



# Haryana to Waive Outstanding Water Charges

## Why in News?

Recently, a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal has decided to **waive outstanding water charges, including surcharge and interest, amounting to ₹372.13 crore** for rural households in the State.

## Key Points

- According to the sources, **28.87 lakh water connection holders will be benefited** from this waiver. This **does not extend to institutional, commercial, or industrial consumers falling under the Public Health Engineering department.**
- The Cabinet has approved the **waiver of water charges amounting to ₹336.35 crore**, accumulated from April 1, 2015, to December 31, 2022, for all types of consumers in villages and rural areas.
  - This **includes the general category as well as Scheduled Caste categories.**
- The policy on the **development of ecotourism** has also been approved. The policy emphasises the **conservation of Haryana's diverse landscapes**
  - These include **two national parks, seven wildlife sanctuaries, two Ramsar sites, two conservation reserves, and five community reserves.**
  - It also includes many niche faunal habitat ecosystems, including the **old Aravalli hill range, Shivalik hills, rich biodiversity, dense forests, host of water bodies and scenic places.**