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# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

## HARYANA

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## Rajya Vishisht Yojana

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana introduced the **Rajya Vishisht Yojana** to tackle **stubble burning**, aiming to protect **air quality** during the harvest season.

### Key Points

- **Rajya Vishisht Yojana:**
  - Haryana's **Rajya Vishisht Yojana** focuses on reducing **stubble burning** through incentives and resources for farmers, primarily targeting areas where paddy harvesting leads to stubble residue.
- **Subsidies and Resources:**
  - The government provides subsidies on equipment for crop residue management, such as **Happy Seeders and Super SMS systems**, to promote eco-friendly disposal methods.
- **Penalties and Rewards:**
  - Strict fines for stubble burning violations are enforced, alongside incentives for farmers who comply, aiming to balance punitive and supportive measures.
- **Environmental Goals:**
  - The initiative aligns with **national environmental goals** by promoting **sustainable agricultural practices**, reducing **air pollution**, and mitigating **respiratory health risks**.

#### Alternatives to Stubble Burning

- **PUSA Decomposers:** The **decomposers** are in the form of capsules made by extracting fungi strains that help the paddy straw to decompose at a much faster rate.
- **Happy Seeder:** It is a tractor-mounted device offering an eco-friendly alternative to stubble burning.
  - It works by cutting and lifting rice straw, simultaneously sowing wheat into the exposed soil and depositing the straw over the sown area as protective mulch.
- **Palletisation:** Paddy straw, when dried and transformed into pellets, becomes a viable alternative fuel source.
  - When mixed with coal, these pellets can be utilized in thermal power plants and industries, potentially saving coal usage and lowering carbon emissions.

## Grand Acharyakulam for Vedic Learning

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana's Chief Minister announced plans to create a prestigious **Acharyakulam**, or **traditional school**, to preserve **Vedic culture** and ancient Indian education.

### Key Points

- **Institution Focus:**
  - The Acharyakulam aims to revive **Vedic teachings, Sanskrit, and Indian** traditions, promoting **cultural heritage** among students.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure:**
  - It will be set to feature advanced educational amenities while adhering to traditional gurukul values, it will provide students with holistic learning environments.
- **Government Support:**
  - The state government emphasizes the importance of integrating modern education with ancient wisdom, aligning with broader initiatives to preserve Indian culture.

#### Vedic Period (1500-600 BC)

- In terms of literature, as well as social and cultural evolution, Vedic texts reflect two stages of development.
- The Rigvedic period, also known as the Early Vedic period, corresponds to the time when the Rigvedic hymns were composed, which was between 1500 BC and 1000 BC.
- The later stage, known as the Later Vedic period, is placed between 1000 BC and 600 BC.

## Severe Pollution Crisis in NCR

### Why in News?

The **National Capital Region (NCR)** faces hazardous air quality levels, exacerbated by farm fires and other factors.

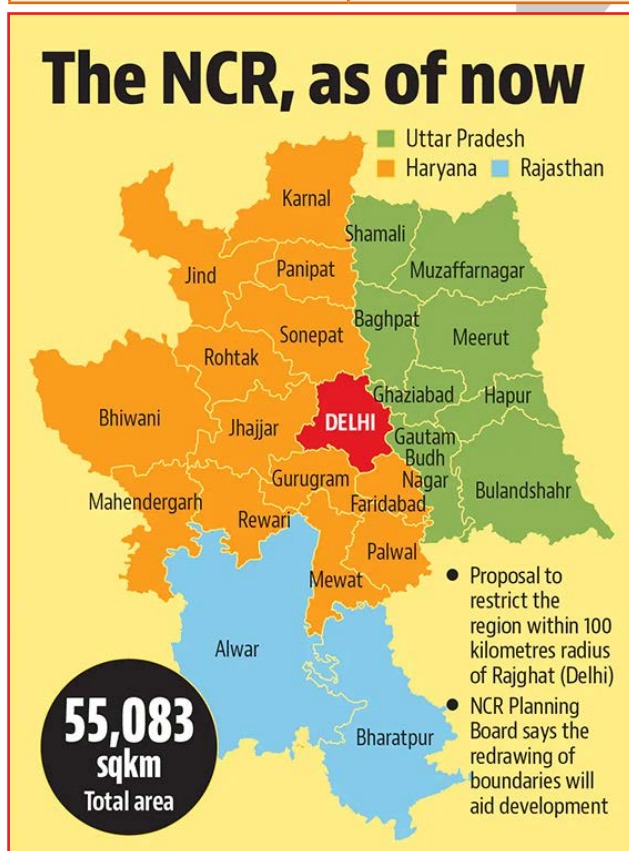
### Key Points

- **Air Quality Index (AQI):**
  - **Panipat AQI reached 450**, indicating "severe" pollution; other NCR areas also report rising levels.

