

21th June 2024

Measures for Monsoons in UP

With the monsoon season approaching, the UP govt has taken proactive steps to ensure public safety.

Steps Taken

- ❖ Creation of a comprehensive plan to address potential flooding after the monsoon rains.
- ❖ The primary focus of this plan is to guarantee the timely relocation of residents and their livestock to secure areas.
- ❖ The state has been divided into three zones for flood management: 29 highly sensitive, 11 sensitive, and 35 normal districts.
- ❖ Teams including officials from the Irrigation, Agriculture, and Animal Husbandry departments, have been alerted to monitor these areas closely.
- ❖ Additionally, the SDRF, NDRF, PAC, and Meteorological department are on high alert.
- ❖ Seven NDRF teams, 18 SDRF teams, and 17 PAC teams have been pre-positioned.
- ❖ The relief commissioner's office has also set up a daily review system to receive reports from Meteorological, Irrigation & Agriculture departments and Central Water Commission to ensure swift action.
- ❖ The state-level Emergency Operation Centre has been activated, running a 20-seat call centre for the 24/7 relief helpline (1070).
 - This centre will update field officers in flood-affected districts via SMSes and voice calls.
 - A 24-hour district emergency operation centres with video-conferencing facilities has been established and linked to the state-level relief control room. A flood preparedness checklist has been sent to all districts.
- ❖ The state government has also deployed 400 'Aapda Mitras' to deal with floods and other disasters in the state and provided them with a 15-day training, uniforms, ID cards, certificates, and emergency response kits. Furthermore, 10,500 volunteers have been trained to assist in emergency situations.

Transfer Policy for 2024-25

A significant development has been made by the UP Govt in the transfer policy for 2024-25 by the UP government.

Key Points

- ❖ **For Divyang:** Under these measures, divyang personnel or those with dependent family members affected by more than **40 percent disability** will be exempted from general transfers.
 - Transfer of divyangs will be ordered only in cases of serious complaints or unavoidable circumstances. Based on the availability of positions and upon request by divyangs, consideration may be given to posting them in their home district.
- ❖ **Special Procedures:** The new transfer policy specifies special procedures for transfers under specific circumstances. According to this policy, **parents of the mentally impaired or with locomotor disability divyangs can request** a posting based on a certified government doctor's recommendation to a location where adequate medical facilities are available or where their proper care can be ensured.
- ❖ **Personal Reasons:** Additionally, transfers or adjustments may be considered for personal reasons of the officer/employee such as **medical treatment or education of children**. Such transfers or arrangements may proceed if a position becomes available or upon agreement with another officer/employee, subject to no administrative objections.
- ❖ **Spouse case:** Under the new policy, if both spouses are employed in government service, efforts will be made to transfer them to the same district, city or location whenever possible. Similarly, the **employees of Groups C and D who are retiring in two years** will be considered for posting in their home district and the employees of Groups A and B will be considered for posting in the desired district except their home district. Their posting period in that division or district earlier will not be taken into consideration.

- ❖ Under this policy, Group A & Group B officers who have completed three years in district and seven years in division can be transferred. However, the oldest officers in Group C and Group D will be transferred first.
- ❖ Furthermore, transfers may occur for vacant positions resulting from promotions, terminations, retirements, etc. If an employee is appointed to another position after promotion to vacant positions, this process will not be considered a transfer under the transfer policy, and appointments to vacant positions after promotion will be made at the level of the appointing authority. However, it will be ensured that such transfers are conducted transparently and based on fair principles.
- ❖ **Aspirational Districts:** Under the aspirational district plan announced by the Central government, all positions in every department in each phase will be filled by transferring to all eight districts (Chitrakoot, Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Fatehpur, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Shravasti, and Bahraich) related to the aspirational district plan and 100 aspirational development blocks declared by the state.
 - In addition, the personnel posted in these aspirational districts and all the districts of Bundelkhand as well as in 100 aspirational development blocks of 34 districts will not be released by their controlling authorities after transfer until their replacement takes over the charge.
 - This restriction will not apply to IAS, IPS, IFS, PCS and PPS officers.

Group C and Group D transfers would be managed entirely through the Manav Sampada portal. This system facilitates online arrangements for handing over and taking charge post-transfer. Additionally, it allows for the digitisation of service books and officers' salaries.

Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor

The state government has expedited the process of land acquisition for the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) project passing through UP.

About AKIC

- ❖ AKIC is being developed by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation.
- ❖ It comprises two nodes at Agra and Pargana districts.
- ❖ It spans across 20 cities in seven states like Punjab, Haryana, UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- ❖ **Projects in UP:** The projects to be implemented under AKIC in Uttar Pradesh include Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) in Agra, (1,059 acres) and Saraswati Hi-Tech City, Prayagraj, (1,141 acres).

