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(CONSOLIDATION)

HARYANA

**SEPTEMBER
2024**

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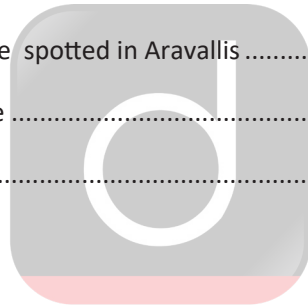
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Election Commission of India

Why in News?

Recently, the Election Commission of India has intensified its efforts in Haryana to ensure free and fair elections, focusing on real-time monitoring of campaign finances, voter outreach initiatives, and strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct.

Key Points

- 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.
- **Limitations:**
 - The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of the members of the Election Commission.
 - The Constitution has not specified the term of the members of the Election Commission.
 - The Constitution has not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Note:



Women in Haryana Assembly

Why in News?

Recently, the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections highlighted the **persistent gender disparity** in political representation, reflecting the state's historical gender imbalance.

Key Points

- **Women in Haryana Politics:**
 - Since Haryana's formation in **1966**, only 87 women have been elected to the Assembly.
 - The state has never had a female chief minister.
 - Haryana's gender ratio remains skewed at **916 females per 1,000 males (2023)**.
 - Since **2000**, **47 women legislators** have been elected in Haryana.
 - In **2014**, **13 women won seats**, the highest number ever. This dropped to 9 in 2019.
- **33% Reservation for Women:** The Bill granting reservation to women in Parliament and assemblies, passed recently, will take effect from 2029.
- **Notable Women Contesting in 2024:**
 - **Arti Singh Rao** : Daughter of Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh, contesting from Ateli.
 - **Shruti Chaudhary**: Granddaughter of former CM Bansi Lal, contesting from Tosham.
 - **Geeta Bhukkal** : Four-time MLA and former education minister.
 - **Vinesh Phogat** : Wrestling icon, contesting from Julana.
 - **Savitri Jindal**: Asia's richest woman, contesting as an Independent from Hisar.
 - **Chitra Sarwara**: Contesting independently from Ambala Cantonment after being denied a Congress ticket.

Women's Reservation Act, 2023

- The **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023**, reserves one-third of all seats for women in **Lok Sabha**, **State legislative assemblies**, and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, including those reserved for **SCs and STs**.

- The reservation will be effective after the publication of the census conducted following the Act's commencement and endures for a 15-year period, with potential extension determined by parliamentary action.
- The rotation of seats allocated for women will be governed by parliamentary legislation after each **delimitation process**.
 - Currently, around **15% of the total members of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024)** are women while in state legislative assemblies, women on average constitute 9% of the total members.

Haryana State Pollution Control Board

Why in News?

Recently, the **Chief Secretary** of Haryana directed the **State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)** to enhance pollution reporting and interdepartmental coordination.

Key Points

- **Monthly Pollution Reports:** The regional officers of **Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)** have been directed to compile monthly **environmental reports** for their respective areas.
- **Board's Expanded Role:** The HSPCB, originally established to address **water pollution**, has expanded its scope to tackle a wider range of environmental issues since its **inception in 1974**.
- **Biomedical Waste Management:** The Additional Chief Secretary of Health suggested delegating **biomedical waste** collection and disposal to multiple agencies, proposing a reduction in their operational area from 75 km for efficiency.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** To combat winter air pollution, particularly in NCR, Haryana has:
 - Installed 29 **Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS)** (21 in **NCR**).
 - Established 46 manual stations across the state for comprehensive **air quality** monitoring.

Note:

Haryana State Pollution Control Board

- It was formed as a **statutory organisation** by Government of Haryana in the year **1974** to preserve the wholesomeness of water and prevent water pollution after Government of India legislation of **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- CPCB is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September, 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- It was 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 Forests and Climate Change** of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Farmer Factor in Haryana

Why in News?

Recently, farmer unrest has become a key issue in Haryana's assembly elections, highlighting the evolving dynamics of the state's **agrarian economy**.