Note:

- **AQI** is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand.
- AQI has been developed for eight pollutants viz. **PM2.5, PM10, Ammonia, Lead, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and carbon monoxide.**
- **Primary Causes:**
  - **Stubble burning** in nearby states like Haryana and Punjab contributes heavily, alongside vehicular emissions and industrial pollution.
  - The high pollution levels pose significant health risks, especially for vulnerable groups, leading to calls for emergency measures.

Air Quality Index (AQI)	Category
0-50	Good
51-100	Satisfactory
101-200	Moderate
201-300	Poor
301-400	Very Poor
401-500	Severe



## Haryana Increases DA for Government Employees

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government approved a **3% Dearness Allowance (DA)** hike for state government employees and pensioners to address inflation impacts.

### Key Points

- **New DA Rate:**
  - The **Dearness Allowance** has been increased by **3%**, benefiting both current employees and pensioners.
  - The change takes effect from a specified date, impacting monthly salary calculations and pension distributions.
  - This hike is aimed at cushioning **inflation** effects, providing additional monthly financial support.
- **Impact on Economy:**
  - **Increased Consumer Spending:** The hike boosts disposable income, especially around festive periods, spurring consumer demand.
  - **Inflation Control:** DA helps employees manage inflation, but an increase in demand could potentially raise inflation if supply doesn't keep pace.
  - **Fiscal Pressure:** For the government, DA hikes increase expenditure, which may strain the fiscal budget but stimulate economic growth through consumption.

### Dearness Allowance (DA)

- It is the cost-of-living adjustment to offset inflation, provided to government employees and pensioners. It is calculated as a percentage of the basic salary.

## Haryana Becomes First State to Clear Dalit Sub Quotas

### Why in News?

In a recent move, Haryana became the first state in India to approve subquotas within the **Scheduled Castes (SC) reservation**, a significant development in affirmative action policies.

Note:



### Key Points

- **Dalit Subquota Approval:** Haryana's government approved the division of **20% SC reservation** into two parts: **50% for the "deprived" SC** and **50% for others SC**.
  - The Haryana government had in **2020 enacted the Haryana Scheduled Castes (reservation in admission in educational institutions) Act**, to set aside **50% of the 20% seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes in higher education** institutions of the state for a new category, the **deprived Scheduled Castes**.
  - This move aims to ensure equitable distribution of benefits among SCs, recognizing economic disparities within the group.
  - A commission headed by **Justice (retd) HS Bhalla** was set up to identify the **"deprived" castes**.
- Haryana has a significant **SC population (over 20%)**, internal inequality has been a long-standing issue.
- **Legal and Constitutional Basis:** The state government relies on **Article 341** of the Indian Constitution, which allows the classification of SCs.
  - As per the **Articles 341(1) and 342(1)**, the President of India, after consultation with the Governor, may specify the castes, races, tribes or parts of groups within castes or races, which shall be deemed to be SCs and STs.
  - Similar attempts at **SC subquotas** have been made in states like Andhra Pradesh, but Haryana's move is the first to be formally cleared.

#### Supreme Court's Verdict on Sub-Classifications of SCs and STs

- **Sub-Classifications Permitted:** The Court ruled that states are constitutionally allowed to sub-classify SCs and STs based on varying levels of backwardness.
  - The **seven-judge Bench** ruled that states can now **sub-classify SCs within the 15% reservation quota** to provide better support for the most disadvantaged groups.
  - **Chief Justice of India** emphasised the difference between **"sub-classification"** and **"sub-categorisation,"** cautioning against using these classifications for political appeasement rather than genuine upliftment.

- The Court noted that sub-classification should be based on empirical data and historical evidence of systemic discrimination, rather than arbitrary or political reasons.
- States must base their sub-classification on empirical evidence to ensure fairness and effectiveness.
- The Court clarified that 100% reservation for any sub-class is not permissible. State decisions on sub-classification are subject to judicial review to prevent political misuse.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that the 'creamy layer' principle, previously applied only to **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** (as highlighted in **Indra Sawhney Case**), should now also be applied to SCs and STs.
  - This means states must identify and exclude the creamy layer within SCs and STs from reservation benefits. The judgement responds to the need for a more nuanced approach to reservations, ensuring that benefits reach those who are truly disadvantaged.
- The court stated that Reservation has to be limited only to the first generation.
  - If any generation in the family has taken advantage of the reservation and achieved a higher status, the benefit of reservation would not be logically available to the second generation.
- **Rationale for the Verdict:** The Court acknowledged that systemic discrimination prevents some members of SCs and STs from advancing, and therefore, sub-classification under **Article 14 of the Constitution** can help address these disparities.
  - This approach allows states to tailor reservation policies to more effectively support the most disadvantaged within these groups.