Objective

- ❖ The objective of AKIC is to optimize the **present economic and employment potential of the region**, stimulate investments particularly in manufacturing, agro-processing, services and export-oriented units and promote overall economic development of the area through creation of high standard infrastructure and an enabling business environment.
- ❖ The corridor encompasses one of the most densely populated regions in the world and supports nearly 40 per cent of India's population inhabiting comparatively economically weaker districts.

Way Forward

- ❖ The UP state is promoting various infra projects, such as freight corridors, dry ports, expressways, airports, highways, waterways, and logistics hubs.
- ❖ AKIC is aimed at ushering in expansion of infrastructure and industry in the seven states falling along its route for catalysing industrial growth and job creation.
- ❖ It is set to play a significant role in making UP a key investment destination.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

According to the latest Finance Ministry report, UP tops the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana rankings.

More On News

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has topped among the states in the country in opening Jan Dhan accounts and also boasts the highest number of women beneficiaries of the scheme.
- ❖ The state also leads in implementation of all other Central government's welfare schemes for the underprivileged.

Key Points

- ❖ **UP Share:** The number of Jan Dhan account holders nationwide exceeds 52 crore, UP alone accounts for 9.33 crore, the highest among all states.
- ❖ **Rural and Semi Urban:** As of May 29, 2024, there are 6.71 crore account holders residing in rural and semi-urban areas, while 2.61 crore are impoverished individuals living in urban and metropolitan cities. Altogether, Rs 47,427.21 crore has been deposited into the accounts of these 9.33 crore account holders.
- ❖ At the same time, the number of RuPay cardholders in the state is 6,14,39,064, the highest in the country.
- ❖ **Women account holder:** In addition, while the number of women Jan Dhan account holders in the country is 29.11 crore, in UP, this number is about five crores, more than half of the total number of account holders in the state.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a national mission to provide comprehensive banking facilities to every family.

These include at least one basic banking account, financial literacy, loan access, insurance, and pension services. Beneficiaries also receive a RuPay debit card, including accident insurance covering one lakh rupees.

Crucially, all financial benefits from the government – whether from the Centre, state or local bodies – are delivered directly to the accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), maintaining complete transparency in the process.

Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

On 19th June 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi

Key Points

- ❖ The proposal by AAI includes the development of the airport including **Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works.**
- ❖ The estimated financial outgo will be Rs. 2869.65 Crore for enhancing the passenger handling capacity of the airport to 9.9 million passengers per annum (MPPA) from the existing 3.9 MPPA.
- ❖ The New Terminal Building, which encompasses an area of 75,000 sqm is designed for a capacity of 6 MPPA and for handling 5000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP). It is designed to offer a glimpse of the vast cultural heritage of the city.
- ❖ The proposal includes extending the runway to dimensions 4075m x 45m and constructing a new Apron to park 20 aircraft.

Green Airport


- ❖ Varanasi airport will be developed as a green airport with the primary objective of ensuring environmental sustainability through energy optimization, waste recycling, carbon footprint reduction, solar energy utilization, and incorporation of natural daylighting, alongside other sustainable measures throughout the planning, development, and operational stages.

Short News

- ❖ The UP government has intensified efforts to modernise the state's educational infrastructure with advanced technology. As part of this initiative, a major technological upgrade has been initiated at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, where live attendance of the students will be taken through their facial biometrics.

- ❖ UP government has made minor amendments to the names of five universities in the state, dropping the word 'state' from:
 - Maharaja Suheldev State University (Azamgarh),
 - Maa Shakumbhari Devi State University (Saharanpur),
 - Maa Vindhyavasini State University (Mirzapur),
 - Maa Pateshwari Devi State University (Balrampur), and
 - Uttar Pradesh State University (Moradabad).
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh State University (Moradabad) has been renamed Guru Jambheshwar University.
- ❖ A proposal to give a Letter of Intent to two new private universities has been passed by the UP govt. One of these is HRIT (Ghaziabad), and the other is Future University (Bareilly), both of which have fulfilled the standards.

Places In News

<p>Ruins of Nalanda</p> 	<p>On 19th June 2024, Pm visited Ruins of Nalanda in Bihar.</p> <p>The ruins of Nalanda were declared as a UN Heritage Site in 2016.</p> <p>The ruins of ancient Nalanda comprise the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important artworks in stucco, stone and metal. Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university of the Indian subcontinent.</p>
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Important News- Other States

Bihar On 19th June 2024, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University at Rajgir, Bihar. The University is conceived as a collaboration between India and East Asia Summit (EAS) countries. The campus features include two academic blocks with modern classrooms, seating for around 1900 students, and two auditoriums each capable of accommodating 300 people.

It also includes a student hostel for approximately 550 students, an international center, an amphitheatre with a capacity of 2000, a faculty club, and a sports complex. The campus is designed as a 'Net Zero' Green Campus, featuring solar plants, water treatment, recycling facilities, and expansive water bodies spread over 100 acres.

