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(CONSOLIDATION)

## HARYANA

**NOVEMBER  
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## National Gopal Ratna Awards

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** announced the winners of the **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2024** under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**.

- It is one of the highest honours in the livestock and dairy sector and is presented on **National Milk Day (26th November 2024)**.

### Key Points

- **Objective of the Awards:**
  - The NGRA aims to recognize and encourage contributions to animal husbandry and dairying.
- **Award Categories:**
  - Best dairy farmer rearing **indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds**,
  - Best **Artificial Insemination** Technician (AIT)
  - Best dairy cooperative/ milk producer company/ dairy farmer producer organisation.
- Special Awards for the North Eastern Region (NER) were introduced in 2024.
- **Special Recognition for North Eastern Region (NER):**
  - From 2024 onwards, a special award is included for the North Eastern Region (NER) in all three categories to boost dairy development activities in the region.
- **First Rank Winner of each category is:**
  - **Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds-** Smt. Renu, Jhajjar, Haryana.
  - **Best Dairy Cooperative society/Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organization-** The Gabat Milk Producers Cooperative Society Limited, Aravali, Gujarat.
  - **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)-** Shri Bhaskar Pradhan, Subarnapur, Odisha.
- **Background on Livestock Sector:**
  - The livestock sector contributes one-third to the agriculture and allied sector's **Gross Value Added (GVA)** and has a **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** of over 8%.
  - It plays a **vital role in enhancing farmer income, especially for landless, small, and marginal**

farmers, and women and providing affordable and nutritious food.

### Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- Launched in December 2014 under the **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**.
- NPBBDD have Two Components:
  - **National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB):** Conservation and development of recognized indigenous breeds.
  - **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD):** Creating infrastructure related to production, procurement, processing and marketing by milk unions/federations.
- **Objectives:**
  - Conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds.
  - Improving the productivity of indigenous breeds to maximize their economic contribution.

## 'Green Voice' Award

### Why in News?

Recently, Former superintending engineer Shiv Singh Rawat at Haryana Irrigation Department has been honoured with the **'Green Voice' award** by the **Navjyoti India Foundation, an Non-governmental Organizations (NGO)**, for his contribution in promoting **sustainable environmental practices** in the region.

### Key Points

- The award was presented at the **foundation day of the Navjyoti India Foundation**, an organization actively working on **water conservation** across India.
- Shiv Singh Rawat highlighted his years of involvement in **social work**, focusing on critical areas such as:
  - Water conservation and **environmental protection**.
  - Fruit plantation drives.
  - Enhancing education and healthcare facilities.
  - Promoting **women empowerment**.
- **Regional Contributions:**
  - His work spans multiple regions, including Palwal, Gurgaon, Mewat, and Faridabad.
- He also served as the coordinator of the **'Yamuna Bachao Abhiyan'** raising awareness about the preservation and **conservation of water** in the region.

Note:



# DEVELOPMENTAL GROUPS IN INDIA

## Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- ↳ Self-governed peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic backgrounds and interests
  - ↳ Members allowed: 5-20 | Registration not required
  - ↳ SHGs use savings amounts for giving loans to members
- ↳ **NABARD's SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (1992)** - To connect SHGs with formal banking institutions
- ↳ ~88% of SHGs in India have all-women members
- ↳ **Success Stories:**
  - ↳ Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) since 1972
  - ↳ Kudumbashree (1998) in Kerala

## Cooperative Societies

- ↳ **People-centred** enterprises, owned, controlled, and run by and for their members.
  - ↳ Capital raised through shared contributions from members.
- ↳ **Regulating Acts:**
  - ↳ Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002
  - ↳ State Cooperative Societies Acts
- ↳ **97th Constitutional Amendment (2011):**
  - ↳ Right to form cooperatives - a fundamental right (Article 19(1)(c))
  - ↳ Article 43B (DPSP) - Promotion of Cooperatives
  - ↳ Part IX-B titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- ↳ **Examples:** AMUL, IFFCO and PACS

## Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

- ↳ Pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development
- ↳ **Registered as:**
  - ↳ **Societies:** Societies Registration Act, 1860
  - ↳ **Trusts:** Indian Trusts Act, 1882
  - ↳ **Companies:** Section 8 Companies Act, 2013
- ↳ **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - ↳ **Article 19(1)(c)**
  - ↳ **Article 43**
  - ↳ **Concurrent List mentions** Charities and charitable institutions

*FCRA mandates registration for all NGOs intending to receive foreign donations.*

### ↳ Prominent NGOs:

- ↳ **NGO Pratham:** Pioneered the **ASER report** to assess the learning levels of children in rural India.
- ↳ **Akshaya Patra Foundation:** Provided nutritious mid-day meals to school children.

