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(CONSOLIDATION)

## HARYANA

**JANUARY  
2025**

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# Content

● Case Filed Against Poison Remark on Yamuna Water .....	3
● Haryana-Delhi Yamuna Water Dispute .....	3
● NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index .....	5
● Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0 .....	6
● Haryana Cabinet Approves Clean Air Project .....	6
● Haryana's Tableau at 2025 Republic Day Parade .....	8
● Punjab & Haryana HC Issues Notice on Anti-Begging Laws .....	9
● Haryana to Dispose and Recycle Old Vehicles .....	9
● NGT Notice to Haryana Pollution Board .....	11
● Haryana Govt Seeks to Remove 'Objectionable' Caste Names .....	11
● World's Most Powerful Hydrogen Train Engine .....	11
● Falcated Duck .....	12
● Haryana Couples Seek Illegal Sex Determination Tests in UP .....	13
● Concerns Regarding Groundwater Contamination .....	14
● Haryana Govt Committed to Providing Homes Under PMAY .....	15
● Haryana to Include Gita in Class 8th Curriculum .....	16
● Haryana to Implement New Criminal Laws .....	16
● Rise in Sex Ratio at Birth in Haryana .....	17
● Chief Secretary Visit to Rakhigarhi .....	18
● Illegal Mining Operation in Haryana .....	19
● Haryana Centre of Excellence .....	20
● 10-minute Ambulance Service in Gurugram .....	20
● Swachhata Pakhwada in Haryana .....	21
● Biochemical Oxygen Demand Levels in Haryana .....	21
● DARPG Commission Visit Haryana .....	22
● Savitribai Phule Birth Anniversary .....	22

## Case Filed Against Poison Remark on Yamuna Water

### Why in News?

The Haryana government filed a case against the political party leader in Sonipat Chief Judicial Magistrate Court under the [Disaster Management Act, 2005](#) over his claim that [Yamuna](#) water from Haryana contained “poison.”

### Key Points

- **Complaint Filed Under:**
  - **Section 54, Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Punishment for creating false alarms about disasters (up to **1-year imprisonment or fine**).
  - **Sections 353 & 356 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023:** Public mischief and defamation.
- **Election Commission’s Involvement:** The [Election Commission](#) sought evidence regarding the claim, asking for a factual and legal basis.

#### Disaster Management Act, 2005

- **About:**
  - The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** was passed by the government of India in **2005** for the ‘efficient [management of disasters](#) and other matters connected to it. However, it came into force in **January 2006**.
- **Objective:**
  - To **manage disasters**, including preparation of **mitigation strategies, capacity-building**.
    - Definition of a “**disaster**” in **Section 2 (d)** of the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** states that a disaster means a “**catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence** in any area, arising from natural or man made causes.
- **Major Features of the Act:**
  - **Nodal Agency:** The Act designates the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as the **nodal ministry** for steering the overall national disaster management.
  - **Institutional Structure:** It puts into place a **systematic structure of institutions** at the **national, state and district levels**.
  - **National Level Important Entities:**
    - **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):** It is tasked with laying down disaster management policies and ensuring timely and effective response mechanisms.

- **The National Executive Committee (NEC):** It is constituted under **Section 8** of the Act to assist the [National Disaster Management Authority](#) in the performance of its functions.
  - The NEC is responsible for the preparation of the **National Disaster Management Plan** for the whole country and to ensure that it is reviewed and updated annually.
- **The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM):** It is an institute for training and capacity development programs for managing natural calamities.
- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):** It refers to trained professional units that are called upon for specialized response to disasters

## Haryana-Delhi Yamuna Water Dispute

### Why in News?

The **Haryana-Delhi dispute** over the [Yamuna river](#) has once again become a key political issue. Delhi Chief Minister (CM) has accused the **Haryana government** of contaminating the Yamuna with untreated sewage and industrial waste.

### Key Points

- **Water Contamination Allegations:**
  - Delhi Chief Minister termed Haryana’s actions as “**water terrorism**” and wrote to the Election Commission, citing a **Delhi Jal Board (DJB) report** that claimed [ammonia levels](#) in the Yamuna had surged beyond treatable limits.
    - The [ammonia levels](#) have steadily increased in the water coming from Haryana to Delhi via **River Yamuna** due to mixing of untreated sewage or industrial waste from Haryana.
- **Legal and Political History:**
  - The [Yamuna water-sharing dispute](#) is a long-standing dispute, ongoing since 1995.
  - **1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** Five states (Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh) signed an MoU in 1994 to regulate Yamuna water distribution.
  - The [Supreme Court](#) had intervened in **1995** and **1996** to ensure Delhi’s water supply from Haryana. Despite multiple petitions and legal battles, the issue remains unresolved.
    - The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times that Haryana must ensure Delhi’s rightful share of water.

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Note:

➤ **Recent Developments:**

- In 2018, the Supreme Court directed the **Chief Secretaries of Delhi and Haryana** to resolve water disputes.
- In 2021, the Delhi government accused Haryana of **withholding Yamuna water**, Haryana countered that Delhi's crisis was due to **"internal mismanagement."**
- In July 2023, floods in Delhi led to fresh accusations, with the Delhi Government claiming Haryana deliberately released excess water from the **Hathnikund Barrage**.
- In June 2024, Delhi CM accused Haryana of **"conspiring against Delhi"** and launched an **indefinite hunger strike**, which she ended after five days due to health concerns.

➤ **Impact on Delhi Residents:**

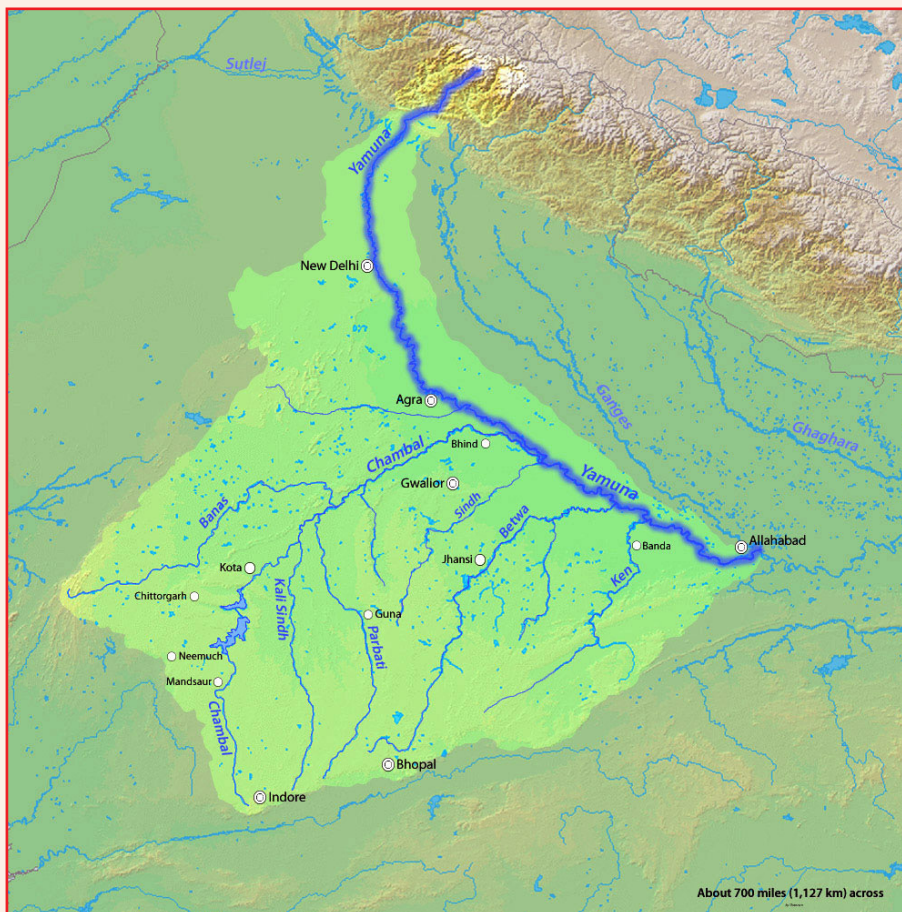
- The dispute has led to **severe water shortages** in Delhi, particularly in summer months.
- **Elevated ammonia levels** pose a threat to **public health, complicating water treatment processes**.

