



# Tussle Over Haryana Excise Policy

## Why in News?

The **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has issued a stern warning to the **Haryana government** regarding the **sale of liquor** over midnight in bars and pubs located in **Gurugram** and **Faridabad**.

- However, the court refrained from issuing any formal directions to the state on this matter.

## Key Points

- The issue arose after the **Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25**, introduced in June, removed provisions from the previous policy that allowed bars and pubs to operate throughout the night upon payment of an additional fee.
- Under the revised policy, all **bars** and **pubs** across Haryana are required to **close by midnight**, except in **Gurugram and Faridabad**, where the older rules continue to apply.
- Following the **promulgation of the new policy**, bar and pub owners in **Panchkula** filed a petition in the high court, seeking **parity with their counterparts** in **Gurugram and Faridabad**.
  - However, a bench of Justices dismissed their plea, ruling that the excise policy applies different criteria to different districts, and the petitioners cannot demand uniformity.
- The court underscored the **importance of cultural sensitivity** in framing excise policies.
  - It noted that allowing all-night liquor sales could lead to **social decay** and **undermine the cultural values** of Indian society.
- The bench stressed that responsible drinking is still a distant goal in the country, and policymakers must consider the broader social implications of their decisions.

## Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25

- There will be a slight increase in the **excise duty** on **IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor)** and country liquor in the new policy starting from **12th June**.
- The maximum basic quota of IMFL will be **700 lakh proof liters (Measurement Unit)** and **1,200 lakh proof liters** for the country liquor for the year **2024-25**.
- The **QR code-based track** and trace system that was introduced in **2023-24** for IMFL and country liquor will be extended to imported foreign liquor as well.