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## Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day

### Why in News?

Recently, The Haryana government has announced that July 31st will be a gazetted holiday in honor of Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day.

### **Key Points**

- Holiday Declaration: The Haryana government has declared **July 31st**, as a gazetted holiday to observe Shaheed Udham Singh Martyrdom Day.
- > School Closures: This declaration results in the closure of all government and private schools throughout the state, including in Gurgaon and Faridabad.
- > Public Holidays Announcement: In December of the previous year, the Haryana government announced the public holidays for 2024, which included the closure of all public offices, schools, and colleges on July 31, 2024, to honor Shaheed Udham Singh and other martyrs.
- > Significance of Shaheed Udham Singh: Shaheed Udham Singh is recognized for avenging the **Jallianwala Bagh** massacre by assassinating its mastermind, Michael O'Dwyer.

### **Udham Singh**

- Born in Sunam in Punjab's Sangrur district in 1899, also referred to as Shaheed-i-Azam Sardar Udham Singh which means 'Great Martyr'.
- He is regarded as one of the foremost revolutionaries of the Indian Freedom Struggle.
- Following the Jallianwala Massacre on 13th April **1919,** he got profoundly involved in revolutionary activities and politics. He was deeply influenced by **Bhagat Singh**.
- He joined the Ghadar Party in 1924 to organize overseas Indians with the purpose of overthrowing colonial rule.
- In 1927, while returning to India with associates and weapons to carry out revolutionary activities, he was arrested for illegal possession of firearms and sentenced to five years in prison.

- On 13th March, 1940, Singh shot Michael O'Dwyer instead of General Dyer at a meeting of the East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society at Caxton Hill.
- He was sentenced to death and was hanged on 31st July, 1940 at Pentonville Prison in London.

## Punjab, Gujarat, Haryana Lead in H1N1 Deaths

### Why in News?

Recently, Punjab, Gujarat, and Haryana have reported the highest number of H1N1 deaths in India, with 41, 27, and 26 deaths respectively.

### **Key Points**

- ➤ Total Cases: India has recorded over 7,000 H1N1 cases so far.
- Top States for Cases: Delhi (1,563), Gujarat (1,049), and Rajasthan (1,008) have the highest number of cases.
- Health Ministry Guidelines: The Health Ministry has issued guidelines on screening, categorization, laboratory diagnosis, infection control, home care, and clinical management.
- **Prevention Measures:** Public awareness campaigns emphasize hand washing, covering the mouth while coughing or sneezing, and avoiding crowded places.
- Vaccination: Vaccination is highlighted as the best preventive measure against influenza.

### **H1N1**

- > H1N1 influenza causes a respiratory illness that can affect the respiratory tracts of pigs.
- Humans are at risk of swine flu, a zoonotic disease, through close contact with infected pigs.
- Swine influenza viruses can infect humans if their antigenic properties change due to reassortment with other influenza strains.
- This genetic shift can improve the virus's ability to replicate and spread, making it easier for human transmission.
- Such changes have led to pandemics, as seen in 1918 and 2009, when the virus gained the ability for efficient human-to-human transmission.



## Weak Monsoon in Haryana

### Why in News?

According to the <u>India Meteorological Department</u>, due to weak monsoon Haryana may need to contemplate relief efforts for farmers who depend on <u>monsoon</u> rainfall and methods to alleviate water shortages.

### **Key Points**

- According to the data, Haryana ended in a deficit of 38% from its normal as the state recorded rainfall at 114.6mm.
- Monsoon conditions were in a "weak phase" through June and July in the region due to the delay in formation of <u>La Nina</u>, a phenomenon that typically brings favourable monsoon rainfall to the <u>Indian</u> subcontinent.
  - Rainfall in deficit zones is expected to improve with the formation of La Nina later in August or early September.
- A researcher from the <u>Center for Study of Science</u>, <u>Technology and Policy (CSTEP)</u> think-tank stated that another climate phenomenon known as the <u>Indian</u> <u>Ocean Dipole</u>, which impacts the waters in the Indian Ocean, is currently in a neutral phase.
  - A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) brings favorable rainfall during the monsoon season.
- In the event of lower-than-expected rainfall following the withdrawal of the monsoon season, experts have indicated that the government will need to implement contingency plans.
  - These plans may include providing additional support to farmers, ensuring the availability of water for irrigation purposes, and implementing other water conservation measures.

### La Nina

- La Nina means 'The Little Girl' in Spanish. It is also sometimes called El Viejo, anti-El Nino, or simply "a cold event."
- La Nina events represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific.
  - It is indicated by sea-surface temperature decreased by more than 0.9°F for at least five successive three-month seasons.

