



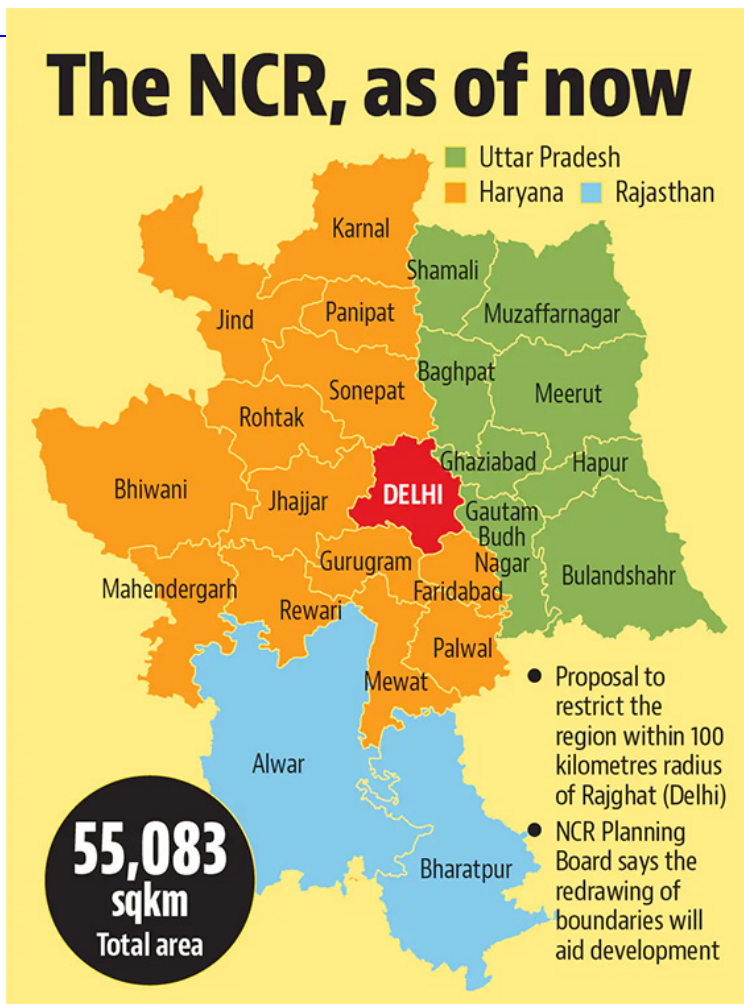
Draft Regional Plan 2041: NCR

Why in News

The **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** has recently approved the **'Draft Regional Plan 2041'** according to which the **National Capital Region (NCR)** is likely to reduce in size.

- **NCRPB was set up in 1985**, to promote balanced development of the NCR and to avoid haphazard development.

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Key Points

- **About**
 - **New Boundary**

- The geographical size of the region will be a **contiguous circular region of 100km** radius from Rajghat (Delhi). The area in the 100km radius can be developed as a **core area**.
 - **NCR is a region envisaged in 1985** for coordinated urban development in and around Delhi.
- **Beyond 100 km radius** and up to the **existing NCR boundary**, all notified cities/towns along with a corridor of one km on either side of connecting expressways/national highways/state highways/Regional Rapid Transit System will be included.
 - Currently, the **NCR consists of 24 districts** in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan and entire Delhi, spread across an area of 55,083 square kilometres.

- **Name of Natural Conservation Zones**

- The name of **natural conservation zones**, as introduced in the Regional Plan-2021 will be changed to "**natural zones**" in the upcoming Regional Plan-2041.

- **Empowering States**

- **States will be empowered to decide** whether tehsils that fall partly inside the NCR boundary should remain in it or not.

- **Slum-free NCR**

- The DRP 2041 Plan will pave the way for a future-ready, slum-free National Capital Region with an air ambulance facility and high-speed connectivity through helitaxis, road, rail, and inland waterways.

- **Improved Rail Connectivity**

- The Plan proposes to explore the feasibility of a 30-minute Mass Transit Rail System (MTRS) from the nearest NCR boundaries to Delhi.

- **Implications of the Move**

- If implemented, **parts of Panipat in Haryana and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh will be dropped** from the new NCR map.
- The idea is to have a **compact area so that the development** can be planned in a better manner.
- It will **benefit the rural areas**, as the state governments can plan for their development in a better manner.

- **Issues Involved**

- The **NCR currently spans around 150-175 kilometres**, covering entire districts and their rural areas. But with the approval of Regional Plan 2041, **areas beyond 100 km are not likely to be the main part of the NCR**.
- **Lack of access to basic services** of water and sanitation and other facilities in the region.
- Other issues included **legality of some of the properties**, narrow access roads, congestion, conflicts between commercial and residential uses, quality of drinking water and water logging.
- **Vulnerability and risks related** to disasters such as fire, earthquakes, etc.
- **Lack of coordination** between multiplicity of agencies like DDA, Delhi Jal Board, Flood and Irrigation Department, and various municipal corporations.

Way Forward

- The **challenge of multiplicity of agencies** needs to be dealt with by the government. This will increase coordination and cooperation among these agencies.
- There must be a **strict adherence to plans** for cleaning of water bodies and drains which has been a challenge for agencies in Delhi for years. Dumping of waste in the **Yamuna river** also

needs to be strictly regulated.

Source: TH

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