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(CONSOLIDATION)

HARYANA

**MARCH
2025**

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Content

● Maruti Suzuki Plant in Haryana	3
● Haryana Budget 2025-26.....	3
● Haryana Prepares for Rabi Crop Procurement	4
● International Workshop on Land Governance	5
● NGT Notice to Haryana Government	6
● Chaitra Chaudas Fair.....	9
● Parade of 55th CRPF Trainee Officers.....	9
● Spiritual Education for Holistic Well-Being	11
● IAF Aircraft Crash in Haryana.....	11
● Cases Under Cow Protection Act.....	12
● Seminar on Health Challenges and Healthy Lifestyle	12
● Rising Debt of State-run Universities in Haryana	13
● Haryana Amended Green Energy Open Access Regulations.....	13
● Compensation to Construction Workers.....	14
● Rise in Consumption of Urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP).....	15



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Maruti Suzuki Plant in Haryana

Why in News?

Maruti Suzuki India announced a **Rs 7,410 crore investment** to establish a **third plant at Kharkhoda in Haryana**, capable of producing up to 2.5 lakh vehicles per year.

Key Points

- **Existing and Upcoming Capacity:**
 - The **current production capacity at Kharkhoda stands at 2.5 lakh units per year.**
 - Another plant, also with a 2.5 lakh units per year capacity, is under construction.
- **Approval for a Third Plant:**
 - On 26th March 2025, Maruti Suzuki's Board approved the establishment of a **third plant at Kharkhoda.**
 - With the third plant, Kharkhoda's total production capacity is expected to reach **7.5 lakh units per year.**
 - The proposed capacity expansion is scheduled to be completed by **2029.**
- **Reason for Expansion:**
 - The company cited **growing market demand**, including export opportunities, as the key reason for setting up the third plant.

Haryana Budget 2025-26

Why in News?

Haryana Chief Minister presented the **state's budget for the financial year 2025-26**, unveiling a comprehensive plan aimed at fostering **sustainable growth** and **economic expansion.**

Key Points

- **Total Budget Outlay:** The budget proposes an expenditure of **₹2,05,017.29 crore for 2025-26**, marking a **13.7% increase** from the previous fiscal year's (2024-25) revised estimates.
- **Department of Future:** A new **"Department of Future"** will be established to prepare Haryana for upcoming **economic, technological, and environmental challenges.**

- This department will serve as a **strategic think tank**, focusing on areas such as **climate change preparedness, artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and economic resilience.**
- **Haryana AI Mission:** The government plans to launch the **Haryana AI Mission**, with the **World Bank** assuring assistance of over **₹474 crore.**
 - Under this mission, hubs will be established in **Gurugram and Panchkula** to promote AI adoption and integration of emerging technologies within governance and industry.
- **Lado Lakshmi Scheme:** An allocation of **₹5,000 crore** has been made for the **Lado Lakshmi Scheme**, which aims to provide **₹2,100 per month** to women, reflecting the government's commitment to women's empowerment and financial support.
- **Employment Generation:** The budget emphasizes job creation, with a target of providing employment to **50 lakh youth** under **Mission Haryana-2047**, demonstrating a long-term vision for workforce development.
- **Substance Abuse Prevention:** A new authority named **SANKALP (Substance Abuse and Narcotics Knowledge Awareness and Liberation Program Authority)** will be established with an initial fund of **₹10 crore.**
 - This body will coordinate efforts to **combat drug addiction** through awareness and rehabilitation initiatives.
- **Fiscal Prudence:** Strengthening Haryana's Financial Health Over the past decade, Haryana has demonstrated remarkable fiscal discipline.
 - The **revenue deficit** has reduced from **1.90% of GDP in 2014-15** to an estimated **1.47% in 2024-25**, and as a percentage of the total budget.
 - it has declined from **13.4% to 9.9%.**
 - Similarly, the **fiscal deficit** has been steadily managed, reducing from **2.88% in 2014-15** to **2.68% in 2024-25.**
- **Support for Athletes:** National and international athletes will receive **free insurance coverage** of up to **₹20 lakh**, with the government covering the premium.
 - Olympic medalists will be provided **₹10 lakh** to start their own businesses and will be eligible for a **₹5 crore loan** with a 2% subsidy to establish their own **sports academies.**