The La Nina event is observed when the water temperature in the Eastern Pacific gets comparatively colder than normal, as a consequence of which, there is a strong high pressure over the eastern equatorial Pacific.

### The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

- IOD, sometimes referred to as the Indian Nino, is similar to the El Nino phenomenon, occurring in the relatively smaller area of the Indian Ocean between the Indonesian and Malaysian coastline in the east and the African coastline near Somalia in the west.
  - The El Nino is the warmer-than-normal phase of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, during which there are generally warmer temperatures and less rainfall than normal in many regions of the world, including India.
- One side of the ocean, along the equator, gets warmer than the other.
- IOD is said to be positive when the western side of the Indian Ocean, near the Somalia coast, becomes warmer than the eastern Indian Ocean.
- It is negative when the western Indian Ocean is cooler.

# Manu Bhaker Wins Olympic Bronze

### Why in News?

Recently, Manu Bhaker who hails from Jhajjar, Haryana won a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event and bronze at 10m mixed team pistol event at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

She is the first Indian female shooter to win an Olympic medal.



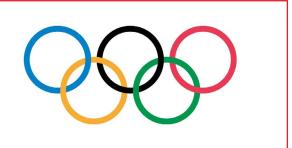


### **Key Points**

- Medal in 10m air pistol event is the first medal for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics and the first Olympic medal in shooting for India since the London 2012 Games.
  - She also won bronze at 10m mixed team pistol event along with Sarabjot Singh.
- She is the fifth Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal, following Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (2004 Athens), Abhinav Bindra (2008 Beijing), Vijay Kumar (2012 London), and Gagan Narang (2012 London).
- Manu has also won medals at <u>Asian Games</u> (2022), World Championship, Baku (2023), Asian Shooting Championship, Changwon (2023), World Cup, Bhopal (2023), World Championship, Cairo (2022), World University Games, Chengdu (2021) sports events.

### **Olympics**

- > About:
  - The Olympics are an international sporting event that takes place every four years.
    - The goals of the Olympics are to cultivate human beings through sport and contribute to world peace.
  - The Olympics include: Summer Games, Winter Games, Youth Olympics Games.
- > History and Origin:
  - Olympics trace their roots back around 3,000 years to Ancient Greece's Peloponnese region.
  - While the precise starting date remains uncertain,
     776 BC is a commonly mentioned year in historical records.
    - The first modern Olympics were held in Athens,
       Greece in 1896 based on the plan of Pierre de Coubertin.
- Olympic Rings:
  - The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings of different colors (blue, yellow, black, green, and red) on a white background.
  - These rings represent the five continents of the world and symbolize the unity and diversity of nations through sports.



### **Doctors Strike in Haryana**

### Why in News?

Recently, **Government doctors in Haryana** have commenced an **indefinite strike to protest against the non-fulfilment of their diverse demands**, disrupting services in State-run hospitals.

### **Key Points**

- The strike was initiated by the <u>Haryana Civil Medical</u>
  <u>Services Association</u>, an organization that represents government doctors in the state.
- The doctors are demanding the creation of a specialized department for them and a career advancement program that provides parity with their counterparts working for the Central government.
  - The other demands of the doctors include no direct recruitment of senior medical officers and reduction in the bond amount for postgraduate courses.
- > The State government has appealed to the body to consider the effect of the strike on patients.

## Status Quo at Shambhu Border

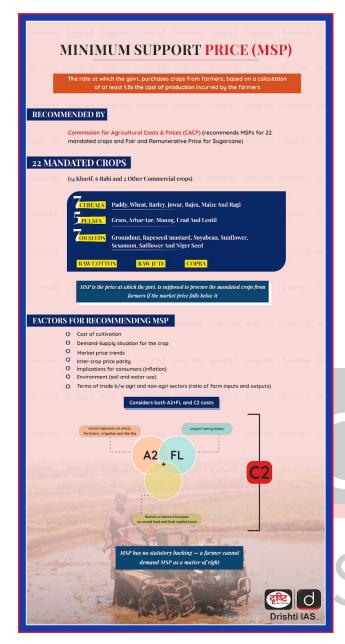
### Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court proposed to make an independent committee, comprising eminent persons, to reach out to the protesters at Shambhu border to find a solution to their demands.

#### **Kev Points**

The top court was addressing the Haryana government's plea challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's directive to remove, the barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala, within a week, where farmers have been camping since 13th February 2024.





