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## 33% Quota for Women in Police Force | Rajasthan | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government approved **33% reservation for women** in the police force, along with an additional 5% allowance for pensioners.

### Key Points

- The Cabinet approved an amendment to the [Rajasthan Police Subordinate Services Rules, 1989](#).
- Approval was also given to amend **Rules 67 and 87 of the Rajasthan Civil Services Pension Rules, 1996**, under central government pension rules.
  - A 5% additional allowance was approved for pensioners aged 70 to 75
  - **Specially-abled children, dependent parents, and specially-abled siblings** can now be permanently added to the [Pension Payment Order \(PPO\)](#) if there is no other eligible member.
  - The [gratuity and death gratuity](#) for state employees were increased from **Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh**.

**Note:** The **Union government** approved a **33% reservation** for women in direct recruitment for non-gazetted posts (constable to sub-inspector) in Delhi in **March 2015**.

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## Green Manifesto, 2024 | Haryana | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **People for Aravallis** group initiated the development of a '**Haryana Green Manifesto 2024**' in response to the growing environmental crisis in the state.

### Key Points

- **Green Manifesto:** The document was created after a unique participatory exercise, gathering inputs from rural and urban stakeholders across 17 districts of Haryana ahead of the assembly elections.
  - Experts in ecology, agriculture, urban planning, and sustainable architecture contributed to shaping a green vision for Haryana.
- **Key Demands in the Green Manifesto:**
  - Legally designate the [Aravallis](#) and [Shivaliks](#) as "[critical ecological zones](#)" to prohibit destructive activities and commercial projects.
  - Promote the use of **alternative building materials** to preserve the remaining hills.
  - Designate [Mahendergarh district](#) as a "**pahadi dark zone**" and cease all **mining and**

- **stone-crushing operations** due to critically low groundwater levels (1,500-2,000 feet).
- Withdraw the state's appeal in the [Supreme Court to legalize mining](#) in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Remove landfills in **Bandhwari, Pali, and near ITI colony** on the Old Sohna-Alwar road.
- Halt illegal dumping and burning of chemical waste from industrial units in **Bhiwadi, Khori Khurd, and other villages in Nuh district.**
- Provide compensation and **quality farmland to villagers** whose lands have been impacted by these activities.
- **Demands for Forest Protection:**
  - Provide legal protection to all forests by **including un-notified forests as "deemed forests"** under the [Punjab Land Preservation Act \(PLPA\), 1900.](#)
  - Legislate a **Tree Act for Haryana**, similar to the stringent **Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.**
  - Declare all [open natural ecosystems \(ONEs\)](#), such as the **blackbuck natural habitat in Fatehabad district**, as conservation or community reserves.
  - Remove **Haryana's ONEs from the Wasteland Atlas of India**, which categorizes these ecosystems as 'unproductive' land for agriculture or industrial use.
  - Implement an action plan to increase [Haryana's forest and tree cover to 10% within four years.](#)
  - Reintroduce traditional [Haryana tree species](#), such as **Lesoda, Khejri, Indrok, and Jaal**, and promote native planting in an ecologically correct manner (tall trees, under-storey trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses) to create biodiversity-rich spaces.
- **Demands for Food Security:**
  - Promote [crop diversification](#) as a key climate-change adaptation strategy.
  - Ensure **guaranteed purchase of every crop** grown by farmers at the [Minimum Support Price \(MSP\)](#) announced by the Centre.
  - Incentivize [natural farming](#) practices that improve soil health.
  - Scale up the '**keeth pathshalas' (insect schools)**, which have been educating farmers in some villages for the **past 15 years, to all districts.** These schools teach the balance between vegetarian and non-vegetarian insects, reducing the need for insecticide spraying.

## Aravali Mountain Range

- The Aravallis is the **oldest folded** mountain on Earth.
- 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.**
- **Impact on 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.
  - In the winter months, it protects the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia.

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## SC Criticizes Appointment of New Director to Rajaji National Park | Uttarakhand | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

The [Supreme Court](#) recently criticized the **Uttarakhand Chief Minister** for the appointment of a forest

officer (IFS) as the **Director of Rajaji National Park**.

### Key Points

- **Appointment Dispute:** Uttarakhand Chief Minister's decision to appoint **IFS** officer as director of **Rajaji National Park** has sparked controversy due to his ongoing investigations by the **CBI** and **ED** for alleged illegal activities.
- **Bypassing Officials:** Allegations suggest that CM bypassed objections from the **Forest Minister** and **Chief Secretary**, who had recommended reconsideration of the appointment due to the officer's involvement in previous legal issues.
- **Supreme Court Observations:** Emphasized that such decisions should not be made unilaterally.
  - The Court highlighted the importance of the **public trust doctrine**, stressing that the government's role is **to protect natural resources responsibly**, which was compromised in this case.

### Rajaji National Park

- **Location:** Haridwar (Uttarakhand), along the foothills of the Shivalik range, spans 820 square kilometres.
- **Background:** Three sanctuaries in the Uttarakhand i.e. **Rajaji, Motichur and Chila** were amalgamated into a large protected area and named **Rajaji National Park** in the year 1983 after the famous freedom fighter **C. Rajgopalachari**; popularly known as "Rajaji".
- **Features:**
  - This area is the North Western Limit of habitat of **Asian elephants**.
  - Forest types include sal forests, riverine forests, broad-leaved mixed forests, scrubland and grassy.
  - It possesses as many as **23 species of mammals and 315 bird species** such as **elephants, tigers, leopards, deers and ghorals**, etc.
  - It was declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 2015.
  - It is home to the **Van Gujjars** in the winters.

