



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTAR PRADESH

**MARCH  
2025**

**Drishti, 641 First Floor,  
Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-110009**

**Inquiry: +91-87501-87501**

**Website: [www.drishtiiias.com](http://www.drishtiiias.com)**

**Email: [care@groupdrishti.in](mailto:care@groupdrishti.in)**

# Content

● Startup Ecosystem Report 2025 .....	3
● Bithoor Festival 2025 .....	3
● Nation's First Textile Machine Park .....	4
● Dolphin Safari in Varanasi .....	5
● Neja Fair .....	5
● Government Digitech Awards 2025 .....	6
● Zaid Crops Under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) .....	7
● Solar Cities in UP .....	8
● National Conference on NCAP .....	8
● Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis .....	9
● Model Village Campaign .....	10
● Low-Level Transportable Radar .....	11
● Loudspeakers at religious places .....	11
● Pilibhit Tiger Reserve .....	12
● Memorial of Freedom Fighter Chittu Pandey .....	12
● Maharishi Dadhichi Kund .....	13
● Swavalambini .....	14
● Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Varanasi .....	15
● The Rise App .....	16
● Taj Trapezium Zone .....	17
● COAIEMA Conference .....	18
● Women's Taekwondo Championship .....	18
● Integrated Solar Manufacturing Unit .....	20
● New Schemes on Eminent Figures .....	20
● MYUVA Scheme .....	21
● India's First Lithium Grade Refinery .....	22
● UNESCO Recognition for Cities .....	23
● Taj Festival .....	23
● Fluoride Poisoning in Sonbhadra .....	24

## Startup Ecosystem Report 2025

### Why in News?

According to the **Startup Ecosystem Report-2025**, Uttar Pradesh has ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country's startup ecosystem, where **26 startups** have achieved **unicorn status**.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - According to the report, Uttar Pradesh has made remarkable progress in its **startup ecosystem**. As a result, over **14,000 startups** have emerged in the state.
  - Uttar Pradesh has become **the first state in the country** where startups are active in **49 districts**.
  - Earlier, the centre of startups was only in big cities like **Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow** and **Kanpur**, but now they are growing rapidly in smaller cities as well.
- **Top 10 Startup Hub Cities of Uttar Pradesh:**
  - Among the **top 10 startup hub cities** of **Uttar Pradesh**, **Noida** leads the list with **3418 startups**, followed by **Lucknow** with **1789**, **Ghaziabad** with **1582**, and **Kanpur** with **586 startups**.
  - There are **406 startups** active in **Varanasi**, **359** in **Agra**, **291** in **Meerut**, and **283** in **Prayagraj**. At the same time **201 startups** are active in **Gorakhpur** and **177** in **Bareilly**.
- **Contribution of Uttar Pradesh to the Country:**
  - Uttar Pradesh **contributes 9.6%** of the total recognized startups in India.
  - Despite lagging slightly behind **Delhi (10%)** and **Karnataka (10.6%)**, Uttar Pradesh's rapidly growing share could soon take it to the second spot.

### Unicorn

#### ➤ Introduction:

- A unicorn is any **privately owned firm** with a market capitalization of over **USD 1 billion**.
- This reflects the emergence of new entities dedicated to offering **creative solutions and new business models**, among other products/services.

- Its various categories include **FinTech, EdTech, Business-to-Business (B2B) companies**, etc.

#### ➤ features:

- **Divisive Innovation:** Almost all unicorns have brought innovation in the sector they belong to, **for example** 'Uber' has changed the face of commuting.
- **Technology Driven:** This business model is driven by the latest technological innovations and trends.
- **Consumer-Centric:** Their aim is to simplify tasks for consumers and become a part of their everyday lives.
- **Private Ownership:** Most unicorns are privately owned, their valuation increases further when an established company invests in them.
- **Software-Based:** A recent report shows that **87%** of Unicorns' products are software, **7%** are hardware and the remaining **6%** are other products and services.

## Bithoor Festival 2025

### Why in News?

Bithoor Mahotsav was organised in **Kanpur**, **Uttar Pradesh** from **21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025**.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - This festival is organised every year at **Bithoor, the historical and mythological place of Kanpur**.
  - The festival will showcase the glorious history of the **Revolution of 1857** along with fascinating presentations of **imagery, theatre, music, drama** and **various cultures**.
  - This year (**2025**) festival was based on the **shared culture and historical heritage** of **Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
- **Role of Bithoor in the Revolution of 1857:**
  - **Located in Kanpur district** of Uttar Pradesh, this town was deeply associated with **the First War of Independence of 1857**.
  - **The Siege of Kanpur (5 - 25 June 1857)** began near Bithoor Fort. **Nana Saheb**, the adopted son of the Maratha Peshwa **Baji Rao II**, was **exiled** to Bithoor by the British. His fort became the **headquarters of the rebellion's strategy**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

- The prominent heroes of the freedom struggle, **Nana Saheb, Ramchandra Pandurang and Tatyasaheb** started their struggle against British rule from Bithoor.
- On **19<sup>th</sup> July 1857**, British General Havelock captured Bithoor. After this, the British **set fire to the Bithoor fort, ghats and many temples**.
  - In this tragedy, **Nana Saheb's 14-year-old daughter, Mainavati**, was martyred by burning in the fire. In her memory, a road in Kanpur was named '**Mainavati Marg**'.

## Nation's First Textile Machine Park

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** Minister has announced that the country's **first textile machine park** will be set up on **875 acres of land** near Kanpur.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About the Park:

- This park will be developed in **Chaparghata village of Bhongaon area near Kanpur**.
- This park will be developed on **the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model**, which will **reduce dependence on imports** and give a boost to **the Make in India initiative**.
- The park aims to indigenously manufacture **machines used in the textile industry**, which are currently imported from countries like **China, Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan and Europe**.
- **More than 200 large and medium units** will be set up under this project, which will provide **employment to about 1.5 lakh people**.
- **Apart from this, exports worth up to Rs 30,000 crore** are expected from this park.
- Till now India used to import **circular knitting machines, flat knitting machines, diving machines, printing machines, sewing machines, patient gown machines and technical textile machines**, but now these will be manufactured in **Uttar Pradesh itself**.

- This **will not only reduce the cost of machines by 40%** but **technical experts will also be trained locally for their repair and maintenance**.

#### ➤ Textile Sector in Uttar Pradesh:

- The **Uttar Pradesh government is making rapid progress** in the textile sector. **Banarasi silk, chikankari, handloom and powerloom** industries are quite famous here.
- The government has taken several initiatives under **the Textile and Apparel Policy-2022** to **strengthen the textile industry** and develop the state as a **textile hub**.
- Under this, **10 new textile parks** are being established in **10 districts of the state including PM Mitra Park near Lucknow**.
- **India's textile market** is expected to reach **USD 350 billion** by the year 2030.

### Make in India Initiative

#### ➤ Introduction:

- This campaign was **launched in the year 2014** to facilitate investments, promote innovation and skill development, protect intellectual property and build the best manufacturing infrastructure.
- It is led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- This initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners from across the world to participate in the growth story of '**New India**'.
- Make in India has achieved significant success in **27 sectors, including strategic areas of manufacturing and services**.

#### ➤ Objective:

- Attracting foreign investment for new industrialisation and developing the existing industrial base in India to overtake China.
- Target to increase **manufacturing sector growth to 12-14% annually** in the medium term.
- To increase the share of the manufacturing sector in the country's GDP from **16% to 25%** by the year 2022.
- To create **100 million additional jobs by the year 2022**.
- Promoting export-led growth.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



## Dolphin Safari in Varanasi

### Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh government announced to set up a **dolphin safari** in Varanasi.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About Safari:

- This safari will be established between **Kaithi and Dhakhwa village of Varanasi district**.
- The highest number of dolphins is seen in this area.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has appointed 'Dolphin Mitras' for **dolphin conservation in the Ganga River** in Varanasi district.

#### ➤ Objective:

- **The objective of this safari** is to promote the increase in the number of **Gangetic dolphins** in the Ganga river and to ensure the protection of their natural habitat. Apart from this, **eco-tourism** is also encouraged.
- To educate people about **the importance of dolphin conservation with the help of 'Dolphin Mitra' and the Forest Department**.

### Ganges River Dolphin

#### ➤ Introduction:

- The **Ganges river dolphin (Platanista gangetica)**, also known as the "**Tiger of the Ganges**", was officially **discovered in the year 1801**.
- The Ganges river dolphin is found mainly in the **major river systems ( Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu )** of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- According to recent studies, various species have been recorded in the Ganga river basin from the main stream of Ganga river and subsequently from its tributaries - **Ghaghra, Kosi, Gandak, Chambal, Rupnarayan and Yamuna**.

#### ➤ Features:

- Ganges river dolphins can **only live in freshwater sources** and are essentially blind. They scare fish and other prey by **emitting ultrasonic sounds**, which helps them "see" an image in their mind and thus hunt.

- They are often found alone or in small groups, and usually a female dolphin and a baby dolphin travel together.
- Females are larger in size than males and give birth only once every two to three years.
- Being a mammal, the Ganges river dolphin cannot breathe underwater and must surface every 30–120 seconds.
- This creature is popularly called 'Sons' or Susuk because of the sound it makes while breathing.

#### ➤ Importance:

- These are of immense importance as they are a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem.
- The Government of India declared it as **the National Aquatic Animal in the year 2009**.
- It is also the **state aquatic animal of Assam**.

#### ➤ Protection status:

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**: Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972**: Schedule I
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)**: Appendix I
- **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**: Appendix 1

#### ➤ Related Government Initiatives:

- **Project Dolphin**
- **Vikramshila Ganga Dolphin Sanctuary has been established in Bihar**.
- **National Ganges River Dolphin Day (October 5)**

## Neja Fair

### Why in News?

Recently the Uttar Pradesh administration has banned the **Neja fair** held in Sambhal.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About the fair:

- This fair is organised in the memory of **Syed Salar Masood Ghazi, nephew and commander of foreign invader Mahmud Ghaznavi**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App





- The tomb of Abdul Salar Ghazi is located in **Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh**, which was built by **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**.
- According to historians, many soldiers of Ghaznavi's army were killed in the conflict between **Prithviraj Chauhan** and **Mahmud Ghaznavi**.
- The tombs of these soldiers were built in **Sambhal**, which later became a centre of faith for the devotees. Later, Neja fairs started being organised at these places.
  - It is noteworthy that **Sambhal** was the capital of **Prithviraj Chauhan**.
- **Reason for Ban:**
  - Mahmud Ghaznavi **invaded India 17 times between 1000 and 1027 AD** and **destroyed many Hindu religious places including the Somnath temple**. His commander **Syed Salar Masood Ghazi** is considered the main architect of these invasions.
  - In such a situation, it is **not appropriate to organise a fair in the memory of a robber and murderer**.
  - The historical background of the fair is **linked to foreign invaders**, hence it **can cause communal tension**.

## Government Digitech Awards 2025

### Why in News?

**Uttar Pradesh** was awarded **5 awards** in various categories of **digital governance** at the **ET Government Digitech Awards** held in New Delhi on 18th March, 2025.

### Key Points

- **The awards received by Uttar Pradesh:**
  - Best use of AI/ML, Data Analytics and emerging technologies in public services
    - **Recipient:** Prayagraj Smart City Limited and UP Police
    - **Reason:** To use **AI-based surveillance and crowd management system** during **Maha Kumbh 2025**.
  - Excellence in Smart Mobility and Transportation Technologies
    - **Recipient:** Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC)

- **Reason:** To ensure **comprehensive safety** through **Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD)** and **Panic Button**.
- Innovative Digital Health Services and Public Health Data Analytics
  - **Recipient:** Hamirpur District Administration
  - **Reason:** For '**Project Jagriti, TB Free Hamirpur**' initiative.
- Innovative use of digital technology in enhancing public service delivery
  - **Recipient:** UP Development Systems Corporation Limited (UPDESCO)
  - **Reason:** For effective use of digital technology under **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana**.
- **Innovations in Digital Governance**
  - **Recipient:** Government of Uttar Pradesh
  - **Reason:** To improve administrative functions through various **digital initiatives and technological upgradation**.
- **About Government Digitech Awards:**
  - The **ET Government Digitech Awards** is supported by the **Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
  - These awards recognise pioneers who have played a key role in shaping the **digital transformation in public services**.
  - **30 winners from across India** were felicitated at the event. Several states including **Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Telangana, Odisha, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and Haryana** were also awarded in various categories.

### Digital Governance

- **About:**
  - Digital governance is a **framework for establishing accountability, roles, and decision-making authority** for an organization's digital presence.
  - This includes the organization's **websites, mobile sites, social media channels, and other Internet-based services**.
- **Importance:**
  - Digital governance ensures clear decision-making processes in organizations.
  - It **coordinates design, materials, technical infrastructure, security and financing** through effective management.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



- A strong governance framework reduces unnecessary debates over an organisation's digital presence and enhances public trust through improved services, stronger organisational performance and effective customer experience.

## Zaid Crops Under Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

### Why in News?

On 19th March 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government decided to include **9 zaid crops** under **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** and **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About Zaid Crops:

- **Zaid crops** are those crops which are grown in the period between **Rabi and Kharif** seasons. These crops have greater **ability to tolerate intense heat and dry winds**.
- **Major zaid crops** include crops like **cucumber, pumpkin, bitter gourd, watermelon, cucumber, sugarcane and peanut**.
  - In North India, **zaid crop** is usually sown in **March-April**.
- Farmers will now be able to avail the benefits of **KCC and crop insurance scheme** for crops like **groundnut, maize, green gram, urad, papaya, litchi, watermelon, melon and amla**.
  - This will provide them **easy loans for agricultural work** and **compensation for crop loss due to natural calamities**.
- Under **KCC**, **loans are provided to farmers at low interest rates as per their needs**. If farmers repay the loan on time, then an interest **discount of up to 3%** is also given.
- Under **PMFBY**, **if a farmer's crop is destroyed due to famine, excessive rain or other natural disasters**, he is given **compensation in the form of insurance money by the government**. This helps farmers avoid financial crises.

### Kisan Credit Card

#### ➤ About:

- **Kisan Credit Card Scheme** was started in **1998**. To provide adequate and timely credit facility to meet the credit requirements of **farmers (agricultural expenses)**, as well as to meet the expenses related to ancillary activities apart from contingency expenses. This loan facility is provided on a need basis through a simple procedure.
- In 2004, this scheme was extended to meet the **investment credit requirement of farmers for allied and non-agricultural activities**.
- In Budget 2018-19, the Government announced expansion of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) facility to help **fisheries and livestock** farmers meet their working capital needs.

#### ➤ Implementing Agencies:

- **Commercial Banks**
- **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**
- **Small Finance Banks**
- **Co-operative Societies**

### Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

#### ➤ About:

- PMFBY was **launched in the year 2016** and is being administered by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It replaced the **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)** and the **Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS)**.

#### ➤ Eligibility:

- All farmers including tenant farmers/holding farmers growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

#### ➤ Objective:

- To provide a **comprehensive insurance cover in case of crop failure** due to natural calamities, pests and diseases or any other reason so as to help stabilize the income of the farmers.
- To stabilise the income of farmers to ensure continuity in farming.
- To encourage farmers to **adopt new and modern agricultural methods**.
- To **ensure flow of credit** to the agricultural sector.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Solar Cities in UP

### Why in News?

In the National Conference held under the National Clean Air Programme in Gorakhpur, the Uttar Pradesh government decided to develop **all the 17 municipal corporations** of the state as solar cities.

### Key Points

- **About the issue:**
  - Under this initiative, the use of renewable energy will be promoted, thereby ensuring **energy self-sufficiency** and environmental protection.
  - The government will implement schemes such as setting up of solar power plants, **solar street lights** and **solar water-heating systems**.
  - This scheme will **reduce energy costs** and promote green energy.
  - This initiative will help in achieving the **'net-zero' target set by Prime Minister Modi by the year 2070**.
  - The following districts in Uttar Pradesh have Municipal Corporations:
    - Kanpur, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Agra, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Meerut, Bareilly, Aligarh, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Gorakhpur, Firozabad, Mathura, Ayodhya, Jhansi, Shahjahanpur.
- **Solar City**
  - It is a city that meets its **energy needs** mainly from **solar energy**. In this, **electricity generation, transportation, water supply** and other basic services depend on solar energy.
  - The main objective of this concept is to make maximum use of **renewable energy sources** and reduce carbon emissions.

### National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **About:**
  - The NCAP aims to systematically **address air pollution** by involving all stakeholders and ensuring necessary action.
  - Under NCAP, **131 cities** have been identified for **implementation of city specific action plans**.
- **Objective:**
  - This is the **first attempt in the country to develop a national framework** for air quality management with the goal of time-bound reduction.

- It aims to reduce the concentration of coarse (PM10) and fine particles (PM2.5) by at least 20% over the next five years (base year for comparison – 2017).
- **Monitoring:**
  - **"PRANA" portal** has also been launched by MoEFCC :
    - To monitor the **implementation of NCAP**.
    - Monitoring **action plans and implementation status of cities**.
    - Sharing best practices adopted by cities for others to emulate.

## National Conference on NCAP

### Why in News?

National Conference on National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was organised in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

- **About the conference:**
  - This conference was organized with the joint efforts of Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation and WRI India.
  - The Chief Minister emphasized on environmental protection and **minimizing carbon emissions in the conference**. He said that the **Net Zero target (2070)** can be achieved only by coordinating **technology and public awareness**.
  - In his address, he said that **since 2017, 17 lakh halogen street lights** have been replaced with LED street lights. This has led to **savings of Rs 1000 crore** and reduction in **energy consumption**.
  - The Chief Minister said that the foundation stone of a plant was laid in **Lakhimpur** to make products from **banana fibre**, where the **manufactured products will decompose** and mix with the soil in **three months**.
  - In this conference, there was also discussion on preparing an effective strategy to make Gorakhpur **free from open burning of waste by the year 2027**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:



### National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

#### ➤ About:

- The NCAP aims to systematically address air pollution by involving all stakeholders and ensuring necessary action.
- Under NCAP, 131 cities have been identified for implementation of city specific action plans.

#### ➤ Objective:

- This is the first attempt in the country to develop a national framework for air quality management with the goal of time-bound reduction.
- It aims to reduce the concentration of coarse (PM<sub>10</sub>) and fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) by at least 20% over the next five years (base year for comparison – 2017).

#### ➤ Monitoring:

- “PRANA” portal has also been launched by MoEFCC :
  - To monitor the implementation of NCAP.
  - Monitoring action plans and implementation status of cities.
  - Sharing best practices adopted by cities for others to emulate.

### World Resources Institute India

#### ➤ About:

- WRI India (World Resources Institute India) is an independent research organisation, registered as India Resources Trust.
- It is inspired by and affiliated with the World Resources Institute (WRI), which was founded in Washington, DC in 1982 to address global environmental and development challenges.

#### ➤ Objective:

- It aims to promote environmentally healthy and socially just development.
- WRI India develops transformative solutions to protect the environment, enhance livelihoods and enhance human well-being through research, analysis and policy recommendations.
- It is working on sustainable development projects in various states of India.

#### ➤ Headquarters:

- The headquarter of WRI India is located in New Delhi.

## Subacute Sclerosing Panencephalitis

### Why in News?

Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) remains a serious health concern due to low coverage of measles vaccination in Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About SSPE:

- It is a progressive and fatal brain disorder associated with measles (rubella) infection.
- It can develop many years after infection, even if a person has fully recovered from measles.
- This disease is mainly found in children and adolescents and is more commonly seen in men than women.
- Although cases of SSPE have been reported worldwide, it is considered a rare disease in Western countries.

#### ➤ Reason:

- Usually, the measles virus does not affect the brain.
- But SSPE can develop because of an abnormal immune response or certain forms of the virus.
- In this condition, inflammation occurs in the brain, which can persist for many years.
- The abnormal immune response to the measles virus can cause serious complications and death.

#### ➤ Symptoms:

- Early symptoms of SSPE may include declined school performance, forgetfulness, anger issues, distractibility, insomnia, and hallucinations.
  - Sudden jerks in the hands, head or body muscles may also be experienced.
  - As the disease progresses, seizures and abnormal, uncontrolled muscle movements may occur.
- In the next stage of the disease, the muscles start to become stiff.
  - Swallowing food may become difficult. Additionally, in some cases the patient's vision may also be affected.
- In the final stage, the body temperature may rise and blood pressure and pulse may become abnormal.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



➤ **Treatment:**

- There is **no specific treatment available for SSPE**. The disease has a **high mortality rate**.
- **Antiviral medications** and **immune system-strengthening medications** may be given to control symptoms.

**Measles**➤ **About:**

- The measles virus is a **ribonucleic acid virus** belonging to the **Morbillivirus genus**.
- Measles is a **highly contagious disease**, and an infected person often transmits the virus to more than 90% of their unprotected close contacts.
- The virus **first infects the respiratory tract**, then spreads throughout the body. Measles is a human disease and **does not occur in animals**.
- Measles is **completely preventable through a two-dose vaccine** and has been officially eliminated in many countries with advanced health care systems.

➤ **Treatment:**

- There is **no specific antiviral treatment** for the measles virus.
- Serious complications from food poisoning can be avoided through medical care that ensures good nutrition, adequate fluid intake, and treatment of dehydration.

## Model Village Campaign

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched an Model Village Campaign to make 1147 villages of **Ayodhya district** model villages.

### Key Points

➤ **About the campaign:**

- This campaign was **started from Mahanamau village** located in Tarun block of Ayodhya district.
- The initiative will cover 1,147 villages spread across 772 gram panchayats.

➤ **Objective:**

- To facilitate transportation by **connecting villages to main roads**.

- To ensure **freedom from open defecation**.
- To make effective arrangements for **waste disposal** and recycling.

➤ **Benefits of the campaign:**

- The standard of living will increase.
- Economic and social mobility will be promoted.
- Cleanliness and environmental protection will be promoted.

➤ **About Model Village:**

- A model village is one where **cleanliness, safe environment** and **active participation of citizens** are ensured.
- Such villages have facilities like **complete freedom from open defecation**, **toilets in all houses**, **availability of safe and clean drinking water**, **compost pits for cow dung**, **pits for separate collection of wet and dry garbage** and **availability of connecting roads**.
- These features are considered necessary to bring a village into the category of a **model village**.

**Ayodhya District**➤ **About:**

- It is a religious and historical city situated on the banks of river Saryu.
- Ayodhya holds special significance as it is the birthplace of Lord Rama.
- It was the capital of the Kosala Kingdom in ancient times.
- The city of Faizabad, near the city of Ayodhya, was founded in 1730 by Saadat Ali Khan, the first Nawab of Awadh.
- Its total area is: 2522.0 sq. km.

➤ **Importance of Ayodhya in Jainism:**

- According to Jainism, five out of the twenty-four Tirthankaras were born in Ayodhya:
  - The first tirthankara was **Rishabhanatha**
  - **Ajithnath Ji**, the second tirthankara
  - **Abhinandan Nath Ji**, the fourth Tirthankara
  - The fifth Tirthankara was **Sumatinath**
  - **Anantnath Ji**, the Fourteenth Tirthankara

➤ **Major places of visit:**

- Ramjanmabhoomi
- Kanak Bhawan
- Hanumangarhi
- Dashrath Mahal

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Low-Level Transportable Radar

### Why in News?

The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹ 2,906 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), based in for the procurement of the transportable radar 'Ashwini' for the Indian Air Force.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - Low-Level Transportable Radar (LLTR) 'Ashwini' is an active electronically scanned phased array radar.
  - It is used to monitor slow-moving targets such as high-speed fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and helicopters.
  - This radar is based on state of the art solid state technology.
  - It has been indigenously designed and developed by Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL):**
  - It is a Navaratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
  - It was established in 1954 to meet the defence needs of the nation.
  - The organization is engaged in various fields of defence electronics and professional electronics, providing modern technical support to the Indian Defence Forces.
- **Production Units:**
  - BEL has several manufacturing units located in Bengaluru (Head Office), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), Panchkula (Haryana), Kotdwar (Uttarakhand), Hyderabad and Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Navi Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- **Introduction:**
  - DRDO is the research and development arm of the Ministry of Defence aimed at empowering India in cutting-edge defence technologies.

- Efforts towards self-reliance and successful indigenous development and production of strategic systems and platforms like **Agni and Prithvi missile series**, **light combat aircraft Tejas**, **multi-barrel rocket launcher Pinaka**, **air defence system Akash**, a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems etc.

### ➤ Establishment:

- It was established in 1958 by the integration of the Technical Development Establishments (TDEs) and Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) of the Indian Army and the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).
- DRDO is a network of more than 50 laboratories intensively engaged in development of defence technologies covering various disciplines such as aeronautics, armament, electronics, combat vehicles, engineering systems etc.

## Loudspeakers at religious places

### Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh stressed the need for permanent noise pollution control measures for loudspeakers at religious places.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Important Instructions:

- The Chief Minister directed the officials to keep the noise level in religious and public events as per the prescribed standards.
- He also gave instructions to ensure a permanent solution regarding the use of loudspeakers at religious places.

#### ➤ High Court Decision:

- Earlier, the Allahabad High Court has also given an important decision regarding the use of loudspeakers at religious places.
  - The court clarified that using loudspeakers for prayers is not a legal right, because it may cause inconvenience to other people. Therefore, using loudspeakers does not fall under the category of rights.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



➤ **Noise Pollution:**

- Any kind of uncomfortable or excessively loud sound is called **noise pollution**.
- Sound intensity is measured in **decibels (dB)** and a decibel scale is used to determine its levels.
- Sound intensity up to **20 dB** is considered **equivalent to a whisper**.
- According to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, sound intensity less than **70 dB** is not harmful to living beings, no matter how long it persists.
  - However, if a person is exposed to noise above **85 dB** for **more than 8 hours** continuously, it may pose a health hazard.
- The main sources of noise pollution include **loud music, transportation, construction work**, etc., which have a negative impact on human life.
  - Its side effects include **high blood pressure, hearing impairment, sleep disorders** and **heart disease**.

## Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

### Why in News?

The **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR)** is set to become a new sanctuary for **rhinos** coming from **Nepal**, where efforts are in full swing to establish a permanent habitat for them.

### Key Points

- The **Lagga-Bhagga** area of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is adjacent to the **Shukla Phanta Sanctuary** of Nepal, due to which Nepalese rhinoceroses often visit here.
- The area has **rich grasslands, adequate water sources** and **uninterrupted wildlife corridors**, making it an ideal environment for a stable population of rhinos.
  - Under '**Project Rhino**', **rhinoceroses** will be translocated from Assam and Nepal.
- **Importance and Benefits**
  - The project will preserve the **dwindling rhino population** as well as **strengthen the wildlife ecosystem**.
  - Tourism will be promoted, which will **improve the economic condition** of local communities.

- Having **protected and demarcated areas** will reduce the problem of rhinos straying into **agricultural lands**, thereby **preventing conflict between farmers and wildlife**.

➤ **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve:**

- It is located in Pilibhit and Shahjahanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. It was notified as **a Tiger Reserve in the year 2014**.
  - In the year 2020, it won **the international award TX2** for doubling the number of tigers in the last four years.
- It is part of **the Terai Arc landscape in the Upper Gangetic Plain**.
- The Gomti River originates from this reserve, which is also the catchment area of several other rivers like **Sharda, Chuka and Mala Khannot**.
- It is home to myriad wild animals, including the endangered **tiger, swamp deer, Bengal florican, hog deer, leopard**, etc.

### Project Rhino

- **Project Rhino** is an important conservation initiative in India aimed at saving the dwindling population of **one-horned rhinoceros**.
- It began in **the 1980s**, when the threat of extinction to rhinos was seriously recognised.
- It evolved into a **multi-faceted program**, with key strategies including **habitat conservation, community engagement, law enforcement**, and **scientific research**.

## Memorial of Freedom Fighter Chittu Pandey

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** announced plans to build a **memorial in honour of freedom fighter Chittu Pandey** in Ballia district.

### Key Points

- **About Chittu Pandey:**
  - He was a **great freedom fighter and revolutionary** who played an **important role in the Quit India Movement of 1942**.
  - Due to his bravery and leadership skills he is known as "**Lion of Ballia**".

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App





## ➤ Birth:

- Chittu Pandey was born on **10 May 1895** in **Rattuchak village of Ballia district** of Uttar Pradesh.

## ➤ Establishment of independent government:

- On **August 19, 1942**, under Chittu Pandey's leadership, the revolutionaries of Ballia ousted British officials, proclaimed Ballia's independence, and **established a temporary national government**.
  - Chittu Pandey assumed **charge as the interim administrator (chief)** of this short-lived administration.
- This government **succeeded in handing over the power to the Collector** and releasing all the **arrested Congress leaders**.
  - However, after a few days **the British army again captured Ballia and arrested** Chittu Pandey and other revolutionaries.

## ➤ Demise:

- He died on **6 December 1946**.

## Quit India Movement

## ➤ About:

- On **8th August 1942**, Mahatma Gandhi called for an **end to British rule and launched the Quit India Movement** at the **All-India Congress Committee session in Mumbai**.
- Gandhi gave the call of **"Do or Die"** in his speech at the **Gwalia Tank Maidan**, now known as **August Kranti Maidan**.
- Popularly known as the **'Grand Old Lady'** of the freedom movement, **Aruna Asaf Ali** is known for hoisting the Indian flag at Mumbai's **Gowalia Tank** grounds during the Quit India Movement.
- The slogan **'Quit India'** was coined by **Yusuf Meherli**, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as the mayor of Mumbai.

## ➤ Reasons for movement:

- The immediate cause of the movement was the failure of **the Cripps Mission**.
- The British concept of unconditional support from India to the British in the Second World War was not accepted by **the Indian National Congress**.
- **Anti-British sentiments** and demands for complete independence had gained popularity among the Indian masses.

## ➤ Success of the movement:

## ○ Emergence of Future Leaders:

- Leaders like **Ram Manohar Lohia, JP Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Biju Patnaik, Sucheta Kripalani** etc. carried out underground activities who later emerged as prominent leaders.

## ○ Participation of women:

- Women participated enthusiastically in the movement. Women leaders like **Usha Mehta** helped set up an underground radio station that created awareness about the movement.

## ○ Rise of Nationalism:

- The Quit India Movement brought forth a unique feeling of unity and brotherhood in the country. Many **students left schools and colleges and people left their jobs**.

## Maharishi Dadhichi Kund

### Why in News?

On 10th March 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government announced to make **Maharishi Dadhichi Kund** a **state tourist centre**.



### Key Points

## ➤ About Dadhichi Kund:

- Dadhichi Kund is located in **Mishrikh area**, about 12 kilometers away from **Naimisharanya**.
  - It is believed that the water from all the pilgrimage places of the world gets mixed in this pond, hence the name of this area is Mishrikh.
  - This place is associated with **Maharishi Dadhichi**, who donated his bones to provide the thunderbolt to the gods to **kill Vritrasura**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:



- Dadhichi Kund is spread over about **2 acres of land**. Near it is a grand temple of Maharishi Dadhichi, in which his statues are installed in various postures. The architecture of the temple and the environment around it make it a **calm and spiritual center**.
- **Maharishi Dadhichi**
  - He was a great ascetic, a knower of the Vedas and scriptures and a philanthropist sage.
  - He is believed to be the son of sage **Atharva** and mother **Shanti**.
  - He spent his entire life in **devotion to Shiva and welfare of the people**.
  - When the Gods needed his **bones and thunderbolts** to kill the demon **Vritraasura**, he gave up his body by the power of yoga.
- **Naimisharanya:**
  - It is an ancient pilgrimage site located in **Sitapur district** of Uttar Pradesh.
  - This place is situated on the banks of **river Gomti** and is called the place of penance of sages.
  - According to religious beliefs, **88 thousand sages** had performed penance here, due to which it is considered a holy place in Hinduism.

## Swavalambini

### Why in News?

Recently, **the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** in collaboration with **NITI Aayog** launched the women entrepreneurship programme **Swavalambini** at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

### Key Points

- **About Swavalambini:**
  - It is a **women entrepreneurship program** aimed at empowering women by helping them **develop an entrepreneurial mindset**, providing necessary resources and guidance for business success.
  - **Program structure:**
    - A **phase-wise entrepreneurship process** is initiated comprising **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP)**, **Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)**, **Faculty Development Programme (FDP)** and **Financing**.

- This will involve **recognising and rewarding successful enterprises**, which will inspire others and establish a clear **framework for promoting women-led enterprises in India**.
- **Strengthen the culture of entrepreneurship in higher education institutions**, making business creation a viable career path for women.
- **Promote women-led enterprises** as a key driver of India's economic transformation.
- **Aligned with national policies:**
  - **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** promotes **skill integration, industry collaboration, and entrepreneurship-driven education**.
  - Swavalambini works on this by ensuring **financial and consultancy support** for women entrepreneurs.
  - It strengthens initiatives like **Stand-up India**, **PM Mudra Yojana** and **Women Entrepreneurship Platform**.
  - Swavalambini is in line with **Union Budget 2025**, which launches a **Rs 10,000 crore start-up fund and 100% tax exemption on start-up dividends for the first five years**, providing crucial financial support to emerging women-led enterprises.

### Women Entrepreneurship Scenario in India

- **Total MSMEs in India:** Over 63 million, **Women-owned MSMEs 20% (12.39 million)**.
- **Employment Contribution:** Women-led MSMEs provide employment to 22-27 million people.
- **India Ranking in Women Entrepreneurship:** India is currently ranked 57th out of 65 countries in the **Mastercard Index on Women Entrepreneurship (MIWE) 2021**.
  - India ranks **70th among 77 nations in the Global Female Entrepreneurship Index (FEI)** as estimated by the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute.
- **Top states with highest participation of women-led MSMEs:** West Bengal (23.42%), Tamil Nadu (10.37%), Telangana (7.85%), Karnataka (7.56%), and Andhra Pradesh (6.76%).

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



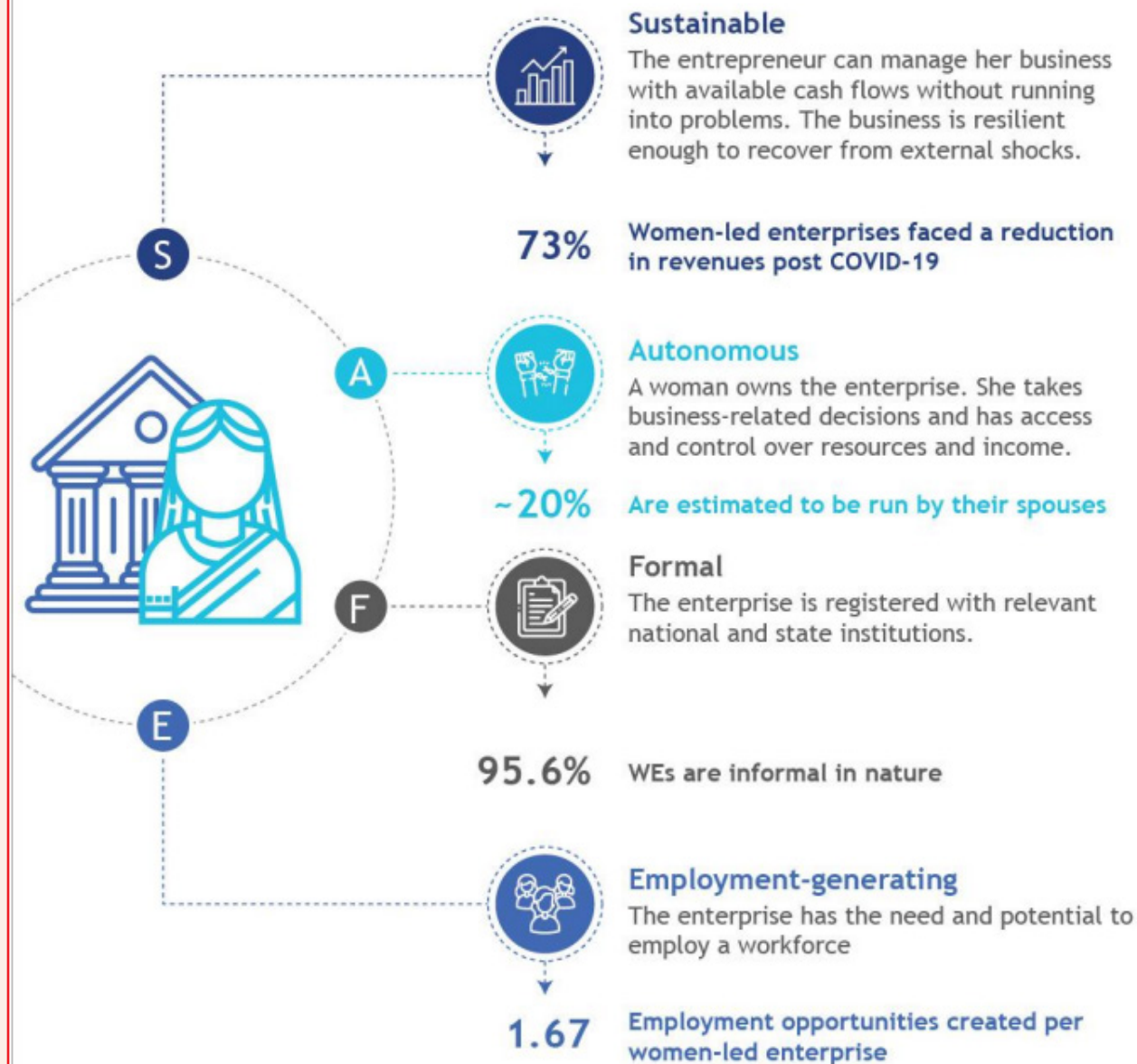
IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



## SAFE: Sustainable, autonomous, formal, and employment-generating



## Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Varanasi

### Why in News?

An **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML)** and **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** to develop a state-of-the-art **Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP)** at Varanasi.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

### Key Points

#### ➤ About MMLP:

##### ○ Objective:

- It aims to **strengthen the supply chain by seamless freight movement through road, rail and water routes**, reducing costs and increasing business efficiency.

