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## Outrage over Approval of New Slaughterhouses in Nuh District | Haryana | 12 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government's decision to approve **21 additional slaughterhouses** in [Nuh district](#) has triggered protests from local residents, leading them to approach the [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) over environmental and health concerns.

### Key Points

- **Environmental Concerns:**
  - The NGT has issued notices to the [Haryana State Pollution Control Board and Central Ground Water Authority](#) to respond to allegations of contamination in air, water, and soil.
  - Residents claim existing slaughterhouses [violate pollution norms](#), leading to degradation of the local environment.
- **Health Hazards:**
  - Local activists report that the villages around these slaughterhouses are experiencing severe health impacts, with children falling ill and **blood from slaughterhouses contaminating fields**.
  - Waste is allegedly being dumped into the soil and [water streams](#), creating an unbearable stench and causing health problems.
  - Residents point out the contradiction in policies, with **Uttar Pradesh** shutting down slaughterhouses, while **Haryana is expanding them in Nuh**.

### National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the **3<sup>rd</sup> country** in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within **6 months of filing of the same**.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, **New Delhi** is the Principal place of sitting and **Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four**.

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## Army Opens Himalayan Battlefields to Boost Tourism | Jammu & Kashmir | 12 Sep 2024

## Why in News?

Recently, in a move to enhance [border tourism](#) and match [China's infrastructure efforts along the Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#), the Indian Army has opened up **historic battlefield** locations in the [Himalayas for tourists](#).

## Key Points

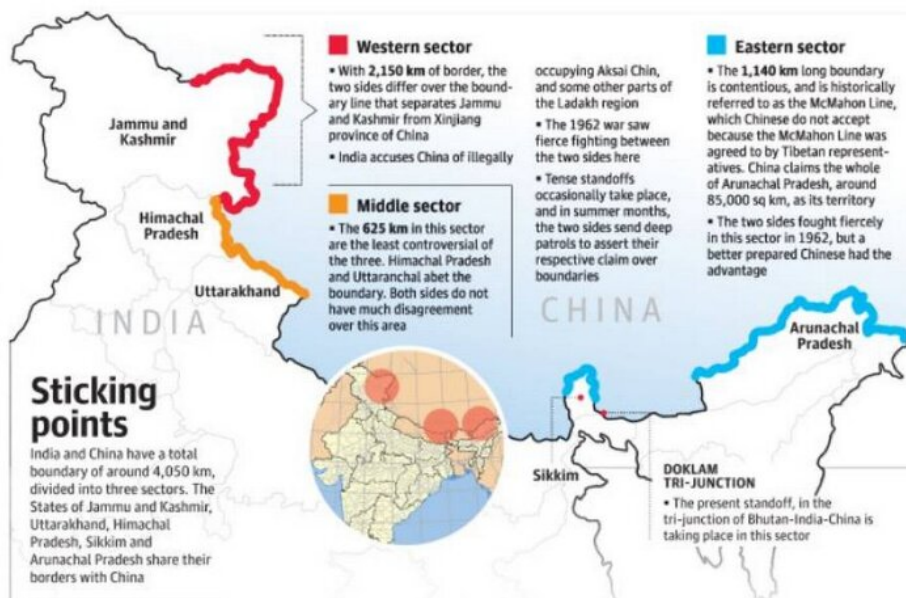
### ▪ Tourism Infrastructure Development:

- India has identified **100 additional villages** along the **LAC** to create infrastructure for tourism as part of a **multi-pronged approach** to counter China's efforts in the region.
- The Army is opening up Himalayan locations where key battles, such as the [Kargil conflict, 1999](#) took place.
  - Tourists are now allowed to visit [Tiger Hill](#), a critical site during the Kargil war.

### ▪ Border Security and Deterrence:

- According to the Army, opening these inaccessible areas and developing infrastructure in border regions will act as a deterrent to claims on undemarcated borders with China.
- A **pilot project** for tourism is being set up in **Zemithang**, the **last Indian village near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh**. This is the route through which the 14th [Dalai Lama entered India in 1959](#).

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### ▪ Line of Actual Control: It is divided into three sectors.

- The eastern sector which spans **Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim** (1346 km).
- The middle sector in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** (545 km).
- The western sector in **Ladakh** (1597 km).
- The alignment of the **LAC in the eastern sector** is along the [McMahon Line of 1914](#).

### ▪ Case of Arunachal Pradesh: India's claim line is different from that of the LAC. It is the line seen in the official boundary marked on the maps as released by the **Survey of India**, including [Aksai Chin \(occupied by China\)](#). The state of Arunachal Pradesh is an 'integral and inalienable' part of India.

- In China's case, LAC corresponds mostly to its claim line, but in the eastern sector, it claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.

### ▪ China's Intention: There have been reports of **Chinese construction of villages** in Arunachal Pradesh, 5 kilometres from the [Bum La pass](#).

- The construction of the village has been seen by analysts as a move to bolster China's claim to the area, and part of a broader recent push by China to build civilian settlements

in disputed frontier areas, which [it has also done with Bhutan](#).

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## Purple Revolution | Jammu & Kashmir | 12 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

The [Lavender cultivation](#) success in Jammu and Kashmir exemplifies the powerful collaboration between research institutions, industry, and [youth entrepreneurship](#), offering a path to [boost farmers' income](#) and enhance the [rural economy](#).

### Key Points

- **Aroma Mission and Lavender Cultivation:**
  - [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#) launched the [Jammu and Kashmir Aroma Arogya Gram \(JAAG\)](#) project to promote alternative crops like [medicinal and aromatic plants \(MAPs\)](#).
  - The [Aroma Mission](#) introduced lavender cultivation **to boost farmers' income** and create employment.
  - Farmers received **free planting material, training, and support in cultivation, processing, and marketing**.
    - Originating in **Bhaderwah, Doda, lavender cultivation** has spread to other J&K districts and states like **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland**.
- **Economic Impact:**
  - Over 1,300 hectares in J&K are under lavender cultivation, with significant **progress in districts like Udhampur, Poonch, and Rajouri**.
  - Lavender farms have gained national recognition and **boosted tourism**, as seen in the [Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path](#).
  - In 2024, **Doda district extracted 100 kg of lavender oil** and harvested 10 quintals of dry flowers, generating significant revenue for farmers.
- **Agricultural Challenges in J&K:**
  - Agriculture employs **65% of the population** and contributes **27% to J&K's economy**.
  - The region faced challenges like **difficult terrain, monkey menace, and poor accessibility, limiting land utilization for traditional crops** (rice, maize, wheat, pulses).
- **Future Prospects:**
  - Lavender farming opens opportunities in **value-added medicinal and cosmetic products**.
  - The initiative is a [model for rural entrepreneurship](#), fostering growth in India's path to becoming a developed nation.

### Purple Revolution

- Purple revolution is also known as **Lavender Revolution** and aims to promote the **indigenous aromatic crop-based agro-economy** by shifting from foreign aromatics to homegrown kinds.
- First-time producers were offered free lavender seedlings as part of the goal, and those who had previously produced lavender were paid Rs. 5-6 per plant.
- The [CSIR-Aroma Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine \(IIIM\)](#)'s Initiative has begun lavender cultivation in the **Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Lavender farming is done in nearly all of **Jammu and Kashmir's 20 districts**.
  - Particularly, the districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Srinagar,

Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam, Baramulla etc. have made huge progress in this direction.

▪ **Lavender Cultivation:**

- Native to Europe, lavender was introduced in the temperate regions of Jammu & Kashmir by the **CSIR Aroma Mission**.
- It is a small, perennial aromatic herb shrub used in fragrance, specialty food, and alternative medicine industries.
- **Propagation Methods:**
  - Seeds
  - Rooted cuttings
  - Tissue culture
  - Layering
- **Soil:**
  - Grows well in light, well-aerated soil rich in organic matter.
  - Thrives in neutral to alkaline soil that is free-draining.
  - Sensitive to waterlogging but can grow in poor or eroded soil.
- **Rainfall:**
  - Performs well with an annual rainfall range between 300 to 1400 mm.
- **Climate:**
  - A hardy temperate plant, tolerant to drought and frost.
  - Prefers cool winters and cool summers with ample sunlight.
  - Can be cultivated in areas with snowfall and hilly terrain.
- **Applications:**
  - Food and flavouring
  - Pharmaceutical and therapeutic uses
  - Cosmetic products
  - Industrial purposes

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## NIA Court Awards Life Imprisonment in Conversion Case | Uttar Pradesh | 12 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, a special [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\) court](#) in Lucknow sentenced Islamic scholar and 11 others to life imprisonment in an illegal [religious conversion case](#).

### Key Points

▪ **Charges and Convictions:**

- The convicts were charged under **Section 121A (conspiring to commit certain offences against the state)**, **Section 123 (concealing with intent to facilitate a design to wage war)**, **Section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups based on religion)**, of the [Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021](#).

▪ **Arrest and Allegations:**

- Islamic Scholar was arrested in 2021 by the [Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad](#) from Meerut for allegedly running a **nationwide** syndicate for **illegal religious conversion**.
  - He was accused of promoting enmity, disturbing India's sovereignty and integrity, and receiving **funds from international organisations** to facilitate conversions.

## National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- The NIA is the **Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency** of India mandated to investigate all the offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India. It includes:
  - Friendly relations with foreign states.
  - Against atomic and nuclear facilities.
  - Smuggling of arms, drugs and **fake Indian currency and infiltration** from across the borders.
  - The offences under the statutory laws enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the [United Nations](#), its agencies and other international organisations.
- It was constituted under the [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\) Act, 2008](#).
- The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of **terror related crimes across states** without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**

## Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021

- The law contains stringent provisions with regard to fraudulent or forced conversions.
- It provides for **20 years' imprisonment or life sentence** if it was found that conversion had taken place under threat, promise of marriage or conspiracy. It was placed in the category of most serious crime under the Bill.
  - The bill allows **any person to register** an [First Information Report \(FIR\)](#) in cases related to [religious conversion](#), not only parents, victims, or siblings.
- These cases would not be heard by any court below the sessions court. Bill has also made the crime [non-bailable](#).
  - Anyone wishing to convert of their own volition for the purpose of marriage must submit an application to the concerned district magistrate two months in advance.