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Note:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Significant investments are planned for infrastructure, including the development of **multi-level parking facilities** in several cities and a **new metro line** in Gurugram.
 - Flight services from **Hisar airport** to destinations like **Ayodhya, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad,** and **Jammu** are also on the agenda.
- **Strengthening Agriculture And Rural Economy:** Haryana being an **agrarian state**, the budget prioritises **agricultural growth**.
 - Initiatives such as the **interest-free loan** of up to **Rs 1 lakh** for **women dairy farmers**, a new **horticulture policy**, and an **air cargo facility** for **horticultural produce** at Hisar airport will significantly enhance the agricultural value chain.
 - Additionally, **cow sanctuaries** are being set up in every district to promote **animal welfare** and **sustainable livestock farming**.
- **Education Initiatives:** Female students pursuing **graduation or post-graduation** in science and engineering will receive an annual scholarship of **₹1 lakh** under the **Kalpna Chawla Scholarship Scheme**, promoting higher education among women in technical fields.
- **Empowering Startups:** The state government is actively encouraging private investors to create a **Rs 2,000 crore 'Fund of Funds.'**
 - This initiative supports entrepreneurs, fostering a startup culture and attracting investments to Haryana.
- **Mission Haryana-2047:** A visionary initiative under this budget is '**Mission Haryana-2047**. It aims to elevate **Haryana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** to **USD 1 trillion**.
 - The **state's GSDP** has witnessed a remarkable increase from **Rs 4,37,145 crore** in **2014-15** to a projected **Rs 12,13,951 crore** in **2024-25**, growing at an annual average rate of **10.8 per cent**.
 - Similarly, **per capita income** has surged from **Rs 1,47,382** in **2014-15** to an estimated **Rs 3,53,182** in **2024-25**.

Haryana Prepares for Rabi Crop Procurement

Why in News?

Haryana Government has set an **ambitious target** of procuring **75 lakh metric tonnes (MT)** of wheat for the **Rabi marketing season 2025-26**.

- A **cash credit limit** of over **₹6,653 crore** has already been approved by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to facilitate procurement.

Key Points:

- Haryana is expecting a **bumper wheat production** this **Rabi season**, prompting the state government to enhance procurement arrangements.
- The Chief Minister has instructed **marketing board officials** to construct large sheds in vacant areas of mandis to accommodate future needs.
- The procurement responsibilities have been divided among different agencies:
 - **30%** by the Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department
 - **40%** by HAFED (Haryana State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited)
 - **20%** by Haryana State Warehousing Corporation
 - **10%** by Food Corporation of India
- Haryana contributes around **25%** of the **wheat to the central pool** and ranks **second** in **wheat production** in India.
- A total of **415 mandis** will be operational for wheat procurement, **25 for barley, 11 for gram, 7 for lentils, 116 for mustard, and 17 for sunflower**.
- The **minimum support prices (MSP)** for various Rabi crops have been fixed as follows:
 - **Wheat:** ₹2,425 per quintal
 - **Barley:** ₹1,980 per quintal
 - **Gram:** ₹5,650 per quintal
 - **Lentil:** ₹6,700 per quintal
 - **Mustard:** ₹5,950 per quintal
 - **Sunflower:** ₹7,280 per quintal

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Note:

- The Chief Minister has instructed all deputy commissioners to form teams for **monitoring the procurement process** to ensure smooth and efficient operations.

Minimum Support Price

- **About:**
 - MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
 - MSP is based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which considers various factors such as **cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity**, etc.
 - CACP is an attached office of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**. It came into existence in **January 1965**.
 - The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the **Prime Minister of India** takes the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs.
 - The MSP is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to growers for their produce and encouraging **Crop Diversification**.

International Workshop on Land Governance

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, in collaboration with the **Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)**, is hosting an “**International Workshop on Land Governance**” from 24 to 29 March 2025, at the HIPA Complex in **Gurugram, Haryana**.

- It is organised with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs under its **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program**.

