January 2019

1. **Renaming Allahabad as Prayagraj**
   - On January 1, 2019 the Union Home Ministry (MHA) approved the Uttar Pradesh government's proposal to rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.

   **Note:**
   MHA had earlier approved the renaming of the British-era railway station Robertsgang as Sonbhadra, Farah Town railway station near Mathura and iconic Mughalsarai junction after Deen Dayal Upadhyay — both in Uttar Pradesh.

2. **Rail Kumbh Seva’ mobile app**
   - North Central Railway launched a Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App that will help those arriving in Allahabad for the Kumbh Mela starting from January 15 to navigate through the city and the mela grounds.
   - The 'Rail Kumbh Seva Mobile App' will also provide information regarding all the 'Mela special‘ trains, major hotels, bus stations, and other facilities within Allahabad city.

   **Note:**
   - A mobile app named 'Kumbh Mela Weather Service' has also been developed to disseminate the
   - live weather information on temperature, humidity, rainfall and winds.
   - Traditionally, four fairs are widely recognized as the Kumbh Melas:
     (a) Prayag Kumbh Mela (Prayag Sangam- a confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati)
     (b) Haridwar Kumbh Mela (Along Ganga River)
     (c) Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha (Along Godavari River)
     (d) Ujjain Simhastha (Along Shipra River)
   - At any given place, the Kumbh Mela is held once in 12 years.
   - It is held every third year at one of four places by rotation: Haridwar, Allahabad, Nashik, and Ujjain.
   - Maha Kumbh occurs after 12 Puna Kumbh Melas i.e. every 144 years. Ardh Kumbh (“Half Kumbh”) Mela occurs every 6 years at Prayag and Haridwar.

**Other Information**

Prayagraj Kumbha Mela 2019 made it to the Guinness World Records in three sectors
These sectors are:
- The largest traffic and crowd management plan.
- The biggest painting exercise of public sites under "Paint My City" scheme.
- The biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.

3. **Sanskriti Kumbh**
   - On 10th January 2019, Sanskriti Kumbh, a 29 days cultural extravaganza inaugurated by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik in Kumbh Mela area, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
   - The significance of Kumbh Mela has been enhanced at the Global level as the UNESCO has inscribed Kumbh Mela on the list of Intangible Cultural heritage for humanity in 2017

4. **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in varanasi**
   - The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
   - Its theme was “Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India”.
   - It was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in association with the government of Uttar Pradesh.
• It is celebrated on 9 January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community in the development of India.
• But this time dates were shifted 21st January to allow the guests attending the event to get an opportunity to participate in the 'Kumbh Mela' at Prayagraj and to attend the Republic Day parade.
• January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.

Note:
Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards
IMF chief Gita Gopinath, Norwegian MP Himanshu Gulati and South African Diplomat Anil Sooklal are some of the eminent persons to receive the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.

5. Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul
• The Prime Minister Inaugurated Centres of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
• It is a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts.
• The Crafts Museum in the Sankul will preserve the traditional handloom/handicrafts products of Varanasi.
• The Finance Minister in the Budget 2014-15 had announced setting up of a Trade Facilitation Centre and a Crafts Museum to develop and promote handlooms, handicrafts and silk products of Varanasi.

6. Renukaji Multipurpose Dam Project
• The Union Minister for Water Resources, Shipping, and Road Transport & Highways signed a MoU with the Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh for the construction of Renukaji Multi-Purpose Dam project in the Upper Yamuna Basin.

Related Information
• Three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries - Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
• These include (i) Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand, (ii) Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and (iii) Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.
• These three projects were identified as National Projects in 2008 under which 90% funding of the cost of irrigation & drinking water component will be provided by the Govt of India as central assistance and the rest 10% cost of the irrigation and drinking water component will be borne by the beneficiary states.
• The project is proposed to be executed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (HPPCL).

7. Extension of Delhi Metro corridor from Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda Ghaziabad
• On 23rd January 2019, Union Cabinet approved the extension of 9.41-km-long Delhi Metro corridor from Dilshad Garden to New Bus Adda in Ghaziabad.
• The extension will form the second metro line in Ghaziabad and the first metro link connecting the interiors of the city.
• The total completion cost of the project is Rs 1781.21 crore and the centre had approved contribution of Rs 324.87 crore as central financial assistance for extension.
8. **UP Govt approves construction of World’s longest expressway-Ganga expressway**
   - On 29th January 2019, UP government approved construction of world’s longest expressway between Prayagraj and Meerut with the aim of connecting Prayagraj with Western UP.
   - It will have a length of 600 km.
   - The expressway will start from Meerut and will touch Amroha-Bulandshahr-Budaun-Shahjahanpur-Kannauj-Unnao-Rae Bareli-Pratapgarh and end at Prayagraj.
   - The estimated cost of the project will be around Rs.36,000 Crore on a stretch of 6,556 hectares of land.

**Note:**
- Another expressway project is upcoming for UP namely the Bundelkhand expressway which is a four-lane access-controlled highway.
- It will start from Jhansi and passes through Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur, Auraiya, Jalaun, Etawah, Naseemur and joins the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

9. **Deen Dayal Veterinary University to set up first goat fertility lab in the state of Uttar Pradesh**
   - Deen Dayal Veterinary University in Uttar Pradesh proposed to set up the first goat fertility lab in the state under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana at the cost of Rs 22 crore.

**Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**
- Launched in 2007 to achieve 4 percent annual growth in the agricultural sector during the 11th five-year plan.
- Incentivize the states to increase their investment in Agriculture.
- Renamed Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation or RKVY-RAFTAAR for three years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

10. **Gangajal Project**
   - The Prime minister has launched the Gangajal project worth Rs 2,980 crores in Agra city.
   - It aims to provide better and more assured water supply.
   - He also laid the foundation stone for an Integrated Command and Control Centre for the Agra Smart City project.

**Note:**
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the upgradation of SN Medical College in Agra at an estimated cost of Rs.200 Crore.

11. **Namami Ganga project in Agra and Mathura**
   - There were four projects in Mathura that cost of Rs 511.74 crore.
   - The first one was an integrated sewerage infrastructure in the city on Hybrid Annuity Mode with the motive of ‘One-City-One-Operator’.

12. **Uttar Pradesh govt to give pension of Rs 500 to destitute persons**
   - UP government announced to give a monthly pension of Rs.500 which was Rs.400 earlier.

13. **Uttar Pradesh foundation day: January 24**
14. **First International Bhojpuri Festival to be held in Mauritius in 2020**
15. **Ranji Trophy 2018-19**
• Saurashtra created history by successfully chasing a target of 372 runs in the second quarter final against Uttar Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy 2018-19 final at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

16. **President inaugurated Gandhian Resurgence Summit in Prayagraj, UP**
   • The summit was organised by the Parmarath Niketan, the Harijan Sevak Sangh and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance.
   • The President also unveiled the statue of Maharishi Bhardwaj in the town.

17. **Indian Paint Conference-2019 held in Agra**
   • Organised by the Indian Paint Association (IPA)
   • The theme of the Conference is 'Paints Pe Charcha - Naye Aayaam'.

18. **Indus Food Meet 2019 to be held in Greater Noida**
   • Organised by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and Union Commerce Ministry.
   • Odisha was a 'Partner State'.

19. **One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme**
   • The government of Uttar Pradesh has initiated One District, One Product scheme to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of the state.

20. **UP’s Startup HelpUsGreen honoured by UN**
   • Uttar Pradesh based startup HelpUsGreen has been honored by UN for its works to clean River Ganga by recycling tonnes of floral waste.

21. UP Government has planned temporary cow sheds (gaushalas) in all villages, panchayats, municipalities, nagar panchayats and municipal corporations.

22. The Uttar Pradesh Government has reduced the prices of urea fertilizer by 11%.

Note: The decrease in prices of Urea is due to reduction in additional VAT levied on natural gas.