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MK Yadav Sir

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Experts flag 'legitimate purposes' concern for Big Four

SOURABH LELE & RUCHIKA CHITRAVANSHI
New Delhi, 6 August

Consulting firms, including the Big Four, which undertake discreet investigative services for audits and risk management, may not be able to process digital personal data under the "legitimate purposes" clause of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023. This could impact their conduct at large, said experts.

Global professional services networks Deloitte, KPMG, PwC and Ernst & Young (EY) — also known as the Big Four — provide a range of forensic services for applications, including business crises and disputes.

Processing digital data for intelligence and analytics on behalf of clients is at the core of these advisory solutions.

According to the Bill tabled in the Lok Sabha, certain legitimate purposes would not require explicit consent from the user. These include employment-related purposes to protect the employer from loss or liability, such as prevention of corporate espionage.

However, consulting firms, which work as third parties, may not be able to avail of this exemption and their clients must seek explicit consent, according to the experts.

"If the processing of data of employees is happening outside the organisation for any purpose, the companies would need to specifically seek consent at the beginning of their contract. For investigative activities, you would never want to take consent from an individual at the time of inquiry. You would not warn the suspects in situations of fraud," said Salman Waris, managing partner at technology law firm TechLegis Advocates & Solicitors.

He added that a consent form would be one of the primary aspects of the privacy strategy of any company. And, it becomes more crucial with certain high-risk groups of employees, who handle sensitive financial matters.

The consulting firms have gone into a temporary wait-



AT STAKE

- ▶ Consulting firms may not be fit for new version of deemed consent clause
- ▶ Discreet forensic activities, such as fraud detection, to be impacted
- ▶ Consent forms must ask employees for permission of external processing
- ▶ Global professional services networks like Deloitte, KPMG, PwC, and Ernst & Young may get affected
- ▶ Processing of digital data for intelligence and analytics at core of these firms

BIG FOUR COMPANIES (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: Global professional services networks Deloitte, KPMG, PwC and Ernst & Young (EY) - also known as the **Big Four** - provide a range of forensic services for applications, including business crises and disputes.

- **Big Four term** is applied to these accounting companies because of their enormous size, stellar reputation, and extensive global reach. Each accounting firm has a network of many distinct corporations, even though these businesses are typically called single entities.

Key Points

- Consulting firms, including the **Big Four**, which undertake discreet investigative services for audits and risk management, may not be able to process digital personal data under the "legitimate purposes" clause of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023**.
- According to the Bill tabled in the Lok Sabha, certain legitimate purposes would not require **explicit consent from the user**.
- These include **employment-related purposes** to protect the employer from loss or liability, such as prevention of corporate espionage
- Processing **digital data for intelligence and analytics** on behalf of clients is at the core of these advisory solutions.

THE BIG FOUR AUDITORS

In India, companies can be audited only by firms registered in India. Here's how the Big 4 operate;

THE BIG FOUR		INDIAN COMPANIES
	KPMG	BSR & Co.
	E&Y	SR Batliboi & Co.
	PwC	Dalal & Shah
	Deloitte	Choksi & Co.

North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika is nearing completion, it was launched by PM Modi himself: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Context: Union Minister of State Science & Technology said North India's first River Rejuvenation **Project Devika** is nearing completion.

Key Points

- Built at a cost of over Rs 190 crore on the lines of 'Namami Ganga', the Project was launched by the Prime Minister.
- This while reviewing **Liquid Waste Management Project** undertaken separately to protect the sanctity of holy Devika River in Udhampur, J&K.
- **Devika which is considered as the sister of sacred river Ganga**, has a great religious significance which is why the Liquid Waste Management Project with the network of pipes and manholes connecting all the households under Devika Rejuvenation Project is being constructed by Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) to protect the sanctity of it.
- Out of the **190 crore funds allocated for the project**, the sharing of allocation is in the ratio of 90:10 by the Centre and UT respectively.

About River Devika

- Also known as **Devika Nagari**, the river originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur and flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan), where it merges with the Ravi river.
- The Devika River holds religious significance as it is **revered by Hindus as the sister of the Ganga**.