Key Points

- **Global Participation and Focus Areas:**
 - The workshop will bring together **delegates from 22 countries across Africa, Latin America, and South-East Asia**.

- Participants will explore **innovative solutions to address land governance challenges** worldwide.
- India’s pioneering **SVAMITVA Scheme**, which uses **drone technology** to map rural inhabited areas and provide legal property ownership documents, will be showcased.

➤ Technical and Field Sessions:

- Sessions will cover **drone-based land survey techniques, high-resolution mapping, and geospatial technologies** for improved land administration.
 - Participants will engage in hands-on demonstrations of drone survey methods, data processing, ground verification, and **GIS (Geographic Information Systems) integration**.
 - **The Survey of India** will conduct **live drone survey demonstrations** in a village to offer practical exposure.
- **Field visits and exhibitions** will further provide real-world insights into modern land governance technologies.
- Ten drone vendors will set up stalls displaying innovations in **drone-based land mapping and survey techniques**.

➤ Participation of Industry Leaders:

- Knowledge partners include Survey of India, State Land Revenue Departments, **National Informatics Centre, Geo-Spatial World**, Hexagon, Trimble, Aereo, Marvell Geospatial, Idea Forge Tech, and AWS.
- Classroom demonstrations will cover:
 - Drone use cases in land governance.
 - Ortho-rectified imaging and feature-extracted mapping.
 - Ground verification technologies for high-resolution mapping and property card finalization.

➤ Addressing the Global Land Governance Challenge:

- The **2017 World Bank report** states that **only 30% of the global population holds legally registered land titles**.

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Note:

- India's SVAMITVA Scheme provides a model for global land governance, offering 5cm accuracy mapping at a 1:500 resolution.
- The workshop aims to help participating nations achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** related to land rights by learning from India's model.

SVAMITVA Scheme

➤ About:

- SVAMITVA stands for **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas**.
- It is a **center sector scheme** which was **launched nationally** on the occasion of **National Panchayati Raj Day** on 24th April 2021.

➤ Aim:

- To provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India.

➤ Features:

- The **demarcation of rural inhabited areas** would be done using **Drone survey** and **CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) Networks** which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cm.
- This would provide the '**record of rights**' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages.
- It **will cover around 6.62 Lakh villages** of the entire country **during 2021-2025**.

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program

- The ITEC program, **initiated in 1964**, spans 160 partner countries, providing **short-term training across diverse disciplines**.
- Courses cover areas such as Engineering, Climate Change, Health, and Women Empowerment, contributing to holistic skill enhancement globally.

NGT Notice to Haryana Government

Why in News?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the Rajasthan and Haryana governments to comply with its 9th December 2022, judgment.

- The tribunal instructed both states to establish a **monitoring committee and conduct periodic reviews to remove illegal constructions** from protected **Aravali land** in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh (Haryana), and Alwar (Rajasthan).

Key Points

➤ Compliance with 2022 Judgment:

- These lands are classified as '**gair mumkin pahar**' (**uncultivable hill**), where **construction is prohibited**.
- Despite clear instructions, the **states had not submitted any compliance report** or taken necessary action.

➤ Background of the Case:

- Activists had originally filed a **plea highlighting encroachments on Aravali land**.

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Note:

- The case has been under NGT's scrutiny for over a decade, focusing on violations of **the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** notification dated 7th May 1992, which prohibits construction in designated areas.
- The tribunal had monitored the matter for over 10 years before issuing the December 2022, judgment.
- **NGT's 2022 Judgment and Directions:**
 - NGT had noted that **encroachers were identified**, and both states had formed a monitoring mechanism.
 - **Chief secretaries of both states were instructed to oversee** compliance through quarterly reviews.
 - **Aggrieved parties were allowed to seek legal remedies** for any violations.
- **Extent of Illegal Constructions:**
 - **A forest department survey revealed that at least 500 illegal farmhouses were built on Aravali land in Gurgaon.**
 - These were concentrated in areas like Gwalpahari, Abheypur, Gairatpur Bas, Sohna, Raisina, and Manesar.

