

First Project in Haryana to Get Post-facto Environmental Clearance | Haryana | 30 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Recently, a private university built on protected <u>Aravali</u> land was given a post-facto approval by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).**

 It is the first project in Haryana to get post-facto environmental clearance since the <u>Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980</u> was amended.

Key Points

- Categorized under sections 4 and 5 of <u>Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA)</u>, **1900** the university lies on 13.6 hectares of Aravali land, which prohibits <u>deforestation</u>, resale and fragmentation of land without prior permission.
- Due to the amended act the government can approve projects or industries that had begun functioning without obtaining prior environment clearance and disclosing their environmental impact after a review in line with provisions of the Act.
- The committee gave its approval on few conditions:
 - The land **should not pass through any** national park, wildlife sanctuary, elephant, or tiger reserve.
 - The university identifies an equal area of non-forest land for **compensatory afforestation** and should carry out plantation on it.
- In exceptional cases regional forest department offices have been directed to examine and process such proposals and forward them to the ministry with comments and recommendations for appropriate decisions.
- The amended FCA states that it will be applicable to land parcels "notified" as forest according to the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The revised FCA is not applicable in areas converted from forest for non-forest purposes by any government authority authorized by the state before December 12, 1996.
- On December 12, 1996, the Supreme Court delivered its landmark judgment in the <u>Union of India</u> <u>Vs T N Godavarman case</u> ordering application of the FCA to any area that qualified as a forest as per its dictionary meaning.

DIVERSION 'UNAVOIDABLE & BAREST MINIMU WHY THE NOD 1998 Construction of university begins According to the ministry's advisory committee, next to Badkhal-Surajkund road in Faridabad, continues till 2004-05 Requirement of land to be diverted is 'unavoidable and barest minimum' 2008 Forest dept submits report to 0 Supreme Court, saying the university As university proposal envisaged 'access' to education in area, building and other encroachments there's forest land is unavoidable on forest land are to be razed University is not located on forest 2022 Forest dept tells Union 0 land with any socio-cultural or cultural value environment ministry university was built in violation of Forest

ministry for post-facto clearance. It's granted by advisory committee

university approaches environment

(Conservation) Act, 1980

2023 After FCA amendment,

There's no protected archaeological/heritage site or defence establishment in area

No rare or endangered species of flora and fauna recorded in area

University does not lie in way of any national park or wildlife sanctuary

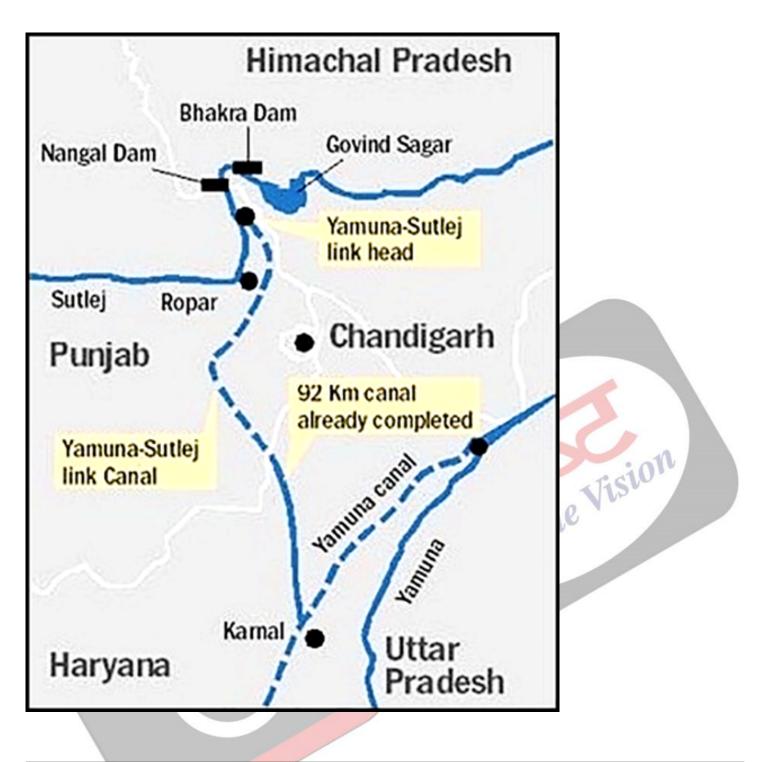
Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Issue | Haryana | 30 Dec 2023

Why in News?

Union Jal Shakti Minister will be holding a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab, as the meeting conducted earlier failed to bridge the gap between Haryana and Punjab on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue.

Key Points

- Underscoring the importance of constructing the SYL, the Punjab government will submit an affidavit to the Central government, providing details about the SYL and water situation.
- According to officials, Punjab has no surplus water to share with Haryana and reassessment of availability is required as per international norms.
 - In Punjab 76.5% of blocks (117 out of 153) are over-exploited. Here groundwater **extraction is estimated at more than 100%**. In Haryana the figure for over-exploited blocks is 61.5% (88 out of 143).
- Earlier the apex court directed the union government to conduct a survey of the land in Punjab that was assigned for construction of the SYL canal.



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