



Centres of Excellence | Haryana | 22 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Haryana Sports Minister stated that the government is **intensifying efforts to provide advanced sports facilities** in the state, helping players excel in global events like [the Olympics](#), [World Championships](#), and [Commonwealth Games](#).

Key Points

- **Biometric Attendance System:**
 - The government will introduce a biometric attendance system to **enhance transparency in sports nurseries** across the state.
 - The system will **first be implemented at Tau Devi Lal Sports Stadium in Panchkula** and later expanded to other stadiums and schools with sports nurseries in Haryana.
 - The initiative aims to **ensure diet allowances** are distributed only to eligible players.
 - **Insurance Coverage for Players:**
 - The Sports Department will provide **insurance coverage to players**.
 - This will ensure **proper treatment in case of injuries** during training or competitions.
 - **Improvement of Sports Infrastructure:**
 - District-level and Rajiv Gandhi Sports Stadiums at the block level will undergo maintenance and repairs.
 - Efforts will focus on **cleanliness and playground restoration** to enhance sports facilities.
 - The engineering wing of the Sports Department will be strengthened to ensure the timely construction of multipurpose halls and other facilities.
 - **Establishment of Centres of Excellence:**
 - A [wrestling centre of excellence](#) will be set up in **Sonipat**, while a [boxing centre of excellence](#) will be established in **Panipat**.
 - Both centres will include hostel facilities to help athletes focus on their training.
 - **A Banda Singh Bahadur Martial Arts School will be set up in Yamunanagar** to promote martial arts training.
 - **Monitoring and Accountability:**
 - The Director of Sports and Deputy Director have been instructed to visit districts, assess stadium conditions, and compile reports on necessary improvements.
 - A list of **negligent sports trainers** will be created to ensure proper training standards.
 - **Planning and Scheduling of Sports Events:**
 - Officials have been directed to prepare an **annual sports calendar**.
 - Preparations for events should be made at least a month in advance in any district hosting competitions to avoid inconvenience for athletes.
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Grants for Rural Local Bodies of Haryana | Haryana | 22 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The Union Government has disbursed [Fifteenth Finance Commission \(XV FC\) Grants](#) during the **Financial Year 2024-25** for the Rural Local Bodies of Bihar, Haryana, and Sikkim.

Key Points

- **Allocation of Grants:**
 - **Haryana:**
 - Haryana's Rural Local Bodies received the **second installment of Untied Grants worth Rs 202.47 crore.**
 - The funds are designated for 18 eligible District Panchayats, 142 eligible Block Panchayats, and 6,195 eligible Gram Panchayats.
 - **Bihar:**
 - Bihar received the **second installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 821.80 crore.**
 - These funds are allocated to 38 District Panchayats, 530 eligible Block Panchayats, and 8,052 eligible Gram Panchayats that met the mandatory conditions for release.
 - **Sikkim:**
 - Sikkim received the **second installment of Untied Grants totaling Rs 6.26 crore.**
 - These funds were allocated to 4 eligible District Panchayats and 186 eligible Gram Panchayats, which fulfilled the mandatory conditions for release.
- **Utilization of Untied and Tied Grants:**
 - **Untied Grants:**
 - [Panchayati Raj Institutions \(PRIs\)](#) and [Rural Local Bodies \(RLBs\)](#) can use these funds for location-specific development needs under the **29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution**, excluding salaries and administrative costs.
 - **Tied Grants:**
 - These funds are **strictly for basic services**, including:
 - [Sanitation and ODF maintenance](#), focusing on household [waste management](#), fecal sludge management, and human excreta treatment.
 - Drinking water supply, [rainwater harvesting](#), and [water recycling initiatives](#).

Finance Commission

- It is a **constitutional body** that determines the **method and formula for distributing the tax proceeds** between **the Centre and states** and among the states as per the constitutional arrangement and present requirements.
- Under **Article 280** of the Constitution, the President of India is required to constitute a **Finance Commission** at an interval of five years or earlier.
- The **1st FC** was set up in 1951 and there have been fifteen so far.
- The **15th FC headed by N.K. Singh** was constituted by the President of India on 27th November 2017, against the backdrop of the abolition of [the Planning Commission](#) and the introduction of [the Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#).
- In November 2019, the Union Cabinet approved the **15th FC** to submit its first report for the first **fiscal year 2020-21** and to extend its tenure to provide for the presentation of the final report covering Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30th October, 2020.