Aravali Mountain Range



- The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountains on Earth**. Geological studies indicate that it is three billion years old.
- 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**.
- **Influences 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**.
 - During the winter months, it **shields the fertile alluvial river valleys of the Indus and Ganga** from the harsh **cold westerly winds blowing in from Central Asia**.

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Note:

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

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

About

- ④ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ④ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ④ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ④ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

Structure

- ④ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ④ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ④ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI'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

- ④ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ④ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ④ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ④ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - ⦿ Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ④ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ④ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ④ **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

- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ④ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ④ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ④ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ④ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ④ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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Note:

Chaitra Chaudas Fair

Why in News?

The three-day **Chaitra Chaudas Fair** will take place from 27-29 March, 2025 at **Saraswati Tirtha** in Pehowa, Kurukshetra.

- During the fair, a **large number of devotees from Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi gather in Pehowa** to offer prayers to their ancestors.

Key Points

- **Administrative Coordination and Planning:**
 - The district administration has initiated preparations for the fair to **ensure smooth execution**.
 - A joint meeting of all departments was held to coordinate efforts and complete preparations on time.
 - Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) reviewed the preparations and issued necessary directives.
- **Infrastructure and Facility Arrangements:**
 - The Public Health and Engineering Department has been directed to:
 - Ensure an **adequate water supply**.
 - Install **temporary toilets** for visitors.
 - The Irrigation Department will drain out the pond at **Saraswati Tirtha** and refill it with fresh water.
 - Officials from multiple departments, including **Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBN)**, Health, Municipal Committee, Food and Civil Supplies, Transport, Fire, Kurukshetra Development Board, Police, and others, have received instructions for fair preparations.
- **Security and Law Enforcement Measures:**
 - Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) stated that the **fair area would be divided into eight security sectors**.
 - Police check posts will be set up at:
 - Ambala Road
 - Guhla-Pehowa Road
 - Kaithal Road
 - Galerva Road
 - Kurukshetra Road

- Complete security checks will be conducted at a single point to avoid repeated stops for devotees.
- A large police force will be deployed to ensure devotee safety and prevent untoward incidents.
- **Enhanced Surveillance and Monitoring:**
 - CCTV cameras across the fairgrounds will be checked to ensure they are operational.
 - Defunct cameras will be replaced, and new CCTV cameras will be installed in parking areas to prevent vehicle theft.

Parade of 55th CRPF Trainee Officers

Why in News?

Haryana Chief Minister officiated at the passing-out parade of the **55th batch of trainee Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officers** at their **training academy in Kadarpur, Gurugram**.

Key Points

- **Call to Serve the People:**
 - The Chief Minister urged newly passed-out CRPF officers to **serve the people and make decisions that prioritize public well-being**.
 - Addressing the officers, he described their commissioning as a new chapter in life and wished them a successful, exciting, and challenging career.
- **Emphasis on Duty and Responsibility:**
 - He reminded them that holding the national flag symbolizes their duty to serve the people and make impactful decisions.
 - He urged them to not only apprehend criminals but also work towards maintaining harmony in society.
- **Graduation of Officers:**
 - A total of 39 trainee officers, including two women, graduated from the academy on 6th March 2025.
 - These officers, now **appointed as Assistant Commandants, have undergone 52 weeks of training in battle craft, combat, firing, and other critical areas**.
 - They will be deployed across various **internal security** theatres in the country.

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Note:

CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

The CAPF includes the seven security forces in India functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Assam Rifles (AR)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1835, as militia called 'Cachar Levy'
 - ↳ **Erstwhile objective:** To protect British Tea estates
- ↳ **Current Objectives:**
 - ↳ Conducting anti-terrorist operations in NER
 - ↳ Ensuring security at India-China and India-Myanmar borders
- ↳ **Imp Role in:**
 - ↳ Sino-India War 1962
 - ↳ Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka (1987)

Due to long association with tribal belts, Assam Rifles are also called 'Friends of the North East'

Border Security Force (BSF)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1965
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - ↳ Also performing Anti-Infiltration in Kashmir Valley
 - ↳ Counter Insurgency in NER
 - ↳ Anti-Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- ↳ **Wings:** Air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units

BSF is India's First Line of Defence and the world's largest border guarding force

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- ↳ **Pre-Independence Origin:** 1939 (Crown Representative's Police)
- ↳ **Post Independence:** 1949 - under CRPF Act, became Central Reserve Police Force
- ↳ **Objective:** Crowd control, riot control, counter militancy/insurgency operations, etc.