- In February, the Haryana government set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi National Highway in response to plans by the <u>Samyukta</u> <u>Kisan Morcha</u> and <u>Kisan Mazdoor Morcha</u> to march to Delhi.
  - They were advocating for demands including a legal guarantee of <u>Minimum Support Price</u> (<u>MSP</u>) for crops.
- Since February, farmers have been stationed at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana after their march was halted by security forces.

# Haryana Big Move on Lal Dora Properties

### Why in News?

Recently, The **Haryana government** has launched a **comprehensive registry initiative** to resolve long-standing **issues related to Lal Dora properties** in urban areas.

Under the <u>Chief Minister Urban Body Ownership</u> <u>Scheme</u>, both property owners and long-term tenants are set to benefit.

### **Key Points**

- Lal Dora delineations were established in 1908 during British rule, marking areas outside formal settlements for agriculture.
  - These lands have been exempt from building bylaws and municipal regulations, but owners often faced challenges in proving ownership, hindering property transactions and access to financial services.
  - The state government implemented measures to free villages from Lal Dora restrictions, allowing occupants to obtain property rights.
- The <u>Svamitva Scheme</u> aims to streamline property ownership rights and boost economic activities in Lal Dora areas.
- The Chief Minister will distribute property certificates and registries to beneficiaries at a state-level function in Gurugram, marking a pivotal moment for urban development in Haryana.

#### Mukhymantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana

- > It is designed to give ownership of Commercial Land of Municipalities running on rent or lease for more than 20 years in the State.
- Under this Scheme, individuals who have been occupying the land for 20 years through rent or lease are being given Ownership Rights on payment of up to 80% of the Collector Rate.
- Similarly, according to the limit of years occupied by the land, the Collector Rate will have to be paid at different rates, such as 75% of the Collector Rate for 25 years, 70% for 30 years, 65% for 35 years, 60% for 40 years, 55% for 45 years. There is a provision to give Ownership Rights on payment of 50% for 50 years.



### **Svamitva Scheme**

- SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
- It is a <u>center sector scheme</u> which was <u>launched</u> nationally on the occasion of <u>National Panchayati</u> <u>Raj Day</u> on 24th April 2021.
- It aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.
- The demarcation of rural inhabited areas would be done using Drone survey and CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cm.
  - This would provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages.
- It will cover around 6.62 Lakh villages of the entire country during 2021-2025.

## Haryana Increases Agniveer Quota

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Haryana government** announced a **10% horizontal reservation to Agniveers** in recruitment for the posts of constable and forest guard, among others.

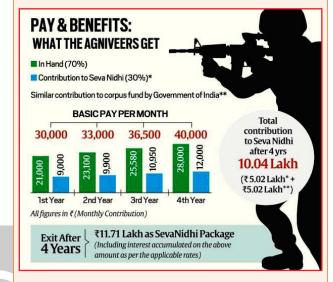
### **Key Points**

- Agniveers will receive 5% horizontal reservation in Group-C direct recruitments and 1% in Group-B direct recruitments for civil posts.
- Private establishments that pay Agniveers a monthly salary of 30,000 or more will receive an annual subsidy of 60,000 from the state government.
- An Agniveer starting a business will receive interest benefits on loans up to 5 lakh.
- Agniveers will be prioritized for arms licenses and employment in government departments/boards/ corporations.

### **Agnipath Scheme**

- About:
  - It allows patriotic and motivated youth to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of four years.
  - Under this scheme, the youth joining the army will be called Agniveer. Youth will be able to be recruited into the army for a short duration.

- Under the new scheme, around 45,000 to 50,000 soldiers will be recruited annually, and most will leave the service in just four years.
- However, after four years, only 25% of the batch will be recruited back into their respective services, for a period of 15 years.



### Eligibility Criteria:

- It is only for personnel below officer ranks (those who do not join the forces as commissioned officers).
  - Commissioned officers are the army's highest ranked officers.
  - Commissioned officers hold an exclusive rank in the Indian armed forces. They often hold a commission under the president's sovereign power and are officially instructed to protect the country.
- Aspirants between the ages of 17.5 years and 23 years will be eligible to apply.

# Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

### Why in News?

Recently, **Asia's first pre-clinical network facility for health research** was established at the **Regional Centre of Biotechnology.** 

It is under the <u>Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI)</u> in Faridabad, as part of the <u>Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations</u> (CEPI).