##### ○ Significance and Impact:

- **Spread over 150 acres**, the park will have **direct connectivity to NH7 and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)**, making freight transportation smooth and affordable.
- **Connectivity with National Waterway-1 (NW-1) will facilitate cargo transportation through waterways**, thereby **reducing transportation costs**.
- The construction of this logistics park **will attract significant investments**, which will give a boost to the economy of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Traders, industries and MSMEs will benefit at local and national level**, leading to increased production and exports.
- This project **will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities at the local level**.
- **The logistics sector will be modernized**, which will pave the way for developing such centres in other cities in the future.
- It will act as a model under **the Gati Shakti scheme** and multi-modal connectivity, promoting such projects in other states as well.

#### Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- IWAI is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Shipping**.
- It **develops and maintains inland water transport infrastructure on national waterways** through grants received from the Ministry of Shipping.
- The Authority has its **head office at Noida (Uttar Pradesh)** with **regional offices** at Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi and sub-offices at Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Rakka and Kollam.

#### Prime Minister's Gati Shakti scheme

- **Objective:** To ensure integrated planning and implementation of basic infrastructure projects over the next four years with a focus on accelerating work on the ground, reducing costs and creating employment.
  - The Gati Shakti plan subsumes the Rs 110 lakh crore '**National Infrastructure Pipeline**' launched in the year 2019.
  - Apart from cutting logistics costs, the **scheme aims to increase cargo handling capacity and reduce turnaround time at ports to boost trade**.
    - It also aims to **build 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors** (one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh). Under this, 4G connectivity will be expanded to all villages.
    - Also, a plan is being made to add 17,000 km of capacity to the gas pipeline network.
- **Integrated Approach:** It entails **bringing together 16 ministries** dealing with infrastructure.
- **Gati Shakti Digital Platform:** It involves **creation of an umbrella platform through which basic infrastructure projects can be created and implemented** effectively through real-time coordination between various ministries/departments.

## The Rise App

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has implemented the **RISE app (Rapid Immunization Skill Enhancement - RISE)** to ensure **regular vaccination** of children.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About RISE App:

- RISE (Responsive Immunization Support for Everyone) is a **digital training and monitoring platform** developed for **effective implementation of immunization programs**.
- The app provides **real-time updates** to help health workers monitor **vaccination schedules, safety protocols, cold chain management**, and **adverse effects** following immunization.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

- RISE App plays a vital role in **strengthening Mission Indradhanush** of the Government of India.
- This **digital platform** has been developed for staff nurses, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM) and **health workers** to enable them to **accurately monitor** and **effectively manage routine immunization** of children.

➤ **Aim:**

- The initiative aims to **increase vaccination coverage**, **identify hesitant families** and **ensure proper vaccination**.
  - This app will further strengthen **the safety and effectiveness of vaccination** by replacing **traditional training methods** with a **digital learning system**.

➤ **Training and Implementation Process:**

- **The process of training** health workers is being carried out in three phases:
  - District level officers have been successfully trained in all **the 75 districts of the state**.
  - **Training of block-level officers** is currently underway to ensure effective implementation of the programme at **the ground level**.
  - After full implementation of the plan, around **52,175 vaccination personnel** will be equipped with **digital devices**, which will increase their efficiency and data management efficiency.

#### Mission Indradhanush

- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India launched 'Mission Indradhanush' on **25 December 2014**.
- Mission Indradhanush is a **booster vaccination programme**, which was launched in 201 districts with low vaccination coverage.
- It represents **7 vaccines against 7 diseases covered in the Universal Immunization Programme**.
  - These diseases are **Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria**, Pertussis, Tetanus and **Measles**.
- Apart from this, after inclusion of vaccines against Measles **Rubella, Rotavirus**, Haemophilus Influenzae Type-B and Polio, the number of these vaccines has increased to 12.

- In some selected states and districts, vaccines are also given **against Japanese Encephalitis and Pneumococcus**.
- To accelerate full immunization coverage, India has launched an ambitious plan – Intensified Mission Indradhanush.

## Taj Trapezium Zone

### Why in News?

On 5th March 2025, **the Supreme Court** directed **the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) Authority** to appoint **the Forest Research Institute (FRI)** to conduct a tree census in the zone.

### Key Points

➤ **Supreme Court Decision:**

- According to the court, it is **necessary to count the trees existing in the area to prevent any illegal felling**.
- The court gave fresh directions that the purpose of **the Uttar Pradesh Tree Protection Act, 1976** is to count and protect trees.
  - Without tree census, the provisions of this Act cannot be effectively implemented.
- The court also upheld the need to obtain permission for cutting trees for **agroforestry**.
- In its 2015 judgment, the court had ruled that the provisions of the 1976 Act for agroforestry would continue to apply, which means that necessary permission would have to be taken before cutting any tree.

➤ **About Taj Trapezium Zone:**

- **TTZ is a designated area of 10,400 square kilometres around the Taj Mahal** to protect it from pollution.
  - It is so named because it is located **around the Taj Mahal and is shaped like a trapezoid**.
- It contains many monuments, including **the three World Heritage Sites**, Taj Mahal, **Agra Fort** and **Fatehpur Sikri**.
  - This includes **Agra, Firozabad, Mathura, Hathras and Etah districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bharatpur district of Rajasthan**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:



- The area is divided into four zones based on the category of industries, namely red, green, orange and white.
- Only **environment friendly, non-polluting small, tiny and micro scale industries may be allowed to operate** in this zone.

#### Forest Research Institute (FRI)

- FRI is located in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. This institute **started in the year 1878 as Forest School**.
- In the year 1906, it was reestablished as **the Imperial Forest Research Institute under the British Imperial Forestry Service**. Later it was renamed as Forest Research Institute and College.
- It has many centres across the country, which carry out research as well as provide training to forest officers and forest rangers.
- After the reorganization of forestry research in the country and the creation of **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** in 1988, the training and research centers were given the status of independent institutions.
- The Forest Research Institute presently comes under ICFRE which was granted **Deemed University status in December 1991**.

## COAIEMA Conference

### Why in News?

The 8th International **COAIEMA (Council of Asian Industry and Emerging Market Alliances)** conference was held in Lucknow on 8th March, 2025.

### Key Points

- **About the conference:**
  - The conference was organised at **Ambalika Institute of Management and Technology, Lucknow**.
  - It focused on **strengthening collaboration among industries** and promoting **sustainable development**.
  - Representatives from **various countries, policy makers and industry experts** participated in this conference.

- Its main objective was to **encourage the industries and innovation sector of Asian countries** towards progress and empowerment.

#### Topics of discussion:

- Challenges and Opportunities in **Artificial Intelligence: Engineering and Management Applications**
- **Startup Ecosystem**
- Latest technological advancements
- Digital Transformation and **Green Energy**

#### About COAIEMA:

- It is a leading regional organisation that **works to strengthen cooperation among industries and emerging markets in Asian countries**.
- Its main objectives are:
  - Promoting innovation.
  - Accelerating the adoption of **green technology**.
  - Taking rapid steps towards digitalisation of industries.
  - Strengthening trade relations among Asian countries.

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI is defined as the **ability of machines and systems to acquire knowledge, apply it, and behave intelligently**.
- The term “artificial intelligence” was first used by American computer scientist and cognitive scientist **John McCarthy**. He is **considered the father of AI**.
- It includes techniques like **machine learning, deep learning, big data, neural networks, computer vision, large language models, etc.**
- The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is the **ability to perform and rationalize actions** that have the best probability of achieving a specific goal.