## Rajesh Khullar Appointed as Chief Principal Secretary to CM

### Why in News?

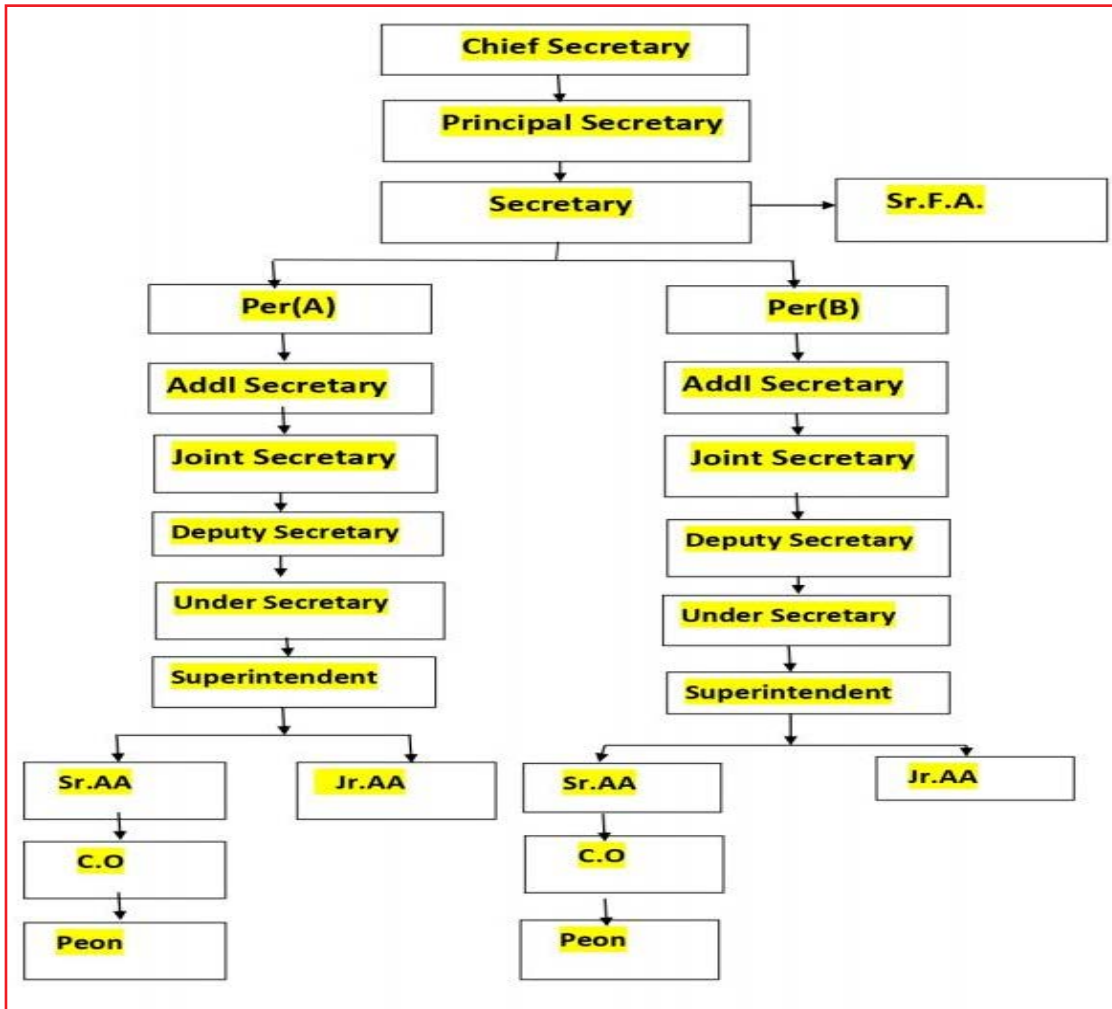
Recently, Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as the **Chief Principal Secretary** to the Haryana **Chief Minister**, but notably without **cabinet status**.

Note:



### Key Points

- **Legal Framework:** The state government has the power to appoint **advisors and secretaries** under its administrative discretion.
  - Unlike similar positions, **Khullar's appointment doesn't come with cabinet rank**, meaning he won't enjoy the same perks as ministers or have cabinet responsibilities.
  - Khullar's role involves assisting the **Chief Minister in administrative decisions, policy formulation, and strategic governance, excluding legislative or cabinet involvement.**
- **State's Power:** The state government, under **Article 162**, exercises executive power to appoint individuals in administrative advisory roles.



## Haryana's Crackdown on Stubble Burning

### Why in News?

A Supreme Court bench expressed concern over the “**complete insensitivity**” of the state government in addressing air quality degradation due to stubble burning.

- The court directed the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to take punitive measures against government officials for their failure to act against violators.

