



Haryana State Pollution Control Board | Haryana | 20 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Chief Secretary](#) of Haryana directed the [State Pollution Control Board \(HSPCB\)](#) to enhance pollution reporting and interdepartmental coordination.

Key Points

- **Monthly Pollution Reports:** The regional officers of **Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)** have been directed to compile monthly [environmental reports](#) for their respective areas.
- **Board's Expanded Role:** The HSPCB, originally established to address [water pollution](#), has expanded its scope to tackle a wider range of environmental issues since its **inception in 1974**.
- **Biomedical Waste Management:** The Additional Chief Secretary of Health suggested delegating [biomedical waste](#) collection and disposal to multiple agencies, proposing a reduction in their operational area from 75 km for efficiency.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** To combat winter air pollution, particularly in NCR, Haryana has:
 - Installed 29 [Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations \(CAAQMS\)](#) (21 in [NCR](#)).
 - Established 46 manual stations across the state for comprehensive [air quality](#) monitoring.

Haryana State Pollution Control Board

- It was formed as a **statutory organisation** by Government of Haryana in the year 1974 to preserve the wholesomeness of water and prevent water pollution after Government of India legislation of [Water \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1974](#).

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- CPCB is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September, 1974 under the [Water \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1974](#).
- It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the [Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#).
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the **Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change** of the provisions of the [Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).

Restoration of Statehood | Jammu & Kashmir | 20 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed a rally in [Srinagar](#), highlighting the restoration of [Jammu and Kashmir's statehood](#) and democratic progress in the region.

Key Points

- **Article 3 of the Constitution:** Formation of New States
 - [Parliament](#) holds the power to enact legislation for the formation of new States.
 - New States can be created by:
 - Separating territory from an existing State.
 - Uniting two or more States.
 - Uniting parts of different States.
 - Uniting any territory to a part of any State.
 - Parliament also has the authority to:
 - Increase or diminish the area of any State.
 - Alter the boundaries or name of any State.
 - Here, the word State includes a Union Territory also.
- **Checks on Parliament's Power:**
 - A bill for the formation of new States can only be introduced in either [House of Parliament](#) upon the recommendation of the [President](#).
 - If the bill affects the areas, boundaries, or name of a State, the President must refer the bill to the concerned State Legislature for its views.
 - The views of the [State Legislature](#) must be communicated to Parliament, but Parliament is not bound by them.
- **State Legislature's Role:**
 - The State Legislature's only role is to express its views when requested by the President.
 - Parliament is not obligated to adhere to the views of the [State Legislature](#) when forming new States.
- Laws enacted under [Article 3](#) are not considered amendments to the Constitution, even if they modify provisions of the [First Schedule \(list of States and Union Territories\)](#) or the [Fourth Schedule \(allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha\)](#).
 - This means such laws can be passed by a [simple majority in Parliament](#), not requiring the special procedure for constitutional amendments.

Status of Jammu and Kashmir

- On 5th of August 2019, the President of India promulgated the [Constitution \(Application to Jammu and Kashmir\) Order, 2019](#).
- The order effectively revoked the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under the provision of [Article 370](#).
- It superseded the **Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954** under which Article 35A was added to the constitution of India.
 - Article 35A stems from **Article 370** and empowers the **Jammu & Kashmir legislature** to define the permanent residents of the state, and their special rights and privileges.
- The [Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019](#) which became effective on **31st October 2019** provided for the bifurcation of the State into two separate union territories of **Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature)**, and **Ladakh (without legislature)**.

Flooding in Saryu River | Uttar Pradesh | 20 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, flooding in the [Saryu River](#) caused severe disruptions in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district, affecting transportation and local communities.

