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## Refuge in Uttarakhand to Escape Diwali Pollution | Uttarakhand | 04 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

- Recently, worsening air quality in the **NCR (National Capital Region)** region has driven residents to Uttarakhand for cleaner air and a healthier Diwali celebration.

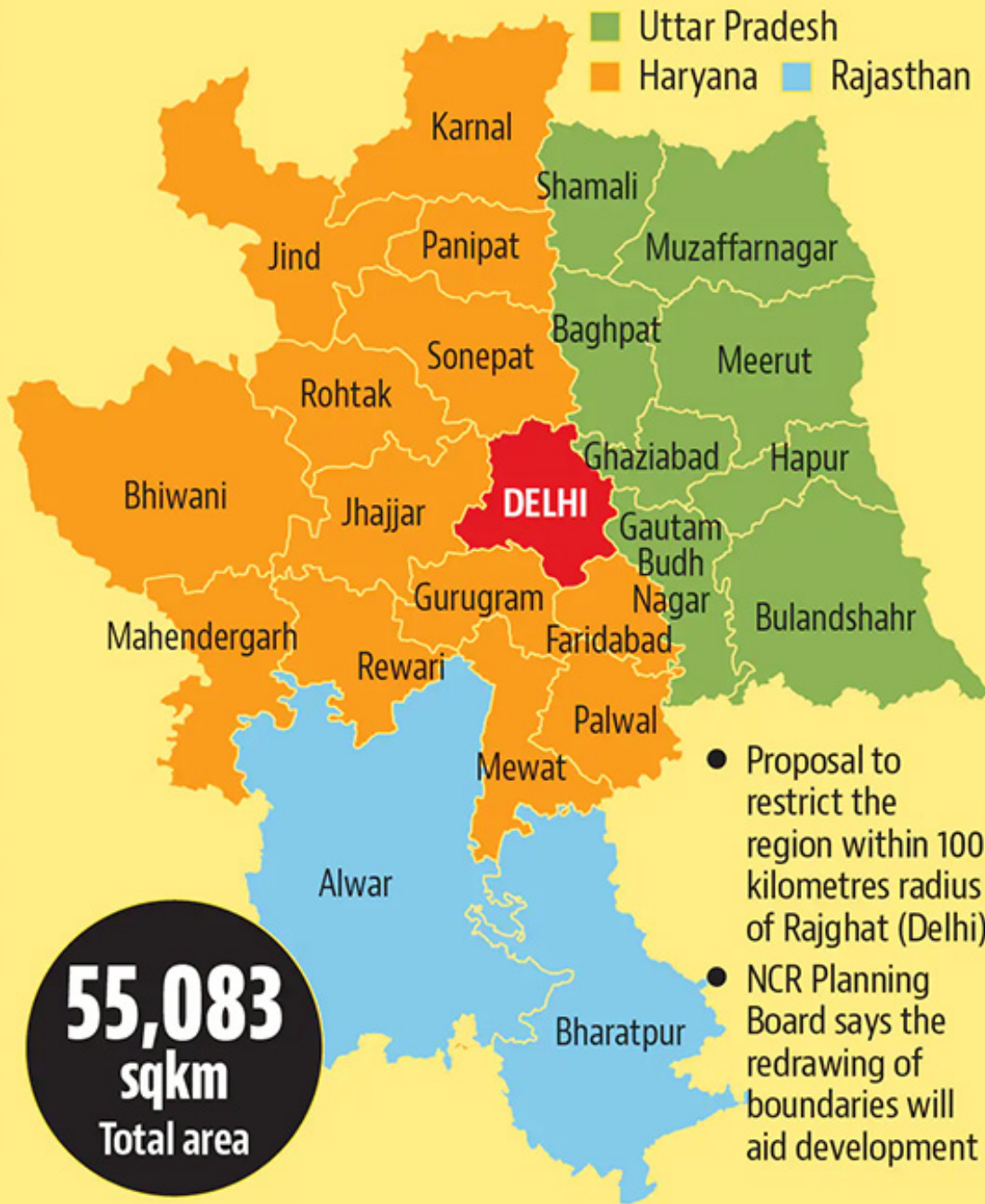
### Key Points

- **Surge in Tourist Bookings:**
  - NCR residents are increasingly booking hotels and homestays in Uttarakhand, especially in areas like Dehradun, Nainital, and Mussoorie, to escape pollution.
  - Uttarakhand's relatively low pollution levels during Diwali make it an appealing refuge amid NCR's smoggy skies.
  - Families, especially with elderly and children, prioritize escaping the health risks associated with high pollution levels in urban areas.
  - The influx benefits Uttarakhand's tourism economy, with higher demands for accommodations and local services.

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# The NCR, as of now



## Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand announced a festive increase in [Dearness Allowance \(DA\)](#) for state government employees as a Diwali benefit.

## Key Points

### ▪ DA Hike:

- Uttarakhand raised the DA for government employees by a set percentage, aiming to mitigate inflation's impact on household expenses.
- The DA has been increased from **50% to 53% per month**.
- The dearness allowance hike applies to all regular and full-time state employees and [UGC](#)-affiliated officials, retroactive from **1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024**, with arrears from July to **September 2024** payable in cash.
- The increased DA is effective immediately, covering employees and pensioners under the state government.

### ▪ Economic Impact:

- This increase supports employees' purchasing power, particularly significant during the festive season when expenses are typically higher.
- Similar DA adjustments are seen across states as they aim to provide financial relief amidst rising living costs.

## Dearness Allowance (DA)

- It is the cost-of-living adjustment to offset inflation, provided to government employees and pensioners. It is calculated as a percentage of the basic salary.

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishitias.com/statepcs/05-11-2024/uttarakhand/print>

