



Demand for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme | Haryana | 10 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, during a gathering of the **Pension Bahali Sangarsh Samiti in Kaithal**, it was decided to **hold a large demonstration in Panchkula on 1st September 2024** to demand for the restoration of the [Old Pension Scheme \(OPS\)](#).

Key Points

- Before the rally, the association has decided to hold “**OPS sankalp sammelan and aakrosh march**” in every district of the state, starting from **1st July 2024**.
- **Old Pension Scheme:**
 - The **scheme guarantees a lifelong income after retirement**.
 - Under the old scheme, **employees get a pension under a predetermined formula which is equivalent to 50%** of the last drawn salary. They also get the benefit of the revision of Dearness Relief (DR), twice a year. The payout is fixed and there was no deduction from the salary. Moreover, under the OPS, **there was the provision of the [General Provident Fund \(GPF\)](#)**.
 - GPF is available only for all the government employees in India. Basically, it allows all the government employees to contribute a certain percentage of their salary to the GPF and the total amount that is accumulated throughout the employment term is paid to the employee at the time of retirement.
 - The Government bears the **expenditure incurred on the pension**. The scheme was **discontinued in 2004**.

Recruitment in Haryana to be Initiated Soon | Haryana | 10 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister announced that the **government will soon initiate the recruitment process** to fill 50,000 vacant posts in the state.

Key Points

- This will be done as part of the **government's ongoing efforts to provide employment opportunities and support the aspirations of the youth**.
 - He stressed on the continuation of the “**transparent**” **recruitment system** for government jobs.

- He asserted that the state government is committed to **safeguarding the interests of candidates** and soon present this matter to **the Supreme Court** and strongly advocate for it to ensure justice for the youth.
 - **On May 31, 2024**, the **Haryana High Court** ruled that the **socioeconomic criteria** established by the Haryana government for **awarding additional marks to certain classes** of candidates in state government jobs were **unconstitutional**.
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Earthquake in Sikar | Rajasthan | 10 Jun 2024

Why in News?

According to the [National Center for Seismology \(NCS\)](#), recently a **3.9 magnitude earthquake** occurred in Rajasthan's Sikar city.

Key Points

- The earthquake occurred at a depth of 5km, at 27.41 N latitude and 75.06 E longitude.
- **National Centre for Seismology (NCS):**
 - This is the agency responsible for **monitoring and reporting the seismic activity** in India and its neighbourhood.
 - It **operates a network of seismological observatories across the country**, and provides real-time data and information on earthquakes and [tsunamis](#).
 - It also **maintains a website and a mobile app, called BhooKamp**, to provide earthquake alerts and updates to the public.

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EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves in all directions**

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

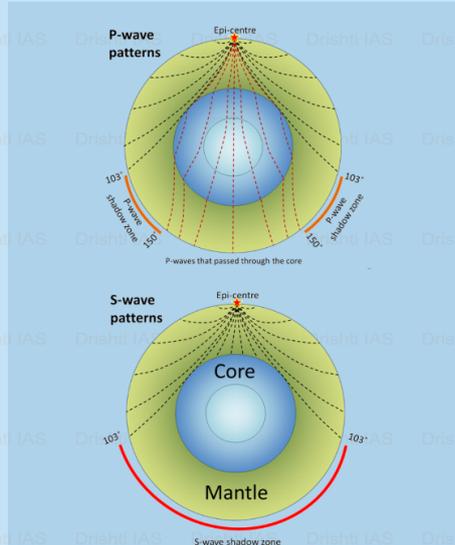
- Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane

HYPOCENTER

- Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

EPICENTER

- Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)



CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Release of energy along a Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- Movement of **tectonic plates (most common)**
- Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

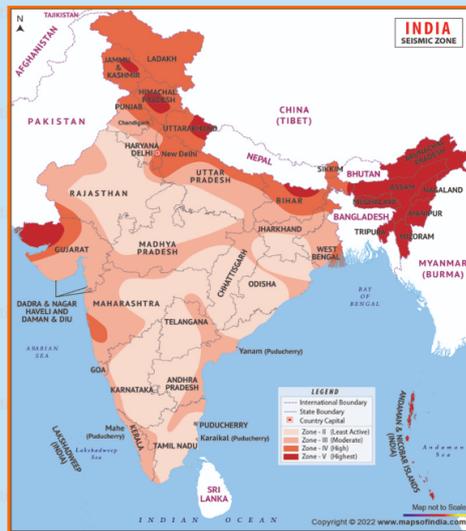
- India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- India has been divided into **4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)**

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

- Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- Alpine Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater



Hike in Kisan Samman Nidhi Assistance to Farmers | Rajasthan | 10 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** announced an **increase in the annual honorarium paid to farmers** under the Union government's [Kisan Samman Nidhi](#).

- The **amount** given to each farm household has been **enhanced from ₹6,000 to ₹8,000 per year**.

Key Points

- Overall, **5.7 million farmers** in **Rajasthan are receiving assistance** through the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, initiated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019**.
- The state's [interim budget](#) has allocated Rs. 1,400 crore to increase the financial aid.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- **About:**
 - It was launched on 24th February, 2019 to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers.
- **Financial Benefits:**
 - Financial benefit of **Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments**, every four months is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through [Direct Benefit Transfer \(DBT\) mode](#).
- **Scope of the Scheme:**
 - The scheme was initially meant for **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) having landholding upto 2 hectares** but scope of the scheme was **extended to cover all landholding farmers**.
- **Funding and Implementation:**
 - It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
 - It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Objectives:**
 - To supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various inputs to **ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income** at the end of each crop cycle.
 - To protect them from falling in the clutches of moneylenders for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.
- **PM-KISAN Mobile App:**
 - It was developed and designed by the [National Informatics Centre](#) in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Physical Verification Module:**
 - A mandatory physical verification of **5% beneficiary every year is being done as per the provisions** laid down in the scheme.

New Ramsar Sites in Bihar | Bihar | 10 Jun 2024

Why in News?

According to the officials, two of Bihar's [wetlands](#) have been added to the **global list of wetlands of international importance** under the [Ramsar Convention](#).

- This brings the total number of such wetlands in **India to 82**.

Key Points

- [The Nagi and Nakti bird sanctuaries](#) in Bihar's **Jamui district** are now part of the Ramsar Convention.
 - Both the bird sanctuaries are built on [human-made wetlands](#) primarily developed for irrigation through the construction of the **Nakti Dam**.
 - Both sanctuaries were designated as Bird Sanctuaries in 1984 due to their importance as **wintering habitats** for migratory species.
 - This includes one of the largest congregations of **red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*)** and [bar-headed geese \(*Anser indicus*\)](#) on the [Indo-Gangetic plain](#).
 - The catchment area features [dry deciduous forests](#) surrounded by hills.
- **Flora and Fauna:**
 - These wetlands provide habitats for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, reptiles, and amphibians.
 - They host globally threatened species such as the endangered [Indian elephant](#) and the vulnerable native catfish.
 - According to the [Asiatic Waterbird Census 2023](#), the Nakti Bird Sanctuary reported 7,844 birds, the highest in the survey, followed by the Nagi Bird Sanctuary with 6,938 birds.
- These sites were declared as Wetlands of International importance on the occasion of [World Environment Day](#) on **5th June**.

Red-Crested Pochard



- The red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) is a **large diving duck**.
- Its **breeding habitat is lowland marshes and lakes in southern Europe** and it extends from the steppe and semi-desert areas on the **Black Sea to Central Asia** and Mongolia, **wintering in the Indian Subcontinent and Africa**.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#)- Least Concern

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World:** Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- **World Wetlands Day: 2nd February**



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 75**
- Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- **Related Framework in India**
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
- The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- **Largest Ramsar Site:** Sunderbans, West Bengal
- **Smallest Ramsar Site:** Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- **State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites:** Tamil Nadu (14)
- **Wetlands in Montreux Record:**
- Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
- Loktak Lake: Manipur



Development of Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit | Rajasthan | 10 Jun 2024

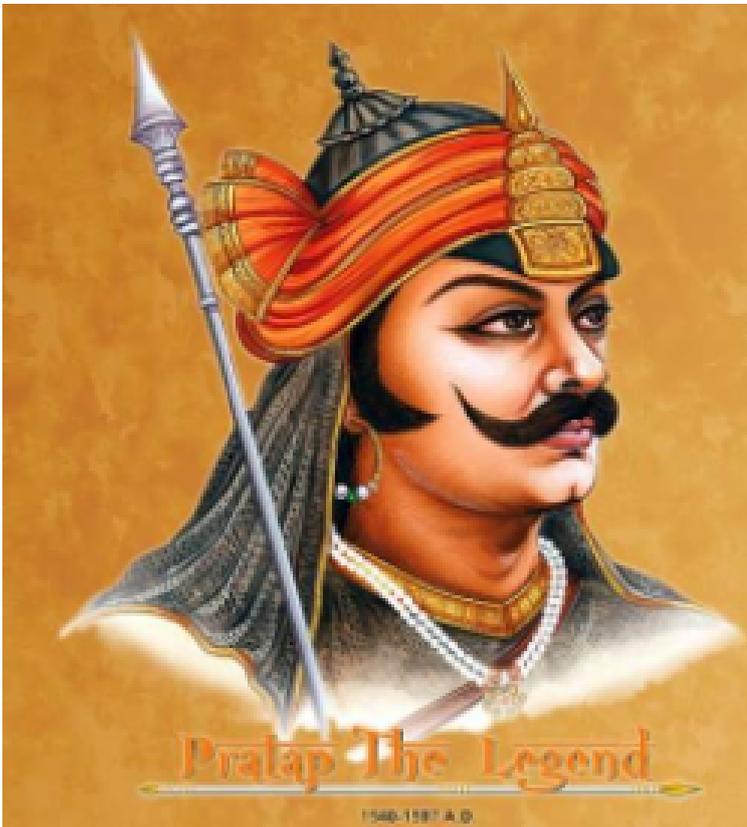
Why in News?

Rajasthan Chief Minister announced a **Rs100 crore investment** to develop the [Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit](#) during the inauguration of [Maharana Pratap Jayanti](#) celebrations in Udaipur.

Key Points

- He emphasized the global significance of the **16th century king** as a **source of inspiration for youth worldwide**.
 - The Chief Minister emphasized Maharana Pratap's exceptional bravery, courage, and patriotism, extending beyond his legacy.
- The Rajasthan government is also working to implement **people-friendly innovations in medical science and AI-based technologies** to improve health facilities for locals and tourists.

Maharana Pratap



- **Rana Pratap Singh**, also known as Maharana Pratap, was **born on 9th May 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan.**
 - He was the **13th King of Mewar** and was the eldest **son of Udai Singh II**
 - Maharana Udai Singh II ruled the kingdom of Mewar, with his capital at Chittor.
 - **Udai Singh II** was also a **founder of the city of Udaipur** (Rajasthan).
- **Battle of Haldighati:**
 - The [Battle of Haldighati](#) was **fought in 1576 between Rana Pratap Singh of Mewar and Raja Man Singh of Amber** who was the general of the Mughal emperor Akbar.
 - Maharana Pratap fought a brave war but was **defeated by Mughal forces.**
 - It is said that **Maharana Pratap's loyal horse named Chetak**, gave up his life as the Maharana was leaving the battlefield.
- **Reconquest:**
 - **After 1579**, the Mughal pressure relaxed over Mewar and Pratap recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda.
 - During this period, he also built **a new capital, Chavand**, near modern Dungarpur.
- **Death:**
 - He died on 19th January 1597. He was **succeeded by his son Amar Singh**, who submitted in 1614 to Emperor Jahāngīr, son of Akbar.