MHA Frames Rules for Release of Poor Prisoners

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New Delhi: The Union home ministry has framed guidelines to decongest prisons and has asked states and Union Territories to release economically weaker prisoners who are in jails due to non-payment of fine or unable to secure bail due to financial constraints. The scheme was announced by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her budget speech following which the MHA has launched consultation with states and Central ministries in April this year, officials said.

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) prison statistics 2021, out of the total 554,034 prison inmates in the country, 373,337 or 67.5% belonged to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

"The home ministry has prepared guidelines and standard operating procedure (SOPs) on 'Support to Poor Prisoners' and forwarded to states and UTs for implementa-

tion of the scheme so that the first tranche of prisoners may be released ahead of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15," said a government official.

As per the guidelines, the Centre will provide financial support to states to extend relief to poor prisoners who are unable to avail bail or get released from prisons due to non-payment of fine, on account of financial constraints. This will enable poor prisoners, majority of whom belong to socially disadvantaged or marginalised groups with lower education and income level, to get out of prison. "Free legal aid is being provided to poor prisoners through the Legal Services Authority at various levels," stated the home ministry.

A technology-driven solution is also being put in place to ensure that benefits reach the poor prisoners; reinforcing the E-prisons platform; strengthening of District Legal Services Authority and sensitisation and capacity-building of stakeholders to ensure that quality legal aid is made available to needy poor prisoners.



PRISON REFORMS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

Context: The Union home ministry has framed guidelines to decongest prisons and has asked states and Union Territories to release economically weaker prisoners who are in jails due to non-payment of fine or unable to secure bail due to financial constraints.

- The scheme was announced by Union finance minister during her budget speech following which the MHA has launched consultation with states and Central ministries in April this year.

Key Points

- According to **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) prison statistics 2021**, out of the total 554,034 prison inmates in the country, 373,337 or 67.5% belonged to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.
- The home ministry has prepared guidelines and **standard operating procedure (SOPs)** on 'Support to Poor Prisoners' and forwarded to states and UTs for implementation of the scheme so that the first tranche of prisoners may be released ahead of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15.
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- This will enable poor prisoners, majority of whom belong to socially disadvantaged or marginalised groups with **lower education and income level**, to get out of prison.
- **Free legal aid** is being provided to poor prisoners through the Legal Services Authority at various levels," stated the home ministry.
- A **technology-driven solution** is also being put in place to ensure that benefits reach the poor prisoners; reinforcing the E-prisons platform; strengthening of District Legal Services Authority and sensitisation and capacity-building of stakeholders to ensure that quality legal aid is made available to needy poor prisoners.

5% of birds in India are endemic, says Zoological Survey of India publication

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) points out that about 5% of the birds found in the country are endemic and not reported in other parts of the world. The publication, *75 Endemic Birds of India*, was recently released on the 108th foundation day of the ZSI.

India is home to 1,353 bird species, which represents approximately 12.4% of the global bird diversity. Of these, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.

Amitava Majumder, one of the authors of the publication, said three of the 78 species have not been recorded in the past few decades.

They are the Manipur bush quail (*Perdica manipurensis*), listed as "endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species with its last recorded sighting in 1907; the Himalayan quail (*Ophrysia superciliosa*), listed as "critically endan-



Malabar grey hornbill

gered" with its last recorded sighting in 1876; and the Jerdon's courser (*Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*), listed as "critically endangered" with its last confirmed sighting in 2009.

ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee pointed out that the publication highlighted the importance of endemic bird species in the country.

"Since endemic species are restrictive in nature, it is important that their habitats are conserved so that they don't dwindle out. Ornithologists are aware of the facts related to endemic birds, but our effort has been so that common people, particularly students, are aware of these endemic

species found in restricted spaces," Ms. Banerjee said.

The ZSI Director, who is also one of the authors of the publication, pointed out that *75 Endemic Birds of India* came at a time when the country was celebrating 75 years of Independence with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Many in Western Ghats

The highest number of endemic species have been recorded in the Western Ghats, with 28 bird species.

Some of the species recorded in the country's bio-geographic hotspot are the Malabar grey hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*); Malabar parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*); Ashambu laughingthrush (*Montecincla meridionalis*); and the white-bellied sholakili (*Sholicola albiventris*).

Along with Ms. Majumder, Anindya Naskar, a research scholar of the ZSI, has compiled the publication which, along with photographs of the birds, offers vital insights on each species.

