



New Rules For Demolishing Unauthorised Constructions | Uttar Pradesh | 31 Jan 2025

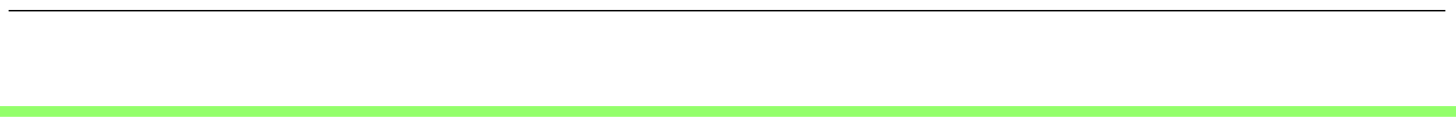
Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh government has issued **guidelines for agencies** before demolishing unauthorised constructions.

- Notices must be served, and an opportunity for a **personal hearing** must be provided before finalising demolition.

Key Points

- **New Rules for Demolition:**
 - **Mandatory Show Cause Notice & Waiting Period:**
 - No demolition should occur without issuing a show cause notice.
 - Agencies must wait **15 days** from the date of notice receipt before ordering demolition. The rules provides **an appellate opportunity**, demolition must be delayed for **15 days** after the final order.
 - Owners/occupants should be given **15 days** to remove or demolish unauthorised structures themselves.
 - **Transparency Measures:**
 - A **digital portal** must be set up within three months to document all actions, including **notices, replies, and orders**.
 - Notices should be sent to the **District Magistrate's (DM) office via email**, with automated acknowledgment.
 - Minutes of personal hearings must be recorded.
 - **Demolition Orders & Compliance:**
 - Final orders should specify:
 - Whether the structure is **compoundable** (can be regularised by paying fees).
 - Details of the **unauthorised/non-compoundable** portions.
 - Why demolition is necessary.
 - Non-compliance with these rules may result in **contempt proceedings** and **prosecution** of officials.
 - **Legal & Administrative Observations:**
 - Many steps in the new rules already exist under different Acts.
 - New features aim to **improve transparency and consistency** in demolitions.
 - Issues of **hasty demolitions** and **pending old demolition orders**, leading to **malpractice** and **unauthorized constructions**.
 - Municipal officials confirm compliance and clarify that temporary encroachments are handled under the **UP Municipal Corporation Act, 1959**.



New Solar Project in Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 31 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Jakson Green (India) and **Blueleaf Energy (Singapore)** have partnered to develop **1 GW** of [solar projects](#) in Rajasthan, with an investment of **USD 400 million (Rs 3,400 crore)**.

Key Points

- **Project Scope & Timeline:**
 - The **1 GW portfolio** consists of **three solar projects** funded through **debt and equity**.
 - Projects include [Intra State \(InSTS\) and Inter State \(ISTS\) Transmission System](#) projects.
 - **25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)** secured through bidding from [Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd \(RUVNL\)](#), [Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited \(SECI\)](#), and [National Hydroelectric Power Corporation \(NHPC\) Limited](#).
 - The three solar projects are expected to be progressively commissioned in 2025-2026.
- **Renewable Energy Expansion Goals:**
 - The partnership targets adding more than **5 GW of renewable energy** to the **Indian grid by 2030**.
 - The Rajasthan projects will generate **1,800 GWh** (Gigawatt hours) of **green energy annually**, enough to power **1.5 million households**.
- **Environmental Impact:**
 - The project will **prevent 22 million tons of CO₂ emissions** over **25 years**.
 - Equivalent to removing **5 million cars** from roads.
- **Job Creation & Economic Benefits:**
 - The initiative will create jobs during the **construction and operational phases**.
- **Financial & Banking Support:**
 - **Ernst & Young (EY)** was engaged as the investment banker for the transaction.
 - **Jakson Green secured credit facilities:**
 - Rs 2.96 billion from First Abu Dhabi Bank (Mumbai).
 - Rs 600 million from HSBC (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation).
 - Funds will support **domestic & international EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction)** operations.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

- These are [long-term agreements](#) (typically 25 years) between electricity generators and buyers (usually public utilities).
- It involves committing generators to supply power at fixed rates, locking in significant generating capacity.
- They are inflexible and unable to adapt to dynamic market conditions.

Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Model

- Under this model, the **cost is completely borne by the government**.
 - Government invites bids for engineering knowledge from the private players.
 - Procurement of raw material and construction costs are met by the government.
 - The **private sector's participation is minimal** and is limited to the provision of engineering expertise.
 - A challenge of the model is the **significant financial burden** it places on the government.
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Effective Control of Forest Fire in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 31 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Uttarakhand CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has directed the **Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF)** to take **immediate action** against **forest fires** in **highly sensitive districts**.

Key Points

- **Appointment of Nodal Officers for Fire Control:**
 - **10 senior Forest Department officers** appointed as **district-level nodal officers**.
 - Their role is to **coordinate resources and departments** at the district level for better fire management.
 - Efforts will focus on **strengthening management, control, monitoring, cooperation, and coordination** at the district level.
- **Pre-Fire Season Preparations:**
 - The **Uttarakhand Forest Department** issued an **office order** to appoint nodal officers before the season in which forest fires commonly occur.
 - Nodal officers will **review fire management preparations** and district-level control measures.
- **Community Participation in Fire Control:**
 - Along with this, to increase community participation in forest fire control and management, the Forest Department of Uttarakhand has been conducting research on-field personnel, **State Environmental Authority (SEA)** and the Forest Fire Management Committees to replicate the '**Sheetalakhet**' model in all the divisions of the state under the Almora Forest Division.
 - The '**Sheetalakhet**' model, developed under **Almora Forest Division**, is being replicated across all state divisions.

Forest Fire

- Forest fire is also called as **bush or vegetation fire or wildfire**, it can be described as any **uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion or burning** of plants in a natural setting such as a **forest, grassland, brushland or tundra**, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography).
- A wildfire requires three essential elements to sustain combustion like **Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source**.

Bihar Government Revamps Mid-Day Meal Menu | Bihar | 31 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Government of Bihar** has announced significant changes to the **mid-day meal (PM Poshan Shakti Nirman or PM Poshan) menu** across all government schools in the state, aiming to enhance

the **nutritional value** and **variety of meals provided to students**.

Key Points

- Changes to the meal are designed to ensure that children receive **balanced and wholesome nutrition**, thereby promoting **better health** and **learning outcomes**.
- This updated menu emphasizes the **inclusion of protein-rich foods** like **soybeans** and **lentils**, as well as a variety of **seasonal vegetables**, to ensure a **balanced diet** for the students.
- The **mid-day meal scheme** is a pivotal initiative by the government to provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren, thereby encouraging **higher attendance rates** and supporting the **overall development of students**.
- These changes are set to be **implemented across all government schools** in Bihar, reflecting the state's dedication to fostering a **healthier and more conducive learning** environment for its children.

Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS)

- **About:**
 - It is the largest school feeding programme of its kind in the world, covering **students enrolled in government schools from Classes 1 to 8**.
 - The **basic objective** of this scheme is to **enhance enrolment** in schools.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Education
- **Background:** The programme was first introduced in **1925** for disadvantaged children in **Madras Municipal Corporation**.
 - The Union government launched as a **centrally sponsored scheme** on a pilot basis in **1995** for children in **Classes 1 to 5**, and by October 2007, **MDMS** had been scaled up to **Class 8**.

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