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## Indore-Manmad Rail Project | Madhya Pradesh | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Indore-Manmad Railway Project** has been approved, marking a historic milestone for railway development in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

### Key Points

- **Project Overview:** The project covers **309 kilometers (out of which 170.056 km will be covered in Madhya Pradesh and 139.376 km in Maharashtra)** with a total cost of **Rs. 18,036.25 crore**.
  - It will link Indore in Madhya Pradesh to Manmad in Maharashtra, connecting important districts (**Barwani, Khargone, Dhar, and Indore**) and enhancing regional connectivity.
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** Expected to generate direct employment during construction and after completion in underdeveloped districts **like Barwani and Khargone**, and enhance logistics for industries.
  - Railway line will greatly benefit the **Scheduled Tribe** communities in the **Malwa and Nimar regions**, driving positive change and opening new opportunities.

- **Agricultural Impact:** Improves transportation for [onion-producing](#) hubs (**Nashik, Dhule, and Nandurbar**) and other agricultural products.
- **Religious Tourism:** The rail line will facilitate easier access to major religious sites, including [Jyotirlingas](#), promoting religious tourism.
- **Project Funding and Contributions:** **Madhya Pradesh will contribute Rs.1,362.80 crore (10% of the state's share), while Maharashtra will not contribute financially. The remaining funds are provided by the [Central Government](#).**
- **Central Support:** Central Government has supported the project under the [PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan](#).

## PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

- **Aim:** To ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.
  - The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the **Rs 110 lakh crore [National Infrastructure Pipeline](#)** that was launched in **2019**.
  - Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.
  - It also aims to have 11 [industrial corridors](#) and two new [defence corridors](#) - one in **Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh**. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned.
  - It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for **2024-25**, including expanding the length of the national highway network to **2 lakh kms**, creation of more than **200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes**.

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## Exit Polls Banned | Jammu & Kashmir | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#) issued a notification banning the release of **exit polls** for the upcoming Assembly elections in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

### Key Points

- **Exit polls** are banned from being conducted or published from **7:00 AM on September 18, 2024, to 6:30 PM on October 5, 2024**.
  - An **exit poll** is conducted immediately after people have voted, and assesses the support for political parties and their candidates.
- The move is a **standard procedure** to ensure fairness and prevent exit polls from **influencing voter behavior** during the election process.
  - The ban is based on [Section 126A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951](#), which prohibits the conducting, publishing, or publicizing of exit polls.
- **Exit poll** results can be published 30 minutes after the last vote is cast.
- Under [Section 126\(1\)\(b\) of the RP Act, 1951](#), displaying any election-related material, including **opinion polls, is prohibited during the 48 hours** before the end of polling.
  - An [opinion poll](#) is a **pre-election survey** to gather voters' views on a range of election-related issues.

## Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950

### ▪ Key Provisions:

- Lays down procedures for **delimitation of constituencies**.
- Provides for the **allocation of seats** in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
- Lays **procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls** and the manner of filling seats.
- Lays down the **qualification** of voters.

## Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

### ▪ Key Provisions:

- It regulates the **actual conduct of elections and by-elections**.
- It provides **administrative machinery** for conducting elections.
- It deals with the **registration** of political parties.
- It specifies the **qualifications and disqualifications** for membership of the Houses.
- It provides provisions to curb **corrupt practices** and other offences.
- It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.

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## Rise in Militancy in Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | 05 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

The Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a [notable increase in militant attacks](#) since mid-2021, culminating in recent incidents including the ambush on Army vehicles in Kathua district and targeted strikes in other areas

### Key Points

#### ▪ Reasons for Rise in Militancy in Jammu:

- **Strategic Shift:** The pursuance of zero terror policy in Kashmir have provided militants to an opportunity to operate in Jammu.
- In 2020, perceived low militancy in Jammu led to troop movements to Ladakh (along [LAC](#) after the [Galwan Accident](#)), potentially prompting militants to relocate.

#### ▪ Strategic Importance of Jammu:

Jammu serves as a crucial gateway to the rest of India, making it an attractive target for militants aiming to disrupt normalcy and create fear.

#### ▪ Geostrategic Considerations:

The proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) provides militants easier access from [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir](#), facilitating infiltration and logistics support.

#### ▪ Economic Disparities:

Lack of economic opportunity and development in remote and border areas of Jammu create fertile ground for recruitment of local youths by militant groups.

#### ▪ Lack of Human Intelligence:

The locals who provided information decades ago are now in their 60s or 70s, and the security forces have not nurtured relations with younger generations, highlighting a gap in human intelligence gathering.

### Note:

- **Terrorism:** Terrorism under the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Amendment Act, 2012](#), involves using violence or threats to create fear for political, ideological, or extremist aims, impacting national or global security.
- **Militancy:** Militancy refers to a readiness to use violence or combativeness, encompassing various groups or **individuals including armed religious factions**, often used interchangeably with

terrorism but suggesting a potentially less extreme level of violent expression compared to terrorism.

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