Context: A recent publication by the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** points out that about 5% of birds found in the country are endemic and are not reported in other parts of the world.

- The publication, titled **75 Endemic Birds of India**, was recently released on the 108th foundation day of the ZSI.

Key Points

- India is home to 1,353 bird species, which represents approximately 12.40% of global bird diversity. Of these 1,353 bird species, 78 (5%) are endemic to the country.
- The highest number of endemic species have been recorded in the **Western Ghats, with 28 bird species**.
- Some of the interesting species recorded in the country's bio-geographic hotspot are the **Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyrceros griseus*)**; **Malabar Parakeet (*Psittacula columboides*)**; **Ashambu Laughing Thrush (*Montecincla meridionalis*)**; and the **White-bellied Sholakili (*Sholicola albiventris*)**.
- **25 bird species** are endemic to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- **Endemism in the Andaman group of islands** must have developed because of the geographical isolation of the region.
- Some interesting bird species which are only found in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** are **Nicobar Megapode (*Megapodius nicobariensis*)**; **Nicobar Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis klossi*)**; **Andaman Crake (*Rallina canningi*)**; and **Andaman Barn Owl (*Tyto deroepstorffi*)**. Four species of birds are endemic to the Eastern Himalayas, and one each to the Southern Deccan plateau and central Indian forest.
- Of the 78 endemic species, **25 are classified as 'Threatened' by the IUCN**.
- Three species (**Bugun Liocichla or *Liocichla bugunorum***; **Himalayan Quail or *Ophrysia superciliosa***; **Jerdon's Courser or *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus***) are listed as 'Critically Endangered'.
- **Five of the endemic birds in India are categorised as 'Endangered'**, and 17 as 'Vulnerable', while 11 are categorised as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List.

Assam can enact law to ban polygamy, says expert panel

Practice Is Not
Essential To
Islam: Panel

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New Delhi: The Assam government can proceed to enact a law prohibiting polygamy in the state, said a retired HC judge-led expert committee while concluding that the non-mandatory custom of Muslim men marrying up to four women is not an essential religious practice in Islam.

"It is the considered and unanimous opinion of all the members of the expert committee that the state of Assam has the legislative competence to enact a law to end polygamy, subject to the provisions of Article 254 with respect to the Doctrine of Repugnancy," said the report submitted Sunday

'LAW NEEDS PRESIDENTIAL NOD'

> The subject is covered under central law, and if the state enacts a legislation on it, the same will have to be sent to the President for assent, after receiving which the state law will be in force within its territorial jurisdiction, according to the expert committee

> Legislation is a 'necessity' as the practice of polygamy infringes on fundamental

rights of Muslim women under Art 14, 15 and 21, it says

> Under Muslim personal law, polygamy is permitted but is 'not compulsory', and enactment of any law prohibiting it will not offend Article 25 (right to practise, profess and propagate religion), panel says

> Expert panel submits its report to Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma



to CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The issue of repugnancy arose because the Shariat Act, 1937, a pre-Constitution legislation governing Muslim marriages and divorces, is a central law. It is a settled constitutional practice that when a subject is already covered under a central law, and if a state enacts a law on the same issue, in this case polygamy, it would have to be sent to the President

for her assent. Once it receives assent, the state law will be in force within its territorial jurisdiction, the committee said. The panel was chaired by Justice (Retd) Rumi Kumari Phukan and comprised Assam advocate general Devajit Saikia, additional advocate general Nalin Kohli and senior advocate Nekibur Zaman.

► 'Infringes rights', P 24

Law 'definitely
in this financial
year': Himanta

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Guwahati: Assam aims to have a law against polygamy in place "definitely within the current financial year" unless the proposed national Uniform Civil Code (UCC) materialises first, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday after an expert committee's report endorsed the state legislature's "legal competence" in the matter.

Sarma said at a presser in Guwahati that the onus was on the cabinet to decide whether to bring the requisite Bill in the assembly during the scheduled session in September or next January.

► 'Want to give time', P 24

Context: An expert committee formed by the Assam government to examine the legislative competence of the state legislature to enact a law to end polygamy submitted its report to Chief Minister.

- The committee was tasked to scrutinise the provisions of the **Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Act, 1937** along with Article 25 of the Constitution in relation to the Directive Principles of State Policy for a Uniform Civil Code.