Key Points

- **Agriculture and Employment:** Haryana ranks **8th** in terms of the share of agriculture in the state's **Gross State Value Addition (GSVA)**, **nearly 18%** according to GSVA data for 2022-23.
 - However, in terms of agriculture's share in the total workforce, **nearly 32%** according to **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2022-23**, Haryana is ranked **15th**.
 - Despite having a relatively low share of agriculture in both overall output and employment, **Haryana ranks 2nd in India, following Punjab**, for Gross State Value Addition (GSVA) in **agriculture per agricultural worker**.
 - This indicates that **agriculture in Haryana is a significantly high-value activity** compared to most other states in India.

- **Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households for Haryana:**The **Situation Assessment Survey** was conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.The data is primarily from the 2018-19 survey, with some updates available from 2021-22.
 - Approximately **14.7%** of the total households in Haryana are agricultural households.
 - The average monthly income of **agricultural households in Haryana** is around **Rs.23,000**.
 - Approximately **48%** of the total income of agricultural households comes from agricultural activities.
 - Haryana has high productivity levels for key crops such as **wheat and rice, with yields often exceeding national averages**.
 - A significant portion of the agricultural workforce is engaged in **seasonal labor and casual employment**.

Periodic Labour Force Survey

- **About:**
 - It is a survey conducted by the **NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** to measure the employment and unemployment situation in India.
 - The NSO launched the **PLFS in April 2017**.
- **Objective of PLFS:**
 - To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (**viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate**) in the short time interval of **three months for the urban areas** only in the '**Current Weekly Status**' (CWS).
 - To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both '**Usual Status**' and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

Diamond League

Why in News?

Recently, Neeraj Chopra finished second in the **2024 Diamond League Final**, narrowly missing the top spot by just 1 centimeter.

Note:

Key Points

- Neeraj Chopra threw **87.86 meters**, finishing 2nd behind **Grenada's Anderson Peters**, who threw **87.87 meters**.
- Chopra's best throw came on his third attempt, while Peters' winning throw was achieved in his first attempt.
- This was Chopra's second consecutive runner-up finish in the **Diamond League Final**, after winning the **trophy in 2022**.
- He maintained a consistent top-two finish streak throughout the season.

Diamond League

- The **Diamond League** is an annual series of outdoor track and field meetings organized by **World Athletics**, established in **2010**.
- It features **32 Diamond Discipline events**, with each meeting hosting several of these events.
 - **The 32 disciplines of the Diamond League are as follows:**
 - **Men:** 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m/Mile, 3000m/5000m, 3000m SC(Steeplechase), 110m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus Throw, Javelin Throw;
 - **Women:** 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m/Mile, 3000m/5000m, 3000m SC(Steeplechase), 100m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Discus Throw, Javelin Throw.
- Some events losing **Diamond Discipline status** are moved to the **World Athletics Continental Tour**, the second tier of track and field competitions.
- The 2024 Diamond League concluded with its finals in Brussels, Belgium, on 13th and 14th September.

Haryana Assembly Dissolved**Why in News?**

Recently, the Haryana Assembly **was dissolved** ahead of polls to prevent a potential **constitutional issue** of mandatorily convening a session within 6 months.

Key Points

- The Haryana Assembly was dissolved by the **Governor** under **Article 174(2)(b)** of the Constitution on the recommendation of the **Chief Minister** and the **council of ministers**.

- **Article 174** of the Constitution authorizes the **Governor to summon, dissolve and prorogue the state legislative assembly**.

- **Article 174(2)(b)** of the Constitution gives powers to the **Governor to dissolve** the Assembly **on the aid and advice of the cabinet**. However, the Governor can apply his mind when the advice comes from a Chief Minister whose majority could be in doubt.

- The **dissolution** aimed to prevent the **requirement to convene a session within six months of the last assembly meeting**, which occurred on 13th March, 2024, with a session due by 12th September, 2024.

