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## Haryana to Waive Outstanding Water Charges | Haryana | 08 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal has decided to **waive outstanding water charges, including surcharge and interest, amounting to ₹372.13 crore** for rural households in the State.

### Key Points

- According to the sources, **28.87 lakh water connection holders will be benefited** from this waiver. This **does not extend to institutional, commercial, or industrial consumers falling under the Public Health Engineering department.**
- The Cabinet has approved the **waiver of water charges amounting to ₹336.35 crore**, accumulated from April 1, 2015, to December 31, 2022, for all types of consumers in villages and rural areas.
  - This **includes the general category as well as Scheduled Caste categories.**
- The policy on the **development of ecotourism** has also been approved. The policy emphasises the **conservation of Haryana's diverse landscapes**
  - These include **two national parks, seven wildlife sanctuaries, two Ramsar sites, two conservation reserves, and five community reserves.**
  - It also includes many niche faunal habitat ecosystems, including the **old Aravalli hill range, Shivalik hills, rich biodiversity, dense forests, host of water bodies and scenic places.**

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## IG Drones to Survey PRT Corridor | Uttarakhand | 08 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

According to the reports, IG Drones, a drone tech and analytics company is going to survey the **Uttarakhand Metro Rail Project**. It is the inaugural **Personalized Rapid Transit Corridor (PRT)** corridor under the Neo Metro System.

- An initiative by the Government of Uttarakhand, the **PRT Corridor project is anticipated to be completed by 2024** and seeks to offer world-class and state-of-the-art commuting.

### Key Points

- The **Neo Metro Project** plans to build state-of-the-art **rapid transit systems in Dehradun, Haridwar, and Rishikesh** in the next four years to ease traffic congestion.
- The **PRT** is being **developed under the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS)** that will link

### three cities- Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Dehradun.

- IG Drones will help prepare a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** by surveying the project through high-tech drones.
  - The company will employ domestically developed drones to conduct **regular overview** of the ongoing work progress on the ground.
  - The drones are equipped with **advanced sensors** capable of **capturing high-resolution images, videos, and additional data from the ground.**
  - This collected data is then processed through **IG One**, their **proprietary software**, which offers in-depth technical insights and analytics.
- These analytics enable real-time tracking of the project's progress.
- IG Drones is the leading drone tech and analytics company that has launched India's **first 5G Drone- Skyhawk.**
- **Drones** are increasingly prevalent in infrastructure projects, **valued for their efficiency, precision, and cost-effectiveness.**
  - Their applications extend to **surveying construction progress, assessing work quality, and identifying potential issues** during the construction phase.

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## Penalties For Parents Allowing Minors To Drive | Uttar Pradesh | 08 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

To curb accidents caused by minors the Uttar Pradesh government is enforcing a **three-year imprisonment and a fine of Rs 25,000 on parents or vehicle owners** who permit underage driving.

### Key Points

- An **awareness campaign** has been initiated **in government secondary schools** in collaboration with the **Transport Department**, emphasizing road safety through various mediums.
- **Under Section 199 (A)** of the **Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019**, outlined that in **motor vehicle-related offenses** committed **by juveniles, only their guardian** or the vehicle owner would be **held accountable.**
  - The **prescribed punishment includes** a three-year imprisonment and a Rs 25,000 fine.
- Experts from King George's Medical University and the Lohia Institute in Lucknow revealed that **40% of road accident fatalities involve minors.**
- The officials urged strict adherence to the law prohibiting driving by children below 18 and advocated for awareness campaigns in all educational institutions.

### Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019

- The Act **hikes the penalties** for traffic violations, defective vehicles, juvenile driving, etc.
  - It **provides for a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.
  - It also **provides for a National Road Safety Board**, to be created by the Central Government.
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## Uttar Pradesh's Semiconductor Policy | Uttar Pradesh | 08 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered officials to prepare the **state's semiconductor policy**.

- The decision came after taking cognizance of the **significant role** that semiconductors are playing in today's rapidly evolving **technology-driven global economy**.

### Key Points

- According to estimates, the **global semiconductor ecosystem** is expected to have **generated revenues** exceeding **USD 950 billion in the fiscal year 2022**.
  - The semiconductor chip sector has announced an **investment of more than USD 500 billion for the last two years**.
- The Centre is giving **incentives for semiconductor manufacturing** services like **semiconductor fabs, display fabs, and compound semiconductors**.
  - In 2021, India announced its roughly USD 10 billion-dollar **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** to encourage semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country.
  - For the semiconductor and display ecosystem, having **fabrication units, mixed semiconductors, outsourced semiconductors, assembly and test units, testing, and packaging units** creates a better ecosystem.
- There **should be a provision for the disbursement** of financial and non-financial incentives under Uttar Pradesh's policy **for attracting global semiconductor investors**.

### Semiconductors

- Semiconductors are a **class of crystalline solids** intermediate in electrical conductivity **between a conductor and an insulator**.
  - They are **employed in the manufacture of various kinds of electronic devices**, including diodes, transistors, and integrated circuits.
    - Such **devices have found wide application** because of their compactness, reliability, power efficiency, and low cost.
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## Modern Update of Traditional Tankas | Rajasthan | 08 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

To battle **water scarcity** in the arid region, the Centre has adopted western Rajasthan's **traditional rainwater harvesting system 'tankas'** by constructing a large number of such **storage tanks** with reinforced concrete cement.

- **Traditional 'tankas'** are **earthen rainwater storage tanks** constructed by the people of Barmer district and other parts of western Rajasthan **to collect water received during showers between July and September**.

## Key Points

- The water stored in the traditional '**tankas**' **gradually becomes contaminated due to its earthen structure** and **does not last for the entire year**.
- The Centre has adopted the method under [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act MGNREGA \(Rural\) scheme](#) by **constructing water storage spaces made of reinforced concrete cement** to provide uncontaminated water to the people for a longer period of time.
  - A total of **1,84,766** such tanks have been **constructed since 2016**, with **41,580 built in the current 2023-24 fiscal**.
  - Each tank, **measuring 13.5 ft by 13.5 ft**, has the **capacity to store 35,000 liters of water** and is constructed at a **cost of ₹3 lakh**.
  - The district has **2,971 villages, locally called 'dhannis'**, and respective **gram panchayats are the implementing agencies**.
- Other **measures** are also being adopted to **ensure water supply to far-flung villages** in the district such as the supply of water from the **Indira Gandhi Canal and the [Narmada Project](#) along with the [Jal Jeevan Mission \(JJM\) scheme](#)**.
- The target is to reach out to 4.25 lakh households under the JJM scheme. Of these, 1.25 lakh households are already covered.

## The Indira Gandhi Canal

- It is the **longest canal** in the country.
  - It **starts from Harike Barrage**, a few kilometers **below the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab**, flows through Ludhiana and **terminates in the Thar Desert in northwest Rajasthan**.
- The canal is a **source of drinking and irrigation** in the north and western **Rajasthan**.
  - It **provides water to 1.75 crore people** living in 7,500 villages across eight districts in the state.
- The **water in the Indira Gandhi canal** has apparently **turned black due to the presence of pollutants in it**.
  - The pollution has caused several **health complications** among people **such as skin diseases, gastroenteritis, indigestion and loss of eyesight**.