Polygamy in India

- The **National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-20)** showed the prevalence of polygamy was 2.1% among Christians, 1.9% among Muslims, 1.3% among Hindus, and 1.6% among other religious groups.
- The data showed that the **highest prevalence of polygynous marriages** was in the Northeastern states with tribal populations.
- A list of **40 districts** with the highest polygyny rates was dominated by those with high tribal populations.

Legal Provisions

- Hindu Marriage Act 1955:** It made Hindu polygamy would be abolished and criminalized.
- Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936:** It had outlawed bigamy.
- Muslim Personal Law Application Act (Shariat) of 1937:** Polygamy is not prohibited in Muslim legislation because it is recognised as a religious practice, hence they tend to preserve and practice it.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates 132nd Durand Cup in Kokrajhar, Assam

Context: The **132nd edition of Durand Cup** kicked off in Kokrajhar, Assam.

- Raksha Mantri graced the opening ceremony, which marked the **grand beginning of the annual football competition** for the first time in the Assamese city.
- The tournament is **organised by the Armed Forces** and supported by the Government of Assam.

Durand Cup

- The **Durand Football Tournament, commonly known as Durand Cup**, (also called IndianOil Durand Cup Powered by Coal India Limited for sponsorship reasons), is an annual domestic football competition in India which was first held in 1888 in Shimla.
- The tournament is named after its **founder Sir Henry Mortimer Durand**, the foreign secretary of India from 1884 to 1894.
- It was first began as a **football tournament for different departments and regiments** of Armed forces of India and the princely states.
- Since independence, the army's presence is **maintained by the participation of several clubs** of different regiments Indian Armed Forces as guest invitees.
- Unlike any other competition around the world winning team is presented with three trophies:
 - **Durand Cup (Nicknamed The Masterpiece):** the original tournament trophy which became a rolling trophy since 1965.
 - **Shimla Trophy (Nicknamed The Artistry):** donated by the residents of Shimla in 1904 to show their passion and support for the tournament, the trophy began to be awarded in rolling since 1965.
 - **President's Cup (Nicknamed The Pride):** a rolling trophy that replaced the Viceroy's Trophy post-independence by the President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Tata Play to raise bandwidth with extra GSAT-24 capacity

New capacity will allow the DTH company to offer more channels, services on its platform

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Direct-to-home (DTH) service provider Tata Play (formerly Tata Sky), is gearing up to enhance bandwidth capacity by 50%. It plans to incorporate 24 new Ku-band transponders on the communication satellite GSAT-24.

The new capacity will allow Tata Play to offer more channels and services on its platform, besides enhancing the picture quality, chief executive and managing director Harit Nagpal said in an interview.

The GSAT-24 satellite, that was successfully launched by NewSpace India Ltd in June 2022, was tailored to meet the specific requirements of Tata Play's DTH application.

This move is in line with the government's Make-in-India vision, showcasing the country's prowess in indigenous satellite technology as part of its space reforms.

NewSpace, incorporated in March 2019, is mandated to undertake opera-



GSAT-24 satellite was tailored to meet requirements of Tata Play's DTH application

tional satellite missions on a 'demand-driven' model, wherein it is responsible to build, launch, own and operate satellites, while providing services to a dedicated clientele.

"With this additional capacity, we'll be able to carry almost all channels that exist in India. Currently, the ministry has certified about 900 channels for transmission. We carry the most: in the region of 600. Now, we will be able to carry each and every channel. Second,

we will be able to provide more bandwidth per channel. So, the quality of the picture, quality of sound and stability of the picture will be even better," he said.

While refusing to divulge details of the investment, he said: "You have to put your money where your mouth is. We believe television is here to stay, as there are about 100 million homes that are yet to buy their first TV set. Eventually they will buy it at some stage. We've been investing in technology and ser-

vice for all these years, and we will continue to do that."

Tata Play has 24 transponders, with 12 set to be decommissioned in about three months, as the satellite they are hosted on reaches the end of its operational life. This will effectively raise its transponder capacity to 36.

Now, Tata Play plans to cater to a broader audience by penetrating deeper into the rural markets and offering more regional channels. Nagpal said it services all pin codes in India, and as it goes deeper, consumers are seeking more content in their regional languages.

To accommodate more capacity, the company is conducting technical testing and installed a large antenna capable of beaming signals 36,000 km into the sky. It has received government approval to start using the new satellite from Monday. "We will be covered for a very long time, and I don't see a requirement for another expansion. In fact, to fill this up, it may take us a year," Nagpal said.

Built at a cost of around ₹400 crore, the 4,180-kg GSAT-24 was designed to provide pan-India coverage and fulfil requirement of DTH application.

GSAT-24

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Context: Direct-to-home (DTH) service provider Tata Play (formerly Tata Sky), is gearing up to enhance bandwidth capacity by 50%.

- It plans to incorporate 24 new Ku-band transponders on the communication satellite **GSAT-24**.
- The new capacity will allow Tata Play to offer more channels and services on its platform, besides enhancing the picture quality.

GSAT-24

- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, a Government of India company under Department of Space (DoS) has undertaken GSAT-24 satellite mission as its 1st Demand Driven mission post space reforms.
- It is built by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It is a **24-Ku band communication satellite** weighing 4180 kg with Pan India coverage for meeting DTH application needs.
- NSIL has leased the entire satellite capacity to M/s Tata Play.
- The satellite was successfully placed into geostationary orbit by the **Ariane 5 rocket**, operated by French company Arianespace, from Kourou in French Guiana (South America).
- The Ariane 5 has successfully placed two satellites into geostationary orbit: **MEASAT-3d for the Malaysian operator MEASAT, and GSAT-24**.



18th Century Tamil manuscripts found in monastery in Italy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Palm manuscripts from the 18th Century, titled *Gnanamuyarchi*, have been discovered in an Armenian monastery in northern Italy. Tamil Bharathan, a doctoral scholar of the Special Centre for Tamil Studies at JNU, was allowed to access the manuscripts.

"I was only allowed to

read the manuscripts after days of persuasion," said Mr. Bharathan, who was invited to participate in a seminar on Greek Paleography at the headquarters of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice.

He sought the help of Margherita Trento, a professor who has studied the history of the literary and social techniques em-

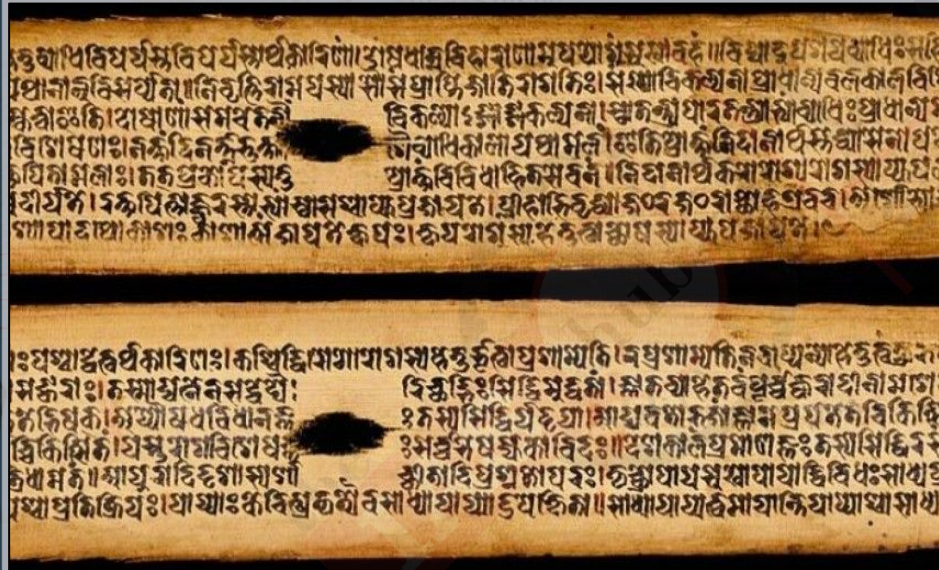
ployed by Roman Catholics to localise Christianity in pre-modern Tamil Nadu. According to her, it could be a copy of the first Tamil translation of *Spiritual Exercise*, written by St. Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century.

"This translation is most likely by Michele Bertoldi, known in Tamil as Gnanaprakasasamy," said Ms. Margherita.

Context: Palm manuscripts from the 18th Century titled *Gnanamuyarchi* have been discovered in an Armenian monastery in Northern Italy.

Key Points

- A doctoral scholar of the Special Centre for Tamil Studies in **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** was allowed access to the manuscripts.
- According to a professor, it could be a copy of the first translation of **Ignatius' Spiritual Exercise in Tamil**.
- This translation is most likely by Michele Bertoldi, known in Tamil as **Gnanaprakasasamy**.
- This is a prose text from the early **18th Century (likely the 1720s)** and has been printed several times in the 19th Century by the Mission Press in Puducherry.
- The library had categorised the manuscripts as '**Indian Papyrus Lamulic Language—XIII Century**', and the authorities were not aware that it had been written in Tamil.
- Those in charge of the monastery are of the opinion that the **Armenians in Chennai** could have brought the manuscripts to Italy.



UNESCO HERITAGE DANGER LIST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Heritage)

Climate crisis, tourism may place Venice on UNESCO heritage danger list

UN agency panel to discuss inclusion of Italian city in list on September 10-25, 2023

By DTE Staff
Published: Tuesday 01 August 2023



Context: The Italian city of Venice should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger, experts from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** have stated in a new report.

Key Points

- **Kyiv and Lviv in Ukraine** are also on the recommendation for sites to be put on the danger list this year.
- The **UNESCO World Heritage property** comprises the city of Venice and its lagoon situated in the Veneto region of northeast Italy.
- In February 2023, the city was in the grips of a drought such that Italian lakes and rivers had dried up. In November 2019, historical treasures and buildings were endangered due to flooding.

UNESCO heritage danger list

- The list highlights a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites which are threatened due to factors like **armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, uncontrolled urbanisation and unchecked tourist development.**
- UNESCO also sets certain guidelines and criteria under the **1972 World Heritage Convention**, which decide, whether or not, a property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger or threat.

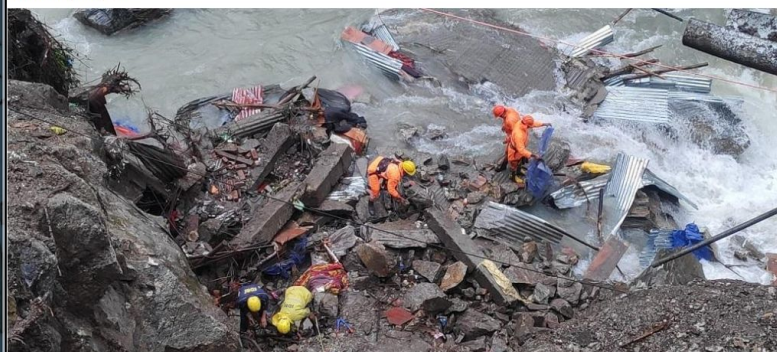
GAURIKUND PILGRIMAGE SITE**(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)****Three dead, 17 missing in Uttarakhand's Gaurikund landslide; questions raised again on disaster management**

People sleeping on the banks of the Mandakini river missing; the administration says they were prevented from sleeping here several times



NEXT NEWS >

By Varsha Singh
Published: Sunday 06 August 2023

**PILGRIMS' PROGRESS**

Context: Three people have been killed and 17 others are missing after a landslide triggered by heavy rains hit **Gaurikund**, an important stop on the Kedarnath yatra route in Uttarakhand.

- The **Char Dham roads**, popularly known as 'all-weather roads', are ready. But incidents of extremely intense rains and landslides continue to increase the risk of the yatra.
- Thousands of pilgrims are arriving at the 'Char Dham' - the **Hindu pilgrimage sites of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath** - and the Sikh religious site of Hemkund Sahib even amid weather warnings.

Gauri Kund

- Gauri Kund is a **Hindu pilgrimage site** and base camp for trek to Kedarnath Temple, in Uttarakhand.
- It is situated at an altitude of 6502 feet above mean sea level in the **Garhwal Himalayas**.
- **Anekadhangavadeswarar** is revered in the 7th century Tamil Saiva canonical work, the Tevaram, written by Tamil saint poets known as the nayanars and classified as Paadal Petra Sthalam, the 275 temples revered in the canon.
- **Gauri Kund** is associated with Shiva's wife, Parvati, who is also known as Gauri.
- This place is also associated with the legend of **how Ganesha acquired his elephant head**.

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