, 128 Infantry Battalion & Ecological Task Force of the Territorial Army planted over 5 lakh saplings in one hour in Jaisalmer.

Horizontal Reservation for Agniveers in UP

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced a **20% horizontal reservation** to former **Agniveers** in various positions within the state police force.

- 💡 In addition to reservation, the government has also provided a **3-year age relaxation** to facilitate their recruitment.

Key Points

💡 The Agnipath Scheme:

- ✦ **About:**
 - The term “Agniveer” translates to “Fire-Warriors” and is a new military rank.
 - It is a scheme of recruiting army personnel below officer ranks such as soldiers, airmen, and sailors who are not commissioned officers to the Indian Armed Forces.

- They are recruited for a period of 4 years, after which, up to 25% of these recruits (called Agniveers), can join the services on a permanent commission (another 15 years), subject to merit and organisational requirements.
- At present, all sailors, airmen, and soldiers, except the technical cadre of the medical branch, are recruited to the services under this scheme.

✦ Eligibility Criteria:

- Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 23 years are eligible to apply (the upper age limit was increased from 21).
- Girls under the given age limit are open for agnipath entry, while there is no such reservation for women under this scheme.

✦ Pay & Benefits:

- **Death on Duty:** The family gets a combined sum of Rs 1 crore, which includes both the Seva Nidhi package and the soldier's unserved salary.
- **Disability:** An Agniveer can receive compensation up to Rs 44 lakh depending on the severity of the disability. This amount is provided only if the disability is caused by or worsened due to military service.
- **Pensions:** Agniveers won't receive a regular pension after their 4-year service, unlike soldiers in the traditional system.
 - Only the 25% who get selected for permanent commission will be eligible for a pension.

✦ Goal of Agnipath:

- This scheme aims to maintain a youthful profile in the armed forces while optimising the force structure, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability in defence spending.

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Reservation

- 💡 Reservation is a form of **affirmative action**, **created to promote equality among marginalized sections**, so as to protect them from social and historical injustice.
- 💡 Generally, it means giving **preferential treatment to marginalised sections** of society in **employment** and access to education.
- 💡 It was also originally initiate **to correct historical injustice of discrimination and to give a boost to disadvantaged groups**.
- 💡 In India, people have been historically discriminated against on the basis of caste.
- 💡 **Vertical Reservation:**
 - ✦ Reservation for **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes** is referred to as vertical reservation.
 - ✦ It **applies separately for each of the groups** specified under the law.
 - ✦ **Example: Article 16(4)** of the Constitution contemplates vertical reservation.
- 💡 **Horizontal Reservation:**
 - ✦ It refers to the **equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries** such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals **with disabilities**, cutting through the vertical categories.
 - The horizontal quota is **applied separately to each vertical category, and not across the board**.
 - ✦ **Example: Article 15 (3)** of the Constitution contemplates horizontal reservation.

Homage to Sacred Buddha Relics

Why in News?

A **veneration ceremony** was held at the **National Museum** (New Delhi), where devotees gathered to pay their final respects to the **sacred relics of the Buddha** before they returned to **Sarnath** for re-enshrinement at the **Mulagandha Kuti Vihar Temple, Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh**.

- 💡 The ceremony was **organized by the National Museum** and the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** with support from the **Ministry of Culture**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Relics:**
 - ✦ These relics are enshrined in the **Mulagandha Kuti Vihar Temple** located in **Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh**.
 - It is run by the **Mahabodhi Society**, which was founded by **Anagarika Dharmapala**.
 - ✦ The remains were excavated by **H. Longhurst** at **Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh)** during **1927–1931**.
 - ✦ These relics were handed over to the Mahabodhi Society on **27th December 1932** by **Rai Bahadur Dayaram Sahni** on behalf of the **Viceroy of India**.
- 💡 **Spiritual Significance of Sarnath:**
 - ✦ **Sarnath** is regarded as one of the most **revered pilgrimage destinations** in **Buddhism**, especially in the **21st century**.
 - ✦ It was at Sarnath that **Gautama Buddha** delivered his **first sermon** after attaining enlightenment, thereby setting the **Dharmachakra (Wheel of Dharma)** in motion.
 - ✦ Sarnath is also considered the **birthplace of the Sangha**—the community of the Buddha's disciples and followers.
 - ✦ **Emperor Ashoka** is believed to have constructed the **Dhameka Stupa** at Sarnath in **249 BCE**, commemorating the Buddha's first sermon.
 - ✦ In the **12th century CE**, the **wife of King Govinda Chandra** commissioned the **Dharma-Chakra-Jina Vihar monastery** at Sarnath, further enriching its spiritual heritage.

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GAUTAM BUDDHA

Believed to be 9th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

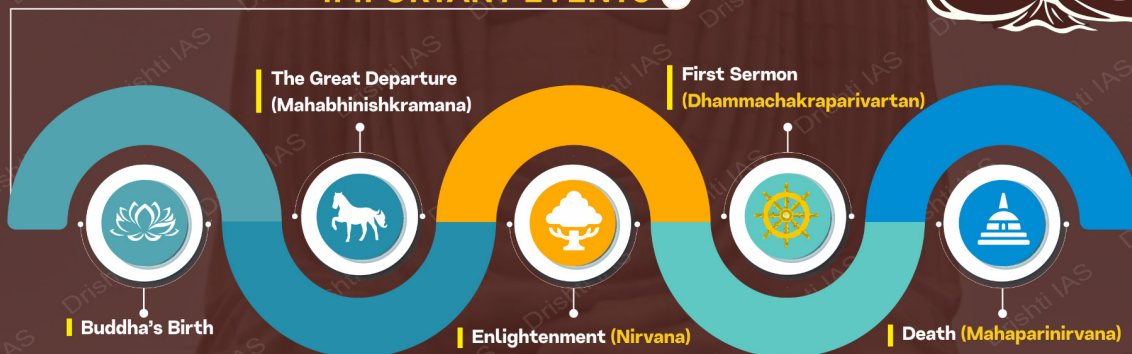
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**



IMPORTANT EVENTS



Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)

CONTEMPORARIES

- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatshatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- Sarnath** (first sermon)
- Vaishali** (last sermon)
- Kushinagara** (death place (483 BC))

International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)

- It is the **largest religious Buddhist organization**.
- The aim of the association is to **build the role of Buddhism on the global stage**, to help preserve Buddhism's heritage, share knowledge and promote its values, and to represent Buddhism through meaningful participation in global dialogue.
- In **November 2011** the '**Global Buddhist Congregation**' (GBC) was hosted in **New Delhi**, where the attendees unanimously adopted a resolution to form an international umbrella body—the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- Headquarters**: Delhi

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Bachpan Day Care Centres

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to expand its initiatives for children with special needs and **persons with disabilities** by opening **Bachpan Day Care Centres in 26 more districts**, alongside launching new schemes to improve accessibility, **education**, rehabilitation, and training.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Bachpan Day Care Centres:** They are specialized facilities established by the Uttar Pradesh government to provide early intervention, care, education, and social training to children with special needs.
 - ✦ These centres **aim to nurture the overall development of differently-abled children** by offering a supportive and inclusive environment from an early age.
 - ✦ Currently, **these centres operate in 25 districts**, covering all divisional headquarters and seven aspirational districts.
 - The **seven aspirational districts of UP**—Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, and Chandauli.
- 💡 **Accessibility and Infrastructure Improvements:**
 - ✦ A new scheme has been proposed to ensure that **all stadiums and sports complexes are made fully accessible** to persons with disabilities.
 - Additionally, **infrastructure across the state will be upgraded to enhance accessibility** and comfort for individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and equal participation in public spaces.
 - ✦ The step aims not only to promote their participation in sports **but also to reinforce the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'**.
- 💡 **Digital Transformation in Special Education:**
 - ✦ Introduction of an **E-Learning Management System portal** for special schools.

- ✦ Enables real-time monitoring of academic activities and student talents.
- ✦ Enhances educational quality and **fosters the holistic development** of children with special needs.

