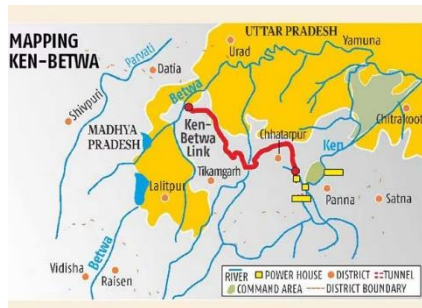


Madhya Pradesh Special

Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the country's first ambitious and multipurpose Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on December 25 on the 100th anniversary of Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Key point

- ❖ The Ken-Betwa Link National Project is the largest irrigation project in the country adopting an underground pressurized piped irrigation system.
- ❖ The Ken-Betwa Link National Project will also provide drinking water facilities to the 44 lakh population of 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This project will generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.
- ❖ This project will also provide irrigation facilities on more than 2.51 lakh hectares and drinking water facilities to a 21 lakh population of Uttar Pradesh. Most importantly, it will improve the condition of the water level in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region, promote industrialisation, increase investment and tourism and provide employment opportunities.
- ❖ This project will provide irrigation facilities to 8 lakh 11 thousand hectare area in 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhatarpur, Panna, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Damoh, Shivpuri, Datia, Raisen, Vidisha, and Sagar.

Ken-Betwa Link Project

- ❖ **Objective:** The Ken-Betwa link project is part of India's interlinking of rivers initiative. Its primary

aim is to transfer water from the Ken River to the Betwa River basin to support irrigation and drinking water supply in water-scarce regions.

❖ **Components:**

- **Dam and Canal Systems:** Includes the construction of the Daudhan Dam on the Ken River and a canal system to transfer water.

❖ **Benefits:**

- **Irrigation:** Provides water to arid and semi-arid regions.
- **Drinking Water:** Enhances water availability for communities.
- **Hydroelectric Power:** Potential to generate hydroelectric power.

- ❖ **Challenges:** The project has faced challenges related to environmental concerns, displacement of local communities, and funding issues.

Science and Technology


K9 VAJRA-T Artillery Guns



The Ministry of Defence (MoD) of India has finalized a new contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) to procure **100 K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns** for the Indian Army, at a cost of **₹7,628.70 crore**.

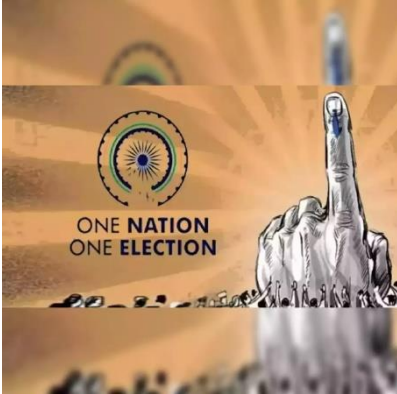
Key Points:

- ❖ This is the second deal with L&T for K9 Vajra-T Artillery Guns.
- ❖ The first contract, signed in **2017**, was worth **₹4,366 crore** for the procurement of 100 units.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The K9 Vajra-T is an Indian adaptation of the South Korean K9 Thunder mobile howitzer, originally developed by Samsung Techwin (now Hanwha Defence). ❖ The artillery guns have been modified to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Army. ❖ The K9 Vajra-T guns are co-produced in India by Larsen & Toubro Heavy Engineering in collaboration with Hanwha Defence.
<p>Typhon missile system</p> 	<p>Recently, the Philippines announced plans to acquire the U.S.-made Typhon missile system to strengthen maritime security.</p> <p>Key Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Land-based “Mid-range capability” Missile System. ❖ Developer: U.S. Army in collaboration with Lockheed Martin. ❖ Range: Covers 300 miles (480 km), with a longer-range version under development. ❖ Advanced radar with electronic steering, frequency diversity, and coherent signal processing. ❖ Capable of tracking and countering multiple threats simultaneously.

Miscellaneous

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on One Nation One Election



- ❖ The first meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the One Nation One Election bills will be held on 8th January 2024.

Key point

- ❖ The JPC consists of 39 members, with 27 from Lok Sabha and 12 from Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ The committee will examine two key bills: the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- ❖ The JPC is expected to submit its report by the end of the upcoming Parliament session.
- ❖ The One Nation One Election initiative seeks to align the election schedules for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and Panchayats.

About Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

- ❖ The JPC is an ad hoc Committee set up by the Parliament to conduct a thorough examination of a specific subject or Bill
- ❖ It consists of members from both Houses and the ruling and opposition parties.
- ❖ However, the number of members and composition of the JPC are not limited.
- ❖ The JPC is dissolved after the examination is completed.
- ❖ The JPC's recommendations are advisory. and the government is not required to abide by its decision.
- ❖ The committee can also gather evidence from experts and consult public bodies, associations, individuals, and other interested parties.