*NGO-DARPAN Platform - An interface between NGOs and Government Bodies.*



## Haryana Farmers Face Fertilizer Shortfall

### Why in News?

Haryana, a state pivotal to India's agricultural economy, is facing an escalating crisis of fertilizer shortage and penalty for **stubble burning**.

- It highlights the **challenges of governance, rural distress**, and the delicate balance between policy implementation and farmers' welfare.

Note:

### Key Points

- Fertilizer Shortages:
  - Despite government denials at both the state and central levels, Haryana has witnessed acute shortages of **diammonium phosphate (DAP)**, a crucial fertilizer for the **Rabi season**.
- Shortfall in Supply:
  - A **38%** gap between assessed requirements and availability in October 2024, exacerbated by reduced imports despite stable global DAP prices.
- Dependence on Imports:
  - India's heavy reliance on imported fertilizers and raw materials like **phosphoric acid** has made the sector vulnerable to global price volatility and monopolies.
- Policy Gaps:
  - The introduction of **Point of Sale machines** to regulate **fertilizer distribution** has inadvertently restricted access, forcing many farmers to resort to black markets.
- Stubble Burning:
  - **Stubble burning**, a seasonal practice by farmers to clear fields for **Rabi sowing**, has drawn severe criticism for its contribution to **air pollution**, particularly in the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.
    - The Haryana government, following central directives, has imposed hefty fines and introduced "red entries" in farm records to penalize offenders.
- Related Challenges:
  - **Farmer Resistance:** Farmers argue that stubble burning is a necessity in the absence of viable alternatives.
    - **Penalties, FIRs, and blacklisting of crops** for procurement have fueled resentment.
  - **Disproportionate Blame:** While stubble burning is a contributor to air pollution, farmers feel unfairly targeted compared to other sources like construction and industrial emissions.
  - **Policy Contradictions:** Despite previous assurances of no criminal liability, the government has intensified **punitive measures**, creating distrust among the farming community.
  - **Broader Agrarian Distress:** The twin crises of **fertilizer shortages** and **stubble burning penalties**

reflect deeper systemic issues in Haryana's agricultural governance.

- Farmers also face challenges such as black-marketing of fertilizers, irregularities in mandi procurement processes, and inadequate support for tenant farmers.

### Way Forward:

- The issue calls for comprehensive strategies such as **promoting stubble management technologies** and incentivizing alternatives rather than punitive measures alone.
- There is a need for better coordination between environmental objectives and agricultural realities.
- Ensuring timely availability of essential inputs like fertilizers through robust procurement, storage, and distribution mechanisms.
- Developing farmer-friendly alternatives to stubble burning and providing adequate subsidies for technological interventions.
- Reducing dependency on imports through investments in domestic production of fertilizers and raw materials.

## Bima Sakhi

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India will visit **Panipat on 9th December 2024** to launch the '**Bima Sakhi**' scheme for women. Notably, he had also launched the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' campaign from Panipat on 22nd January 2015.

### Key Points

- The Chief Minister of Haryana visited the area to inspect arrangements for the upcoming event, coordinated by the district administration.
  - It was highlighted that the programme would deliver a **strong message of women empowerment**.
  - He credited the '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' campaign, launched in Panipat, with saving the lives of lakhs of girl children.
- Launch of 'Bima Sakhi' Scheme:
  - The Chief Minister announced that the Prime Minister would launch the 'Bima Sakhi' scheme, **aimed at empowering and benefiting women across the state**.

Note:



### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

- **About:**
  - The Scheme was **launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January 2015** to address the declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
  - It is a **Tri-ministerial effort** of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MH&FW), and Ministry of Education.
- **Main Objectives:**
  - Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
  - Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
  - Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
  - Protecting rights of Girl children.
- **Innovative Interventions under BBBP:** Innovations that have created a positive ecosystem/ enabling environment for girls include:
  - **Guddi-Gudda Boards:** Display of Birth Statistics (number of Girls born vis-à-vis number of Boys) in public. Example: Jalgaon district, Maharashtra has installed digital Guddi-Gudda Display Boards.
  - **Breaking Gender Stereotypes & Challenging Son-centric Rituals:** Celebration of birth of the girl child, dedicating special day on value of girl child, **plantation drives** symbolizing nurturing and care for girl child. Example: Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), Selfie with Daughters (Jind district, Haryana).

## Debris in Gurugram's Green Belt

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG)** faces backlash for dumping garbage and debris from the **Gurgaon-Faridabad highway** into the **ecologically sensitive green belt of Baliwas village** in the **Aravalli forest**.

### Key Points

- **Importance of the Green Belt:**
  - The green belt is **vital for groundwater recharge, agriculture, recreation, and houses the revered Hill of Devta temple**, intensifying local opposition.

- Environmentalists highlight the **area's role in preventing desertification and maintaining the balance** of the **Aravalli forest ecosystem**.

### Concerns:

- Baliwas residents fear being trapped between the Bandhwari waste dump and the new dumping site.
- Environmentalists caution that **continued dumping could lead to irreversible ecological damage**, affecting soil quality, biodiversity, and groundwater recharge.

### Government and Administrative Response:

- **Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)** plans to inspect the site, raising hopes for stricter enforcement.
- The MCG Commissioner promised action, forming a dedicated team to assess the situation and recommending strict measures against violators to protect the green belt.

### Aravallis

#### ➤ About:

- The Aravalli Range extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, 692 km in length and varies between 10 to 120 km in width.
  - The range acts as a natural green wall, **with 80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat**.
- The Aravalli mountains are divided into two main ranges **the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan**, where their extension is about 560 km.
- It serves as an **ecotone** between the **Thar Desert and the Gangetic Plain**.
  - Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet**.
- **Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters.
- **Significance of Aravallis:**
  - The Aravallis **prevent the Thar Desert from encroaching** on the Indo-Gangetic plains, historically serving as a catchment for rivers and plains.

Note:



- The range **supports 300 native plant species, 120 bird species**, and exclusive animals like jackals and mongooses.
- During **monsoons**, the Aravallis **direct monsoon clouds eastward**, benefiting sub-Himalayan rivers and North Indian plains. In winter, they **shield fertile valleys from cold westerly winds**.
- The range **aids in groundwater replenishment** by absorbing rainwater, thus reviving groundwater levels.
- The Aravallis act as the **“lungs” for Delhi-NCR**, mitigating some effects of the **region’s severe air pollution**.

## Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024

### Why in News?

The Haryana government launched the ‘**Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024**’ to recognize and reward employees for **innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state**.

### Key Points

- **Objective of the Scheme:**
  - The scheme **aims to promote excellence in governance** by recognizing and rewarding employees for innovative practices and exceptional efforts that enhance governance across the state.
- **State-Level Awards:**
  - **Flagship Scheme Awards:**
    - Teams working on flagship projects will be rewarded with a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Chief Secretary.
      - A cash prize of Rs 51,000, shared equally among team members.
    - Maximum of **six awards will be given** in this category.
  - **General State-Level Awards:**
    - Given to teams demonstrating **high performance in governance initiatives**.

- A trophy and certificate of appreciation, added to recipients’ service records.
  - Cash prizes:
    - ◆ Rs 51,000 for first prize.
    - ◆ Rs 31,000 for second prize.
    - ◆ Rs 21,000 for third prize.
- Cash rewards will be equally distributed among team members.
- **District-Level Awards:**
  - Presented by the Deputy Commissioner of each district.
  - Rewards included a trophy, an appreciation certificate signed by the Divisional Commissioner.
  - Cash prizes:
    - Rs 31,000 for first prize.
    - Rs 21,000 for second prize.
    - Rs 11,000 for third prize.

### Good Governance Day:

- The awards align with **Good Governance Day**, celebrated annually on **25th December**.

### Good Governance

#### About:

- **Governance** refers to the **processes, systems, and structures** through which organizations, societies, or groups are **directed, controlled, and managed**.
  - **Good governance** is defined as **a set of values through which a public institution conducts public affairs and manages public resources** in a way that respects human rights, the rule of law, and the needs of society.
- The **World Bank** defines good governance in terms of the **traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised**. This includes:
  - the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced
  - the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies
  - the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them.

Note:

### ➤ Basic Principles of Good Governance:



## **Bills Passed in Haryana Assembly**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, Haryana Assembly has passed various bills including **Haryana lease of agricultural land Bill 2024**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Haryana amendment) Bill 2024**, **Haryana Appropriation (number 3) Bill 2024**, **Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024**.

### **Key Points**

#### ➤ **Haryana Lease of Agricultural Land Bill 2024:**

- **Objective:** Establishes a **framework for legalizing agricultural land leases to protect landowners' rights** and optimize land use.
- **Issues:**
  - Landowners **avoid written lease agreements due to fears of lessees demanding occupancy rights.**

- **Non-written leases prevent lessees from accessing relief** during natural calamities or securing crop loans.

#### ○ **Expected Impact:**

- Encourages **formal lease agreements** to benefit both landowners and lessees.
- **Aims to boost agricultural productivity** by reducing barren land.

#### ➤ **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Haryana Amendment) Bill 2024:**

##### ○ **Amendments to Section 23:**

- **Section 23 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** outlines the **sentencing authority of different magistrates.**

- It specifies the types and limits of sentences that can be imposed by first-class, second-class, and Chief Judicial Magistrates.

- Increased maximum fine for first-class magistrates from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh under **Section 23(2)**.

- Raised fine limit under Section 23(3) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh.

- Higher fines align with cases under Acts like **the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881** where cheque amounts exceed previous limits.

- Enhanced penalties are consistent with revised traffic fines under **the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

- **Objective:** Strengthens deterrence and aligns fine limits with current economic realities.

#### ➤ **Haryana Appropriation (Number 3) Bill 2024:**

- **Purpose:** Authorizes **additional payment and appropriation from the state's consolidated fund for services** in the financial year ending 31st March 2025.

#### ➤ **Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024:**

- **Basis:** Reflects recommendations of the GST Council and amendments to the **Central GST Act, 2017** under **the Finance Act, 2024**.

- **Objective:** Ensures uniformity and alignment with national GST regulations to enhance tax governance.

Note:



# BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA (BNSS), 2023

**BNSS replaces CrPC 1973 and consists of 531 sections with 177 sections revised, 9 new sections added, and 14 sections repealed.**



## Key Provisions

- ⌵ **Hierarchy of Courts:** Eliminated distinction and role of Metropolitan Magistrates
- ⌵ **Mandated Use of Electronic Mode:** At stages of investigation, inquiry, and trial
- ⌵ **Detention of Undertrials:** Restriction on release on personal bond for accused persons (a) charged with life imprisonment or (b) facing multiple proceedings
- ⌵ **Alternative to Arrest:** An accused doesn't have to be arrested; instead, the police can take a security bond for their appearance before a Judicial Magistrate
- ⌵ **Community Service Defined:** 'Work which the Court may order a convict to perform as a form of punishment that benefits the community, for which he shall not be entitled to any remuneration'
- ⌵ **Substitution of Terminology:** "Mental illness" replaced by "unsoundness of mind" in majority of provisions
- ⌵ **Documentation Protocols:** Searches with/without warrants require mandatory audio-video documentation with recorded material promptly submitted to Magistrate
- ⌵ **Timelines for Procedures:** Prescribes timelines for various procedures
  - E.g. Issuing verdict within 30 days post-argument
- ⌵ **Medical Examination:** Can be requested by any police officer in certain cases
- ⌵ **Sample Collection:** Magistrate can compel individuals to submit signature specimens, handwriting samples etc. even if they haven't been arrested
- ⌵ **Forensic Investigation:** Mandated for offences punishable with  $\geq 7$  years of imprisonment
- ⌵ **New Procedures w.r.t. FIR Registration:**
  - After filing a **Zero FIR**, relevant police station must transfer it to the jurisdictionally appropriate station for further investigation
  - **FIRs can be electronically registered**, and the information will be officially recorded upon the person's signature within 3 days
- ⌵ **Rights of Victim/Informant:**
  - Police after filing charge sheet obligated to supply police report and other documents to victim
  - Witness protection scheme to be laid down by State Governments