CRPF is the principle central police force for internal security

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1962
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Deployed on border from Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh) (~3488 km of Indo-China Border)
 - ↳ Manning Border Outposts on altitudes 9000 ft - 18700 ft in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border

ITBP is India's specialised mountain force & the first responder to natural disasters

National Security Guard (NSG)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1984 (came into being in 1986), following Operation Blue Star
- ↳ **Objectives:** Counter-terrorism unit/Federal Contingency Force
- ↳ **Task-oriented Force - Two complementary elements:**
 - ↳ Special Action Group (SAG)
 - ↳ Special Ranger Groups (SRG)

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1963
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Guarding Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders
 - ↳ Enhance border security, curb trans-border crimes, prevent unauthorised entry/exit, halt smuggling, etc.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- ↳ **Origin:** Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- ↳ **Objectives:** Ensuring security of major critical infrastructure installations

CISF is the sole CAPF unit with a specialised fire wing



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Note:

Spiritual Education for Holistic Well-Being

Why in News?

The President of India Droupadi Murmu launched a state-level campaign, 'spiritual education for holistic well-being' of **Brahma Kumaris** in Hisar, Haryana on its golden jubilee.

Key Points

- **Spirituality as a Unifying Force:**
 - The president stated that **spirituality transcends man-made boundaries and unites humanity.**
 - She emphasized that **systems built on spirituality** whether social, economic, scientific, cultural, or political, remain **ethical and sustainable.**
- **Impact on Personal Well-being:**
 - A person who maintains **spiritual consciousness** experiences better mental and physical health along with inner peace.
 - Spiritual peace not only benefits the individual but also enriches the lives of others by spreading positive energy.
 - She also stressed that **spiritual peace should not lead to isolation** but should be used to build a strong, healthy, and prosperous society and nation.
- **Brahma Kumaris' Contributions:**
 - She appreciated the Brahma Kumaris for utilizing spiritual energy for **societal and national welfare.**
 - The organization actively contributes to key initiatives such as the **fight against drug abuse, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation.**
 - Expressing confidence in their efforts, she stated that the Brahma Kumari family would continue to **enhance holistic well-being and support the country's overall development through spirituality.**

IAF Aircraft Crash in Haryana

Why in News?

On 7th March 2025, an **Indian Air Force (IAF) Jaguar fighter jet** crashed at Ambala in Haryana during a routine sortie after encountering a system malfunction.

Key Points

- **About Jaguar:**
 - The Jaguar is a **versatile aircraft used for ground attack, air defense, and reconnaissance missions.**
 - It is a **Fifth-generation (5G) fighter aircraft** capable of operating in heavily contested combat zones, characterised by the **presence of the most advanced air and ground threats**, both current and anticipated.
 - 5G fighter jets have **stealth capabilities** and can cruise at **supersonic speeds** without engaging afterburners.
 - It **stands out from fourth-generation (4G) peers** due to its multi-spectral **low-observable design, self-protection, radar jamming capabilities, and integrated avionics.**
 - The squadrons of **MiG-21s, MiG-29s, Jaguars, and Mirage 2000s** are scheduled to be phased out by the middle of the next decade.

MiG-21

- Supersonic jet fighter and interceptor aircraft designed by the **erstwhile USSR in the 1950s.**
 - Widely used combat aircraft in history, with more than 11,000 units built and over 60 countries operating it.
- **IAF acquired its first MiG-21 in 1963** and has since **inducted 874 variants** of the aircraft
- Involved in several wars and conflicts involving India. Involved in many accidents and crashes, earning it the nickname **"flying coffin".**

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Note:

MIG 29s

- It is a twin-engine, multirole fighter jet, **developed by Soviet Russia in the 1970s**. It has been upgraded since.

Cases Under Cow Protection Act

Why in News?

The Haryana government has decided to **fast-track the disposal of cases registered under the Cow Protection Act** by establishing four special courts with jurisdiction across the state.

Key Points

- **Establishment of Special Courts:**
 - **The Governor**, with the Punjab and Haryana **High Court's** approval, has set up **special courts in Nuh, Palwal, Ambala, and Hisar**.
 - These **courts will be led by the senior-most Additional District and Sessions Judge and Civil Judge** handling regular cases.
 - These courts will fast-track cases related to offences under **the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act, 2015**.
- **Jurisdiction of Special Courts:**
 - **Nuh Court:** Will oversee cases from Nuh, Rewari, Narnaul, Charkhi Dadri, and Bhiwani districts.
 - **Palwal Court:** Will cover Palwal, Faridabad, Gurugram, Jhajjar, Rohtak, and Sonapat districts.
 - **Ambala Court:** Will have jurisdiction over Ambala, Panchkula, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, and Karnal districts.
 - **Hisar Court:** Will handle cases from Hisar, Jind, Fatehabad, Sirsa, and Kaithal districts.
- **Haryana's Cow Protection Law:**
 - The Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act was **enacted in 2015**.
 - The law strictly **prohibits the slaughter of cows** and aims to **reduce the consumption of beef**.

- It prohibits slaughter, offering for slaughter, or causing the slaughter of cows. However, **killing a cow in self-defense or by accident is not considered slaughter** under the law.

- **Role of Special Task Force:**

- The **Special Cow Protection Task Force** is responsible for enforcing the Act in Haryana.
- The task force actively collects information on cattle smuggling and slaughter from the public and takes action accordingly.

Seminar on Health Challenges and Healthy Lifestyle

Why in News?

Union Minister for Labour & Employment attended a seminar on "Health Challenges and Healthy Lifestyle" organized by **Arogya Bharti** in collaboration with **ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Faridabad, Haryana**.

Key Points

- **Emphasis on Preventive Healthcare:**
 - The Union Minister underscored the **importance of preventive and promotive healthcare** in fostering a healthy and fit India.
 - He highlighted **India's rich healthcare heritage** by citing ancient medical pioneers like **Charak, Sushruta, and Lord Dhanwantari**.
- **Role of Traditional Practices:**
 - He stressed the significance of **meditation, yoga, and fasting** as essential components of preventive healthcare.
 - He commended Arogya Bharti for organizing wellness camps nationwide to **promote holistic well-being**.
- **Inauguration of Advanced Medical Facilities:**
 - During his visit, the Union Minister inaugurated three cutting-edge medical facilities to enhance diagnostic and treatment capabilities:

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Note:

- Digital Mammography Services
 - A high-resolution, digital detector-based mammography machine designed for early detection and evaluation of breast cancer.
- 1000 mA Digital Radiography Fluoroscopy (DRF) System
 - A modern diagnostic system that improves X-ray radiography and fluoroscopic-guided interventions for insured workers and their families.
- Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) Application
 - An advanced technology supporting oncology research, RNA sequencing, and pathogen identification, paving the way for precision medicine.
- Unveiling of Lord Dhanwantari's Statue:
 - As a tribute to India's ancient medical wisdom, the minister unveiled a **statue of Lord Dhanwantari, the god of Ayurveda**, at ESIC Medical College & Hospital.

Rising Debt of State-run Universities in Haryana

Why in News?

The former Haryana finance minister plans to launch a campaign highlighting the **rising debt** of **state-run universities** after the government replaced **grant-in-aid** with loans.

Key Points

- **Rising University Debt:**
 - The **22 state universities in Haryana** have accumulated a **debt of ₹6,625.82 crore** due to shift in grant-in-aid policy with loan.
 - The rising debt could impact **research, teaching, and even the survival of universities.**
- **Government's Justification:**
 - The state government maintains that the funds are provided under the scheme "**non-recoverable**

financial assistance in the form of interest-free perpetual loans."

- Officials argue that **grant-in-aid counts as revenue expenditure**, while **loans count as capital expenditure**, which is aimed at **building assets and generating revenue** for universities.
- **Concerns Over Self-Financing Model:**
 - Decision of giving loans instead of grant-in-aid practically means that all government universities would have to adopt a **self-financing pattern** which forces universities to increase fees, making higher education **unaffordable** for lower and middle-class students.