## Women's Taekwondo Championship

### Why in News?

**Khelo India Women's Taekwondo Championship** was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** on the occasion of **International Women's Day** on 8th March 2025.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App





## Key Points

### ➤ About the Championship:

#### ○ Events :

- This championship was organized by the **Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare, Khelo India, Sports Authority of India, Taekwondo Federation of India** and **Uttar Pradesh Taekwondo Association**.
- In this championship, senior category competitions were organized in various weight categories.

#### ○ Chief Medalist:

- Lucknow - 4 gold, 4 silver, 6 bronze
- Agra - 4 gold, 1 silver
- Mathura, Farrukhabad – 1-1 gold and other medals



## Taekwondo

### ➤ About:

- Taekwondo is a **Korean martial art** characterized by punching and kicking techniques.
- It emphasizes **head-high kicks, spinning jump kicks, and fast kicking techniques**.
- It not only develops **physical skills but also mental strength**.

### ➤ History:

- Taekwondo's roots date back to Korea's Three-Kingdoms era (c. 50 BC).
- **The Hwarang**, warriors of the **Silla Dynasty**, developed a martial art called Taekkyon ("foot-hand").
- In the early 20th century, it became the dominant martial art in Korea.
- In 1973 the **World Taekwondo Federation (WTF)** was founded.

## Prepare with Drishti IAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Integrated Solar Manufacturing Unit

### Why in News?

On 8th March 2025, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh laid the foundation stone of Avaada Group's 5 gigawatt (GW) **integrated solar manufacturing unit in Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida)**, and inaugurated a 1.5 GW solar module manufacturing unit.

- Avaada Group is a leading Indian **green energy** company, headquartered in Mumbai, engaged in **renewable energy** generation through solar, wind, pumped hydro and green fuels.

### Key Points

- According to the Chief Minister, this initiative not only strengthens our state's contribution to **renewable energy but also boosts employment and** supports our vision of a **USD 1 trillion economy**.
- This effort contributes to **Uttar Pradesh's goal of reaching 22,000 MW of solar power generation by the year 2026-2027**.
- The Chief Minister described it as an important step towards realising the vision of achieving **net-zero carbon emissions by 2070**.

### Renewable Energy

#### About:

- Renewable energy is energy derived from natural, replenishable sources such as **solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, geothermal and tidal**.
- These sources are sustainable and environmentally friendly, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

#### Type:

- **Solar energy:** obtained from the sun's radiation using **solar panels or solar thermal systems**.
- **Wind energy :** Produced by converting the kinetic energy of the wind into electricity using wind turbines.
- **Hydroelectricity:** Produced using the energy of flowing water (rivers, dams, waterfalls).
- **Biomass energy:** Made from organic materials such as plant residues and animal waste for heating, electricity and biofuels.

- **Geothermal energy:** Obtained from the Earth's internal heat (hot water, steam) for electricity production and direct heating.
- **Tidal and wave energy :** uses the motion of sea water (gravitational pull or surface waves) to generate electricity.
  - Coastal areas like the Gulf of Kutch and the Sundarbans offer potential for tidal energy.

## New Schemes on Eminent Figures

### Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh announced the launch of **10 ambitious new schemes** named after **eminent figures** to immortalize their contributions.

### Key Points

- These schemes will drive **progress in agriculture, industry, education, and social welfare** while also fostering employment generation, women's empowerment, and intellectual growth.
- **Important Schemes:**
  - **Mata Shabri Canteens and Rest Houses in Krishi Mandis:**
    - The government will establish **canteens and rest houses in Krishi Mandis under the name of Mata Shabri**, offering farmers and workers affordable food and rest facilities.
    - In a similar initiative, a **Shabri Restaurant has also been set up in Ayodhya to honor her legacy**.
  - **Sardar Patel District Economic Zone:** Boosting Employment and Development
    - The District Economic Zone, named after **Sardar Patel**, will be developed as an **employment hub to ensure job opportunities for at least one person from every family**.
    - Designed according to the unique strengths and potential of each district, the zone will be established on 100 acres of land under **the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**.
    - This initiative honors Sardar Patel, **India's first Home Minister**, and aims to drive economic growth and job creation at the district level.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

- **Mata Ahilyabai Holkar Working Women's Hostels:**
  - The government will establish **working women's hostels in Varanasi, Meerut, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Kanpur Nagar, Jhansi, and Agra** to provide **safe and comfortable accommodation for employed women**.
  - These hostels will be named after **Mata Ahilyabai Holkar**, a trailblazer of cultural renaissance, in honor of her 300th birth anniversary.
- **Maharani Laxmibai Meritorious Girl Student Scooty Scheme:**
  - The government has **launched a scheme to provide scooties to meritorious girl students, honoring Rani Laxmibai**, the valiant heroine of India's freedom struggle.
- **Sant Kabirdas CM Mitra Park Scheme:**
  - The government will establish **10 textile parks across the state in honor of Sant Kabirdas**, who championed the values of humanity and labor.
  - Additionally, **the PM Mitra Park**, currently under construction in the **Lucknow-Hardoi region**, is also dedicated to Sant Kabir.
- **Sant Ravidas Leather Industry Park:**
  - The government will develop **two leather industry parks in the state**, honoring **Sant Ravidas**, who advocated for equality and the dignity of labor.
  - One of these parks will be **established in Agra, serving as a major hub for the leather industry**.
  - This initiative will revitalize the leather sector while creating employment **opportunities for thousands of artisans and workers**.
- **Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh Seed Park in Lucknow:**
  - The government will establish a **Seed Park in Lucknow**, dedicated to former Prime Minister **Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
  - This initiative aims to provide **farmers with high-quality seeds and essential agricultural resources, enhancing productivity and sustainability in the agricultural sector**.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Urban Libraries:**
  - In honor of the birth centenary of **Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, the government has allocated a **budget to establish libraries in urban areas across the state**.

- This initiative aims to **promote education, knowledge, and intellectual development** while commemorating the legacy of the former Prime Minister.
- **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Hostel Scheme:**
  - The government has dedicated the **reconstruction and development of social welfare hostels to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar**.
  - This initiative aims to **support students from Dalit, backward, and economically weaker sections**, ensuring better access to education and accommodation.
- **Birsa Munda Tribal Museums in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra:**
  - In commemoration of **Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary**, celebrated as **Tribal Pride Year**, the government will establish two tribal museums in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra.
  - The budget has allocated the necessary funds for this initiative, aiming to **preserve and showcase tribal heritage and culture**.

## MYUVA Scheme

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government distributed loans worth **Rs 100 crore to 2500 beneficiaries** of Gorakhpur and Basti divisions under **Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan**.

➤ Besides this, toolkits were also provided to 2100 trainees under **the ODOP (One District One Product) scheme**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About MYUVA Scheme:

- Under this scheme, **the state government aims to create one lakh young entrepreneurs** every year by providing interest-free loans for **projects up to Rs 5 lakh**.
- The government has allocated **Rs 1,000 crore in the budget for the financial year 2024-25** to support this initiative.
- It is designed to empower educated and skilled youth across the state, facilitate self-employment opportunities and promote the setting up of new **MSMEs (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



- Beneficiaries who have received training under various government-run schemes such as **Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana**, **One District One Product Training and Toolkit Scheme**, SC, ST, OBC Training Scheme and skill upgradation run by Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission will be eligible for assistance.
  - Additionally, youth having certificates, diplomas and degrees from educational institutions will also be entitled to benefits under the scheme.
- On successful repayment of the first loan, the units will be eligible for the second stage of funding, where a composite loan up to double the initial amount or Rs 7.50 lakh can be provided.

