



Swachhata Pakhwada in Haryana | Haryana | 02 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, The [Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Dairy Research Institute \(NDRI\)](#) conducted a series of **cleanliness drives** in **Karnal district of Haryana**.

- It aimed to **raise awareness about cleanliness and environmental protection** while promoting a cleaner and greener India.

Key Points

- **Activities Conducted:**
 - **Awareness Programmes:**
 - **Students were educated** on maintaining cleanliness at individual, community, and institutional levels.
 - Training was provided on [converting waste into wealth](#) and safely disposing of waste.
 - **Cleanliness Drives:**
 - Staff cleaned institute premises and reviewed old records and non-functional equipment for disposal.
 - **Special plantation drives** were organized.
 - **Campaigns and Awareness:**
 - Campaigns were held to [discourage single-use plastics](#).
 - Initiatives focused on [recycling wastewater](#) and promoting water harvesting for [agriculture](#), [horticulture](#), and [kitchen gardens](#) in residential colonies.
 - **Village Involvement:**
 - Cleanliness and sanitation drives were carried out in villages adopted under the [“Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav” programme](#).
 - **Nukkad Nataks (street plays)** involving local celebrities were performed to encourage community participation.
- **Celebrating Kisan Diwas:**
 - Scientists and students celebrated [Kisan Diwas](#) in Dancher village.
 - Farmers were invited to **interactive workshops** focusing on practical solutions for **cleanliness in agricultural practices**.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

- It was **established on 16 July 1929** as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- It is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India.
- It is **headquartered at New Delhi**. With 102 ICAR institutes and 71 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.
- It is the **apex body** for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav

- The scheme was **launched in 2015**, to **promote the direct interface of scientists with the farmers to hasten the “lab to land” process**.
- It envisages **scientists to select villages** as per their convenience and remain in touch with the selected villages and provide information to the farmers on technical and other related aspects of agriculture in a time frame through personal visits or on telephone.
- They may function with the help of [Krishi Vigyan Kendras \(KVKs\)](#) and **Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)**.
-

Biochemical Oxygen Demand Levels in Haryana | Haryana | 02 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the **release of untreated waste** has significantly raised **the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels** in the [Yamuna river](#) and [irrigation canals](#) in Faridabad and Palwal districts of Haryana.

Key Points

- **Alarming BOD Levels:**
 - According to the district administration **BOD levels are 400-500% higher than permissible limits** due to ineffective monitoring and insufficient preventive measures.
 - As per [the National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) guidelines, the BOD standard for water is 10 milligrams per litre. Recent samples show levels between 35 and 40, with some locations in the Yamuna reaching 50 milligrams per litre.
- **Environmental Impact:**
 - Untreated waste not only raises BOD levels but also reduces [dissolved oxygen \(DO\)](#) levels to zero. This results in the **destruction of aquatic life** and a strong stench.
 - High BOD levels indicate a failure in [wastewater treatment and sewage management systems](#).
- **Challenges in Implementation:**
 - **Poor enforcement of regulations and rising pollution levels** have worsened the situation.
 - Experts call for **stricter monitoring, improved sewage management, and robust implementation of pollution control measures** to mitigate the crisis.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

- BOD is the **amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms** in the biological process of metabolizing organic matter in water.
- The **more organic matter** there is (e.g., in sewage and polluted bodies of water), the **greater the BOD**; and the greater the BOD, the **lower the amount of dissolved oxygen** available for higher animals such as fishes.
- The BOD is therefore a **reliable gauge of the organic pollution of a body of water**.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

About

- ⌚ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ⌚ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ⌚ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ⌚ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

Structure

- ⌚ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ⌚ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ⌚ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
 - 👉 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

Powers & Jurisdiction

- ⌚ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ⌚ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ⌚ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ⌚ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - 👉 Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ⌚ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ⌚ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ⌚ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
 - 👉 If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ⌚ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ⌚ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ⌚ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ⌚ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ⌚ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ⌚ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ⌚ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



Drishti IAS