Grant-in-aid

- **Grants-in-aid** are payments in the **nature of assistance, donations or contributions** made by one government to another government, body, institution or individual.
- Apart from Grants-in-aid given to the State Governments, the Union Government gives substantial funds as Grants-in-aid to other agencies, bodies and institutions.
- Similarly, the State Governments also disburse **grants-in-aid** to **agencies, bodies and institutions** such as **universities, hospitals, cooperative institutions** and others.
- The grants so released are utilized by these **agencies, bodies and institutions** for meeting day-to-day operating expenses and for **creation of capital assets.**

Haryana Amended Green Energy Open Access Regulations

Why in News?

The **Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC)** has amended its **Green Energy Open Access Regulations, 2023.**

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Note:

Key Points

- **Expanded Eligibility for Open Access:**
 - Consumers with a contracted demand of **100 kW** or more, whether through a single connection or multiple connections totaling **100 kW** or more within the same electricity operation division of a distribution licensee, are now eligible for **Green Energy Open Access**.
- **Extended Additional Surcharge Exemption for Offshore Wind Projects:**
 - Electricity generated from **offshore wind projects** commissioned until **December 2032** and supplied to open access consumers will be exempt from additional surcharges. This extends the previous exemption, which was applicable only until **December 2025**.
- **Clarifications on Open Access for Non-Independent Feeder Consumers:**
 - Eligible consumers not connected to **independent feeders** can access open access, provided they accept **system constraints** and any **power cut restrictions** imposed by their **distribution licensee**. Under-drawal due to such restrictions will not be compensated.

Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC)

- HERC was established on **17th August 1998** as an independent **statutory body corporate** as per the provision of the **Haryana Electricity Reform Act, 1997**.
- Haryana was the **second State in India** to initiate the process of **Reform & Restructuring** of the Power sector.
- The **Haryana Electricity Reform Act, 1997** was passed by the **Haryana State Legislative Assembly** on **22nd July 1997**. After receiving assent of the President of India on **20th February 1998**, this Act came into force on 14th August 1998.

Compensation to Construction Workers

Why in News?

The Supreme Court ordered Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan to compensate construction workers whenever **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**

measures in Delhi-NCR halt activities, even without a specific court directive.

Key Points

- **Compensation Payment:**
 - The Supreme Court directed that **compensation must be paid** using funds collected as **labour cess**.
 - Compensation should be disbursed even in the absence of a specific court order.
- **GRAP and Air Quality Measures:**
 - GRAP measures are implemented based on the **average air quality in Delhi-NCR** to **curb pollution levels**.
 - The court reaffirmed that **compensation must be paid whenever construction activities are halted** due to GRAP measures in 2024 and 2025.
- **State-wise Compensation Details:**
 - **Haryana** paid compensation to:
 - 2,68,759 workers in the first phase of GRAP-4.
 - 2,24,881 workers in the second phase.
 - Around 95,000 workers are in the process of receiving compensation for January 2025.
 - **Delhi** disbursed compensation to 93,272 workers, while the verification process for remaining registered workers is ongoing.
 - **Rajasthan** compensated 3,197 workers.
 - **Uttar Pradesh** paid compensation to:
 - 4,88,246 workers in phase 1.
 - 4,84,157 workers in phase 2.
 - 691 workers in phase 3.
- **Registration and Union Meetings:**
 - The court directed the Delhi government to convene meetings with workers' unions to **ensure proper registration of construction workers**.
 - Similar directions were issued to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, covering:
 - 14 districts in Haryana
 - 8 districts in Uttar Pradesh
 - 2 districts in Rajasthan (Bharatpur and Alwar)

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Note:

➤ Accountability of NCR States:

- On 2 December 2024, the court asked Chief Secretaries of NCR States to appear via video conferencing to confirm whether **subsistence allowance** was paid to workers affected by work stoppages.
- Significance:
 - The **order reinforces the right to compensation for vulnerable workers** during environmental curbs.
 - It ensures **financial security for labourers affected by pollution control measures**.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

➤ About:

- GRAP is a **set of emergency measures** that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once **it reaches a certain threshold** in the Delhi-NCR region.
- It was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 after the Supreme Court's order in the matter of **M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016)** and notified in 2017.