Note:

## Key Points

- **Suspension of Officials:**
  - Haryana government suspended **24 agricultural department officials** for failing to prevent stubble burning in the state, a practice that contributes to severe **air pollution**.
  - The Haryana government has implemented stringent policies to curb stubble burning, which worsens air quality in the **NCR** and surrounding regions during winter.
- **Stubble Burning:**
  - Stubble burning is a process of setting on fire the **straw stubble**, left after the harvesting of grains, like paddy, wheat, etc. It is usually required in areas that use the combined harvesting method which leaves crop residue behind.
  - It is a common practice in October and November across North West India, but primarily in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Effects of Stubble Burning:**
  - Pollution:
    - Emits large amounts of toxic pollutants in the atmosphere which contain harmful gases like **methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Volatile Organic compounds (VOC)** and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
    - These pollutants disperse in the surroundings, may undergo a **physical and chemical transformation** and eventually adversely affect human health by causing a thick blanket of **smog**.
  - Soil Fertility:
    - Burning husk on the ground destroys the nutrients in the soil, making it less fertile.
  - Heat Penetration:
    - The heat generated by stubble burning penetrates into the soil, leading to the loss of moisture and useful microbes.
- **Alternatives to Stubble Burning:**
  - Use of Technology- For example **Turbo Happy Seeder (THS)** machine, which can uproot the stubble and also sow seeds in the area cleared. The stubble can then be used as mulch for the field.

## Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- **About:**
  - CAQM is a statutory body formed under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021**.
    - Earlier, the commission was formed through the promulgation of the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021**.
  - The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021 also dissolved the **Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority (EPCA)** established in the NCR in 1998.
- **Objectives:**
  - To ensure better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **Scope:**
  - Adjoining areas have been defined as areas in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh adjoining the NCR where any source of pollution may cause an adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.
- **Composition:**
  - The Commission will be headed by a full-time chairperson who has been a Secretary to the Government of India, or a **Chief Secretary to a State government**.
  - The chairperson will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.
  - It will have members from several Ministries as well as representatives from the stakeholder States.
  - It will have experts from the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Civil Society**.
- **Functions:**
  - Coordinating actions taken by concerned state governments (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh).
  - Planning and executing plans to prevent and control air pollution in the NCR.

Note:



- Providing a framework for identification of air pollutants.
- Conducting research and development through networking with technical institutions.
- Training and creating a special workforce to deal with issues related to air pollution.
- Preparing various action plans such as increasing plantation and addressing **stubble burning**.

## Haryana Portfolio Allocation

### Why in News?

The new Haryana Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Nayab Saini, has a total of **13 ministers** representing a range of communities to balance caste equations.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Haryana Ministers List with Portfolios (2024):

- **Nayab Saini (CM):** Home, Finance, Planning, Excise & Taxation, Town & Country Planning, Information & PR, Justice, General Admin, Housing, CID, Personnel, Law & Legislative, others not assigned.
- **Arvind Kumar Sharma:** Co-operation, Jails, Elections, Heritage & Tourism.
- **Shyam Singh Rana:** Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries.
- **Ranbir Singh Gangwa:** Public Health Engineering, Public Works.
- **Krishan Kumar Bedi:** Social Justice, SCs/BCs Welfare, Antyodaya, Hospitality.
- **Krishan Lal Panwar:** Development, Panchayats, Mines & Geology.
- **Rao Narbir Singh:** Industries, Environment, Sainik Welfare.
- **Mahipal Dhanda:** School & Higher Education, Parliamentary Affairs.
- **Vipul Goel:** Revenue, Urban Local Bodies, Civil Aviation.
- **Shruti Choudhry:** Women & Child Development, Irrigation.
- **Aarti Singh Rao:** Health, AYUSH.
- **Rajesh Nagar:** Food & Civil Supplies, Printing & Stationery (Independent Charge).
- **Gaurav Gautam:** Youth Empowerment, Sports, Law & Legislative (Attached).

#### ➤ 91st Amendment Act:

- The **Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003** inserted **clause 1A** in **Article 164**, which says “the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State **shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly** of that State.

## Chief Election Commissioner Criticises Exit Polls

### Why in News?

The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** of India raised concerns about the reliability of **exit polls** and premature display of vote counting trends, citing the recent **Haryana elections** as a case where exit polls created unrealistic expectations and raised political concerns.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Distortion by Exit Polls:

- Exit polls often set unrealistic expectations, leading to a significant gap between predicted and actual election results.
- In the recent Haryana elections, most **exit polls predicted a landslide victory** for the Congress, projecting over 50 seats, but the actual results did not match these expectations.
- This created frustration among the public and political parties, with Congress raising concerns about the exit polls’ accuracy.

#### ➤ Premature Display of Early Counting Trends:

- Some news channels aired early trends before official **vote counting** began, contributing to misinformation and speculation.
- CEC criticized this practice as “nonsense,” pointing out that initial trends shown before counting lacks a scientific basis and can mislead the public.
- He explained that the actual counting process begins **only after 8:30 a.m.**, with verified results being posted on the **Election Commission’s website after 9:30 a.m.**

#### ➤ Call for Self-Regulation:

- While the Election Commission **does not directly control exit polls**, CEC urged that **regulatory bodies overseeing media and polling** must take a stronger stance on improving exit poll practices.