### One District One Product Programme(ODOP)

#### ➤ Introduction:

- ODOP is an **initiative to promote economic development at the district level** by promoting and branding one product from each district of the country.
- It was **launched on 24 January 2018**, on the first foundation day of Uttar Pradesh.

#### ➤ Objective:

- Preserve and develop local arts/skills and promote creativity.
- Increase in income and local employment (resulting in reduced migration for employment).
- Improvement in product quality and skill development.
- Transforming products in artistic ways (through packaging, branding).
- Linking production with tourism (live demos and sales outlets – gifts and souvenirs).
- To resolve the issues of economic differences and regional imbalances.

## India's First Lithium Grade Refinery

### Why in News?

Lohum Company launched India's first **lithium** grade refinery in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Production capacity and efficiency:

- This refinery will produce **1,000 metric tonnes of battery-grade lithium annually**. Its capacity will increase to 20 thousand tonnes in the year 2029.
- The **black mass** generated from **e-waste** will be recycled and lithium will be emitted from it.
- Additionally, the company is expanding its capabilities in the production of **Cathode Active Material (CAM)**, an essential component for large-scale lithium-ion battery production.
- The company is currently refining more than 90% of lithium in India.
- According to the company, its **technical efficiency** is competitive with that of China and more economical than US/European facilities.

#### ➤ Lithium refining:

- Lithium-ion batteries are widely used in **electric vehicles (EVs)**, smartphones, laptops, and other electronic devices.
- The demand for electric vehicles and battery storage is going to increase rapidly in India in the coming years, which **will also increase the need for lithium**.
- A large portion of India's lithium supply **comes from China**, which poses a strategic and economic challenge for India.
- This expansion of Lohum will play an important role in freeing India from this dependence.

### Lithium

#### ➤ Introduction:

#### ➤ About:

- It is a chemical element whose **symbol is (Li)**.
- It is a **soft and silver-white metal**.
- It is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element under standard conditions.
- It is highly **reactive and flammable**, so must be stored as mineral oil.
- It is **alkaline and a rare metal**.
- Alkali metals include the chemical elements **lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium and francium**. Together with hydrogen, they form group-1 which is located in the s-block of the Periodic Table.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App





- **Rare Metals (RM)** include Niobium (Nb), Tantalum (Ta), Lithium (Li), Beryllium (Be), Cesium (Cs) etc. and Rare Earths (RE) include Scandium (Sc) and Yttrium (Y) besides Lanthanum (La) to Lutetium (Lu).
- Due to their strategic importance, these metals are **used in nuclear and other high-tech industries** like electronics, telecommunication, information technology, space, defence etc.

## UNESCO Recognition for Cities

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government will apply for **UNESCO recognition for five cities as intangible heritage and creative cities** to preserve the state's cultural heritage and gain global recognition.

### Key Points

- **Selected Cultural Cities (Elements):**
  - **Perfume of kannauj**
  - **Holi of Braj**
  - **Ganga Aarti in Varanasi**
  - Glass Art of Firozabad
  - Black Pottery of Azamgarh (Nizamabad)
- **Further Attempt:**
  - The State government is also making efforts to include **the folk art and folk literature of Bundelkhand in the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.**
  - Research will be conducted on **the Deg-Bhapka method, historical importance, socio-economic impact and traditional processes for Kannauj perfume.**
  - **The historical, spiritual and ritualistic significance of the Ganga Aarti of Varanasi** will be studied.
  - **Holi of Braj**, especially **Lathmar Holi** will be given prominence.
  - Documents will be prepared by conducting research on **Alha singing and Rai dance of Bundelkhand, black pottery of Azamgarh and glass industry of Firozabad.**
- **Historical context and UNESCO recognition:**
  - In the year **2017**, due to the efforts of the central and state governments, **Kumbh** was for the first

time recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

- **Effects and potential benefits:**
  - **By getting global recognition**, these cultural heritages will get promotion at international level.
  - **Tourism will be boosted**, which will benefit the local economy.
  - **Local artisans, artists and traditional industries will get protection**, which will strengthen their livelihood.
  - **Preservation of culture and heritage** will be promoted, so that these traditions remain safe for generations to come.

### UNESCO

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)**. This organization strives to establish peace through international cooperation in the field of education, science and culture.
- UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of **the Sustainable Development Goals** defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in 2015.**
- It has **193 member countries and 11 associate members.** India joined UNESCO in 1946.
- The United States and Israel formally left UNESCO in 2019.
- Its **headquarters is in Paris (France).**

## Taj Festival

### Why in News?

The **Taj Mahotsav** was organised at Shilp Gram, Agra from 18<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - The Taj Mahotsav saw a unique confluence of **Indian art, crafts, music, dance, and cuisine.** During the festival, various cultural programs, craft exhibitions, and food fairs were organized.
  - This was the **33rd edition** of the Taj Mahotsav organised by the **Taj Mahotsav Committee.**
  - The **theme** of the festival was '**Dharohar**', depicting the rich cultural heritage of India.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App





## ➤ Major events:

- Flower show at Atal Garden
- Garment Show
- our heritage our identity
- Bird watching at **Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary**

**Taj Festival**

## ➤ About:

- It is a **vibrant 10-day festival** held annually at the **Shilpgram in Agra**. The festival is inspired by the rich **Mughal** and **Nawabi culture** that developed in Uttar Pradesh during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## ➤ Objective:

- The Taj Mahotsav was started in **1992** to promote local artisans and traditions of Agra.

**Agra District**

## ➤ About:

- It is situated on the banks of **Yamuna River** in the western region of Uttar Pradesh state.
- The latitude of this district is 27.11' N and longitude is 78.0' to 78.2' E.
- It forms the interstate border with Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- Modern Agra was founded by **Sikandar Lodi** in **1504 AD**.
- In 1504 AD, he **shifted his capital from Delhi to Agra**.

## ➤ Major places of interest:

- **The Taj Mahal**
- Agra Fort
- fatehpur sikri
- Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah
- Akbar's Tomb
- lofty gate
- Moti Masjid
- **Keetham Lake (Suri Sarovar Bird Sanctuary)**

## Fluoride Poisoning in Sonbhadra

### Why in News?

High levels of **fluoride pollution** have been found in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

## ➤ About:

- More than two lakh people of 276 villages of Sonbhadra district are affected by drinking **fluoride-contaminated water**.
  - The **fluoride level** in groundwater of villages in **Kon, Bhabni, Myorpur** and **Duddhi blocks** has been found to be **5-6 times more** than the prescribed standard.

## ➤ Adverse effects on health:

- Due to fluoride contamination, people's **bones are becoming weak and crooked**, children are being born **disabled** and a large number of elderly people are becoming **unable to walk**.

## ➤ Order of NGT:

- Despite the order of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, people are forced to drink fluoride-contaminated water.
- It was not implemented effectively by the **local administration** and **concerned departments**.

**Fluoride**

## ➤ About

- Fluoride is a widely occurring, **non-biodegradable** and long-term pollutant. It is produced by **burning coal bricks**. Fluoride is **naturally** found in minerals as well as in **soil, water and air**.

## ➤ Toxicity:

- It is highly **toxic**. **The World Health Organization** recommends an upper limit of fluoride in drinking water of **1.5 mg/liter**.

## ➤ Effects of Fluoride:

- When consumed in adequate amounts, **fluoride prevents tooth decay**, aids in the formation of tooth enamel, and prevents the loss of bone mineralization but in high amounts it has a **negative effect on bones and joints**, and also causes **fluorosis in teeth**.
  - Fluoride pollution also has negative effects on wildlife.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

[illegible]

## This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Summary**

## Key Points

## Details

[illegible]

## Summary

<div data-bbox="125 1549 305 1581"><h2>Summary</h2></div>
-----------------------------------------------------------