➤ Implementation:

- From 2021 onwards, the GRAP is being implemented by **the CAQM**.
 - Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed **Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA)** used to order States to implement GRAP measures.
- The EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in 2020**.
- CAQM relies on air quality and **meteorological forecasts** by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** and the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.

Rise in Consumption of Urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)

Why in News?

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has expressed concern over the sharp increase in **urea** and **di-ammonium phosphate (DAP)** consumption during

the ongoing **rabi season (2024-25)** in multiple states, including **Haryana, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and J&K**.

Key Points

➤ Rising Urea and DAP Consumption:

- Urea and DAP are essential for agricultural productivity, and India relies on imports to meet domestic demand.
- The Agriculture Secretary in a letter to Haryana's Chief Secretary highlighted excessive fertiliser consumption in some districts.
- He noted that usage had surpassed both the assessed monthly requirement and the previous year's figures, indicating an imbalance.

➤ Urea Consumption Trends:

- Haryana's urea usage **rose by 18% compared to the past three-year average**, reaching 11,07,205 metric tonnes (MT) from 9,40,549 MT.
- Highest increases were recorded in:
 - Charkhi Dadri – 107%
 - Yamunanagar – 32%
 - Sonapat – 30%
- **Other states** also recorded significant increases in urea consumption:
 - Jharkhand – 35%
 - Chhattisgarh – 37%
 - J&K – 24%
 - Karnataka – 20%
 - Bihar – 17%
 - Gujarat – 2%

➤ DAP Consumption Trends:

- Haryana's DAP **usage increased by 18%**, reaching 3,25,416 MT from the previous three-year average of 2,75,934 MT.
- Districts with the highest surge:
 - Charkhi Dadri – 184%
 - Mahendragarh – 65%
 - Yamunanagar – 55%
 - Ambala – 48%
 - Panchkula – 39%
 - Rewari – 34%
 - Jhajjar – 30%

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- Other states also saw notable increases in DAP usage:
 - Chhattisgarh – 30%
 - Gujarat – 25%
 - Bihar – 17%
- **Concerns Over Fertiliser Diversion:**
 - The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers flagged potential diversions in January.
 - Haryana's Director of Agriculture, Rajnarayan Kaushik, acknowledged that urea might be diverted to industries.
- **Factors Driving Increased Usage:**
 - **Paddy Stubble Management:** Farmers now use 25-45 kg of urea per acre to manage paddy stubble.
 - Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) Fertiliser Usage:
 - Consumption rose from 26,000 MT last year to 66,000 MT this season.
 - Since NPK has lower nitrogen content than DAP, farmers compensate by using additional urea.
 - High-Nitrogen Wheat Varieties:
 - **Wheat varieties** like WH 1270, DBW 187, 303, and 327 require 1.5 times more nitrogen than older varieties.
 - Farmers, expecting higher yields, tend to use more urea.
 - These varieties now cover an estimated 2.50 lakh acres in Haryana.

- Inter-State Fertiliser Movement:
 - Reports **indicate fertilisers** are being **transported to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh from Haryana**.
 - Some fertilisers are also being diverted to the plywood industry, claimed Rakesh Bains of the **Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni group)**.

DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate)

- DAP is the second most commonly used fertilizer in India after urea.
- DAP is a preferred fertilizer in India because it contains both **Nitrogen and Phosphorus** which are primary macro-nutrients and **part of 18 essential plant nutrients**.
- Fertilizer grade DAP **contains 18% Nitrogen and 46% Phosphorus**. It is manufactured by **reacting Ammonia with Phosphoric acid** under controlled conditions in fertilizer plants.

Urea

- Urea is a **white crystalline compound** commonly used as a **synthetic fertilizers** in agriculture.
- When applied to the soil or crops, **urea is broken down by enzymes into ammonia and carbon dioxide**.
 - The **ammonia then gets converted into ammonium ions**, which can be **taken up by plant roots and used for growth and development**.

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