- **Article 174(1):** The Governor shall from time to time **summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State** to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, **but six months shall not intervene** between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

Governor

- **Article 153** says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as **Governor for two or more States**.
 - A Governor is appointed by the President and is a nominee of the Central Government.
- It is stated that the Governor has a dual role.
 - He is the constitutional head of the state, bound by the advice of his **Council of Ministers (CoM)**.
 - He functions as a vital link between the Union Government and the State Government.
- **Articles 157 and 158** specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor.
- Governor has the power to grant **pardons**, reprieves, etc. (**Article 161**).
- There is a CoM with the CM at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion. (**Article 163**)
- The Governor appoints the Chief Minister and other Ministers (**Article 164**).
- Governor assents, withholds assent, or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President passed by the Legislative Assembly (**Article 200**).
- Governors may promulgate the Ordinances under certain circumstances (**Article 213**).

Note:

Election Commission Postponed Haryana Assembly Elections

Why in News?

Recently, on August 31st, 2024, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** revised the polling day for the Haryana Assembly elections from October 1 to October 5.

Key Points:

- **Date Change Decision:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) revised the polling date for the Haryana Assembly elections from October 1 to October 5, 2024, and moved the counting date from **October 4 to October 8** for both Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana assemblies.
- **Reason for Change:** The date revision was made to accommodate the **Bishnoi community's Asoj Amavasya festival**, allowing them to participate in the festival and exercise their voting rights.
 - **Asoj Amavasya** is a significant festival observed primarily by the Bishnoi community. It involves the remembrance of their **Guru Jambheshwar** and is celebrated annually during the month of Asoj.
- **Community Representation:** The decision followed a representation from the **All India Bishnoi Mahasabha**, highlighting the tradition of Bishnoi families traveling to Rajasthan for their annual festival, which coincides with the original polling date i.e October 2nd.

Haryana's Growing Drug Problem

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana authorities seized **drugs** and liquor worth Rs.14 crore since the election announcement, highlighting ongoing concerns about **drug-related issues** in the state.

Key Points

- Haryana Police registered 3,757 FIRs and arrested 5,350 people under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS),1985** till December 2023.

- The haul included **590 kg charas, 4,950 kg ganja, 34 kg heroin, 310 kg opium, and 33,602 kg poppy husk**, with **Sirsa** leading in cases and arrests (582 cases, 766 arrests).
- According to **Haryana Narcotics Control Bureau**, **top 10 districts in Haryana for drug cases (1st Jan to 8th Dec, 2023)** are Sirsa, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Rohtak, Panchkula.
- Studies by the **Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development** and **Indian Council for Social Science Research** link the drug problem to **youth unemployment** and frustration.
- **Unemployment Rate in Haryana :**
 - **Unemployment rate** is the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
 - Based on the **current weekly status (CWS) approach**, a person is considered unemployed if they did not work for even an hour during the reference week but were available for or sought work for at least one hour.
 - Urban unemployment rate for **the 15-29 age group increased to 11.2%** in the April-June 2024 quarter, up from **9.5% in the January-March 2024** quarter according to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) April-June 2024 Report**.
 - For women in the **15-29 age group** in urban areas, the unemployment rate rose to **17.2%** in April-June, compared to **13.9%** in the previous quarter.
- **Haryana's Hriday Parivartan Abhiyan (Heart Change Campaign):**
 - The campaign aims to bring about a **behavioral change in drug addicts** and peddlers by encouraging renunciation of drugs through **community involvement**.
 - Identified drug peddlers and consumers will appear **before village elders**, the community, and a pandit.
 - They will be **educated on the damaging effects of drugs** on their lives, families, and communities.
 - A ceremony involving the symbolic act of putting salt in a pot will signify the renunciation of drugs. **'Namak-Lota Abhiyaan' (pledge in front of elders to stay off drugs)**
 - Participants will take an oath before village deities and the community, vowing to give up drugs.

Note:

- Peddlers involved **due to poverty** will be made aware of **government schemes** designed for people **below the poverty line** to provide them with alternative livelihoods.
- **Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB)** has launched a pioneering project called '**Chakravayuh: The escape room**' which aims to keep teenagers away from **narcotics addiction**.