Note:



- Transparency in exit poll methodology, including factors such as sample size, polling locations, and data collection methods, is necessary to maintain credibility.
- CEC also emphasized that bodies governing media and polling agencies should enforce better practices to avoid **misinformation** during elections.
- **Exit Poll Methodology Issues:**
  - Exit polls are based on interviews conducted with voters as they exit polling stations, but their **accuracy depends on the quality of data collected** and how representative the sample is.
  - The methodology behind exit polls, including the **sample's size and representativeness** (reflecting various voter profiles like **caste, religion, and geography**), plays a crucial role in determining the accuracy of the polls.
- **Swing Models and Prediction Challenges:**
  - Exit polls use **swing models to predict seat allocations** based on vote share estimates from the previous election.
  - However, in a complex political environment like Haryana, where multiple parties and alliances are involved, these swing models often fail to capture shifts in voter behavior or alliance changes.

### Election Commission of India

#### ➤ About:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
  - It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as **National Voters' Day**). The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies** in India, and the offices of the **President and Vice President** in the country.
  - It is not concerned with the elections to **panchayats** and **municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate **State Election Commission**.

#### ➤ Constitutional Provisions:

- **Part XV (Article 324-329):** It deals with elections and establishes a commission for these matters.

- **Article 324:** Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.
- **Article 325:** No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be based on adult suffrage.
- **Article 327:** Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures.
- **Article 328:** Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.
- **Article 329:** Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.
- Structure of ECI:
  - Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the **Election Commissioner Amendment Act, 1989**, it was made a multi-member body.
  - The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
  - Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).
    - At the state level, the election commission is helped by the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:
  - The President appoints CEC and Election Commissioners as per **the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.
  - They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
  - The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the **Supreme Court Judge**.
- Removal:
  - They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.
  - The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

Note:

## State Level Energy Conservation Awards, 2024

### Why in News?

The Haryana government continues to emphasize **energy conservation**, aligning with national efforts under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.

- The awards aim to recognize contributions across sectors in promoting **energy efficiency**, particularly in light of increasing **environmental concerns**.

### Key Points

- **Purpose of the Awards:**
  - **Objective:** To promote energy conservation by recognizing industries, commercial buildings, government institutions, educational institutions, hospitals, and individuals excelling in energy efficiency practices.
  - **Regulatory Framework:** Based on the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**, which came into effect in March 2002, setting guidelines for the efficient use of energy resources.
- **Administering Body:**
  - The **Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA)** acts as the **State Designated Agency (SDA)** responsible for coordinating, regulating, and enforcing the Act's provisions within Haryana. It is under the jurisdiction of the **Department of Renewable Energy, Haryana**.
- **Award Categories:**
  - **Eligible Sectors:** Industries, commercial buildings, government institutions, educational institutions, hospitals, municipal bodies, and individuals.
  - **Criteria:** Recognition is based on innovative measures to conserve energy, use of new technologies, and efficiency improvements in energy use. Specific fields include:
    - **Innovations in energy conservation.**
    - **Adoption of energy-efficient practices.**
    - **R&D projects in energy.**
- **Award Details:**
  - Prizes include **monetary rewards up to Rs. 2 lakhs**, depending on the specific category of the award. The awards aim to both encourage and financially support further energy-saving efforts by winners.

- The awards are part of the state's broader efforts to **reduce power consumption** and support sustainable development.

### Recent Developments:

- The **2024 edition** continues these initiatives, encouraging institutions and individuals to submit applications demonstrating their commitment to energy conservation. Deadlines for submissions and guidelines are made available on the HAREDA official website

### The Energy Conservation Act, 2001

- **Regulatory framework**
  - The EC Act establishes standards and policies for **energy efficiency, and empowers the central and state governments** to regulate energy use.
- **Energy audits**
  - Authorities can direct energy audits of buildings where **energy-intensive** industries operate.
- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**
  - The BEE was created to oversee the **EC Act's programs and promote energy efficiency**. The BEE's work includes certification, public awareness campaigns, and pilot projects.
- **Carbon credit trading**
  - The **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022** allows the government to introduce a **carbon credit trading scheme** to encourage reducing carbon emissions.
- **Energy savings certificates**
  - The government can issue **energy savings certificates** to industries that consume less than their allotted energy. These certificates can be sold to customers who consume more than their allotted energy.

## Saras Aajeevika Mela 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2024** began in Gurugram, showcasing rural products and promoting women empowerment through **self-help groups (SHGs)** from across India.

### Key Points

- **Saras Aajeevika Mela:**
  - Its aim is to provide a platform for rural artisans and

Note:

**SHG women** to showcase and sell their products, including handicrafts, handlooms, organic products, and traditional foods.