💡 Rehabilitation and Support for the Intellectually Challenged:

- ✦ Plans to establish shelter homes-cum-training centres in every district.
- ✦ These centres will provide a safe environment and **skill-based training**.
- ✦ Supported by government and private entities to encourage independent living.

💡 Training and Support for Special Educators:

- ✦ Introduction of in-service refresher courses and **training programmes** for special educators.
- ✦ Aim to keep teachers updated with modern pedagogical methods.
- ✦ Helps educators better address the evolving needs of students with disabilities.

Schemes Related to Children with Special Needs

- 💡 **Divyang Pension Yojana:** The state government's pension scheme provides monthly financial assistance to **disabled persons of 18 years or more**, helping improve their livelihood and standard of living. The **pension amount** is periodically increased to offer better support.
- 💡 **Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS):** The scheme was launched in 1999 and was revised and renamed in 2003. It was previously known as the **"Scheme for Promoting Voluntary Action for the Disabled"**.
 - ✦ **DDRS** is a Central Sector Scheme that provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations working for the education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Miss World 2025

Why in News?

Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand was crowned **Miss World 2025** during the grand finale of the **72nd Miss World pageant** held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, Telangana on **31st May 2025**.

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Key Points

About:

- It was a **month-long celebration** featuring **108 contestants** from around the globe, including historical tours, cultural showcases, and **advocacy campaigns** led by the participants.
- The event was hosted by **Miss World 2016 Stephanie Del Valle** and Indian TV personality **Sachiin Kumbhar**.

Format:

- Contestants advanced through **several fast-track events**, including the Head to Head Challenge, Top Model, Beauty with a Purpose, Talent, Sports, and Multimedia competitions.
- From the initial pool of 108 entrants, the competition was **gradually narrowed down to the Top 40 quarterfinalists**, then the Top 10 contestants from each continental group, followed by the Top 5, Top 2, and **finally, one crowned winner**.

Winner:

- Opal Suchata Chuangsri, representing Thailand, won the Miss World 2025 crown.
 - She was crowned by Krystyna Pyszková, (Czech Republic) Miss World 2024.
- Ethiopia's Hasset Dereje** emerged as the first runner-up and **Maja Klajda from Poland** won the second runner-up title.

Continental Queens: Winners were selected from each continent through a rapid-fire round:

- Miss Martinique** – Americas and Caribbean
- Miss Ethiopia** – Africa
- Miss Poland** – Europe
- Miss Thailand** – Asia and Oceania

Other Highlights:

- Miss Indonesia Monica Kezia Sembiring** won the **Beauty with a Purpose** Round for her project **"Pipeline for Lifeline,"** aimed at improving access to clean water and sanitation.
- Actor **Sonu Sood** was honored with the **Miss World Humanitarian Award**, presented by **Rana Daggubati**.

India's Participation:

- Nandini Gupta, Miss India 2025, secured a place as **one of the four continental winners** at the 72nd Miss World by excelling in the **Top Model Challenge segment** but was eliminated after **reaching the Top 20**.



Ghatampur Thermal Power Project

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister**, on 30th May 2025, dedicated Unit-1 of the **Ghatampur Thermal Power Project in Kanpur (U.P.)** to the nation, marking a significant milestone in India's energy sector.

Key Points

About the Project:

- The Ghatampur Thermal Power Project has a total installed capacity of **1,980 MW**, comprising **three supercritical units of 660 MW** each.