Outrage over Approval of New Slaughterhouses in Nuh District

Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government's decision to approve **21 additional slaughterhouses** in **Nuh district** has triggered protests from local residents, leading them to approach the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** over environmental and health concerns.

Key Points

- **Environmental Concerns:**
 - The NGT has issued notices to the **Haryana State Pollution Control Board** and **Central Ground Water Authority** to respond to allegations of contamination in air, water, and soil.
 - Residents claim existing slaughterhouses **violate pollution norms**, leading to degradation of the local environment.
- **Health Hazards:**
 - Local activists report that the villages around these slaughterhouses are experiencing severe health impacts, with children falling ill and **blood from slaughterhouses contaminating fields**.
 - Waste is allegedly being dumped into the soil and **water streams**, creating an unbearable stench and causing health problems.
 - Residents point out the contradiction in policies, with **Uttar Pradesh** shutting down slaughterhouses, while **Haryana is expanding them in Nuh**.

National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the **3rd country** in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within **6 months of filing of the same**.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, **New Delhi** is the Principal place of sitting and **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four**.

Haryana's Unemployment Crisis

Why in News?

The high unemployment rate in Haryana, reflected in the Union government's **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** survey, has become a focal point as the state approaches upcoming elections.

Key Points

- **Unemployment Rate Trends:**
 - **PLFS** for January-March 2024 shows urban unemployment for those above 15 years has decreased to **4.1%**, down from **8.8% in 2023**, and is now below the national average of **6.7%**.
 - Contrast this with annual PLFS results for 2021-22, where Haryana's unemployment rate was **9%**, **more than double the national rate of 4.1%**.
 - Previous high **unemployment** attributed to global post-Covid economic slowdown affecting sectors like hospitality and aviation.
- **Increase in Youth Migration:**
 - Growing trend of Haryana youth emigrating for better opportunities due to lack of local job prospects.
 - Government jobs remain a top preference, but insufficient appointments have led to increasing emigration.

Note:

- Demand for **skilled workforce** remains high, but government skill development programs are criticised for not meeting industry needs.
 - This calls for incentivizing industries for skill training and treating **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** with the same importance as the agriculture sector for credit facilities.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - Approximately 30,000 regular government jobs filled this year (2024), with a target of 50,000 jobs before the Assembly polls on 5th October, 2024.
 - “**Mission 60,000**” announced for youth employment in **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families through various roles and training programs.
- **New Projects:**
 - Proposed Maruti Suzuki and Suzuki Motorcycle plants in **Kharkhoda** expected to generate around 15,000 direct jobs.
 - The government is emphasizing job creation through industrial projects and infrastructure development.

Critically Endangered Elongated Tortoise spotted in Aravallis

Why in News?

Recently, a **critically endangered elongated tortoise** was spotted for the first time in the **Aravallis**.

Key Points

- **Elongated tortoise:** Characterized by a **yellowish-brown or olive shell** with distinct **black blotches at the center** of each scute, was found in **Haryana's Damdama area**.
 - During the breeding season, mature tortoises develop a pink ring around their nostrils and eyes.
- **Habitat and Distribution:**The **elongated tortoise** is found in **Sal deciduous** and **hilly evergreen forests**.
 - Its distribution spans **Southeast Asia**, from northern **India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh** in the west, through **Myanmar, Thailand, Indochina**, north to Guangxi Province of **China**, and south to **Peninsular Malaysia**.

- A disjunct population exists in the **Chota Nagpur plateau** in eastern India.
- It also inhabits lowlands and foothills up to 1,000 meters above sea level.
- The **tortoise's presence in the Aravallis** is an **anomaly** as it is usually found in the foothills of the **Himalayas and wetter areas**.
- **Conservation Status:**Elongated tortoises are **critically endangered** according to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List**, assessed in 2018.
 - The species is heavily exploited for food and traditional medicine, with opportunistic and deliberate hunting, and the use of dogs to locate tortoises.