➤ **Future Outlook:**

- The dispute remains unresolved despite legal interventions.
- The upcoming elections could further intensify political rhetoric around the issue.
- A long-term **sustainable solution** is needed to address Delhi's water security concerns.

### Yamuna

- The river Yamuna, a major tributary of river Ganges, originates from the **Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpoonch peaks** in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.



- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.

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Note:



- Length: 1376 km
- **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.
- **Important Tributaries:** **Chambal**, Sindh, **Betwa and Ken**.

## NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index

### Why in News?

**NITI Aayog's** Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 report ranked Haryana 14th, placing it among the **bottom five of 18** major states.

- The ranking considers **five parameters**: quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index, and debt sustainability.

# NITI Aayog

## (National Institution for Transforming India)

### HISTORY- PLANNING COMMISSION

**Set up in 1950** to direct investment activity

Replaced by **NITI Aayog** on January 1, 2015

#### Composition of #NITIAayog

- **Chairperson**  
Prime Minister
- **Governing Council**  
CMs (States) and Lt Governors (UTs)
- **Regional Councils**  
Formed on need-basis, comprising CMs and Lt Govs of the region
- **Members**  
Full-time basis
- **Part-time Members**  
Max 2, rotational, from relevant institutions
- **Ex-officio Members**  
Max 4 from Council of Ministers, nominated by PM
- **Special Invited**  
Experts, specialists, practitioners with domain knowledge
- **Chief Executive Officer**  
Appointed by PM for fixed tenure (Secy rank)
- **Secretariat**  
As deemed necessary

### OBJECTIVES

- ⌚ Foster **cooperative federalism**
- ⌚ Develop mechanisms to **formulate credible plans (village level)**
- ⌚ Interests of **national security** in economic strategy and policy
- ⌚ Special **attention to weaker sections**
- ⌚ Provide advice and encouragement to partnerships between **key stakeholders, national-international Think Tanks, research institutions**
- ⌚ Create **knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system**
- ⌚ **Platform for** inter-sectoral and inter-departmental **issues resolution**
- ⌚ Maintain **state-of-the-art Resource Centre**

### NITI Aayog vs Planning Commission

NITI Aayog	Planning Commission
Advisory Think Tank	Extra-constitutional body
Wider expertise	Limited expertise
Secretaries (CEO) appointed by PM	Secretaries appointed by usual process
Bottom-up approach	Top-Down approach
No Mandate to impose policies	Imposed policies on states
No power to allocate funds	Allocated funds to ministries/state govts

### Major Initiatives

- ⌚ SDG India Index
- ⌚ Atal Innovation Mission
- ⌚ e-AMRIT Portal (electric vehicles)
- ⌚ Good Governance Index
- ⌚ India Innovation Index
- ⌚ Aspirational District Programme
- ⌚ 'Methanol Economy' programme

### Issues

- ⌚ **No powers** in granting **discretionary funds** to states
- ⌚ Only an **advisory body**
- ⌚ **No role in influencing private or public investment**
- ⌚ **Politicisation of the organisation**
- ⌚ **Lacks the requisite power** to bring positive change

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Note:

### Key Points

- **Scope of FHI:**
  - The index covers **18 major states contributing significantly to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, demography, public expenditure, revenues, and fiscal stability.
  - It **evaluates fiscal performance** over the period from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
- **Haryana's Performance:**
  - **Debt Profile and Concerns:**
    - Haryana's **debt-to-GSDP ratio** rose from 26% in 2018-19 to 33% in 2020-21, stabilising at 31% in 2022-23.
    - **Interest payments** grew by 9.4% in 2022-23, with the interest **payment-to-revenue receipt ratio** at 23%.
    - **Haryana ranked 15th on the Debt Index parameter**, ahead of only Kerala, West Bengal, and Punjab.
  - **Revenue and Fiscal Deficits:**
    - Haryana's **revenue deficit stood at 1.7% of GSDP in 2022-23**, failing to meet the **15th Finance Commission's** recommendations.
    - **Fiscal deficits** from 2017-18 to 2021-22 were primarily financed through **public debt**, including market borrowings and loans from the Central government.
  - **Quality of Expenditure:**
    - **Haryana ranked 16th in quality of expenditure**, with a score of 24.8, ahead of only Punjab and Kerala.
    - **Capital expenditure growth** compared to GSDP has **declined** since 2018-19, constituting just 1.4% of GSDP in 2022-23, below budget estimates.
    - Capital expenditure as a share of total expenditure fell from 16.4% in 2018-19 to 9.7% in 2022-23.
  - **Recommendations for Haryana:**
    - Increase **capital expenditure on social services**.
    - Enhance **tax collection efficiency**.
    - Establish a robust **fiscal management framework**, focusing on debt sustainability.
    - **Broaden the revenue base and rationalise expenditures** to improve short- and medium-term fiscal sustainability.

## Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0

### Why in News?

The Haryana Government allotted plots to **4,533 beneficiaries** across 20 districts through a draw under **the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana 2.0**.

### Key Points

- **Residential Plots Allotted in the First Phase:**
  - **100 square yards plots** were allotted to all eligible applicants in the gram panchayats of **20 districts**:
    - Ambala, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Narnaul, Nuh, Palwal, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonapat, and Yamunanagar.
  - Eligible applicants from **nomadic caste, widow, and Scheduled Castes in Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Rohtak, and Hisar districts** also received plots of **100 square yards**.
  - **50-square-yard plots** were allotted to eligible applicants in **Mahagram Panchayat Bahal**.
- **Method of Allocation:**
  - The residential plots were allotted to eligible beneficiaries **through a draw system**, ensuring a transparent and fair process.

## Haryana Cabinet Approves Clean Air Project

### Why in News?

The Haryana Cabinet has approved the **Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development (HCAPSD)**, a **₹3,647 crore** initiative aimed at **improving air quality** and reducing emissions across the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**.

### Key Points

- **Haryana Clean Air Project (HCAPSD):**
  - The project is supported by the **World Bank** to improve air quality and reduce emissions in **Haryana** and the **Indo-Gangetic Plain**.

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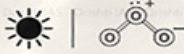




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Note:

- It aims to implement **air pollution control technologies** and coordinate efforts with other states to reduce **cross-border emissions**.
- The project will also work on enhancing the **ease of living** for citizens through cleaner air.

