



Sahastra Tal Trek | Uttarakhand | 07 Jun 2024

Why in News?

In Uttarakhand, **nine trekkers** from Karnataka **died near the Sahastra Tal** in Uttarakhand.

- These trekkers, part of a 22-member group, died after losing their way due to bad weather while on their way back from Sahastra Tal.

Key Points

- The state government is in touch with the [rescue operations team](#), and the families of the deceased are informed.
- **Sahastra Tal Trek:**
 - It is a high-altitude trail at 15,000 feet located in **Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district**.
 - The trek is surrounded on both sides by: **the Bhagirathi Valley on the west** and the **Bhilangana Valley on the east**.
 - The **Kush Kalyan Plateau**, surrounded by small lakes, is located north of the lake. Locals perform an **annual ritual of carrying their god around the lake** as they believe it to be auspicious.

Haryana CM Administered Oath | Haryana | 07 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana Chief Minister** Nayab Singh Saini was administered the **oath of legislator by the Assembly Speaker** Gian Chand Gupta.

Key Points

- The CM contested the [by-election](#) for the Karnal assembly seat after he replaced the previous Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
 - Polling for the state's 10 Lok Sabha seats and the Karnal assembly constituency was held in the sixth phase of the [general election](#) on 25th May 2024 and the **results were declared on 4th June 2024**.

By-elections (Bypolls)

- **About:**
 - By-elections are also known as bypolls or **special elections**, which refer to **elections held to fill vacant seats in the legislative bodies of India**.
 - It serves as a **vital component within the broader electoral cycle** and complements

regular elections by **addressing unforeseen vacancies**.

- **Purpose:**
 - The primary objective of bypolls is to ensure **the timely filing of vacant seats, enabling the representation of the affected constituency** or district in the legislative body.
- **Occurrence:**
 - Bypolls are conducted when a seat in the legislature becomes vacant due to reasons such as the **death, resignation, disqualification, or expulsion of a sitting member**.
- **Timeframe:**
 - Section 151A of the [Representation of the People Act, 1951](#) mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through **bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy**, provided that the **remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more**.
 - Hence, there is **no need to hold bye elections if the remaining term of the Lok Sabha is less than one year** from the date of occurrence of vacancies.

SC Directs Haryana to Facilitate Flow of Surplus Water | Haryana | 07 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) allowed Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs (a unit of flow equal to 1 cubic foot per second) of surplus water and directing the Haryana government **to ensure uninterrupted flow of this water to Delhi from the [Hathnikund barrage](#) to address the drinking [water crisis](#)**.

Key Points

- The court asked the **Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)** to measure water released by Himachal Pradesh at **Hathnikund** in Haryana.
- **Amid the water shortage** in the national capital, the **Delhi government** had **approached the Supreme Court to get immediate additional water** from neighbouring Haryana.
 - Delhi government in its plea said that it is constrained to file the petition on account of the **acute shortage of water** being faced by the people of Delhi, triggered by the ongoing [severe heat conditions in North India](#), particularly in Delhi.

Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)

- Upper Yamuna River Board is a **subordinate office under Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti**, Government of India.
 - A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed by the Chief Ministers of **Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and National Capital Territory of Delhi on 12th May, 1994** regarding allocation of utilizable surface flow of River Yamuna upto Okhla Barrage among the co-basin States.
 - The MoU provides for creation of **a board called Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB)**.
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Rajasthan to Build Water Harvesting Units | Rajasthan | 07 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has chosen to increase efforts in [water conservation](#) in the state with the [Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan 2.0](#) in response to [water scarcity](#) issues in various regions.

- Under the initiative, there is a plan **to construct 500,000 water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages over the next four years.**

Key Points

- As per the government statistics, Rajasthan, known as one of the driest areas in the country, has consistently dealt with a lack of water.
 - The **state receives an annual rainfall varying from 100 mm to 800 mm**, resulting in numerous regions experiencing **water shortages, including for basic drinking needs.**
- Rainfall is the main contributor to **groundwater replenishment** in the state, and water levels differ significantly throughout the region.
 - A government report highlighted Rajasthan as one of the prominent states where groundwater sources have been excessively utilized.
- [Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation \(RIICO\)](#) recently released a notification requiring all individuals leasing plots measuring 500 square meters or more to install [rainwater harvesting systems](#) on their property to enhance water conservation efforts and boost groundwater levels.
- **Rajasthan Police Housing and Construction Corporation Limited (RPH&CCL)** will also incorporate rainwater harvesting in its current building projects.

Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan

- **CM launched the campaign** from village Gardan Kheri in **Jhalawar district** of Rajasthan on 27th January **2016**.
- The Scheme is based on **Four-waters Concept** that involves harvesting of available runoff (rain water, ground water, under-ground water & in situ soil moisture) in rural areas by treatment of catchment, proper utilization, renovation & creation of new water harvesting structures.

Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)

- It is a **premier agency of the Government of Rajasthan** that has played an important role in the industrial development of Rajasthan, it was **formed in 1980**.
- A Government enterprise established under **Companies Act, 1956** on 28th March 1969 as Rajasthan State Industrial & Mineral Development Corporation (RSIMDC) was divided into two entities on 1st January 1980:
 - Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (**RIICO**)
 - Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation (**RSMDC**)

NOTA Votes | Madhya Pradesh | 07 Jun 2024

Why in News?

In the recent general elections, Indore registered the highest-ever [NOTA \(none of the above\) votes](#) in the country at 2,18,674.

Key Points

- The NOTA option garnered 16.28% of the total vote cast in the Indore Lok Sabha seat.
 - A total of 5,33,705 voters pressed the NOTA (none of the above) option nationally, with the highest number of 2,18,674 such votes being registered in the Indore seat.
 - The 25.27 lakh eligible voters in Indore, 61.75% exercised their franchise. Of them, 13,43,294 ballots were found valid. Of it, 16.28% of the votes went to NOTA. In 2019, Indore recorded a 69% turnout with 5,045 voters opting for NOTA.
- According to a former Chief Election Commissioner, NOTA has a “**symbolic**” impact and **if it gets more than 50% votes in a seat, only then making it legally effective** on election results could be considered.

NOTA

- The NOTA option was introduced for the **first time** in the general elections **in 2014**.
- NOTA has **no legal consequence** attached to it as even if the highest number of votes in a seat are polled for NOTA, the second most successful candidate wins.
 - **In Haryana, NOTA has been treated as a fictional candidate.**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/07-06-2024/print>

