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HARYANA

**FEBRUARY
2025**

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ED Seizes Cryptocurrencies in Haryana

Why in News?

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized **cryptocurrencies** worth Rs 17.20 crore after conducting searches at six locations in Haryana related to an investment scam.

Key Points

- Seizure of Cryptocurrencies:
 - The ED found **cryptocurrencies** stored in **multiple wallets**.
 - The alleged mastermind, and his associates owned and managed these wallets.
 - Officials seized several mobile phones during the searches which **contained multiple apps** used to access cryptocurrency wallets.
- Basis of the Investigation:
 - The probe stems from a **First Information Report (FIR)** filed by the Haryana Police.
 - A victim's complaint also contributed to the initiation of the investigation.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- The ED is a **multi-disciplinary organization** mandated with investigation of offences of **money laundering and violations of foreign exchange laws**.
 - It functions **under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- As a premier financial investigation agency of the Government of India, the ED functions in **strict compliance with the Constitution and Laws of India**.

First Information Report (FIR)

- A first information report (FIR) is a written document **prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a cognisable offence**.
 - A **cognisable offence** is one in which the police can arrest a person without a warrant.
 - The term FIR is **not defined in the Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, or in any other law, but in police regulations or rules, information recorded under **Section 154 of CrPC** is known as First Information Report (FIR).

Haryana adopts three-language formula in Schools

Why in News?

Haryana government has implemented the **three-language formula** in schools under the **Board of School Education, Bhiwani**, as per **National Education Policy, 2020**.

Key Points:

- Students of **Class IX and X** must study **English and Hindi** as mandatory languages, while they can choose a **third language** from **Sanskrit, Punjabi, or Urdu**.
 - Other mandatory subjects include **Mathematics, Science, and Social Science**.
- These students will have the option of selecting one subject among vocational subjects, **physical education, drawing, music**, etc.
- The new subject combination shall be applicable in Class IX from academic session **2025-26** and will subsequently be applicable for both **Class IX and X** from academic session **2026-27**.
 - Haryana is the **first state to implement the three-language formula** under NEP 2020.
 - Demands for Additional Reforms
 - Punjabi teachers have been waiting for **promotions** for a long time and have requested that they be granted **based on merit**.
 - The government should implement the **CBSE Punjabi curriculum** in **Haryana Board schools for Classes IX to XII**.
 - Appointment of Punjabi teachers in **Punjabi-speaking districts** (Panchkula, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Karnal, Kaithal).
 - The introduction of **Punjabi** as a **subject from Class III** in these districts, in line with the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.

National Education Policy 2020?

- **About:**
 - The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** aims to address India's evolving development needs by overhauling the education system to meet **21st century goals** and **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)**, while preserving India's cultural heritage.
 - It replaced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**, which was modified in **1992**.

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➤ Salient Features:

- **Universal Access:** Focuses on providing access to education from **preschool through secondary levels**.
- **Early Childhood Education:** Transitions from the 10+2 to a 5+3+3+4 system, including children aged 3-6 in the school curriculum with an emphasis on **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**.
- **Multilingualism:** Promotes using **mother tongues or regional languages** as the **medium of instruction** up to **Grade 5**, with options for **Sanskrit** and other languages. **Indian Sign Language (ISL)** will be standardised.
- **Inclusive Education:** Emphasises support for **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)**, children with disabilities, and the establishment of **"Bal Bhavans."**
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) Enhancement:** Aim to raise the **Gross Enrolment Ratio** from **26.3%** to **50%** by **2035**, adding **3.5 crore** new seats.

Pagri Sambhal Jatta Movement

Why in News?

On 23rd February 2025, farmers protesting at the Punjab and Haryana borders observed **the Pagri Sambhal Diwas** to honor **Ajit Singh**, the paternal uncle of **freedom fighter Bhagat Singh**.