# Air Pollutants

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Causes respiratory problems.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC) under the action of the sun.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Chronic lung disease.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Carbon Monoxide (CO)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Lead (Pb)</h3> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.</p>

### 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.*



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Note:



- **Project Implementation and Governance:**
  - The project will be led by the **Haryana Department of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change**, in collaboration with several other departments, including **agriculture, transport, and industries**.
  - A three-tier governing structure will oversee progress, with the **chief secretary** chairing the top-tier committee.
- **Clean Air Ambassadors Program:**
  - A state-wide fellowship program will be launched, including **24 “clean air ambassadors”** at the district level to drive implementation.
- **Other Steps Taken by the State Government:**
  - Women’s Empowerment Scheme - Lado Lakshmi Yojana:
    - Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that a framework for the **Lado Lakshmi Yojana** for women will be presented in the upcoming state budget.
      - The **Haryana government** has launched the **Lado Lakshmi Yojana** to support **economically disadvantaged women** in the state. Through this program, **women living below the poverty line** will receive **₹2,100 per month**.
  - **Civil Judges’ Departmental Exams:**
    - The Cabinet amended the rules for **civil judges’** departmental exams, now to be conducted by the high court or a nominated authority.
  - Relief for Ex-Employees:
    - The state government has waived recoverable amounts from ex-employees of **Haryana Minerals Limited (HML)**, and **Handloom and Export Corporation**.
    - A fixed monthly honorarium, ranging from **₹36,000 to ₹20,000**, will be provided to these ex-employees, effective from October 2020.

## Haryana’s Tableau at 2025 Republic Day Parade

### Why in News?

The **Haryana tableau** at the **2025 Republic Day parade** will highlight the state’s progress across various sectors, with a particular focus on government schemes benefiting the public.

### Key Points

- **Haryana’s Tableau at Republic Day Parade:**
  - The tableau has the portrayal of the **Bhagavad Gita’s** divine message delivered by **Lord Krishna** to **Arjuna** in Kurukshetra.
  - The **theme of Haryana’s Tableau, “Samridh Haryana- Virsat Aur Vikas,”** reflects Haryana’s journey from its historical roots in Kurukshetra to its modern achievements.
- **Highlights of Republic Day Parade 2025:**
  - The **theme of Republic Day 2025** is ‘**Swarnim Bharat – Virsat aur Vikas’ (Golden India – Heritage and Development)**, reflecting India’s rich cultural heritage and its ongoing journey of progress.
  - The **Republic Day Parade of 2025** will also include a **tri-services tableau**, emphasizing the **spirit of collaboration and integration** among the **Armed Forces**. The theme for this tableau is “**Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat.**”
  - 31 tableaux from various states, union territories, and central ministries will participate, reflecting India’s cultural diversity and progress.
  - The **Republic Day Parade 2025** promises to be a unique blend of **India’s cultural diversity and military prowess**, with a special focus on **75 years** since the enactment of the **Constitution** and public participation (Jan Bhagidari).
- **Participation of Indonesia:**
  - **Indonesia’s President Prabowo Subianto** will be the Chief Guest at the parade.
  - Indonesia will also have a 160-member marching contingent and a 190-member band contingent marching alongside the **Indian Armed Forces**.

### Republic Day

- **Republic Day** commemorates the adoption of the **Constitution of India** on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950**, and the country’s transition to a **republic** which came into effect on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950**.
  - The constitution was adopted by the **Constituent Assembly of India on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949** and came into effect on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950**.
- The **Constitution** repealed the **Indian Independence Act of 1947** and **Government of India Act, 1935** when it became effective on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950**. India ceased to be a dominion of the British Crown and became a sovereign, democratic republic with a constitution.

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Note:



- On **Republic Day every year**, the **President of India**, who is the **head of state**, ‘unfurls’ the **tricolour**, while on **Independence Day (August 15)**, the **Prime Minister**, who heads the Union government, ‘hoists’ the **national flag**.
  - While the two terms are often used interchangeably, these represent different techniques of presenting the tricolour.

## Punjab & Haryana HC Issues Notice on Anti-Begging Laws

### Why in News?

The **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has issued notices to the governments of Haryana and Punjab regarding a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** petition that challenges the **constitutionality of certain provisions in 50-year-old state laws** that criminalise begging.

### Key Points

- **About the Petition:**
  - The petition contends that **anti-begging laws in Punjab and Haryana** are discriminatory and infringe upon the **rights to equality, life, and personal liberty guaranteed** by the Constitution of India.
  - The PIL argues that the State has a social contract to ensure its citizens are able to live a dignified life and that the State **“cannot be allowed”** to treat begging as an offence.
  - The petition further takes issue with the way the act of begging has been defined in these laws, arguing that they **violated Articles 14, 19, and 21** of the **Constitution of India**.
- **Definition of Begging:**
  - The definition classifies **any act of soliciting or receiving alms in public places as begging, including by singing, dancing, fortune-telling, performing tricks, or selling articles**.
  - The only difference between these vocations and others is that these vocations have **“no price tag”** as that’s been left to the audience to pay.
  - The law also defines begging as asking for alms on **private property**, especially if it involves **showing wounds, deformities, or injuries**.

- The definition of begging in the **Haryana Prevention of Beggary Act, 1971**, which has been challenged, is based on the **Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959**.
- It is a definition that is used by the **Union government**, to identify people engaged in begging, for **welfare and rehabilitation schemes**.
- **Legal Implications:**
  - The outcome of this case could have significant implications for the **treatment of marginalized communities** and the **legal framework surrounding poverty and homelessness** in India.

## Haryana to Dispose and Recycle Old Vehicles

### Why in News?

The **Haryana Government** has notified **the Vehicle Scrappage and Recycling Facility Incentive Policy, 2024**, to ensure the proper **disposal and recycling of old vehicles** and promote environmental sustainability by reducing **pollution**.

### Key Points

- **About the Decision:**
  - It is highlighted that **the National Green Tribunal (NGT)** set a 10-year limit for diesel vehicles and 15 years for petrol vehicles in the National Capital Region (NCR).
  - This regulation **led to a continuous increase in the number of condemned vehicles**, prompting the Haryana Government to act.
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:**
  - The policy aims to **protect the environment by reducing pollution and promoting economic growth**.
  - Vehicle owners would receive financial benefits, and the public would gain relief from abandoned vehicles cluttering roads, streets, and public spaces.
- **Implementation as an Industrial Scheme:**
  - The state government **plans to implement the policy as an industrial scheme** with incentives such as capital subsidies or state GST reimbursement for new industrial units.

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Note:

- The Department of Industries and Commerce will develop a 10-year land leasing module through **the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC)**.
- **Financial Support for Entrepreneurs:**
  - The government will provide up to **Rs 20 crore in financial assistance**, covering **10% of project costs (excluding land)**, to startups, women entrepreneurs, and candidates from **the Scheduled Caste category** for venture capital funds.
  - Complete stamp duty reimbursement is offered in D-category industrial blocks, while B and C blocks receive a 75% reimbursement.
- **Incentives for Centres of Excellence and Skill Development:**
  - The government will provide a **50% grant of project costs, up to Rs 5 crore**, for establishing Centres of Excellence.
  - An additional Rs 50 lakh will be granted to **10 industries that contribute to youth skill development and employment** within the state.

## NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

*The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.*

### About

- ⊕ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ⊕ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ⊕ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ⊕ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

### Structure

- ⊕ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ⊕ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ⊕ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJJ's consultation)
  - 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

*India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.*

### Powers & Jurisdiction

- ⊕ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ⊕ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ⊕ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ⊕ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
  - Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ⊕ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ⊕ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ⊕ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
  - If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

### NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ⊕ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ⊕ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ⊕ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ⊕ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ⊕ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ⊕ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ⊕ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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## NGT Notice to Haryana Pollution Board

### Why in News?

The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) issued a notice to [the Haryana State Pollution Control Board \(HSPCB\)](#) in response to an appeal filed by the [Freedom Park Society, Gurugram](#), challenging the Rs 1.55 crore penalty imposed as [Environmental Compensation \(EC\)](#) for faults in its [Sewage Treatment Plant \(STP\)](#).

### Key Points

- **Cause of STP Damage:**
  - It was argued that **stormwater flooding in August 2022** caused damage to the STP, as heavy rainfall affected the entire Gurugram area.
- **Remedial Measures Taken:**
  - Following the **natural disaster**, the Freedom Park Society immediately repaired the STP and restored its compliance with environmental norms.
  - Private lab test reports confirm that the STP resumed functioning properly after repairs.
- **Contention Over the Penalty:**
  - The penalty for 415 days of violation is arbitrary, irrational, and contrary to the **“Polluter Pay” principle** established by [the Supreme Court](#) in cases such as [Indian Council for Enviro vs. Union of India](#) and [Vellore Citizens Welfare vs. Union of India](#).

#### 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](#).

## Haryana Govt Seeks to Remove ‘Objectionable’ Caste Names

### Why in News?

The Haryana government has urged the Union Government to **exclude specific caste names, such as Chura, Bhangi, and Mochi**, from the state’s [Scheduled Castes](#) list.

- These names are considered **objectionable, derogatory, and are often used as insulting remarks**.

### Key Points

- The state argues that these names are **“not only objectionable but have lost relevance as well.”**
- The move aims to **eliminate caste-based prejudices** perpetuated through these appellations.
  - The names sought to be deleted are **Chura and Bhangi**, which are mentioned at **serial no. 2 of the Scheduled Castes (SC) list**, and **Mochi**, which is listed at serial no. 9 of the **SC list**.
- When used negatively or as insults, these caste names perpetuate caste prejudice and may result in complaints under the [Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes \(Prevention of Atrocities\) Act, 1989](#), which prescribes strict penalties.
- However, to remove these names from the SC list, the Centre must amend the [Constitution \(Scheduled Castes\) Order, 1950](#) which is the process for adding or removing castes from the SC/ST lists.

#### Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- The **SCs and the STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**, also known as the **SC/ST Act 1989**, was enacted to safeguard the members of **SCs and STs** from **caste-based discrimination and violence**.
  - Rooted in [Articles 15 and 17 of the Indian Constitution](#), the Act aims to ensure the protection of these marginalised communities and to address the inadequacies of previous laws.
- The Act builds on the [Untouchability \(Offences\) Act, 1955](#), and the [Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955](#), which were established to **abolish untouchability and discrimination** based on caste.
- The Central Government is authorised to frame rules for the Act’s implementation, while State Governments and Union Territories administer it with central assistance.

## World’s Most Powerful Hydrogen Train Engine

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Railway Minister** announced that India has achieved a significant milestone in [green energy](#) leadership by **developing the world’s most powerful hydrogen-powered train engine**.

- The hydrogen-powered train engine will undergo its **first trial run on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana**.

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### Key Points

- **Key Features of India's Hydrogen Train Engine:**
  - **Power Output:** 1,200 horsepower, surpassing global counterparts.
  - **Technology:** Fully developed using indigenous expertise.
  - **Green Milestone:** Marks a significant step in India's transition to hydrogen-powered transportation.
- **Global Leadership:**
  - Only four countries—**Germany, France, Sweden, and China**—currently operate hydrogen-powered trains, **delivering a power output of 500-600 horsepower.**
  - India's indigenously developed hydrogen engine surpasses these with a power output of 1,200 horsepower, the highest in its category.
- **Indigenous Development:**
  - The **engine was developed entirely by indigenous expertise**, showcasing the country's innovation in **clean energy solutions.**
  - This achievement is a **step toward India leading major economies** in green energy-driven growth.

#### Green Energy

- Green energy is defined as energy derived from **renewable sources**. It is also known as clean, sustainable, or renewable energy.
- Green energy generation emits no dangerous **greenhouse gases** into the atmosphere, resulting in **little or no environmental impact.**
- **Solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, low-impact hydroelectricity**, and certain qualified biomass sources are all key green energy sources.

## Falcatated Duck

### Why in News?

Recently, a rare bird species, the **Falcatated Duck** was spotted by bird watchers and nature enthusiasts at **Sultanpur National Park** in Gurugram.



### Key Points

- **Falcatated Duck:**
  - **The Falcatated Teal (*Mareca falcata*)**, also known as the Falcatated Duck, is a dabbling duck.
  - **Distribution:**
    - Found from **eastern Siberia and Mongolia to northern Japan.**
    - Wintering grounds include **Southeast Asia and eastern India.**
    - **Rare sightings** have also been recorded in **America, Poland, and Thailand.**
  - **Habitat:**
    - Prefers **freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, and marshes** surrounded by forests.
  - **Breeding:**
    - The breeding season lasts from **May to early July.**
    - Nests are built on the ground near water, typically in tall grass or brush.
  - **Diet:**
    - Primarily **herbivorous, feeding on vegetable matter, seeds, rice, and aquatic plants.**
    - Occasionally consumes small invertebrates and soft-shelled mollusks.

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Note:

- **Threats:**
  - **Hunting** is a major threat, driven by demand for their meat and feathers.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - Listed as “Near Threatened” by [the International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).

#### Sultanpur National Park

- **About:**
  - Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers. It is famous for its **migratory as well as resident birds**.
    - Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September. Birds use the park as a resting place till the following March-April.
    - During **summer and monsoon months** the park is inhabited by many local bird species.
  - In April 1971, [the Sultanpur Jheel](#) inside the park (an area of 1.21 sq. Km.) was accorded **Sanctuary status** under section 8 of the **Punjab Wildlife Preservation Act, 1959**.
  - The status of the park was upgraded to **National Park** under [the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#) in July 1991.
- **Location:**
  - It is situated in **Gurgaon district of Haryana**. The distance of the park is around 50 Km from Delhi and 15km from Gurgaon.
- **Important Fauna at the Park:**
  - Mammals: [Blackbuck](#), [Nilgai](#), Hog deer, Sambar, [Leopard](#) etc.
  - Birds: [Siberian Cranes](#), [Greater Flamingo](#), [Demoiselle Crane](#) etc.

## Haryana Couples Seek Illegal Sex Determination Tests in UP

### Why in News?

Haryana has witnessed a **troubling increase in couples traveling to Uttar Pradesh for illegal [sex determination tests](#)**.

- This shift is mainly attributed to the **enforcement against [female foeticide](#)** in Haryana, particularly following the launch of the **‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’** campaign in January 2015.

### Key Points

- Over the past decade, Haryana authorities have filed approximately 400 **First Information Reports (FIR)** related to these illegal activities, with 205 of those lodged in Uttar Pradesh alone.
- The FIRs have been registered under the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994**.
  - It is an act of the Parliament of India that was enacted to stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India. The act banned **prenatal sex determination**.
  - Since authorities in Haryana launched a **crackdown on illegal sex determination** and female foeticide, over **800 FIRs** have been registered under the **PCPNDT Act, 1994** in the state and more than 4,000 people, including doctors, quacks and touts, have been arrested in the state and outside.
- However, the **‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’** initiative has had some success in improving the sex ratio in Haryana, which has risen from **871 girls per 1,000 boys in 2014 to 910 currently**.
  - This increase reflects the ongoing efforts to **combat [gender discrimination](#)** and promote the **value of female children**.

#### Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- **About:**
  - It was launched in **January 2015** with the aim to address sex selective abortion and the declining **child sex ratio** which was at **918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011**.
  - This is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development**.
  - The programme is being implemented across **405 districts** in the country.
- **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.

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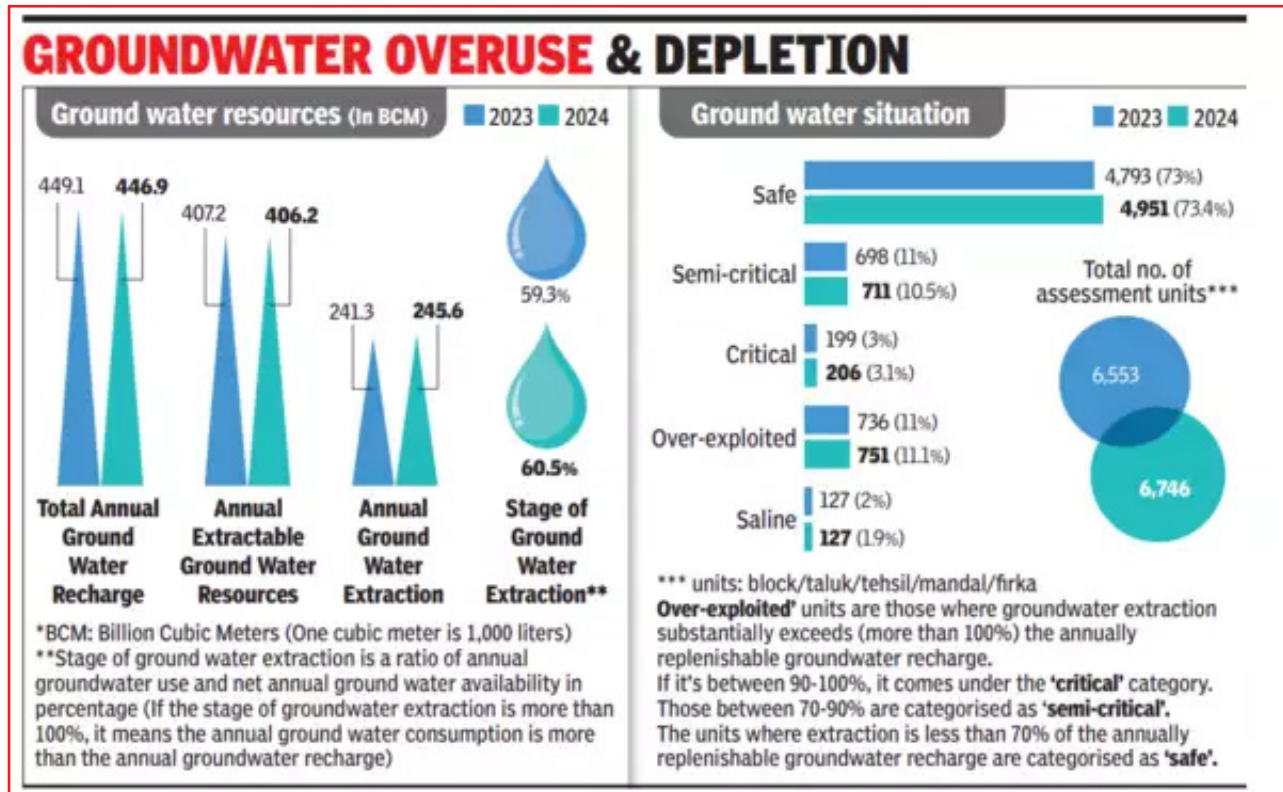
## Concerns Regarding Groundwater Contamination

### Why in News?

According to a recent report released by the [Ministry of Jal Shakti](#), [groundwater](#) quality varies considerably across India, with certain states and UT such as [Arunachal Pradesh](#), [Mizoram](#), [Meghalaya](#) and [J&K](#) fully meeting [Bureau of Indian Standards \(BIS\) standards](#) while states like [Rajasthan](#), [Haryana](#) and [Andhra Pradesh](#) facing widespread contamination.

### Key Points

- The northeastern states of [Arunachal Pradesh](#), [Mizoram](#), and [Nagaland](#), along with [Jammu & Kashmir](#), have showcased [exceptional groundwater management practices](#).



- A notable concern in the report, based on quality data at **15,259 groundwater monitoring locations** and focused assessment at **4,982 trend stations** across the country in **2023**, is the “**elevated levels of uranium** in several regions”.
- The samples with **high uranium concentrations** were clustered in areas identified as **over-exploited, critical, and semi-critical groundwater stress zones**, such as [Rajasthan](#), [Gujarat](#), [Haryana](#), [Punjab](#), [Tamil Nadu](#), [Andhra Pradesh](#) and [Karnataka](#).
  - [Rajasthan](#) and [Punjab](#) are shown as **regional hotspots of uranium contamination**.
- The report also reflects significant concerns over the quality of water due to high concentrations of [nitrate](#), [fluoride](#), [arsenic](#), and [iron](#) in groundwater.
- Almost **20%** of the samples exceeded the permissible limit for [nitrate](#) while **9%** of samples had [fluoride](#) levels above the acceptable limit.
  - **Arsenic contamination** was found in **3.5%** of samples.

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Note:



- Fluoride concentration exceeding the permissible limit is a major concern in **Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**.
- **Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra** have some of the highest incidences of **nitrate contamination**, with over **40%** of water samples exceeding the permissible limit.
  - The report attributed it primarily to agricultural run-off and overuse of fertilizers.
- Elevated **arsenic levels** were found in several states, particularly in the **floodplains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers**, during the assessment.
  - This includes regions of **West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Manipur**, as well as areas in the **Punjab**, and Rajnandgaor district in **Chhattisgarh**.
- The report underlined that **Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh** and **Karnataka** are the most severely affected by **high Electrical Conductivity (EC) value** in groundwater.
  - EC which is a measure of the ease with which water conducts electricity. It is actually the **measure of mineralization of water** and indicative of the **degree of salinity** of ground water.
  - It tells about how much **dissolved substances, chemicals, and minerals** are present in the water. Higher amounts of these impurities will lead to a **higher conductivity**.
- A rising trend in EC levels signals a **deeper issue of groundwater salinization**.

## Haryana Govt Committed to Providing Homes Under PMAY

### Why in News?

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing housing for economically disadvantaged citizens through the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**.

- He has directed officials to conduct comprehensive surveys to identify eligible beneficiaries and expedite the allocation of housing under the PMAY.

### Key Points

- In addition to housing initiatives, the Chief Minister announced plans to construct **2,200 new 'Amrit Sarovars' (water bodies)** across the state, building

upon the **2,000** already established under the **Amrit Sarovar Yojana**.