## Key Issues

- ⌵ **Permitted 15 days of police custody** within initial 40 or 60 days
- ⌵ **Doesn't mandate investigating officer to provide reasons** when seeking police custody
- ⌵ **Allows use of handcuffs during arrests**, contradicting SC rulings and NHRC guidelines
- ⌵ Scope of **mandatory bail limited** in case of multiple charges
- ⌵ **Limits plea bargaining in India** to sentence bargaining
- ⌵ Restricting bail, and limiting scope for plea bargaining could **deter decongesting of prisons**
- ⌵ **Power to seize property expanded** to immovable property apart from movable property
- ⌵ Several provisions **overlap** with existing laws
- ⌵ **BNSS retains CrPC provisions** related to public order, raising the question of whether laws governing trial procedure and public order maintenance should be unified or treated separately, considering their distinct functions



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Note:



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## Gurugram AQI Recorded 402

### Why in News?

According to the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** in Gurugram district reached the 'severe' category registering 402.

### Key Points

- Other places like Sonapat (390), Dharuhera (377), Jind (358), Charkhi Dadri (351), Bahadurgarh (347), Manesar (345), Faridabad (320), Hisar (317), Narnaul (310), Sirsa (309) and Panipat (303) were in the 'very poor' category.
- Air Quality Index:
  - AQI is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand.
  - **Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR** has been prepared for implementation under different AQI categories.
  - AQI has been developed for **eight pollutants** viz. **PM2.5, PM10, Ammonia, Lead, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and carbon monoxide.**

### Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It was **constituted in 1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- CPCB was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.**
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate change** of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

## Air Pollutants

### Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

**Impact:** Causes respiratory problems.

### Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NOx and VOC) under the action of the sun.

**Impact:** Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

### Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

**Impact:** Chronic lung disease.

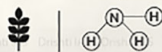
### Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

**Impact:** Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

### Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

**Impact:** Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

### Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

**Impact:** Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

### Particulate Matter (PM)



**PM10:** Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

**PM2.5:** Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

**Source:** Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

**Impact:** Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

*Note: These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.*



Note:

## International Gita Fest

### Why in News?

Recently, the **11-day 'Gita Quiz,'** was launched as part of the **International Gita Mahotsav 2024 (IGM)** celebrations. The competition has daily five questions related to the **Gita, and Mahabharata.** **Odisha** is the **partner state for IGM 2024.**

### Key Points

- **Objectives of the Gita Quiz:**
  - The quiz aims to **educate people**, especially the youth, about the **Gita and Mahabharata.**
  - Participants are encouraged to pick up the holy books and explore answers, fostering discussions and awareness.
  - The **quiz serves as an orientation course for devotees and pilgrims before the main mahotsav begins.**
- **Competition Format and Rewards:**
  - The quiz has two categories public and student.
    - Each day, 20 winners from each category will receive Rs 500 each.
  - At the end of the quiz, 25 winners from each category will receive Rs 1,000 each, with 10 winners from Haryana, 10 from other states, and 5 from Odisha, in the IGM 2024.
  - Top motivators will also be **awarded monetary prizes and certificates of excellence.**
- **Focus on School Students and Quality Questions:**
  - School-going children form a significant portion of participants.
  - The number of daily winners has been doubled to encourage participation, while the quality of questions is being improved.

### International Gita Mahotsav 2024 (IGM)

- The celebration **fosters a moral and cultural resurgence**, offering relevance in today's challenging times.
- The **festival aims to enlighten people through the timeless teachings of the Bhagavad Gita**, often referred to as the **"song celestial."**
- **History of the Festival:**
  - The Gita Mahotsav has been **celebrated in Kurukshetra, Haryana, since 1989**, under the joint efforts of the Haryana Government and the Kurukshetra Development Board.
- **International Recognition:**
  - **In 2016**, Haryana declared the celebration as the **International Gita Mahotsav, drawing over two million visitors to Kurukshetra.**