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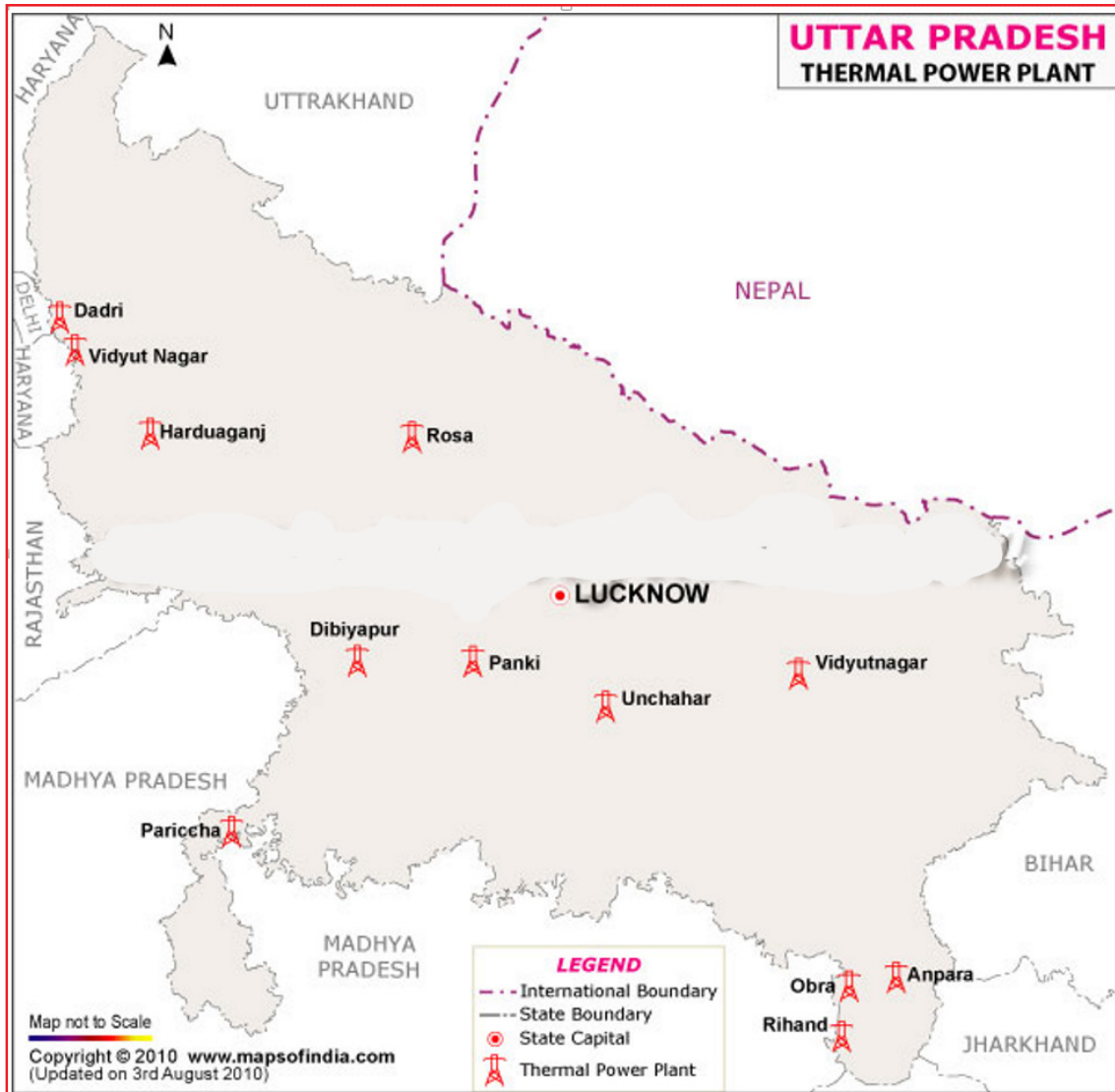
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- The remaining two units are scheduled to be commissioned by the financial year 2025–26.
- ✦ It is being implemented by **Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL)**, a joint venture between **NLC India Limited** and **Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)**.
- ✦ The total project cost is estimated at **₹21,780.94 crore**.
- 💡 **Power Allocation:**
 - ✦ A **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** has been signed to allocate **1,487.28 MW (75.12%)** of the generated power to **Uttar Pradesh** and the remaining **492.72 MW (24.88%)** is earmarked for **Assam**.
- 💡 **Environmental Safeguards:**
 - ✦ The plant is equipped with **Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR)** technology to reduce **nitrogen oxide (NO_x)** emissions.
 - ✦ **Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD)** systems have been installed to control **sulphur dioxide (SO_x)** emissions.
 - ✦ The project will have a **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)** system to ensure no water is discharged from the plant.



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Key Points

Details

Summary

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Summary