- This project aims to enhance **water conservation** and **support agricultural activities**.
- Furthering the state's commitment to **renewable energy**, the government has set an ambitious target to **install 100,000 solar panels**. This initiative is expected to promote **sustainable energy practices** and reduce the state's **carbon footprint**.
- Haryana will become the first among the states and second after the union territory of Chandigarh to implement the **new criminal laws** by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.
  - The Chief Minister has indicated that the **necessary processes are underway to adopt these laws**, which aim to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the state's legal system.
- These initiatives reflect the Haryana government's dedication to improving **living standards, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring legal reforms** for its citizens.

### Amrit Sarovar Mission

- On **24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**, **Mission Amrit Sarovar** was launched as part of India's "**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**" celebrations for the **75<sup>th</sup> year of independence**.
- The mission aims to construct/rejuvenate at least **75 Amrit Sarovars** in each district across India to overcome the water crisis in rural areas.
- The target for these water bodies serves as a crucial step towards ensuring **water sustainability** at the local level.
- **Eight Central Ministries/Departments, including** Dept. of Rural Development, Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes, Ministry of Railway, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, actively contribute to the mission's execution.
- **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N)** has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.
  - **BISAG-N** is an autonomous scientific society registered under the **Societies Registration Act, of 1860**. It comes under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- Geospatial data and technology play a pivotal role in identifying and executing the construction and rejuvenation of **Amrit Sarovar**.

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## Haryana to Include Gita in Class 8<sup>th</sup> Curriculum

### Why in News?

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has announced the inclusion of the **Bhagavad Gita** in the school curriculum up to **Class 8**, aiming to instill moral values among students.

### Key Points

- During a meeting with education department officials, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of **providing quality education in government schools** and rebuilding public confidence in the state's education system.
- It has been directed to resolve the **teaching staff shortage** by adjusting the teacher allocation based on student numbers, clarifying that although Haryana has sufficient teachers, their proper distribution requires focus.
  - A comprehensive **action plan is being developed to ensure that all teaching positions are filled** by the next academic session.
- It has been emphasized that sports and cleanliness should be made mandatory for the overall development of children.
- These initiatives reflect the **Haryana government's** commitment to enhancing the **quality of education** and fostering the overall development of students in the state.

## Haryana to Implement New Criminal Laws

### Why in News?

Haryana is going to fully implement the three **new criminal laws** by 28th February 2025. The **widespread adoption of 5G technology** would act as a force multiplier, as the new laws require **digital evidence through mandatory videography of crime scenes and recovery procedures**.

### Key Points

- **Timelines and Challenges:**
  - The new laws mandate **strict timelines for courts to complete trial proceedings**.
  - Courts face challenges as they must **handle both pending cases under old laws and new cases** in a time-bound manner.
  - Courts are now required to **accept chargesheets electronically**, leaving no room for exceptions.
- **Amendments to Police Rules:**
  - The existing **Police Rules** need amendments to align with the new legal framework.
  - **For example**; introduction of electronic summons delivery, previously unaddressed in the rules.
- **E-Summons App:**
  - The E-Summons App **eliminates the need for physical delivery of summons**.
  - Summons are **transferred electronically**, served via mobile devices or WhatsApp, and acknowledged screenshots are uploaded to the system.
- **Technological Upgrades in Policing:**
  - Equipment:
    - **Tablets and mobile handsets** are being procured for the police.
    - Each police station of Haryana has six computers connected to the Crime and **Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)**.
  - E-Sakshya App:
    - Designed to upload electronic evidence, requiring extensive backend storage, which is managed by **the National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
- **Legislative Changes:**
  - **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, **Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita (BSS)**, and **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** replaced **the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure**, respectively.
  - These laws, effective from 1st July 2024, aim to strengthen infrastructure and forensic capabilities.

### National Informatics Centre (NIC)

- It is a premiere S&T institution of the Government of India, **established in 1976**, for **providing e-Government / e-Governance Solutions** adopting best practices, integrated services and global solutions in Government Sector.

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Note:

### Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems

- **Background:**
  - **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)** is a plan scheme conceived in the light of experience of a non-plan scheme namely - **Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA)**.
- **Launch:**
  - CCTNS is a **Mission Mode Project** under **the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
  - Approx. 14,000 Police Stations throughout the country have been proposed to be automated besides 6000 higher offices in the police hierarchy.
  - It was approved in **2009**.
- **Objectives:**
  - Make the Police functioning **citizen friendly** and **more transparent** by automating the functioning of Police Stations.
  - Improve delivery of **citizen-centric services** through effective usage of **ICT**.
  - Provide the Investigating Officers of the Civil Police with **tools, technology and information** to facilitate investigation of crime and detection of criminals.

## Rise in Sex Ratio at Birth in Haryana

### Why in News?

According to officials, **Haryana has improved its sex ratio from 871 in 2014 to 910 in 2024**, marking a 39-point rise. This progress underscores Haryana's dedication and the success of the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative**.

### Key Points

- **Combating Female Foeticide:**
  - Haryana has intensified its campaign against **female foeticide** and strengthened enforcement of **the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994**.
    - Since 2014, the state has filed 1,217 **First Information Report (FIR)** under the Act, including **397 through interstate raids**.
  - These actions have led to over 4,000 arrests, targeting doctors, quacks, and touts involved in **illegal sex determination** and female foeticide.
- **Focus on Maternal Healthcare and Education:**
  - Haryana has made significant strides in **maternal healthcare**, with institutional deliveries increasing from 35.7% in 2005-06 to 94.9% in recent years.

- Secondary education enrollment has risen from 3,85,624 in 2015-16 to 4,00,736 in 2023-24.
- **Promoting Gender Equality and Support for Families:**
  - Over 5,23,056 families have benefited from a one-time payment of Rs 21,000 for the birth of a girl child.
  - The **Poshan Abhiyan**, launched in 2018, has **targeted anaemia and improved nutrition**, benefiting 2,24,136 participants through **Anganwadi centres**.
- **Empowering Adolescent Girls and Financial Support Initiatives:**
  - **The Adolescent Girls Scheme** in Mewat has supported 13,439 girls aged 14-18 in 2024-25 with self-development, skill-building, and health services.
  - **The Sukanya Samridhi Scheme** has facilitated the opening of 8,23,522 savings accounts for daughters under 10 years old.
  - Financial support has been provided to survivors of the **POCSO Act**, with Rs 1.31 crore disbursed across 778 cases by October 2024.
- **Promoting Gender Awareness Through Media:**
  - In 2024, Haryana launched the **"Mahri Lado" radio programme on All India Radio** to reshape societal attitudes towards girls.
  - The programme, covering health, nutrition, financial independence, and leadership, has engaged over 1,60,000 participants.

### Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

- The PCPNDT Act, 1994 is an Act of the Parliament of India that was enacted to **stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India**. The act banned **prenatal sex determination**.
- The main objective of enacting the act is to **ban the use of sex selection techniques before or after conception** and prevent the **misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex-selective abortion**.

### Poshan Abhiyan

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)** was launched by the government on **8th March, 2018**.
- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls)** and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.

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Note:



### Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme

- It aims to **promote the welfare of girl children in India.**
- Parents or legal guardians can open deposits for **up to two daughters aged below 10, and in the case of twin girls or three girl children**, the scheme allows three accounts to be opened.
- Minimum initial deposit is Rs 250 and Maximum annual ceiling is Rs 150,000.
- Deposits can be made for a maximum of 15 years. The account matures on completion of **21 years from the date of opening or on the marriage of the account holder**, whichever is earlier.

## Chief Secretary Visit to Rakhigarhi

### Why in News?

Recently, **The Chief Secretary** of Haryana visited **the iconic Harappan site of Rakhigarhi** and observed **the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** conducting the ongoing excavation in the district.

### Key Points

- **Directives and Observations at Rakhigarhi:**
  - Relocation of Families:
    - The Chief Secretary directed district officials to ensure the **smooth relocation of families residing in protected areas** to government-built houses for their rehabilitation.
    - Officials were also instructed to **remove all encroachments on the site** to preserve its integrity.
  - Site Exploration and Inspections:
    - He explored excavation sites, including mound numbers one, three, and four, which the ASI has divided into seven segments.
    - Inspected the under-construction museum and reviewed **ancient artifacts** and structures excavated in recent years.
  - Promotion of Heritage:
    - Emphasized the importance of **preserving the site and promoting it at national and international levels.**
    - Highlighted that the site reflects **India's rich heritage**, with museum artifacts **showcasing the culture, traditions, and lifestyle** of ancient India.

- **Artifacts** like earthen pots, **terracotta items**, tools, and human skeletons unearthed during excavation **will be displayed in the museum.**

### Insights from Findings:

- Highlighted the **advanced architecture and urban planning** of the Harappan civilization, with Rakhigarhi resembling modern cities such as Chandigarh.
- Key Architectural Features:
  - The site features a **well-planned drainage system**, large storage vessels for **waste disposal**, and **two-story houses with ventilation systems.**
  - A discovery on mound number three resembles a **stadium, showcasing the architectural prowess of the Harappan people.**
- Water Source Evidence:
  - Remains of a riverbed near the site indicate an **ancient water source essential for the settlement.**

### Rakhigarhi

- **Rakhigarhi** is the **largest Harappan site** in the Indian subcontinent. The site is situated in the plains of **Saraswati river**, about 27 km from **the seasonal Ghaggar river.**
  - Other large sites of **Indus valley Civilization (Harappan civilization)** in the Indian sub-continent are Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Ganveriwala in Pakistan and Dholavira (Gujarat) in India.
- At Rakhigarhi, excavations are being done to trace its beginnings and to study its gradual evolution from 6000 BCE (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BCE.
- The site **was excavated by Amarendra Nath of ASI.**

### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under **the Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection** of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, **exploration and excavation** of archaeological sites, **conservation and maintenance** of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham**- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the **"Father of Indian Archaeology"**.

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Note:

## Illegal Mining Operation in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, the mining mafia allegedly injured **Haryana State Enforcement Bureau** officers during an inspection of an **illegal mining operation** in Ghata Shamshabad village, Nuh district.

### Key Points

#### ➤ About the Incident:

- The State Enforcement Bureau team **sustained injuries from the stone pelting** and narrowly escaped.
- Police registered an **First Information Report (FIR)** against 22 unidentified individuals under **the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** and other laws.

# BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA (BNS), 2023

BNS 2023 replaced Indian Penal Code 1860, incorporating 358 sections (511 in IPC), maintaining most of the IPC provisions, introducing new offences, eliminating court- struck-down offences, and enhancing penalties for various offences.

<h4 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">New Offences</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📌 <b>Promise to Marry:</b> Criminalising “deceitful” promises to marry</li> <li>📌 <b>Mob Lynching:</b> Codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders</li> <li>📌 Ordinary criminal law now covers <b>Organized Crime</b> and <b>Terrorism</b>, including a broader scope for terror financing in BNS compared to UAPA</li> <li>📌 <b>Attempt to Suicide:</b> Criminalises attempts to commit suicide with intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging official duty</li> <li>📌 <b>Community Service:</b> Added as possible form of punishment</li> </ul>	<h4 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">Other Modifications</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📌 <b>Fake News:</b> Criminalisation of publishing false and misleading information</li> <li>📌 <b>Sedition:</b> Introduced under a new name ‘deshdroh’ with wider definition</li> <li>📌 <b>Mandatory Minimum Sentence:</b> In several provisions, mandatory minimum sentences prescribed which may limit scope for judicial discretion</li> <li>📌 <b>Damage to Public Property:</b> Carry a graded fine (i.e. fine corresponding to the amount of damage caused)</li> <li>📌 <b>Death by Negligence:</b> Elevates punishment for causing death by negligence from two to five years (for doctors - 2 yrs imprisonment)</li> </ul>
<h4 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">Deletions</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📌 <b>Unnatural Sexual Offences:</b> Section 377 of the IPC, which criminalised homosexuality among other “unnatural” sexual activities repealed completely</li> <li>📌 <b>Adultery:</b> Offence of adultery omitted in consonance of apex court judgement</li> <li>📌 <b>Thugs:</b> Section 310 of IPC fully omitted</li> <li>📌 <b>Gender Neutrality:</b> Some laws dealing with children modified to bring gender neutrality</li> </ul>	<h4 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 10px;">Key Issues</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📌 <b>Criminal Responsibility Age Discrepancy:</b> Criminal responsibility starts at seven, extendable to 12 based on maturity, potentially conflicting with global recommendations</li> <li>📌 <b>Inconsistencies in Child Offense Definitions:</b> It sets child age below 18, but age criteria for offenses like rape differ, causing inconsistency</li> <li>📌 <b>Retention of IPC Provisions on Rape and Sexual Harassment:</b> Maintains IPC provisions on rape and sexual harassment, omitting <b>Justice Verma Committee's 2013</b> suggestions for gender-neutral rape and recognizing marital rape as an offense.</li> </ul>



**Drishti IAS**

#### ➤ Illegal Mining:

- **About:**
  - Illegal mining is the extraction of minerals, ores, or other valuable resources from land or water bodies **without the necessary permits, licenses, or regulatory approvals** from government authorities.
  - It can also involve the violation of environmental, labor, and safety standards.

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- **Issues:**
  - **Environmental Degradation:**
    - It can lead to deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution and can result in **the destruction of habitats for wildlife**, which can have serious ecological consequences.
  - **Hazards:**
    - Illegal mining often involves the **use of hazardous chemicals such as mercury and cyanide**, which can pose serious **health risks to miners** and nearby communities.
  - **Loss of Revenue:**
    - It can lead to a **loss of revenue for governments** as miners may not pay appropriate taxes and royalties.
    - This can have significant economic impacts, particularly in countries where natural resources are a major source of revenue.
  - **Human Rights Violations:**
    - Illegal mining can also result in **human rights violations**, including forced labor, child labor, and exploitation of vulnerable populations.

## Haryana Centre of Excellence

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government has decided to set up a **Centre for Urban Excellence (CUE)** for regulated urban development.

### Key Points

- **Nodal Agency and Objective:**
  - **The Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP)** serves as the nodal agency for planned development in Haryana.
  - The CUE aims to partner with a reputed institution to **build cutting-edge knowledge, capacities, and implementation models**.
    - It also aims to **foster innovation, facilitate stakeholder discourse, and enhance Haryana's urban livability index** to international standards within a decade.
- **Urban Growth in Haryana:**
  - Haryana's urbanization level (35%) surpasses the national average (31%) as per **the 2011 census**.

- The state's urban population growth rate (44.25%) is higher than the national rate (32%).
- Rapid urbanization has highlighted the need for a policy advocacy body like the CUE to address urban development challenges.
- **Mission and Focus Areas:**
  - The CUE's mission is to strengthen state agencies' capacities for systematic urban innovation and governance.
  - It will focus on:
    - **Environmental sustainability.**
    - Technology adoption.
    - **Resource conservation.**
    - A people-first approach.
    - Shaping policies and practices for balanced growth and development.
    - Activities include research, strategic advisory, technical support, training, and capacity building.