- The fair is organized by the **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj**.
- The mela acts as a marketing channel where rural producers can connect directly with urban consumers, helping them increase their income and expand market reach.
- The event significantly contributes to **women empowerment** by providing opportunities to rural women entrepreneurs to exhibit their craftsmanship on a larger scale.
- Initiatives like the Saras Mela are aligned with the government's broader objectives of strengthening rural economies and promoting **vocal for local** under the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The initiative is part of the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

#### Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission

##### ➤ About:

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Programme**, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011.
- It aims to eliminate rural poverty through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.

##### ➤ Functioning:

- It involves working with community institutions through community professionals in the spirit of self-help which is a unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.
- It impacts livelihoods by
  - Mobilizing rural households into SHGs.
  - Organizing one-woman member from each rural poor household into SHGs
  - Providing training and capacity building to SHG members
  - Providing access to financial resources from their own institutions and banks.

##### ➤ Sub Programs:

- **Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):** It aims to promote agro-ecological practices that increase women farmers' income and reduce their input costs and risks.
- **Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP):** It aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises.
- **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY):** It was launched in August 2017, to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote rural villages.
- **Deendayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY):** It aims at building placement-linked skills of the rural youth and placing them in relatively higher wage employment sectors of the economy.
- **Rural Self Employment Institutes (RSETIs):** DAY-NRLM, in partnership with 31 Banks and State Governments, is supporting Rural Self Employment Institutes (RSETIs) for skilling rural youth to take up gainful self-employment.

## Haryana Assembly Profile Overview

### Why in News?

Recently, the new **Haryana Assembly** was elected, marking notable changes in age, wealth, and gender representation.

### Key Points

- Demographics & Age:
  - Average age of **MLAs** is 55.6 years, slightly older than 2019 (54.8 years).
  - The youngest MLA is 25-year-old Aditya Surjewala, and the oldest is 80-year-old Raghuvir Singh Kadian.
- Criminal Cases:
  - 13 MLAs face pending criminal cases: 7 from Congress, 3 from BJP, and 3 Independents.
  - Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda has the most cases (8).
- Wealth & Assets:
  - The average assets of MLAs have increased to **Rs. 24.87 crore from Rs. 18.29 crore in 2019**.

Note:

- Savitri Jindal (Independent, Hisar) is the wealthiest MLA with assets worth Rs. 270.66 crore.
- The least wealthy MLA is Kapoor Singh (BJP, Bawani Khera) with assets of Rs. 7.2 lakh.
- Education & Occupation:
  - 61 MLAs are at least graduates, with graduates forming two-thirds of the Assembly.
  - 44% are involved in social/political work, 41% in business, and 27% in agriculture.
- Women Representation:
  - The number of women MLAs has risen to **13 from 9**, matching the record set in 2014.
  - Women make up **14%** of the new Assembly, with 5 from BJP and 7 from Congress.

## Profile of Haryana Assembly

	2019	2024
Average age	54.8	55.6
MLAs with cases	12	13
Average assets	Rs 18.29 crore	Rs 24.87 crore
MLAs who are at least graduates	62	61
Women MLAs	9	13

Source: EC, ADR • Created with Datawrapper

## Understanding the Anti-Defection Law for Independent Legislators

### Why in News?

Recently, three Independent **MLAs** in Haryana extended support to the winning party, securing the party's third term in power. This situation raises questions about the **anti-defection law**, especially for independent legislators.

### Key Points

- Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (Anti-Defection Law):
  - The **Tenth Schedule** defines circumstances under which a legislator changing political allegiance invites action.

Note:



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- Independent MLAs joining a political party after election are also subject to disqualification under the law.
- Three Scenarios Covered Under the Law:
  - A legislator elected on a party ticket voluntarily gives up party membership or votes against party wishes.
  - An independent MLA joins a political party after election, leading to disqualification.
  - Nominated MLAs have six months to join a political party after nomination, or they face disqualification.
- Disqualification Process:
  - The **presiding officer** of the legislature decides on disqualification. Speaker in the Lok Sabha and Chairman in the Rajya Sabha are the presiding officers.
  - No specified timeframe exists for this decision, leading to delays and accusations of political bias.
  - In 2023, the **Supreme Court** suggested anti-defection cases be resolved within three months.

#### 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

- **About:**
  - The Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, also known as the **Anti-Defection Law**, was added by the **52nd Amendment in 1985**.
    - It was a response to the toppling of multiple state governments by party-hopping MLAs after the general elections of 1967.
  - It lays down the provisions related to disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) and State Legislatures on grounds of defection.
- **Exception:**
  - It allows a **group of MP/MLAs** to join (i.e., merge with) another political party without inviting the penalty for defection and it does not penalise political parties for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators.
  - As per the **Anti Defection Act, 1985**, a 'defection' by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a 'merger'.
  - But the **91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, changed this and now at least two-thirds of the members of a party must be in Favour of a "merger" for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.

#### ➤ Discretion:

- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to **'Judicial review'**.
- However, the law does not provide a timeframe within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case.

#### ➤ Grounds for Defection:

- If an elected member voluntarily gives up his membership of a political party.
- If he/she votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
- If any independently elected member joins any political party.
- If any **nominated member** joins any political party after the expiry of six months.

## Losing Security Deposit in Elections

### Why in News?

Recently, despite a significant push in Haryana, a political party failed to win any seats in the local elections, resulting in the **forfeiture of candidates' security deposits** due to not meeting the required vote percentage.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Security Deposit Mandate:

- As per the **Representation of People Act, 1951**, candidates must deposit a security amount when contesting elections.
- **For Parliamentary elections:** Rs. 25,000; for **Assembly elections:** Rs. 10,000.
- This ensures that only genuinely committed candidates submit nominations.

#### ➤ Forfeiture of Security Deposit:

- A candidate must secure at least **one-sixth (16.67%)** of the total valid votes cast to retain the deposit, if not, the deposit is forfeited to the **Election Commission**.

#### ➤ Example Calculation:

- In an Assembly seat with 200,000 votes, candidates must secure over 33,332 votes to avoid losing their deposit.

Note:



### The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- It regulates the actual conduct of **elections and by-elections**.
- RPA, 1951 provides **administrative machinery for conducting elections**.
- It deals with the **registration of political parties**.
- This specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the Houses.
- It provides provisions **to curb corrupt practices** and other offences.
- It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.

## Haryana Assembly Elections 2024: Voter Turnout

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana witnessed its 15<sup>th</sup> **Assembly General Election**, with polling conducted on **5<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**.

### Key Points

- Overall Voter Turnout:
  - Haryana recorded a voter turnout of **67.90%** for the Assembly Elections.
  - **Highest Turnout:** **Sirsa** district with **75.36%**.
  - **Lowest Turnout:** **Faridabad** district with **56.49%**.
- Assembly Constituency-wise Voting Analysis:
  - **Highest Turnout:** Ellenabad Assembly constituency with **80.61%**.
  - **Lowest Turnout:** Badkhal Assembly constituency with **48.27%**.
- Polling Statistics:
  - **Total Voters in Haryana:** 2,03,54,350.
  - **Votes Cast:** 1,38,19,776.
    - **Men:** 74,28,124.
    - **Women:** 63,91,534.
    - **Third-Gender Voters:** 118.
- Counting of votes will take place on **8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**.



### Articles from the Constitution of India relevant to State Assembly Elections:

- **Article 170:** This article provides for the composition of the Legislative Assemblies of States.
- **Article 171:** It pertains to the composition of the Legislative Councils of States.
- **Article 172:** This article addresses the duration of State Legislatures.
- **Article 173:** It details the qualifications for membership of the Legislative Assemblies and Councils.
- **Article 174:** This article discusses the summons and prorogation of the sessions of the State Legislature.
- **Article 175:** It provides for the Governor's address to the State Legislature.
- **Article 212:** It states that the validity of proceedings in the legislature cannot be questioned.

Note:

## FMDA Launches Groundwater and Humidity Monitoring Project

### Why in News?

Recently, The **Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA)** has introduced a project to monitor **groundwater** and **humidity levels**, aiming to address **water depletion issues**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Project Overview:

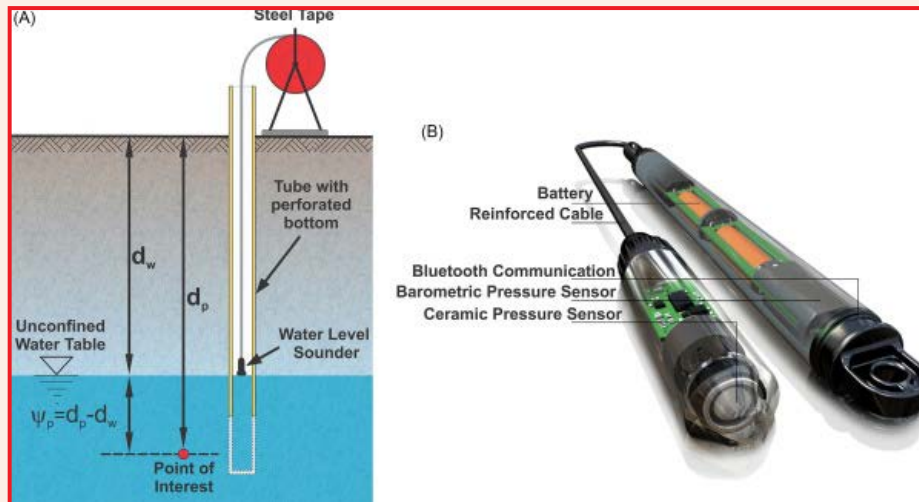
- The FMDA plans to install 100 **piezometers** in urban areas of Faridabad to monitor groundwater and underground humidity levels.
- The project, costing around **Rs 9.5 crore**, is part of a pilot initiative also being launched in **Gurugram**.
- These instruments will provide **real-time data**, helping authorities understand groundwater conditions and contributing factors for its depletion.

#### ➤ Technological Setup:

- Piezometers, specialized sensing devices, will measure groundwater pressure and humidity across a radius of **1,000 meters per unit**.
- The system will provide 24/7 monitoring, allowing for online data tracking. This technology, developed by **APCOS Limited (formerly Water and Power Consultancy Services)**, falls under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

### Piezometer

- A piezometer is a tube with an open bottom that measures the pressure of groundwater or the pressure of a body of water against the sides of its container.
  - The word piezometer comes from the Greek prefix piezo-, meaning “pressure,” and the root meter, meaning “to measure”.



## Haryana's Electoral History

### Why in News?

Haryana, a small yet politically significant state, has a history of frequent **political defections**, and its electoral landscape is influenced by key families and caste dynamics.

Note:



### Key Points

- Birth of Haryana (1966):
  - Haryana was carved out of undivided Punjab on **November 1, 1966**.
  - **Bhagwat Dayal Sharma**, a former Labour Minister of Punjab, was appointed the **first CM**.
  - Initially, Haryana had 54 seats, increased to **81 in 1967, and 90 by 1977**.
- Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram Phenomenon (1967):
  - **Origin of Expression:** Gaya Lal, an Independent MLA, switched parties multiple times in a single day.
  - **Impact:** The term “**Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram**” became a popular descriptor for political turncoats in India.
- Political Dominance of Key Leaders:
  - **Bansi Lal (1968-1975):** A Jat leader from Bhiwani, Bansi Lal held power until the **Emergency**.
  - **Devi Lal (1977):** Led Janata Party to victory post-Emergency; ousted by Bhajan Lal in 1979.
  - **Bhajan Lal’s Influence (1980-1982):** Aligned with Indira Gandhi’s Congress, stayed in power despite frequent party shifts.
  - **Lok Dal Dominance:** Devi Lal’s Lok Dal, in alliance with BJP, gained a majority in 1987.
  - **V P Singh Era:** Devi Lal supported V P Singh’s anti-corruption campaign, becoming Deputy PM, with son Om Prakash Chautala taking over Haryana.
  - **Chautala’s Multiple Terms:** Om Prakash Chautala served as CM multiple times between 1989 and 1991.
  - **Hooda’s Era (2005-2014):** Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Congress led the government, focusing on the Rohtak region.
  - **BJP’s Rise (2014):** BJP won 47 seats, making Manohar Lal Khattar the first non-Jat CM of Haryana.
- Current Political Landscape (2024):
  - Rural-Urban Divide:
    - **Urban Regions:** Gurugram, Faridabad, Panipat have more industry and non-farming sectors.
    - **Rural Belt:** Central and southern areas like Rewari, Jind, Bhiwani, dominated by farming, with significant Jat population.

- Jat Belt Concerns:
  - **Farmers’ Protests:** Resentment against farm laws, later repealed.
  - **Agniveer Scheme:** Concerns about job security for soldiers.
  - **Wrestlers’ Protest:** Anger over sexual harassment allegations against a BJP leader.
  - **Unemployment:** Youth dissatisfied with job opportunities.
- Urban Regions: Focus on infrastructure, employment, and governance.
- Caste Dynamics:
  - **OBC Influence:** Both BJP and Congress are courting OBC voters; Congress proposes a caste census and enhanced reservation limits.
  - **Jat-Dalit Coalition:** Congress is attempting to bridge historical divides between Jats and Dalits for electoral gains.

## Shaheedi Diwas in Haryana

### Why in News?

**Shaheedi Diwas** was observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2024 in Haryana to honor the martyrs, particularly freedom fighter **Rao Tula Ram**, who sacrificed their lives for India’s independence.

### Key Points

- Public Holiday Announcement:
  - Haryana government declared a public holiday **on Shaheedi Diwas**. All government and private schools, colleges, and coaching centres across the state will remain closed for the day.
- Historical Significance:
  - Shaheedi Diwas commemorates the death anniversary of freedom fighter **Rao Tula Ram, a leader in the Revolt of 1857**.
  - The day is observed in memory of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation, **especially during India’s First War of Independence**.

Note:



**Revolt of 1857**

- The Revolt of 1857 began on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 1857 in Meerut but it reached **Ambala Cantt of Haryana on 13th May, 1857** and led a Sepoy Mutiny in Gurugram, where the Collector William Ford faced opposition from the sepoys.
  - **Rao Tula Ram in Ahirwal, Gaffur Ali and Harsukh Rai in Palwal, Dhanu Singh in Faridabad, Nahar Singh in Ballabgarh** etc. were the important leaders of revolt in Haryana.
  - Many battles were fought by the rulers of the states and by the farmers also, sometimes defeating the British army. Some most important battles were fought at Sirsa, Sonipat, **Rohtak and Hissar. In Sirsa the famous battle of Chormar was fought.**



Note:



