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(CONSOLIDATION)

## HARYANA

**APRIL  
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Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee  
Nagar, Delhi-110009

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: [www.drishtias.com](http://www.drishtias.com)

Email: [help@groupdrishti.in](mailto:help@groupdrishti.in)

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## ASI to Remove 18 'Untraceable' Monuments From its List

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has put out a list of 18 centrally protected monuments which it wants to delist as they no longer hold national importance.

### Key Points

- The monuments facing delisting include:
  - Kos Minar No.13 at Mujessar village in Haryana
  - BaraKhamba Cemetery in Delhi
  - Gunner Burkill's Tomb at Rangoon in Jhansi
  - Cemetery at Gaughat in Lucknow
  - Telia Nala Buddhist ruins, which form part of a deserted village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Delisting of the monuments effectively means the central agency won't have any obligation to protect them, and activities related to construction and urbanisation in the area can be carried out in a regular manner.
- According to an official gazette notification, the ASI has invoked **Section 35 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act)** to delist the 18 monuments.
- In 2023, the Ministry of Culture had told Parliament that 50 of India's 3,693 centrally protected monuments have gone missing.
  - This submission was made as part of a report titled '**Issues relating to Untraceable Monuments and Protection of Monuments in India**' submitted to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.
  - The missing monuments included **11 in Uttar Pradesh**, as well as **two each in Delhi and Haryana**. It also included monuments in Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- According to the ASI, which is under the Ministry of Culture, **14 of these 50 monuments were lost to rapid urbanisation, 12 submerged by reservoirs or dams, and 24 remain untraceable.**
  - The move to delist the 18 monuments comes after the parliamentary panel observed that the list of ASI-protected sites includes a large number

of "minor monuments" and recommended that it should be "**rationalised and categorised**" on the basis of their **national significance, unique architectural value and specific heritage content.**

### Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act), 1958

- It is one of the landmark laws for the –
  - **Preservation** of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance (over 100 years old).
  - **Regulation** of archaeological excavations and
  - **Protection** of sculptures, carvings and other like objects.
- ASI functions under the provisions of this act.
- India has a total of 3,693 Centrally Protected Monuments or Sites in the country, under the protection of the ASI.
- The monuments are regularly inspected by the ASI officials to assess their present condition and the necessary conservation and preservation works are taken up as per the requirement.
- **Section 35:** If the Central Government is of opinion that any ancient and historical monument or archaeological site and remains declared to be of national importance by or under this Act has ceased to be of national importance, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that the ancient and historical monument or archaeological site and remains, as the case may be, has ceased to be of national importance for the purposes of this Act.

## HC Notice on Plea Challenging Haryana Cabinet Expansion

### Why in News?

Recently, the Punjab and Haryana high court sought a response from the Centre and Haryana government on a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** challenging the cabinet expansion by the **Nayab Singh Saini government in Haryana.**

### Key Points

- As per the plea, the **state has 90 members House**, and that **council of ministers can't exceed 13 (15%) of the total strength** as per **Article 164 of the Constitution of India.**

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- **Article 164** envisages that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor.
- The PIL alleges Saini appointed five as ministers on 12th March, when he also took oath as chief minister and eight more on 19th March.
- The addition of eight more in the council of ministers is illegal, void and unconstitutional under the **Representation of People Act, 1951**.

#### Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

- It is the **use of the law to advance human rights and equality**, or raise issues of broad public concern.
- The concept of "Public Interest Litigation" has been **borrowed from the American Jurisprudence**.
- In Indian law, PIL means **litigation for the protection of Public Interest**. It is Litigation introduced in a court of Law, not by the aggrieved party but by the court itself or **by any other private party**.
  - It is the power given to the public by courts through **Judicial activism**.
- It can be filed **only in the Supreme Court or the High Court**.
- It is **different from Writ Petition**, which is filed by individuals or institutions for their own benefit, whereas PIL is filed for the benefit of the general public.
- The concept of PIL is **suited to the Principles enshrined in Article 39 A of the Constitution of India** to protect and deliver prompt Social Justice with the help of Law.
- **Areas where PIL can be filed:** Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards etc.

## First Batch of Indian Workers Leave for Israel

### Why in News?

Recently, the **first batch of Indian construction workers** bound for **jobs in Israel** were flagged off by Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon and government officials.

### Key Points

- The **Israeli government** raised an **urgent request for construction workers** in November 2023 and **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** had discussed fast-tracking the process with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2023.

- This was because the country faced major labour shortages after it **banned thousands of Palestinians** from working in Israel following the **terror strikes by Hamas** on 7th October 2023.
- According to the **National Skill Development Council**, the first group were recruited over the past few months during a massive drive in **Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**.
  - They are part of a requisitioned 10,000-strong workforce that will be flown to Israel over the next few weeks, with batches due to fly almost every day on board Air India and even chartered flights.
- According to the **Ministry of External Affairs** the workers were travelling to Israel under a government-to-government arrangement, as part of the **India-Israel mobility partnership signed in 2023**.
- As Israel is not on the list of "**Emigration Clearance Required**" (**ECR**) countries, **registration for the workers is not mandatory on the MEA's eMigrate portal**.
- As per the **Framework Agreement and Implementation Protocols** signed with Israel, Indian workers shall enjoy **equal treatment** with respect to labour rights as Israeli citizens and shall be provided with **proper lodging, medical insurance and relevant social security coverage** as well as wages and benefits as set out in law.

#### The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- It is a **non-profit public limited company** established on **July 31, 2008**, under **Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956**.
- The Ministry of Finance established NSDC as a **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** model.
- The Government of India, through the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, owns 49% of NSDC, while the **private sector** owns the **remaining 51%**.
- The organisation **provides funding to develop scalable and successful initiatives for vocational training**.

#### The eMigrate portal

- It is fully operational since its **launch in 2015** and provides for registration of **Recruitment Agents (RAs)**, **Foreign Employers (FEs)** and issue of **Emigration Clearance (EC)** to prospective emigrants.

Note:



- It is a comprehensive online system developed to facilitate safe and legal migration of Indian workers to 18 **Emigration Check Required (ECR)** countries.
  - These 18 countries are **Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, South Sudan, Syria, Sudan, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.**

## Chandigarh Sets Up Panels for Poor Prisoner Relief

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chandigarh administrator has constituted **two committees for the implementation of a scheme to provide relief to poor prisoners who cannot be released from jail due to financial constraints** like non-payment of fines or bail amount.

### Key Points

- The **Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme** has been finalised by the **Union ministry of home affairs** and for its implementation.
- Administration has constituted:
  - One **"Empowered Committee"** to be **headed by the district collector (DC) and district magistrate (DM)**, and its members will be the secretary, district legal services authority, superintendent of police (SP) and chief judicial magistrate.
  - **Oversight committee** will have a **legal remembrancer-cum-director of prosecution**, and **secretary (Home/Jail)**, **state legal services authority**, and **registrar general, Punjab and Haryana high court** as its members; and **the Chandigarh inspector general of prisons** will be the member convener of the committee.
- The committee will assess the requirement of financial support in each case **for securing bail or for payment of fine, etc**, and based on the decision taken, the DC and DM will draw money from the **Central Nodal Agency (CNA) account** and take necessary action.
- The committee **may appoint a nodal officer** and **take assistance** of any civil society representative, social worker and district probation officer to assist them in processing cases of needy prisoners.

### The Support to Poor Prisoners Scheme

- It is an initiative by the Government of India to **provide financial assistance to poor prisoners who are unable to pay fines or bail amounts**, preventing their release from jail.
- The scheme aims to **address the issue of overcrowding in prisons** and ensure that **no prisoner remains incarcerated solely due to financial constraints.**

## Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

### Why in News?

Recently, Rejecting the proposal of the Haryana government to delineate an area of 1,000 metres around the **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** on the Haryana side as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**, the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has issued a draft notification, demarcating an area of 1 km up to 2.035 km around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary on the Haryana side as an ESZ.



### Key Points

- The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 25.98 square km (about 6420 acres), is under the administrative control of the Union territory of Chandigarh and shares its boundaries with Haryana and Punjab.

Note:

- The sanctuary is located in the **Shivalik foothills**, which are considered ecologically sensitive and geologically unstable.
- It is home to at least **seven Schedule 1 animal species of the Wildlife Act, 1972**, including **leopard, Indian pangolin, sambar, golden jackal, king cobra, python, and monitor lizard**.
  - The **Schedule 1** species are considered endangered and in need of immediate protection.
- Besides, there are **Schedule 2** animal species like reptiles, butterflies, trees, shrubs, climbers, herbs, and 250 bird species that inhabit the sanctuary.

## Aravalli Regeneration Plan

### Why in News?

Recently, the Delhi forest department has initiated the establishment of a **tissue culture laboratory** at the **Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** to conserve rare native trees of Aravalli.

### Key Points

- **Tissue Culture Laboratory:** The lab will be able to extract plant tissue from an in-vitro fully grown plant, generating multiple trees from the same tree.
  - The forest department will take assistance from botanists and scientists from the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)** and the **Forest Research Institute (FRI)**.
- The primary goal of the laboratory is to grow endangered native trees in a controlled environment and regenerate saplings of species facing regeneration challenges due to **invasive species**.
- Tissue culture has proven **highly effective** in agriculture, particularly with crops such as **bananas, apples, pomegranates, and jatropha**, offering **higher yields** compared to traditional farming methods.
- The Aravalli Plan:
  - The regeneration of ridge species like Kulu (ghost tree), palash, doodhi, and dhau is hindered by invasive species, resulting in **poor survival rates**, with large-scale multiplication achievable only through tissue culture, **particularly shoot culture**.
  - The lab will also be useful in culturing endangered **medicinal plants**.

### Asola Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary** is located at the end of an important wildlife corridor that starts from **Sariska National Park** in Alwar and passes through Mewat, Faridabad and Gurugram districts of Haryana.
- The region has a **semiarid climate** with notable diurnal temperature variations.
- The vegetation in the Wildlife Sanctuary is predominantly an **open canopied thorny scrub**. The native plants exhibit **xerophytic adaptations** such as thorny appendages, and wax-coated, succulent, and tomentose leaves.
- Major wildlife species include Peafowl, Common Woodshrike, Sirkeer Malkoha, Nilgai, Golden Jackals, Spotted deer, etc.

## Haryana Governor Visits Srinagar's Vachar Nag Temple

### Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya** visited the ancient **Vachar (Vichar) Nag Shiva temple** in **Srinagar** and joined **Kashmiri Pandits** in a special puja on the occasion of **Navreh, the Kashmiri New Year**.

### Key Points

- During the visit, he released a special calendar to commemorate 5,100 years of the '**Saptarishi system**'.
- The **Vachar (Vichar) Nag temple** was closed in the 1990s when Pandits left the Valley in the wake of rising militancy.

### Navreh

- It is celebrated on the first day of the **bright half (Shukla Paksha)** of the month of **Chaitra (March–April)** in the Kashmiri Hindu calendar.
- It is the Sanskrit word '**Nav-Varsha**' from which the word '**Navreh**' has been derived.
- Kashmiri Pandits dedicate the Navreh festival to their **Goddess Sharika** and pay homage to her during the festival.

Note:

## NGT Seeks Reply on Aravali Land Occupation

### Why in News?

**National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has issued a notice to **Faridabad municipal corporation** on **allegations** of illegally cutting **180 trees in the Aravallis** and **encroaching** on **forest department** land to expand a waste processing plant.

### Key Points

- A committee appointed by the tribunal to investigate the allegations has submitted its report. The report highlights the violations committed by the corporation.
- The dispute surrounds a 50-acre land parcel in Pratapgarh village. Although the civic body owns 47 acres of this land, the remaining is still with the forest and health departments.
- The **NGT panel recommended** that:
  - The **municipal body** must take **permission from Haryana pollution board** before starting operations at the site.
  - They must also **set up a leachate treatment plant** and **create a green** area in the vicinity that will act as a **buffer zone** between the Aravallis and the waste processing unit.

#### National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the **National Green Tribunal Act (2010)** for effective and expeditious **disposal of cases relating to environmental protection** and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the **third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal**, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, **New Delhi is the Principal place** of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

## Haryana Forest Census

### Why in News?

According to the first state-wide tree census there are around **4.1 crore trees outside designated forests** in **Haryana**, with **neem, shisham, pipal, bargad** and **eucalyptus** being the most common species.

### Key Points

- Approximately 150 surveyors, taxonomists, and technical staff were engaged in the project for a duration of 13 months to assist authorities in making well-informed decisions regarding **green cover management in the state**.
  - It provides **data on the number of trees in each district outside forest areas**. The **highest tree counts** were found in Yamunanagar, Ambala, Sirsa, Bhiwani, and Hisar.
  - Faridabad had the **lowest count**, with Kurukshetra, Palwal, Gurgaon, and Rohtak following suit.
- Covering only 6.7% of its total area, **Haryana has the smallest forest and tree cover in India**. The **National Forest Policy** aims for a 20% coverage for each state.
  - Out of 22 districts in Haryana, 21 have less than 20% forest and tree cover.
  - Karnal ranks the lowest with 1.8%, Panchkula tops the list with 47.4%, and Gurgaon stands sixth at 12.9%.
- The state is witnessing a rapid decline in tree cover too, as reported by the **Forest Survey of India**, with a 140 sq km reduction in the tree cover (excluding forest area) from 2019 to 2020.
  - Forest department officials are planning to enhance conservation efforts using census data.
  - They are advocating that the government earmark at least 25% of panchayat and common lands for plantations, institutions should have 33% of their area under tree cover, and urban local bodies should focus on developing green spaces in cities, drawing inspiration from Hyderabad's initiatives.
  - Emphasizing the importance of high-quality seedlings, officials stressed that using them is crucial for ensuring the survival and growth of trees.

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### National Forest Policy

- India's forests are currently governed by the **National Forest Policy, 1988**
- It has environmental balance and livelihood at its centre.
- Salient Features and Goals:
  - Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
  - Conservation of Natural Heritage (existing).
  - Checking Soil Erosion and Denudation in catchment areas of rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.
  - Checking extension of sand dunes in desert areas of Rajasthan and along coastal tracts.
  - Substantially increasing Forest/Tree Cover through Afforestation and Social Forestry.
  - Taking steps to meet requirements of fuel, wood, fodder, minor forest produces, soil and timber of Rural and Tribal Population.
  - Increasing the productivity of Forests to meet National Needs.
  - Encouraging efficient utilization of Forest Produce and Optimum Use of Wood (Timber).
  - Generation of Work Opportunities, the involvement of Women.

### Forest Survey of India

- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun has been conducting **biennial (once every two years)** assessments of **forest cover since 1987**, and the findings are published in the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)**.
- As per the latest assessment in **ISFR 2021**, India's total forest and tree cover stands at **8,09,537 square kilometers, which accounts for 24.62%** of the country's geographical area.
- Notably, this represents an **increase of 2261 square kilometers compared to the ISFR 2019 assessment**, indicating positive strides in forest conservation efforts.

## Athletics Federation of India (AFI)

### Why in News?

The **Athletics Federation of India** has **disaffiliated**

**16 district associations** across the country for failing to send teams for the **National inter-district junior athletics meet held in Ahmedabad**.

### Key Points

- The disaffiliated districts (with name of State/UT association) are **Panchkula** (Haryana), Budgam, Ramban & Shopian (all J&K), Lohardaga (Jhkd), Kalpeni (Lakshadweep), East Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills & Ri-Bhoi (all Meghalaya), Harda & Neemuch (both MP), Firozpur & Fazilka (both Punjab), Jhalawar (Raj), Krishnagiri (TN), Purba Medinipur (WB).
- As per the AFI constitution, the **suspended districts will be removed** and **fresh associations will be formed**.
  - The State associations have been asked to take appropriate action, in consultation with the AFI, and form the new district units.

### Athletics Federation of India (AFI)

- It is the apex body for running and managing athletics in India.
- It is a non-governmental and non-profitable autonomous body.
- It is affiliated to the World Athletics, the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA)**, and the **Indian Olympic Association**.
- It was formerly called the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (AAFI).
- The AFI has as many as 32 affiliated state units and institutional units.
- It came into **existence in 1946**, and the federation organises the National Championships, **trains the Indian Athletics National Campers**, selects the Indian Athletics Teams for various international competitions, including the **Olympics, Asian Games, CWG, World Championships, Asian Championships**, and other international meets, conducts the National Championships for various age categories.
  - The AFI conducts **international and national championships** and various meets to promote the sport, popularise it amongst the masses, and make athletics commercially attractive for the further growth of the athlete and the sport.
  - The federation also **supervises and assists its state units** in their activities, plans and **sets up special coaching camps, coaches training**, and takes initiatives for development programmes and **grass root promotion of athletics** in India.

Note:



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## 'Ram Lalla' Temple Built in Sonipat

### Why in News?

Nirmohi Akhara, a key plaintiff in the **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid** title suit, has constructed an impressive 'Ram Lalla' Temple in Khanda village, Sonipat district, Haryana.

### Key Points

- The installation of the 'Ram Lalla' idol in the temple's sanctum sanctorum was a highlight of the **'Ram Navami' celebrations**.
- The **416-year-old 'math'** underwent a significant renovation to accommodate the new temple. Saints from Nirmohi Akhara, hailing from various parts of India, participated in the week-long **'Pran Pratishtha' rituals**.
- Crafted from white 'Makrana' marble the 'Ram Lalla' idol mirrors the one at **Ayodhya's Ram Temple**.
  - Surrounding the idol are twelve golden arches depicting scenes from the **Ramayana**.
  - A symbol of Lord Vishnu, the **'Vaishnav Dharma Istambh'**, has been installed in the 'math'.



#### Nirmohi Akhara

It is an 'akhara' of the **Ramanandi order of the Vaishnava sect**, established in the early **18th century**.

- It is **one of the fourteen akharas** recognized by the **Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad** and belongs to the **Vaishnav Bairagi Sampradaya**.

## Rakhigarhi Findings

### Why in News?

One of the recent changes in school textbooks

proposed by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** includes adding information about the results of **Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis on skeletal remains** discovered at the **ancient site of Rakhigarhi** in Haryana.

- Additionally, references to the negative impact of the **Narmada Dam project on tribals**, causing displacement and increased poverty, have been removed.

### Key Points

- NCERT has stated that study of ancient **DNA from archaeological sources in Rakhigarhi**, Haryana suggests that the genetic roots of the Harappans go back to 10,000 BCE.
- Rakhigarhi is the **largest Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent**. The site is situated in the plains of **Saraswati river, about 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river**.
  - To study its evolution from **6000 BC (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BC**, excavations were carried out at Rakhigarhi under the leadership of **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** archaeologist Amarendra Nath.
- Prof. Shinde played an important role in the research related to Rakhigarhi. Prof. Shinde is also writing a book **'History of India'** on these researches related to Indian history.
- Pro. Shinde said-
  - The DNA report of the remains, evidence and skeletons found in the excavations at **Rakhigarhi, Lothal Gilund, Nujat etc.** has proved that the **Harappan civilization** was the oldest and most developed civilization in the world.
  - The theory of **Aryan invasion** and coming from outside is **fabricated and false**, which has been confirmed on the **basis of archaeological and scientific verification of DNA**.

#### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organization for the **archaeological research and protection** of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, **exploration and excavation** of archaeological sites, **conservation and maintenance** of protected monuments etc.

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- It was founded in 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham**- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “**Father of Indian Archaeology**”.

#### **The National Council of Educational Research and Training**

- It is an **autonomous organization** that was **established in 1961 under the Societies Registration Act**.
- It is the **apex body** for advising the central and state governments on matters related to school education.

## **Haryana CM Orders Assessment Of Crops**

### **Why in News?**

According to **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** an assessment has been ordered to assess the **crop damage** caused by **hailstorms** in order to **compensate the affected farmers**.

### **Key Points**

- Meanwhile, **Haryana Chief Secretary** stressed the need to expedite the lifting of stocks from the mandis insisting that at least **50% of the stocks be promptly transferred to the godowns**.
- The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department has also authorised the district authorities to utilize vehicles owned by commission agents (Arhatis) for transporting crops from the mandis to warehouses.
- The administrative secretaries along with officers involved in **Rabi crop** procurement were instructed to **make the payment to farmers within 72 hours**.
- The officers are instructed that **farmers should not face any problem in selling their crops** and payment for the crops should be ensured within the stipulated period under all circumstances.

#### **Hailstorm**

- **Hail** is a type of **solid rain made up of balls or lumps of ice**.
- **Storms that produce hail** that reaches the ground are known as **hailstorms**. They are most common in the **midlatitudes**.
- They typically last for not more than **15 minutes but can cause injuries** to people and damage buildings, vehicles, and crops.

- Hailstorms can sometimes be **accompanied by other severe weather events**, such as **cyclones and tornadoes**.
- The size of hailstones can **vary widely**, from **small pellets less than 1/4 inch in diameter** to larger stones measuring **several inches in size**.
- Conditions for Hailstorms to occur:
- **Highly developed Cumulonimbus clouds** need to be present. These are the massive **anvil or mushroom-shaped clouds** that are **seen during thunderstorms**, which can **reach heights of up to 65,000 feet**.
- There must be **strong currents of air ascending through these clouds**. These currents are commonly known as **updrafts**.
- The clouds will need to contain high concentrations of **supercooled liquid water**.

## **Haryana Launches App to Check Queue at Poll Booths**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, Haryana launched ‘**voters-in-queue**’ mobile app to provide voters with information about the queue at polling centres. This would help voters to go and vote at their convenience.

### **Key Points**

- Haryana, which has **10 Lok Sabha** constituencies, will go for single-phase polling on **25th May 2024**.
- The ‘**voter-in-queue**’ app has been **approved for use by the Election Commission of India**.
- It will be **operational in 30 urban Assembly constituencies**. Through this, voters can see the **live crowd at the polling centers** on the day of the election.

## **Haryana RERA Imposes Penalty on Countrywide Promoters**

### **Why in News?**

Recently, **Haryana real estate regulatory authority (HRERA), Gurugram**, has imposed a **penalty of Rs 50 lakh** on **Countrywide Promoters Private Limited** for publishing a **misleading advertisement**.

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### Key Points

- According to the authority, despite mandatory provisions **under Section 11(2) and 13(1)** of the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016** the promoter did not describe the details in a proper manner in the advertisement, which is a **punishable offence** under the **Section 61 of the Act**.
- Countrywide Promoters Private Limited is developing an **affordable plotted colony** under **Deen Dayal Jan Awas Yojna Affordable Plotted Housing Policy 2016** after it obtained RERA registration in 2021.

#### Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA)

- Under the **Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016**, Government of Haryana has notified **The Haryana Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017** which came into force from 28 July 2017.
- Its **objectives** is as follows:
  - To regulate the real estate sector for its harmonious growth and development.
  - To bring transparency in the dealings between the promoters of real estate projects and buyers of apartments.
  - To ensure that the real estate projects are completed within the prescribed time frame
  - To resolve disputes relating to the projects expeditiously.
  - To enforce the provisions of law and the orders of the Authority.

#### Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA), 2016

- It is an act passed by the Parliament in 2016 that came into effect fully from **1st May, 2017**.
- It seeks to protect **home-buyers** as well as **boost investments in the real estate** sector by bringing efficiency and transparency in the sale/purchase of real estate.
- The Act establishes Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in each state for **regulation of the real estate** sector and also acts as an adjudicating body for speedy **dispute resolution**.

## Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary

### Why in News?

**The Supreme Court** stayed construction of four

proposed dams inside **Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** in Haryana's **Yamunanagar district**.

### Key Points

- A petition was filed challenging the construction of four dams **Chikan, Kansli, Khillanwala and Ambawali** within **Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** as it will have a negative impact on the flora and the fauna in the area.
- The **National Board for Wildlife** has granted permission to construct dams inside the wildlife sanctuary without taking cognisance of the report of **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**.
- WII has categorically stated in its report namely '**Feasibility Study of Proposed Small Dams in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana**' that the proposed dams are under protected area boundary of Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and as such **would significantly affect the terrestrial as well as aquatic biodiversity** of the protected area.
- Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary notified on 13th December 1996, is located on the **Siwalik foothills**. It is contiguous to **Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand)** and **Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh)**.
  - The whole area is **full of biodiversity**, having dense **Sal forests, Khair forests and patches of grass lands**, which support a variety of plants and animal species.
  - **Royal tigers** and **mighty elephants** visit this place from the Rajaji National Park. Other animals found there include Monitor Lizard, Grey-hooded Warbler, **King Cobra**, **Crested Serpent Eagle**, Python, Chital, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, Sambar, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, **Barking Deer**, **Ghoral**, **Red-billed Blue Magpie** and **Leopard**.

#### National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- It serves as an **apex body** for the **review of all wildlife-related matters** and for the **approval of projects** in and around **national parks and sanctuaries**.
- The NBWL is **chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of **conservation and development of wildlife and forests**.
- The **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** is the **Vice-Chairperson** of the board.
- The **board is 'advisory' in nature** and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife.

Note:



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### Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was **established in 1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.

## 400-Year-Old Idols Found in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, **three metal idols**, estimated to be about **400 years old**, were unearthed during **excavation** for a house construction project in **Baghanki village near Manesar**.

### Key Points

- The police have seized the ancient idols and instructed the owner to halt construction activities.
- **The Archeology Department** will conduct additional excavation to search for any additional idols on the site.
- The idols recovered include a standing idol of **Lord Vishnu**, an idol of **Goddess Lakshmi** and a joint idol of **Goddess Laxmi and Lord Vishnu**.

### Important Archaeological Sites of Haryana

- **Bhirrana**: A small village in **Fatehabad District**, is located about 220 km northwest of New Delhi. The site is situated along the **ancient Saraswati riverine systems**, now represented by the seasonal Ghaggar flows in modern Haryana. **Hakra Ware** dating back to the 8th-7th millennium BCE has been found at Bhirrana, making it contemporaneous with the early **Harappan Ravi phase culture**. The estimated antiquity of Bhirrana is based on **charcoal samples**, giving dates of 7570-7180 BCE and 6689-6201 BCE.
- **Banawali**: It is an archaeological site of the Indus Valley Civilization in **Fatehabad district, Haryana**. It is located 120 km northeast of **Kalibangan** and 16 km from Fatehabad, on the **left bank of the dried up Sarasvati River**. The **excavation** also uncovered a defense wall with a height of 4.5 m and thickness

of 6 m, as well as well-planned houses with rooms, toilets, and streets. A flight of steps near the fortification is considered an important formation by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.

- **Rakhigarhi**: It is the largest Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent which is located in **Hisar District of Haryana**. The site is **situated in the plains of Saraswati river**, about 27 km from the seasonal Ghaggar river. To study its evolution from 6000 BC (Pre-Harappan phase) to 2500 BC, excavations were carried out at Rakhigarhi under the leadership of **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) archaeologist Amarendra Nath**.

## Gurugram: Highest Electors in Haryana

### Why in News?

According to **Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer**, with more than 25 lakh voters, **Gurugram Lok Sabha constituency** has the highest voter count for a parliamentary constituency in the state.

### Key Points

- Polling for all the **10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana** will take place on **25th May 2024** followed by **counting on 4 June 2024**.
- To **increase the voting percentage in Haryana** several unique initiatives have been undertaken by the election department, including launching the **Voter in Queue app**, sending polling invitations to voters akin to wedding invitations, and setting up 31 polling booths in the multi-storey societies of Gurugram.

### Chief Electoral Officer

- It is a **statutory authority** created for representing the **Election Commission of India** for **conducting elections in states and union territories of India**.
- The Constitution of India with introduction of **Article 324** made the **powers of Chief Electoral Officer** independent.
- Their duties and powers are bound under **Section 13 A of Representation of the People Act, 1950** read with **Section 20 of Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

Note:



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## National School Boys Basketball Championship

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana chief secretary inaugurated the 'National School Boys Basketball Championship' in Gurugram.

### Key Points

- The **67th national basketball championship** will be held from **27th April to 30th April, 2024** at **Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Gurugram** under the auspices of the **School Games Federation of India**.

- A total of **44 teams of boys under 17 years** from across the country are participating in this tournament.

#### The School Games Federation of India

- The **SGFI (School Games Federation of India)** was **established in 1954**.
- It is recognized by the **Ministry of Sports and the Indian Olympic Association**.
- SGFI is an active member of the **International School Sports Federation and Asian School Sports Federation**.
- Ever since its inception, SGFI has been working for the **promotion and development of games and sports in the schools in India**. It is the base of all the games and sports in schools in India.



Note:

## Key Points

## Details

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## Summary

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# Summary