Key Points

- About Ajit Singh:
 - **Birth and Early Life:** Ajit Singh was **born on February 23, 1881**, in **Khatkar Kalan village, Punjab** (now part of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district).
 - **Freedom Fighter and Revolutionary:** He was a **prominent nationalist leader** and played a key role in inspiring his nephew, Bhagat Singh.
 - **Exile and Struggle:** Due to his role in the Pagri Sambhal Jatta movement, the British targeted him, **forcing him into exile from 1909 to 1947**.
 - **Return and Death:** He **returned to India in March 1947** but succumbed to ill health on **August 15, 1947**, in **Dalhousie**, coinciding with India's independence.
- The Pagri Sambhal Jatta Movement:
 - **Initiation and Meaning:** Ajit Singh **launched the movement in 1907** to protest against three oppressive agricultural laws imposed by the British.
 - The phrase "Pagri Sambhal Jatta" means "Take care of your turban, O farmer", symbolizing self-respect and honor.
 - **Oppressive Laws:**
 - **Punjab Land Alienation Act, 1900** – Restricted farmers' rights to sell or mortgage land, benefiting landlords and moneylenders.
 - **Punjab Land Colonisation Act, 1906** – Transferred land ownership to the British instead of farmers' heirs in the Chenab Colony (now in Pakistan).
 - **Doab Bari Act, 1907** – Stripped farmers of land ownership rights, reducing them to contract laborers.
 - **Additional Burdens:** The British also increased taxes on agricultural land and irrigation water, leading to widespread debt and land loss among small farmers.
- Impact of the Movement:
 - **Mass Protests:** The movement led to large-scale farmer protests demanding the repeal of unjust laws.
 - **Formation of Bharat Mata Society:** Ajit Singh and Kishan Singh (Bhagat Singh's father) founded the **Bharat Mata Society**, a revolutionary group supporting farmers.
 - **Slogan:** Nationalist poet **Banke Dayal** coined the slogan **"Pagri Sambhal Jatta,"** which became a symbol of defiance.
 - **British Response:** The British withdrew some oppressive clauses due to rising pressure.

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Note:

- **Influence on Future Movements:** The movement laid the foundation for future uprisings, inspiring **the Ghadar Movement** and Bhagat Singh's revolutionary activities.
- **Arrests and Exile:** In May 1907, Ajit Singh and **Lala Lajpat Rai** were arrested and exiled to Burma (now Myanmar) but were released in November 1907 under public pressure.
 - Ajit Singh later **fled to Persia, Turkey, Brazil, Germany, and Italy**, working with revolutionaries like Lala Hardayal and Madame Cama.
- **Pagri Sambhal Diwas:**
 - **Observance Since 2021:** Farmers have been observing **February 23 as Pagri Sambhal Diwas since 2021**, coinciding with Ajit Singh's birth anniversary.
 - **2021 Farmer Protests:** During the Delhi border protests, farmers marked Pagri Sambhal Diwas while demanding the repeal of the **three farm laws** (now scrapped).
 - **2024 Protests:** Since February 13, 2024, farmers have been protesting at Punjab and Haryana borders, demanding **Minimum Support Price** as a legal guarantee and other rights.

Article 101

Why in News?

The Punjab and Haryana **High Court** postponed the hearing on **Member of Parliament (MP)** Amritpal Singh's petition, which sought **permission to attend Parliament**.

Key Points

- **Legal Argument on Absence:**
 - Amritpal Singh's counsel argued that he had already been absent for 46 days from the date of filing the petition.
 - As per **Article 101(4) of the Constitution**, a **parliamentary seat may be declared vacant if a member is absent for more than 60 days without permission**.
 - It was emphasized that only six days remained before reaching this threshold, after which his membership could be terminated.
- **Background of the Case:**
 - Amritpal Singh, MP from the Khadoor Sahib constituency, initially moved the court in January 2025.

- He **sought permission to attend Parliament and meet Union ministers** to discuss development issues in his constituency.
- His plea argued that, as an elected MP representing over 19 lakh people, he should be allowed to fulfill his parliamentary duties.

Article 101(4)

➤ Key Provisions:

- An MP's seat may be declared vacant if they are absent from the House for 60 consecutive days without permission.
- The **counting of days excludes periods when Parliament is not in session**.
- The **Speaker (Lok Sabha)** or **Chairman (Rajya Sabha)** decides on the disqualification.

➤ Objective:

- Ensures active participation of MPs in legislative proceedings.
- Prevents **neglect of parliamentary responsibilities** by elected representatives.
- Upholds the principle of accountability in a democracy.

➤ Exceptions and Special Cases:

- MPs **can apply for leave of absence** due to **valid reasons** such as illness, detention, or unavoidable circumstances.
- If the **House grants permission**, the MP **retains their seat**.
- In **cases of legal detention**, courts may intervene to allow attendance if required.

38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela Concluded

Why in News?

Union Minister of Energy, Housing, and Urban Affairs presided over the vibrant **closing ceremony of the 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela**.

Key Points

- **Mela's Global Impact:**
 - The Union Minister emphasized the **international significance of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela**.

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- He stated that the **event has given Haryana and India global recognition** while setting a **milestone in cultural tourism**.
- Cultural and Economic Importance:
 - Calling the fair the **“MahaKumbh of art and craft,”** he highlighted its role in **fostering direct interaction between artisans and visitors**.
 - The Mela promotes **India’s rich heritage and cultural diversity**, attracting artisans and tourists from across the world.
- Strengthening National and Cultural Unity:
 - He praised the Mela’s role in enhancing **national unity and cultural integrity**.
 - Calling Surajkund the **world’s largest cultural confluence**, he said it reflects the growing appreciation for art and craft worldwide.
- Participation and Awards:
 - The closing ceremony featured awards for outstanding artisans across multiple categories.
 - The 38th edition witnessed over 1,600 artisans from India and abroad and attracted approximately 15 lakh visitors.

Surajkund Mela

- The Surajkund International Crafts Mela was from **7th February to 23rd February 2025**.
- The event will showcase **art, craftsmanship, and talent from artisans across India and the world**.
- The Union Minister described Surajkund Mela as more than just a marketplace, highlighting its **role in preserving and promoting ancient craftsmanship**.

Aravalli Jungle Safari

Why in News?

Haryana Environment, Forest, and Wildlife Minister urged people to pledge to protect endangered wildlife on **World Wildlife Day**. Efforts for a **jungle safari** and **the Aravalli Green Wall Project** were underway to launch the safari on World Wildlife Day.

Key Points

- Execution of the Safari Project:
 - Initially, the Tourism Department was responsible for the safari project, but Chief Minister Nayab

Singh Saini has now assigned its execution to the Forest and Wildlife Department.

- The department is making rapid progress on the project.
- Study Visits for Project Planning:
 - The Minister, along with department officials, visited **the Gorewada Wildlife Safari in Nagpur (Maharashtra)** and **the Vantara Project in Jamnagar (Gujarat)** to study best practices.
 - Efforts are underway to ensure that Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the proposed safari in the Aravalli region.
- Aravalli Green Wall Project:
 - The project aims to restore over 1.15 million hectares across Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, promoting multi-state cooperation.
 - Key objectives include:
 - Afforestation with indigenous tree species
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Soil health restoration
 - Enhancing groundwater recharge

World Wildlife Day

About:

- It has been celebrated every year on the 3rd of March since 2013.
- The date chosen coincides with the day of **the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** which was signed in 1973.
- **The UNGA (General Assembly) resolution also designated the CITES Secretariat as the facilitator for the global observance of this special day for wildlife on the UN (United Nations) calendar.**

Significance:

- This aligns with **UN Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15**, and their wide-ranging commitments on alleviating **poverty**, ensuring sustainable use of resources, and on conserving life both on land and below water to halt biodiversity loss.
- Our planet is currently facing the urgent challenge that is the loss of biodiversity and up to a million species could disappear in the coming decades if unsustainable human activity, **climate change** and habitat degradation are left unchecked.

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Centres of Excellence

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.

Grants for Rural Local Bodies of Haryana

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**.

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Note:

- 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.

Haryana's New Chief Secretary

Why in News?

The Haryana government appointed 1990-batch IAS officer Anurag Rastogi as the **state's new chief secretary**.

Key Points

- New Appointments:
 - Chief Secretary:
 - According to a government order Anurag Rastogi has been appointed as **the Chief Secretary of Haryana**.
 - He will continue to hold the charge of **the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, and Additional Chief Secretary (Finance and Planning)**.
- Election Commission:
 - Gyanesh Kumar was appointed as the next **Chief Election Commissioner**.
 - Vivek Joshi has been appointed as an **Election Commissioner** in **the Election Commission of India**.