Aravallis

- The Aravali 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 aravali 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.

Haryana-Punjab Agricultural Divergence

Why in News?

Haryana's agriculture stands apart from Punjab due to its **diversified cropping** profile, contrasting with Punjab's environmentally and fiscally unsustainable **rice-wheat monoculture**.

Key Points

- **Punjab:**
 - **Monoculture Cropping:**Punjab's agriculture is characterized by a **rice-wheat monoculture**, with

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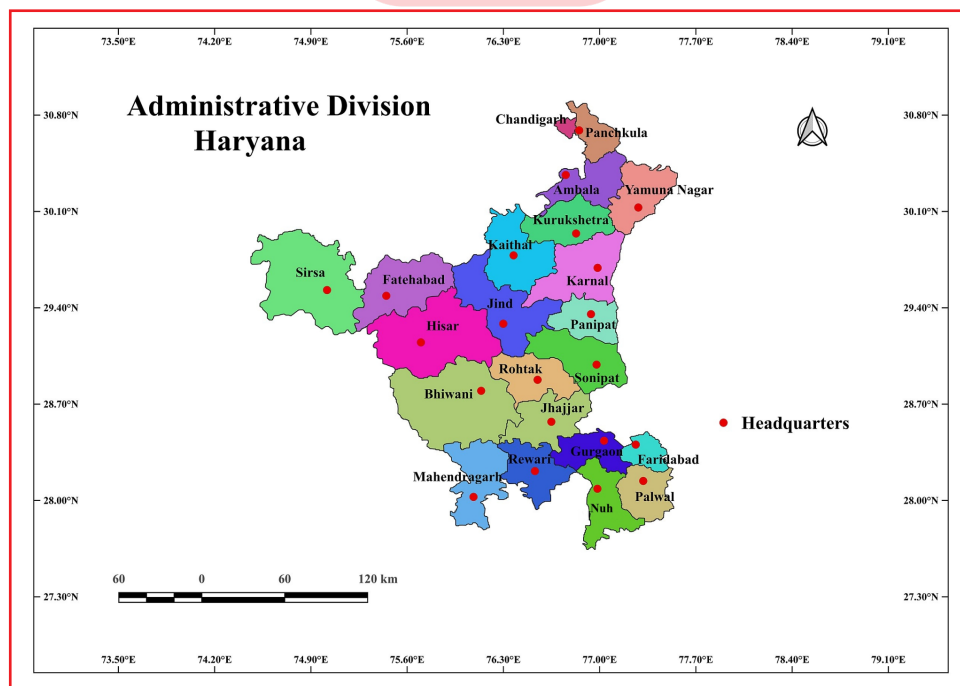
farmers growing only these two crops **during the kharif (monsoon) and rabi (winter-spring) seasons, respectively.**

- Area under rice cultivation increased from 28.9 lakh hectares (lh) in 2014-15 to 31.9 lh in 2023-24.
- **Output Rankings:** Punjab ranks 3rd in both wheat and rice output in India.
 - India has eight major wheat-producing states compared to 16 for rice.
- **Water and Environmental Issues:** Rice is **water-intensive crop** and requires about 25 irrigations, whereas wheat requires only 4-5 irrigations.
 - Excessive rice production contributes to **groundwater depletion** and **high fiscal costs for grain procurement and stocking.**

➤ Haryana:

- **Less Monoculture:** Haryana features a more diversified cropping pattern compared to Punjab, avoiding the rice-wheat monoculture.
 - **Kharif Season:** Includes rice, **cotton**, **bajra (pearl millet)**, and **guar (cluster bean)**.
 - **Rabi Season:** Includes wheat, rapeseed-mustard, chana (chickpea), and sunflower.
- **Rice Varieties:** **Basmati Rice** in Haryana accounts for 56.2% of the rice area (2019-20 to 2023-24).
 - Basmati rice **consumes less water compared to non-basmati varieties.**