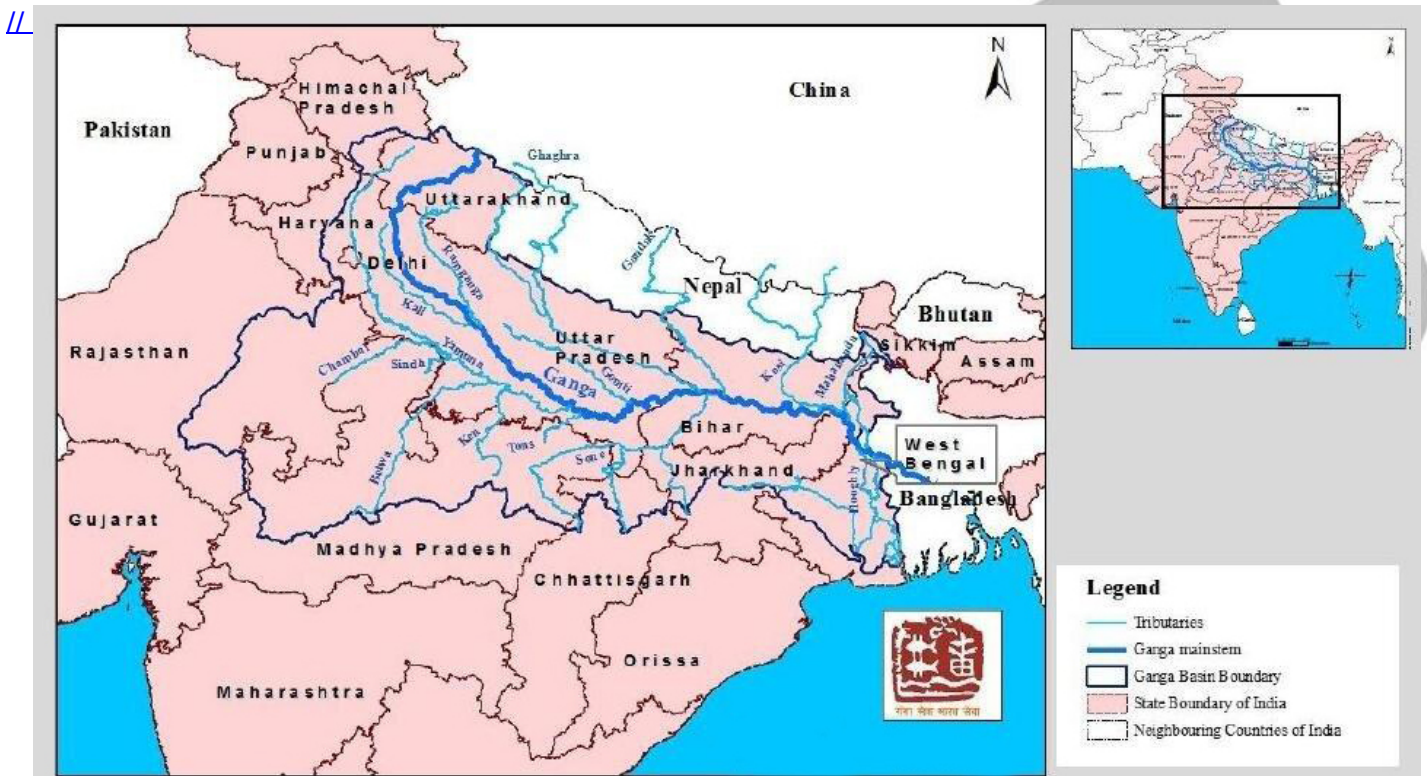
Key Points

▪ Saryu River:

- The Saryu is a river that flows through **Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh**.
- This river is of ancient significance as it is mentioned in the [Vedas](#) and the [Ramayana](#).
- The river is formed at the confluence of rivers [Karnali and Mahakali](#). It is a tributary of River [Ganges](#).

▪ Ballia District:

- Ballia is located in the extreme north-eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, bordered by **Mau, Deoria, Bihar, and Ghazipur**, and lies at the confluence of the **Ganges and Ghagra rivers**.
- The city is 135 kilometers away from [Varanasi](#), with the Ganges separating **Ballia from Bihar, and the Ghagra separating it from Deoria**.
- One belief is that the city is named after the sage [Valmiki](#), who is thought to have resided there, though his shrine no longer exists.
- Another belief links the name to the local soil, "**Ballua**" (**sandy soil**), with the city's original name being "Balian," later transformed into "Ballia."



Indore - Ujjain Highway | Madhya Pradesh | 20 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the President of India inaugurated a key [infrastructure](#) project, [Indore -Ujjain highway](#) in Madhya Pradesh, focusing on transportation and infrastructure.

Key Points

▪ **Indore-Ujjain Highway Foundation:**

- The President laid the foundation stone for the six-lane highway between Indore and Ujjain, estimated to cost Rs. 1,692 crore.
- The highway, approved in February 2024, aims to reduce the travel time between the two cities from 60 minutes to 35-40 minutes.
- This project is set to be completed in 2.5 years, targeting the decongestion of traffic ahead of the **2028 Simhastha Kumbh**.

▪ **Simhastha Kumbh:**

- The [Simhastha Kumbh Mela](#) is a Hindu religious festival held every 12 years in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India.
 - The festival is named after the Simha constellation of the zodiac, as it is celebrated when Jupiter enters Leo.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
 - It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river](#) in Nashik, the [Shipra river](#) in Ujjain, the Ganges in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical [Saraswati river](#) in Prayagraj. The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a culturally diverse festival.
- The over month-long fair is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
 - It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves.