

Mahakal corridor

October 1, 2022

In news- The Prime Minister of India to inaugurate Mahakaleshwar Corridor, constructed in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain at a cost of Rs 350 crore.

About the corridor-

- Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna is **a plan for the expansion, beautification, and decongestion of the Mahakaleshwar temple** and its adjoining area in **Ujjain district**.
- Under the plan, the Mahakaleshwar temple premises of **around 2.82 hectares is being increased to 47 hectares**, which will be developed in **two phases** by the Ujjain district administration. This will include the 17 hectares of **Rudrasagar lake**.
- One of the aspects of the Vistar Yojna's first phase (already completed) is a visitor plaza with two entrances or Dwaars – the Nandi Dwaar and the Pinaki Dwaar.
- A 900-metre pedestrian corridor has been constructed, connecting the plaza to the Mahakal temple, dotted with 108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva, such as Shiv Vivah, Tripurasur Vadh, Shiv Puran, and Shiv Tandav Swaroop.
- In a cabinet meeting held recently in Ujjain, the **Mahakal corridor was renamed as Mahakal Lok**.
- The second phase, pegged at Rs 310.22 crore, includes expansion of the eastern and northern fronts of the temple. It also includes development of various areas of Ujjain city, such as Maharajwada, Mahal Gate, Hari Phatak Bridge, Ramghat façade, and Begam Bagh Road.
- **The second phase is being developed with funding from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) under the City Investments to Innovate Integrate and Sustainable (CITIIS) programme.**



About Mahakaleshwar temple-

- The temple is three-storeyed. In the lowest middle and uppermost parts are respectively **installed the lingams of Mahakalesvara, Omkaresvara and Nagachandresvara.**
- The pilgrims and the visitors can only have the glimpse of Nagachandresvara on the festive of Naga Panchami. A very large-sized Kunda named Koti Tirtha also exists in the temple-complex.
- **Mahakaleshwar, which means the 'Lord of time', refers to Lord Shiva.** As per **Hindy mythology, the temple was constructed by Lord Brahma** and is presently located **alongside the holy river Kshipra.**
- **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain is one of the 12 jyotirlingas** considered the most sacred abodes of Shiva. As per records, **the temple's Mahakal Lingam is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested)** and unlike any other jyotirlingas in the country, **the idol of Mahakaleshwar faces south.**
- **The bhasma-aarti is the first ritual conducted at the temple** in the morning to wake the god, anoint him, and make the first offering of fire for him. It attracts thousands of devotees across the country. **The shrine is**

revered as one the 18 Maha Shaktia Peeth in India.

- **The temple in its present form was built by the Maratha general Ranoji Shinde in 1734 CE.** Before Independence, the Dev Sthan Trust used to look after the temple.
- This was replaced by the municipal corporation of Ujjain post-Independence. The collectorate office of Ujjain district now manages the administration of the temple.