National Science Drama Festival 2024



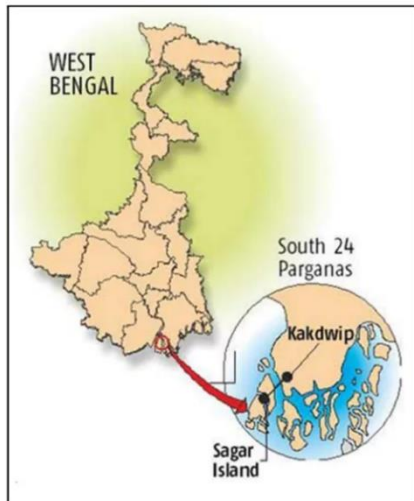
The National Science Drama Festival 2024 will take place on 27th-28th December at the National Science Centre, Delhi.

Key point

- ❖ The festival will showcase science-themed dramas on subjects such as AI, climate change, water conservation, and medical advancements.
- ❖ Prof. Ashok Chakradhar will inaugurate the event, which will conclude with Shri Robin Kumar Das as the Chief Guest.
- ❖ The festival will engage over 40,000 students from across India. Its goal is to promote scientific temper and creativity among students while combining science and performing arts to address global issues.

Place in News

Sagar Island



Sagar Island in West Bengal, famed for the Gangasagar Mela, faces climate change threats as rising Bay of Bengal sea levels encroach within 450 meters of the Kapil Muni Temple.

About Sagar Island

- ❖ It is also known as Ganga Sagar or Sagardwip is located in the Ganges delta, lying on the continental shelf of Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ **Location:** Sagar Island is situated in the Ganges Delta on the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ **Sagar Island Geographical Features:**
- ❖ The Muriganga River Batala separates the Sagar and Mahisani Islands.
- ❖ Classified under the sand group category, along with Mahisani and Ghoramara Islands.

- ❖ Although part of the Sundarbans, it lacks tiger habitation, mangrove forests, and small river tributaries typical of the rest of the Sundarban delta.
- ❖ **Religious Significance:** Sagar Island is a significant Hindu pilgrimage site.
- ❖ The annual Gangasagar Mela, the world's second-largest human congregation, is held here during Makar Sankranti.

Sports

86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024



At the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024, M. Raghu from Karnataka and Devika Sihag from Haryana claimed the men's and women's singles titles, respectively.

Key Point

- ❖ The event was organized by the Badminton Association of India and hosted by the Karnataka Badminton Association in Bengaluru from 20-24 December 2024.
- ❖ Prior to this championship, the 77th Inter Zonal Badminton Championship took place in Bengaluru on 18-19 December 2024.
- ❖ Unlike the Senior National Championship, which features singles, doubles, and mixed doubles events, the Inter Zonal Championship is a team-based competition.

67th National Shooting Championship

- ❖ In the 67th National Shooting Championship held in New Delhi from 11th December 2024 to 19th January 2025, the players of Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy excelled and won a total of 4 medals including 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.



Award winners and categories

- ❖ Junior Skeet Individual (Women)- Vanshika Tiwari wins silver
- ❖ Senior Skeet Team (Women)- Vanshika Tiwari, Shivani Raikwar and Manasi Raghuvanshi won bronze medals.
- ❖ Junior Skeet Team (Women)- Shivani Raikwar, Kajal Singh Baghel and Manasi Raghuvanshi win gold
- ❖ Junior Skeet Team (Men)- Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodia, Dushyant Bharadwaj, Udayman bagged silver medals.
- ❖ A total of 4 awards: Gold: 1, Silver: 2 and Bronze: 1

Short News

- ❖ Airtel became the first private telecom operator to provide mobile services in select border villages of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The government announced an increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for copra by up to ₹420 to ₹12,100 per quintal for 2025.
- ❖ A high-level committee of experts, headed by former chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K. Radhakrishnan, has recommended restructuring of the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- ❖ Two new submarine cable systems, India Asia Xpress (IAX) and India Europe Xpress (IEX), are set to be launched, adding additional Internet links between India and Asia, as well as India and Europe.
- ❖ The 'Udaan Yatri Cafe' initiative was launched by the Indian government to provide affordable food and beverages at airports, starting with a pilot project at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport.
- ❖ Kristrunn Frostadottir appointed as the new Prime Minister of Iceland, leading a three-party coalition government.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Where will the National Science Drama Festival 2024 be held?

- A. National Science Centre, Mumbai
- B. National Science Centre, Delhi
- C. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- D. Nehru Science Centre, Pune

Answer-B

2. Who won the men's singles title at the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024?

- A. M. Raghu
- B. Dev Sihag
- C. K. Srikanth
- D. Lakshya Sen

Answer- A