- Basmati is planted in July, benefiting from monsoon rains and cooler temperatures, enhancing its fragrance.
- **Canal Network:** Extensive canal network of **1,594 channels, 14,814 km long.**
 - **Irrigates** northeast, central, and northwest districts of Haryana.
 - Southern districts (Charkhi Dadri, Jhajjar, etc.) have limited irrigation access.
- **Crop Distribution:**
 - **Southern Haryana:** Farmers typically grow **bajra, guar, and jowar** in kharif and wheat, mustard, chana, and **barley in rabi.**
- **Challenges:**
 - **Increased Rice Area:** Record levels of rice cultivation in 2024, with 16.4 lakh hectares planted.
 - This increase has led to a decrease in **cotton acreage** (4.8 lakh hectares).
 - Decreased cotton acreage from 6.7 lakh hectares in 2023 due to low prices and **pink bollworm pest attacks.**
 - **Diversification Efforts:** Efforts under the **Bhavantar Bhardpai Yojana (BBY)** to promote crop diversification.
 - **MSP** procurement and price deficiency payments for **bajra, mustard, sunflower, and other crops**



Note:

Green Manifesto, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **People for Aravallis** group initiated the development of a '**Haryana Green Manifesto 2024**' in response to the growing environmental crisis in the state.

Key Points

- **Green Manifesto:** The document was created after a unique participatory exercise, gathering inputs from **rural and urban stakeholders across 17 districts** of Haryana ahead of the assembly elections.
 - Experts in ecology, agriculture, urban planning, and sustainable architecture contributed to shaping a green vision for Haryana.
- **Key Demands in the Green Manifesto:**
 - Legally designate the **Aravallis and Shivaliks** as "**critical ecological zones**" to prohibit destructive activities and commercial projects.
 - Promote the use of **alternative building materials** to preserve the remaining hills.
 - Designate **Mahendergarh district** as a "**pahadi dark zone**" and cease all **mining and stone-crushing operations** due to critically low groundwater levels (1,500-2,000 feet).
 - Withdraw the state's appeal in the **Supreme Court to legalize mining** in the National Capital Region (NCR).
 - Remove landfills in **Bandhwari, Pali, and near ITI colony** on the Old Sohna-Alwar road.
 - Halt illegal dumping and burning of chemical waste from industrial units in **Bhiwadi, Khori Khurd, and other villages in Nuh district.**
 - Provide compensation and **quality farmland to villagers** whose lands have been impacted by these activities.
- **Demands for Forest Protection:**
 - Provide legal protection to all forests by **including un-notified forests as "deemed forests"** under the **Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900.**
 - Legislate a **Tree Act for Haryana**, similar to the stringent **Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.**

- Declare all **open natural ecosystems (ONEs)**, such as the **blackbuck natural habitat in Fatehabad district**, as conservation or community reserves.
- Remove **Haryana's ONEs from the Wasteland Atlas of India**, which categorizes these ecosystems as '**unproductive**' land for agriculture or industrial use.
- Implement an action plan to increase **Haryana's forest and tree cover to 10% within four years.**
- Reintroduce traditional **Haryana tree species, such as Lesoda, Khejri, Indrok, and Jaal**, and promote native planting in an ecologically correct manner (tall trees, under-storey trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses) to create biodiversity-rich spaces.

➤ Demands for Food Security:

- Promote **crop diversification** as a key climate-change adaptation strategy.
- Ensure **guaranteed purchase of every crop** grown by farmers at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** announced by the Centre.
- Incentivize **natural farming** practices that improve soil health.
- Scale up the '**keeth pathshalas**' (insect schools), which have been educating farmers in some villages for the **past 15 years, to all districts.** These schools teach the balance between vegetarian and non-vegetarian insects, reducing the need for insecticide spraying.

Aravali Mountain Range

- The Aravallis is the **oldest folded** mountain on Earth.
- It spans over **800 km from Gujarat to Delhi** (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The highest peak in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu.**
- **Impact on Climate:**
 - The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
 - During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains.
 - In the winter months, it protects the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia.



Note:



Key Points

Details

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Summary

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