### Highlights of Recent Celebrations:

- Participation of **international artists and craftsmen.**
- **Large craft fairs and exhibitions** by religious and spiritual organizations.
- Indian and foreign scholars attended a seminar on the Gita organized by Kurukshetra University.
- **Global chanting of the Gita** by 18,000 students.
- Gita Sobha Yatra, food stalls from various Indian regions, and a **grand craft mela.**

### Cultural and Spiritual Impact:

- The festival **promotes cultural exchange and spirituality, attracting global audiences** and enhancing its popularity each year.
- Through its diverse programs, the Gita Mahotsav unites people across regions and nations, celebrating the essence of the **Bhagavad Gita.**

## Sukhna Lake Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

### Why in News?

Recently, **The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, declared an area from 1 km to 2.035 km around the **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** in Panchkula district, Haryana for the purpose of **preventing, controlling and abating environment pollution.**

### Key Points

- The **total area of the ESZ** covers a total of **24.60 sq km.**
- **Prohibited and Regulated Activities in ESZ:**
  - Activities are regulated under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
  - **Prohibited Activities:**
    - Commercial **mining, stone quarrying**, crushing units, and new sawmills.
    - Establishing industries causing **pollution** (water, air, soil, noise).
    - Use or **production of hazardous substances** and commercial use of **firewood.**
    - **Discharge of untreated effluents** into natural water bodies or land areas.
- **About Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary:**
  - The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over **25.98 square km** (about 6420 acres), is **under the administrative control of the Union territory of Chandigarh** and shares its **boundaries with Haryana and Punjab.**

Note:



- The sanctuary is located in the **Shivalik foothills**, which are considered ecologically sensitive and geologically unstable.
- It is home to at least **seven Schedule 1 animal species of the Wildlife Act, 1972**, including **leopard, Indian pangolin, sambar, golden jackal, king cobra, python, and monitor lizard**.
  - The **Schedule 1** species are considered endangered and in need of immediate protection.
- Besides, there are **Schedule 2** animal species like reptiles, butterflies, trees, shrubs, climbers, herbs, and 250 bird species that inhabit the sanctuary.
  - **In 2020**, the Punjab and Haryana High Court **declared Sukhna Lake a “living entity”** and directed the Environment Ministry to establish at least a 1 km ESZ from the sanctuary’s boundary in Punjab and Haryana.



Note:



### Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

- The **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** under the **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- While the **10-km rule is implemented as a general principle**, the extent of its application can vary. **Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs**, if they hold larger ecologically important **"sensitive corridors"**.

## New SC Reservation Categories in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Haryana implemented **sub-classification within the Scheduled Castes (SC)** for reservation in government jobs.

### Key Points

- Supreme Court Ruling on SC Sub-Classification:
  - On 1st August 2024, the **Supreme Court** ruled that **states have the constitutional authority to create sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes (SC) category**, acknowledging its social diversity.
  - Following the ruling, the **Haryana government approved** the SC sub-classification in its first cabinet meeting.
- Sub-Divisions in Haryana:
  - The **Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes** recommended dividing SC reservations into **two categories**:
    - **Deprived Scheduled Castes (DSC):** It includes **36 castes**, such as Dhanaks, Balmikis, Mazhabi Sikhs, and Khatiks, which would receive **50%** of the SC reservation quota in jobs due to inadequate representation.
    - **Other Scheduled Castes (OSC):** It includes castes like Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi, Jatav, Mochi, and Ramdasia.
- Educational Quota for DSC in Haryana:
  - In 2020, Haryana enacted the **Scheduled Castes (Reservation in Admission in Educational Institutions) Act**, reserving **50% of SC seats in higher education institutions for the DSC category**.

## Haryana Records Lowest Sex Ratio

### Why in News?

According to the Haryana government, the **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** of Haryana, infamous for **female foeticide**, has reached its lowest level in eight years.

### Key Points

- Decline in Sex Ratio in Haryana:
  - The sex ratio in Haryana was recorded at **905 for the first 10 months of 2024**, which is a drop of **11 points from 2022**.
  - This is one of the **lowest figures since 2016**, indicating a persistent challenge for the state.
  - **Districts with Lowest Sex Ratios**:
    - Gurugram: 859
    - Rewari: 868
    - Charkhi Dadri: 873
    - Rohtak: 880
    - Panipat: 890
    - Mahendragarh: 896
  - Haryana remains **below the World Health Organization's recommended ideal sex ratio of 950**.
  - Gurugram's poor performance was partially attributed to **technical issues on the state portal during June to August 2024, resulting in fewer birth registrations**.
- Impact of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign:
  - The **"Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign**, launched in 2015, initially raised the sex ratio to **923 by 2019**.
    - However, a **decline began again in 2020**, with the trend continuing to the present.
- Societal and Cultural Challenges:
  - There remains a **preference for sons in Haryana**, driven by socio-economic factors and cultural norms.
  - Families fear potential dishonor from daughters eloping, consider dowry burdens, and see limited economic returns from girls.
- Cross-State Impact of Gender Preference:
  - **Neighboring states** like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan reportedly **attract Haryana residents for illegal gender-based abortions** due to less stringent regulations.

Note:

- Ultrasound operators in these states sometimes misreport fetal gender for financial gain.

#### ➤ Enforcement and Challenges in Gender Testing:

- Since 2005, Haryana has conducted around 1,200 raids to **curb illegal gender determination**, but success rates are falling as practitioners become more cautious.

#### ➤ Social Consequences of Gender Imbalance:

- Due to a skewed sex ratio, many men in **Haryana struggle to find marriage partners**, with some villages reporting hundreds of unmarried men.
- In some families, **neglect and malnutrition** disproportionately affect girls, leading to health issues or early death.

#### Female Infanticide and Foeticide:

- India has **one of the highest rates** of female foeticide in the world.
- Female foeticide is due to strong **son preference, the practice of dowry and the patrilineal necessity of heir**.
- The **census of 2011** has recorded the lowest ever sex ratio of 914 in the age group 0-6 years with 3 million missing girls; from 78.8 million in 2001 to 75.8 million in 2011.

## Global Recognition for ICAR-NRC Equine

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has facilitated the designation of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar (ICAR-NRC Equine)** as a **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Reference Laboratory for Equine Piroplasmiasis**.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Equine Piroplasmiasis:

- Equine piroplasmiasis, **caused by the tick-borne protozoan parasites *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi***, affects **horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras**, posing serious health and economic challenges.

- The disease shows a seroprevalence of 15-25% in India, with up to **40% in high-risk areas**, causing economic losses due to health impacts, productivity decline, and trade restrictions.

- NRC Equine has developed advanced diagnostic tools for equine piroplasmiasis, including **ELISA, Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Test, Competitive ELISA, blood smear examination, MASP in-vitro culture system, and PCR for antigen detection**.

#### ➤ Equine Population in India:

- As per the **20th Livestock Census**, India has approximately **0.55 million equines (horses, ponies, donkeys, mules)** contributing to livelihoods and various industries.
  - Out of which 0.34 million are horses and ponies, 0.12 million are donkeys, and 0.08 million are mules, with **major populations in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana**.

#### ➤ NRC Equine's Role as a WOAH Reference Laboratory:

- As a WOAH Reference Laboratory, NRC Equine will **collaborate globally, providing diagnostic services, sharing technical expertise, and advancing research on equine piroplasmiasis**.
- NRC Equine is now the **fourth Indian lab to achieve WOAH status**, joining labs recognized for **Avian Influenza, Rabies, PPR, and Leptospirosis**.

#### ➤ Formal Announcement:

- The official designation of ICAR-NRC Equine will be announced at the **92nd WOAH General Session and World Assembly of Delegates in May 2025**.
- This designation **strengthens India's diagnostic capabilities and international partnerships**, enhancing India's leadership in animal health, particularly in equine diseases.

#### World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

- Established as OIE, WOAH is a **standard-setting body recognized under the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**.
- It works to improve global animal health and is **headquartered in Paris, France**.
- WOAH had 183 member countries, including India.
- It creates guidelines, such as the **Terrestrial Animal Health Code**, to help countries prevent disease entry.
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** acknowledges WOAH standards as international sanitary guidelines.

Note:

## VINBAX 2024

### Why in News?

The 5th [Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise](#), "VINBAX 2024" commenced at Ambala, Haryana.