### **Key Points**

- CEPI has selected BRIC-THSTI as a pre-clinical network laboratory based on its capability to handle <u>BSL3</u> <u>pathogens</u>.
  - It is the **9th network laboratory** and will be the first in Asia, joining others in the USA, Europe, and Australia.
  - The Animal Facility is one of the largest in the country, housing about 75,000 mice as well as immune compromised mice, rats, rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs.
- The "Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge-HuMic) Facility" was also inaugurated to act as a "repository" for providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for research and development.
  - The facility will function as a Nodal Resource Center to facilitate collaborations between academic institutions, hospitals, and industry at national and international levels.
  - It will also store genetically characterized specific pathogen-free animals, including cryopreserved embryos and sperm, for researchers in the country.

## Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation (CEPI)

- CEPI is a global partnership launched in 2017 to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.
- CEPI was founded in Davos (Switzerland) by the governments of Norway and India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and the World Economic Forum.
- The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, and Government of India has been implementing the <u>IndCEPI mission</u> 'India Centric Epidemic Preparedness through Rapid Vaccine Development: Supporting Indian Vaccine Development'.
  - o The objectives of this mission are aligned with that of CEPI and aims to strengthen the development of vaccines and associated competencies/technologies for the diseases of epidemic potential in India.

## Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)

- It is an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It is located in Faridabad (Haryana).

### **Biosafety Levels (BSL)**

- BSL is used to identify the protective measures needed in a laboratory setting to protect workers, the environment, and the public.
- Activities and projects conducted in biological laboratories are categorized by biosafety level.
- The four biosafety levels are BSL-1, BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-4, with BSL-4 being the highest (maximum) level of containment.

## Haryana Adds New OBC Quota

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana Government hiked the creamy layer ceiling for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from an annual income of ₹6 lakh to ₹8 lakh. Also introduced a 5% quota for the OBC-B category in Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities.

### **Key Points**

- > OBCs in Haryana are estimated at around 40% of the State's population and comprise 78 castes.
- The 5% reservation for the OBC-B category would be in addition to the 8% quota for the OBC-A category already in force.

### **Other Backward Class (OBC)**

- The term OBC includes all classes of citizens who are socially and educationally backwards.
- Supreme Court concluded that in order to identify OBC's, the principle of exclusion of creamy layer should be applied.
  - A creamy layer can be defined as those classes of people within the OBC category who are no longer backward and are socially and economically at par with other forward classes of the country.

#### **Constitutional Provisions**

- Under Article 15(4) of the Constitution, the State has the power to make special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward class i.e., the OBC.
  - The term "special provision for advancement" includes several aspects like reservation of seats in educational institutions, financial assistance, scholarships, free housing etc.



 Under <u>Article 16(4)</u>, the state is empowered to enact laws for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of OBCs.

### IT Saksham Yuva Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, The Haryana government has introduced the IT Saksham Yuva Scheme 2024 to boost youth empowerment and employment. The scheme aims to provide jobs to 5,000 youth in its first phase.

### **Key Points**

- The scheme is part of the broader 'Mission 60,000'. It was announced during the 2024-25 budget speech and aims to employ at least 60,000 young individuals from poor families.
- Under this scheme, graduate and postgraduate applicants with IT backgrounds will undertake the Haryana IT Programme, a specially designed shortterm course lasting a minimum of three months.
  - Participants in the IT Saksham Yuva Scheme will receive a monthly remuneration of Rs 20,000 for the first six months, which will then increase to Rs 25,000 from the seventh month onwards, provided by the employing entities.
  - If an 'IT Saksham Yuva' is unable to secure deployment, the government will provide an unemployment allowance of Rs 10,000 per month.
- The primary training agencies for this scheme are the Haryana State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (HARTRON), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Ltd (HKCL), and Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU).
  - As the state university, SVSU will issue completion certificates to candidates according to the norms established by the <u>Haryana Skill Development</u> <u>Mission (HSDM)</u>.

### **Haryana Skill Development Mission (HSDM)**

- It was **established in May 2015** by the State Government.
- Its aim is to empower youth to take part in the economic and all around growth of Haryana and India.
- ➤ It is a single point of contact within the Government to formulate and steer skill development schemes across the Department.

HSDM acts as an integrated mission which combines the efforts of various State Departments in achieving the skill development target of the State.

# Justice Sheel Nagu: Punjab & Haryana Chief Justice

### Why in News?

Recently, **Justice Sheel Nagu** of Madhya Pradesh high court has been appointed as **Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.** 

### **Key Points**

He was appointed as Madhya Pradesh high court judge in 2011. His contribution to the judiciary by way of disposal of cases, during his tenure of over 12 years has authored more than 499 reported judgments.