## 10-minute Ambulance Service in Gurugram

### Why in News?

Blinkit is launching a 10-minute **ambulance service** in Gurugram and plans to expand it to other Indian cities within the next two years.

### Key Points

- **Medical Equipment and Staff:**
  - Each ambulance is equipped with essential medical tools, including **oxygen cylinders, Automated External Defibrillators (AED)**, stretchers, monitors, suction machines, **emergency medicines, and injections**.
    - The service **does not provide neonatal or ventilator care**.
  - The ambulance team consists of a paramedic, an assistant, and a trained driver.
- **Service Launch and Accessibility:**
  - Initially, five ambulances will operate in Gurugram.
  - Users can book a **Basic Life Support (BLS)** ambulance through the Blinkit app.
- **Affordability and Vision:**
  - Blinkit aims to offer the service at an **affordable fee of Rs 2,000**.
  - The initiative focuses on **solving a critical problem rather than profit-making**.

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Note:



## Swachhata Pakhwada in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, The [Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Dairy Research Institute \(NDRI\)](#) conducted a series of **cleanliness drives** in **Karnal district of Haryana**.

- It aimed to **raise awareness about cleanliness and environmental protection** while promoting a cleaner and greener India.

### Key Points

- **Activities Conducted:**
  - Awareness Programmes:
    - **Students were educated** on maintaining cleanliness at individual, community, and institutional levels.
    - Training was provided on **converting waste into wealth** and safely disposing of waste.
  - Cleanliness Drives:
    - Staff cleaned institute premises and reviewed old records and non-functional equipment for disposal.
    - **Special plantation drives** were organized.
  - Campaigns and Awareness:
    - Campaigns were held to **discourage single-use plastics**.
    - Initiatives focused on **recycling wastewater** and promoting water harvesting for **agriculture, horticulture, and kitchen gardens** in residential colonies.
  - Village Involvement:
    - Cleanliness and sanitation drives were carried out in villages adopted under the **“Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” programme**.
    - **Nukkad Nataks (street plays)** involving local celebrities were performed to encourage community participation.
- **Celebrating Kisan Diwas:**
  - Scientists and students celebrated **Kisan Diwas** in Dancher village.
  - Farmers were invited to **interactive workshops** focusing on practical solutions for **cleanliness in agricultural practices**.

### The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It was **established on 16 July 1929** as a **registered society** under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.
- It is the **apex body** for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

### Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav

- The scheme was **launched in 2015**, to **promote the direct interface of scientists with the farmers to hasten the “lab to land” process**.
- It envisages **scientists to select villages** as per their convenience and remain in touch with the selected villages and provide information to the farmers on technical and other related aspects of agriculture in a time frame through personal visits or on telephone.
- They may function with the help of **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** and **Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)**.

## Biochemical Oxygen Demand Levels in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, the **release of untreated waste** has significantly raised **the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels** in the **Yamuna river** and **irrigation canals** in Faridabad and Palwal districts of Haryana.

### Key Points

- **Alarming BOD Levels:**
  - According to the district administration **BOD levels are 400-500% higher than permissible limits** due to ineffective monitoring and insufficient preventive measures.
  - As per **the National Green Tribunal (NGT)** guidelines, the BOD standard for water is 10 milligrams per litre. Recent samples show levels between 35 and 40, with some locations in the Yamuna reaching 50 milligrams per litre.

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- **Environmental Impact:**
  - Untreated waste not only raises BOD levels but also reduces **dissolved oxygen (DO)** levels to zero. This results in the **destruction of aquatic life** and a strong stench.
  - High BOD levels indicate a failure in **wastewater treatment and sewage management systems**.
- **Challenges in Implementation:**
  - **Poor enforcement of regulations and rising pollution levels** have worsened the situation.
  - Experts call for **stricter monitoring, improved sewage management, and robust implementation of pollution control measures** to mitigate the crisis.

#### Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

- BOD is the **amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms** in the biological process of metabolizing organic matter in water.
- The **more organic matter** there is (e.g., in sewage and polluted bodies of water), the **greater the BOD**; and the greater the BOD, the **lower the amount of dissolved oxygen** available for higher animals such as fishes.
- The BOD is therefore a **reliable gauge of the organic pollution of a body of water**.

## DARPG Commission Visit Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, a delegation from **the Department of Administrative Reforms and Personnel Grievances (DARPG)** visited the **Right to Services Commission, Haryana**.

### Key Points

- **Institutions Visited:**
  - The delegation visited **Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran, Haryana Discoms, and the Antyodaya Saral** call center monitored by the Commission.
  - They observed **seamless service delivery processes** and attended a session of citizen interactions via video conferencing.

- The session emphasized **real-time grievance resolution** through collaboration with senior officials.
- **Achievements of the Right to Services Commission:**
  - Service Delivery Transformation:
    - The Commission has **revolutionized service delivery with 422 notified services** provided in a time-bound manner.
    - Each office displays notice boards specifying timelines for service delivery.
  - **Digitization and Innovations:**
    - Comprehensive digitization of processes was implemented, integrating the call center, **Antyodaya Saral portal**, and field offices.
    - An **auto-appeal process was introduced** and rigorously monitored, ensuring improved grievance redressal.

### Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

- It is the Government of India's **nodal agency for administrative reforms and public grievance redressal**.
- It is under **the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions**.
- It provides **the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**, an online platform for citizens to file grievances with the central and state government ministries and departments.
- The DARPG also uses **the Intelligent Grievance Management System (IGMS)** to flag urgent grievances and detect spam, bulk, and repetitive grievances.
  - IGMS also analyzes the text content and attachments of grievances to identify their semantic gist.

## Savitribai Phule Birth Anniversary

### Why in News?

On 3rd January 2024, **Haryana Chief Minister is going to visit Bahadurgarh** to attend an event to be organised to mark the birth anniversary of **social reformer Savitribai Phule**.

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Note:

**Key Points**➤ **Instructions to Officials:**

- All department officials were directed to complete preparations on time and with responsibility.
- Officials were instructed to **remove encroachments** and enhance **sanitation** in the area.

# SAVITRIBAI PHULE

(03 January 1831 - 10 March 1897)

*A 19th century social reformer who worked in the field of women education*

**EARLY LIFE**

- ▶ Born in **Mali community (Maharashtra)**
- ▶ Aged 9 - married to 13 y/o Jyotirao Phule - an **extraordinary couple in India's social & educational history**

**SOCIAL ENDEAVOURS**▶ **Individual**

- Published **Kavya Phule (1854) & Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892)**
- Started **Mahila Seva Mandal (1852)** - raise awareness about women's rights
- Wrote poem - **Go, Get Education** for oppressed communities
- Carried forward the **Satya Shodhak Samaj** after Jyotiba's death (1890)

▶ **With Jyotiba**

- Started a school for girls, Shudras and Ati-Shudras in Poona (1848) (India's **first school for women - started by Indians**)
- Opened **Native Female School (Pune)** and **The Society for Promoting the Education of Mahars, Mangs and Etceteras in 1850s**
- Started - **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** (Home for the **Prevention of Infanticide**) in their own house

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Note:



**Key Points**

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**Key Points**

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