### Key Points

#### ➤ About VINBAX 2024:

- Expanded Scope with Bi-Service Participation:
  - For the first time, the exercise includes personnel from both Army and Air Force of India and Vietnam, increasing the scope of the exercise.
- Objective:
  - The exercise aims to build joint military capability, focusing on **deployment of Engineer and Medical teams** for [United Nations Peacekeeping Operations](#) under [Chapter VII](#).
- Validation Exercise:
  - A 48-hour validation exercise, including a [Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief \(HADR\)](#) demonstration and equipment display, will evaluate the contingents' technical capabilities under UN mission scenarios.
- Cultural Exchange:
  - The exercise also serves as a platform for troops from both nations to learn about each other's social and cultural heritage.

#### ➤ India and Vietnam:

- Both countries share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defence cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership. Vietnam is an important partner in [India's Act East policy](#) and the [Indo-Pacific vision](#).

Note:



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#### United Nations Peacekeeping

- UN Peacekeeping refers to the **activities carried out by the United Nations (UN) to help maintain or restore international peace and security** in conflict-affected areas.
  - Established to respond to the complex nature of conflicts and to support countries in transition from conflict to peace,
  - UN Peacekeeping operates under the **principles of consent, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defense** and defense of the mandate
  - Although the majority of peacekeepers are military or police, approximately 14% are civilians.

## Haryana Day, 2024

### Why in News?

**Haryana Day**, celebrated on **1<sup>st</sup> November** each year, commemorates the state's establishment in **1966**, when it was carved from Punjab.

### Key Points

- **Background:**
  - **Linguistic and Cultural Identity:** Haryana, culturally and linguistically distinct, sought autonomy from Punjab post-independence.
  - **Demand for Statehood:** Key leaders advocated for a Hindi-speaking state, emphasizing Haryana's cultural and linguistic uniqueness.

Note:



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- **Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966:** Enacted by the Indian **Parliament**, this was crucial in creating the states of Haryana and Punjab, as well as the **Union Territory of Chandigarh**.
- **Shah Commission (1966):** Formed under Justice **JC Shah**, it recommended specific boundaries based on **linguistic demographics**.
- **Recommendation:** Allocated regions to Haryana, including districts like **Hisar and Gurgaon**, aligning with the Hindi-speaking population.
- **Important Personalities:**
  - **Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma:** Haryana's first Chief Minister, he was a prominent advocate for statehood.
  - **Justice JC Shah:** Chaired the Shah Commission, crucial in delineating Haryana's boundaries.

#### Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966

- The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 separated parts of the state of Punjab to form new states and a union territory.
- **Haryana** a new state was formed from the Hindi-speaking areas of the state, including the districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Karnal, and Mahendragarh.
- **Himachal Pradesh** the mountainous regions of Punjab were merged with Himachal Pradesh, which was then a union territory. Himachal Pradesh became a state in 1971.
- **Chandigarh** the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, was made a union territory to serve as the provisional capital of both Punjab and Haryana.
- The Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 was passed by the Indian Parliament on **18<sup>th</sup> September, 1966**. It was the result of the Punjabi Suba movement, which sought to create a Punjabi-speaking state.

## New Chief Secretary in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, Vivek Joshi, a **1989-batch IAS officer**, has been appointed as the new **Chief Secretary** of Haryana, marking significant **administrative changes** in the state.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Roles and Responsibilities:

- Joshi will oversee departments including **general administration, human resources, personnel and training, parliamentary affairs, and vigilance**.
- He will also manage plan coordination as secretary in charge.

#### ➤ Background:

- Before this appointment, Joshi served as Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training, under the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensioners.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved his repatriation to the Haryana cadre at the state government's request on **26<sup>th</sup> October**.

- Until Joshi officially joins, Anurag Rastogi, the Haryana Additional Chief Secretary (Home), will handle the Chief Secretary responsibilities temporarily.

#### Chief Secretary of State

#### ➤ Appointment:

- The Chief Secretary is 'chosen' by the Chief Minister. As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is taken in the name of the Governor of the State.

#### ➤ Position:

- The post of Chief Secretary is the senior-most position in the civil services of the states and union territories of India.
- The position is a cadre post for the Indian Administrative Services.
- The Chief Secretary is the chief advisor to the Chief Minister in all matters of the cabinet.

#### ➤ Tenure:

- The office of Chief Secretary has been excluded from the operation of the tenure system. There is no fixed tenure for this post.

Note:



**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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