### **Appointment of HC Judges**

- Article 217 of the Constitution: It states that the Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Governor of the State.
  - In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted.
- Consultation Process: High Court judges are recommended by a <u>Collegium</u> comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.
  - The proposal, however, is initiated by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
  - The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.
  - The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.
    - The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.

# Haryana Cities Among India's Most Polluted

Why in News?

According to a report by the **Centre for Research on** 



Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Haryana accounted for more than half of India's top 10 most polluted cities in June 2024.

### **Key Points**

- Rohtak was the most polluted among the 251 Indian cities included in the study.
  - In June, Rohtak's average concentration of PM2.5 (tiny inhalable particles) was 116μg/m³, more than twice the safe level of 60μg/m³ set in India.
- In the top 10 most polluted cities in June, Rohtak was featured in the list 28 times, followed by Charkhi Dadri and Panchkula, each appearing 16 times, Ballabhgarh 11 times, and Faridabad 10 times.
- A total of 60 cities appeared on the daily most polluted cities list. Among these, 23 cities made the list at least five times. Only Faridabad is part of the <u>National</u> Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- According to the 2021 Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report by the University of Chicago, India is the world's second most polluted country, where fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens the average citizen's life expectancy by 5.3 years.

### **Particulate Matter**

- Also called particle pollution, a term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. It causes respiratory problems and also reduces visibility.
- It includes:
  - PM10: inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.
  - o **PM2.5:** fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- Sources of PM:
  - Some are emitted directly from a source, such as construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires.

### **National Clean Air Programme**

- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019.
- > It is the first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.

- ➢ It seeks to cut the concentration of coarse (particulate matter (PM) of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) and fine particles (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or PM2.5) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- It covers 132 non-attainment cities which were identified by the <u>Central Pollution Control Board</u> (<u>CPCB</u>).

# Private Hospital Stop Patients Over Pending Dues

### Why in News?

The private hospitals in various parts of Haryana stopped admitting patients under the central government's Ayushman Bharat free treatment scheme and state government's Chirayu Haryana scheme, for non-clearance of the payments worth over ₹200 crore by the state government.

### **Key Points**

- According to the <u>Indian Medical Association (IMA)</u>, nearly 600 private hospitals across the state are empanelled under the Ayushman scheme and had requested the state government to release payment of bills.
  - In Haryana, 74.33 lakh beneficiaries are covered under the Chirayu scheme and 28.89 lakh under the Ayushman scheme.
  - O Under these schemes, every family gets health coverage of upto ₹5 lakh per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

### Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

- > About:
  - PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government.
  - Launched in 2018, it offers a sum insured of Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care and tertiary care.
    - Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.



### > Beneficiaries:

- It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest <u>Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)</u> data.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to States/UTs to use non- Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.

### Chirayu Haryana scheme

- > It aims to provide free treatment facilities to the needy of the state.
- > The expenditure of these families up to Rs 5 lakh will be borne by the state government.
- More than 28 lakh families in the state will get the benefit of this scheme. With the expansion of the scheme, more than 12 lakh new Below Poverty Line (BPL) families have been added to it.

# Haryana CM Releases Benefits Under Welfare Schemes

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini released benefits worth ₹100.68 crore to 83,633 beneficiaries under three welfare schemes at Anaj Mandi in Panipat.

### **Key Points**

The benefits were distributed at a state-level programme under the Social Security Pension,

## Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Housing Renovation Scheme and Chief Minister Rural Housing Scheme.

- An amount of ₹22.59 crore was released as pension to 75,330 new beneficiaries of the <u>Social Security</u> <u>Pension Scheme.</u>
- Under Dr BR Ambedkar Housing Renovation Scheme assistance amount of ₹15.09 crore was released to 2,003 beneficiaries for house repairs.
- Under the <u>Chief Minister Rural Housing Scheme</u>,
   6,300 beneficiaries of 100 square yard land each were given letters of authority and letters of financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each.

### **Dr BR Ambedkar Housing Renovation Scheme**

- It was started in 2021, by the Haryana state government.
- The main purpose of this scheme is to provide grants for the repair of houses to all families, whose annual income is less than and equal to Rs 1.80 lakh in Parivar Pahchan Patra, whose house needs repair an amount of Rs 80000 is provided for this purpose.

### Haryana Mukhyamantri Shahri Awas Yojana

- Launched in 2023, the main objective of this scheme is to provide houses at affordable rates to the weaker and low-income group families of the state.
- Under the scheme, plots will be allotted to those who do not have land to build a house.
- > This will lead to social and economic development of the poor families of the state and will give them a chance to live a safe and stable life.





Key Points	Details
Summary	
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