Chief Secretary of State

- Appointment:
 - The Chief Secretary is '**chosen**' by **the Chief Minister**. As the appointment of Chief Secretary is an executive action of the Chief Minister, it is **taken in the name of the Governor** of the State.
- Position:
 - The post of Chief Secretary is the **senior-most position in the civil services of the states and union territories** of India.
 - The position is a cadre post for the Indian Administrative Services.
 - The Chief Secretary is the **chief advisor to the Chief Minister in all matters** of the cabinet.
- Tenure:
 - The office of Chief Secretary has been **excluded from the operation of the tenure system**. There is **no fixed tenure** for this post.

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Note:

Election Commission of India (ECI)

About

- **Autonomous Constitutional Authority** - Administers Union/state election
 - LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the President and VP
- Estd - **25th Jan 1950** (National Voters' Day)

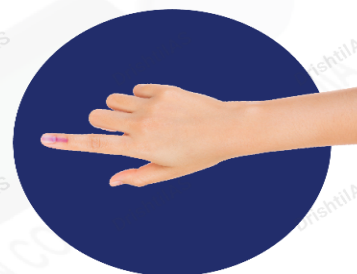


Constitutional Provisions

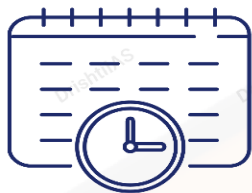
Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure

- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners **appointed by President**
- **Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs – **eligible for further appointment by the govt.**
- **Removal of CEC-** Resolution on the **ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity**, with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house



Major Roles and Responsibilities



- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- **Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties**
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on **matters concerning the disqualification of MPs**

Challenges

- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff



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Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Haryana announced that the state will now extend **Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana** benefits to **potato growers**. This decision will **shield farmers from price fluctuations and ensure essential financial assistance**.

Key Points

- Disbursement of Financial Assistance:
 - The government has **successfully disbursed an amount of Rs 46.34 crore to farmers** for the year 2023-24 under the scheme.
- About Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana:
 - The Haryana government launched this scheme to **protect farmers from financial losses** due to declining market prices.
 - The scheme covers **21 horticultural crops**, including:
 - 5 fruit crops
 - 14 vegetable crops
 - 2 spice crops
- Current Registration and Assistance:
 - 3,15,614 farmers have registered 7,02,220 acres under the scheme.
 - The government has provided over Rs 110 crore in financial assistance to 24,385 farmers.
- Advisory for Potato Farmers:
 - Farmers have been advised to **store their potato crops in cold storage** if market prices fall to safeguard their produce and income.
- Process:
 - Farmers must register their crops on the **“Meri Fasal Mera Byora” portal**.
 - The Horticulture Department verifies the details before issuing benefits.
 - The scheme covers landowners, lessees, and tenants, ensuring broad-based farmer support.

Railways Upgrade for Delhi-Ambala Corridor

Why in News?

To address the **increasing load on the Delhi-Ambala rail corridor**, the **Ministry of Railways** has planned to **upgrade the existing two-track system into a four-line corridor**.

- Railway officials met with **district administration officers in Panipat and Sonapat** under the **chairmanship of Deputy Commissioners** to discuss the project details.

Key Points

- Need for Expansion:
 - Deputy Commissioner Sonapat emphasized the urgent need for expanding the Delhi-Ambala rail corridor due to the increasing train load.
 - The current two-track system is insufficient, prompting the **Railway Ministry to plan the expansion of the 193.6 km corridor** from Delhi to Ambala.
- Project Scope and Cost:
 - The expansion will involve development work at **32 railway stations** along the route.
 - The project has an estimated cost of Rs 7,074 crore and aims for completion within four years.
- Land Acquisition Details:
 - The expansion requires 11 hectares of land from 15 villages:
 - 8 villages in Samalkha division
 - 7 villages in Panipat
 - The administration will ensure appropriate **compensation for landowners**.
- Railway's Land Proposal:
 - The project requires 85 hectares, including:
 - 80 hectares of private land
 - 5 hectares of government land
 - Upon completion, the upgraded corridor will offer significantly improved facilities for the public.

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Note:

Indian Railways

- Indian Railways was **established in 1853** and is one of the world's largest railway networks.
- The first railway on the Indian sub-continent ran over a stretch of **21 miles from Bombay to Thane**.
- India is projected to account for **40% of the total global share of rail activity by 2050**.
- Indian Railways crafted **the National Rail Plan (NRP) for India - 2030** to develop a modern railway system.

Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)

Why in News?

The **Haryana Parivar Pehchan Authority** has issued strict regulations regarding the sharing of family ID data.

- These new regulations define the conditions under which family information from the **Family Information Data Repository** can be shared with government entities while protecting individual privacy.

Key Points

- **Purpose of Data Sharing:** The shared data can only be used for government programs, recruitment verification, and public service benefits.
- **Restricted Data Sharing:** The data can only be shared with '**Eligible State Instrumentality**,' which includes the **Central government, the Haryana state government, statutory authorities, universities, boards, corporations, and other government-controlled agencies**.
- **Family Identification:** Each family will receive an **eight-digit Family ID**, which will be linked to essential records such as **birth, death, and marriage certificates**.
 - The **Family ID** will be updated automatically whenever a life event such as **birth, death, or marriage** occurs.
- **Integration with Government Schemes:** The database will be linked to various independent schemes, including **scholarships, subsidies, and pensions**, ensuring consistency and accuracy in beneficiary selection.

- **Automatic Beneficiary Selection:** The data in the PPP database will determine eligibility, allowing **automatic self-selection for government benefits**.
- **Elimination of Repeated Documentation:** Once authenticated and verified, beneficiaries will no longer need to submit separate documents for different schemes.

Note: The PPP initiative is a significant step towards **digital governance** and aims to **simplify access to government welfare schemes** for the residents of Haryana.

Haryana to Launch E-Libraries

Why in News?

The Haryana government is introducing **e-libraries in government colleges** across Gurugram to **improve digital education**.

Key Points

- **Benefits of E-Libraries:**
 - Students will gain **access to thousands of digital books, research papers, journals, and lectures**.
 - They can browse and download study materials using **unique login credentials** on their phones or laptops.
 - This initiative **eliminates the limitation of physical books** and allows multiple students to use the same resource simultaneously.
- **Success of E-Library Model at Gurugram University:**
 - **Gurugram University (GU)** has already implemented the e-library model with great success. GU students currently have access to:
 - 17,000 e-books
 - 8,800 e-journals
 - 130,000 e-lectures
 - 748,000 theses
 - 2,200 reports
 - 2,600 expert talks

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Note:

- Step Toward Modern Education:
 - The District Elementary Education Officer emphasized that e-libraries will help students stay **updated with the latest academic research and global studies**.
 - This initiative is described as a **crucial step in improving higher education** in Haryana.

Stubble Burning

Why in News?

A study published in **January 2025**, based on **field measurements, airmass trajectories, and chemical transport models**, found **no linear correlation** between **stubble-burning events** in Punjab and Haryana and **PM2.5 concentration** in Delhi-NCR.

Key Points

- Limited Impact of Stubble Burning:
 - Researchers found that **crop residue burning in Punjab and Haryana contributes only about 14% of PM2.5 in Delhi-NCR**, making it an insignificant primary source of pollution.
 - Despite a **50% decline in stubble-burning incidents from 2015 to 2023**, PM2.5 concentration in Delhi-NCR remained fairly constant, indicating other major pollution sources.
- Scientific Observations on Air Pollution:
 - Researchers from **the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto**, confirmed

that PM2.5 variations in Delhi-NCR do not directly correlate with fire counts in Punjab and Haryana.

- Stubble burning largely stops after November, yet Delhi-NCR's air quality index has remained in the "very poor" to "severe" category every winter since 2016 due to stagnant winds, lower mixing heights, and inversion conditions.
- Key Findings on Pollution Sources:
 - In 2023, **CO concentration at night was 67% higher** than during the day in Delhi-NCR, compared to 48% in 2022, while Punjab and Haryana showed clear day-night variations only during peak stubble-burning periods.
 - Even during the peak crop residue burning season (October-November), local industrial and anthropogenic sources contribute more to PM2.5 than stubble burning.
 - During **the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage III and IV periods**, strict controls on transport and construction significantly reduced PM2.5 levels, but once restrictions were lifted, pollution levels surged again.
- Major Contributors to PM2.5 in Delhi-NCR:
 - Transport Sector – 30%
 - Local Biomass Burning – 23%
 - Construction and Road Dust – 10%
 - Cooking and Industry – 5-7%
 - Unaccounted Sources – 10%
 - Stubble Burning – 13% (only in October-November)

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- **About:**
 - The **GRAP** consists of emergency measures designed to prevent the deterioration of air quality after reaching specific thresholds in the **Delhi-NCR region**.
 - The **Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** notified the GRAP in 2017.
 - Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) implements the GRAP.
- **Implementation:** It is implemented under four stages:
- **GRAP is incremental in nature** and thus, when the air quality dips from 'poor' to 'very poor,' measures listed under both sections have to be followed.

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Note:



The stages and restrictions

Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very Poor 300-400	Severe 401-500

STAGE I (AQI 201-300)

Agencies to strictly enforce orders by NGT, SC on keeping vehicles older than 10 years (for diesel) and 15 years (petrol) off roads.

STAGE II (AQI 301-400)

- Measures to curb air pollution at hot spots
- Diesel generators of more than 19KW cannot be used unless they run on dual fuel or have emission control devices.

STAGE III (AQI 401-450)

- BS-III petrol, BS-IV diesel private cars to be banned in NCR. Last year, the rule was optional for state governments
- Schools will likely be closed for children up to Class 5.

STAGE IV (AQI OVER 450)

- Light commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi will be restricted except those that are EVs/CNG/ BS-VI diesels. Vehicles carrying essentials or providing essential services to be allowed
- Educational institutions will likely be closed. Non-emergency commercial activities and odd-even vehicle policy may be rolled out.

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Note:

Particulate Matter (PM)

- Particulate matter, or PM, refers to a complex mixture of extremely **small particles and liquid droplets** suspended in the air. These particles come in a wide range of sizes and can be made up of hundreds of different compounds.
 - **PM₁₀ (coarse particles)** - Particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less.
 - **PM_{2.5} (fine particles)** - Particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less.

Particulate Size Matters: Comparing sizes

Small particles pose the greatest risk to human health. While the nose can filter most coarse particles, fine and ultrafine particles are inhaled deeper into the lungs where they can be deposited or even pass into the bloodstream.

Measurement indicate microns in diameter (µm).

PM₁₀ (≤ 10 µm)
Coarse Particles



Pollen



Mold spores



Dust

PM_{2.5} (≤ 2.5 µm)
Fine Particles



Bacterium



T4 Bacteriophage



Dust mite allergens



Pet dander

UF (< 0.1 µm)
Ultrafine Fine Particles



Influenza A



Smoke



Soot/ Black Carbon



SARS-CoV-2

Human hair
50-180 µm

Pending Cases at Haryana State Information Commission

Why in News?

According to a **Right to Information (RTI)** reply, the Haryana State Information Commission is handling a **backlog of over 7,000 appeal cases**. Authorities have yet to recover Rs 2.84 crore, as the penalty imposed on State Public Information Officers (SPIOs) for **delays in providing information**.

Key Points

- Pending Appeal Cases:
 - It was revealed that **8,340 appeal cases were pending** before the Chief Information Commissioner and seven State Information Commissioners in January 2024.
 - **By December 2024**, the number decreased to 7,216, with **only around 1,000 cases resolved in a year**.
- Limited Awareness Campaigns:
 - According to the RTI reply, **only five workshops have been conducted since 2005**, with 896 participants, the last of which was held in Panchkula in 2011.
- Penalty and Recovery Details:
 - Over the last 20 years, the Commission imposed Rs 5.86 crore in penalties across 3,611 cases for delays in providing information.

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Note:

- However, only Rs 2.84 crore has been recovered so far.
- The Commission has awarded Rs 92 lakh in compensation across 1,974 cases for the failure to provide information in a timely manner.

The Right to Information (RTI) Act

➤ About:

- The Right to Information Act 2005 mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information.
- The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, **promote transparency and accountability** in the working of the Government, contain corruption, and make our democracy work for the people in a real sense.

➤ Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019:

- It provided that the **Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner** (of Centre as well as States) shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government. Before this amendment, their term was fixed for 5 years.
- It provided that the **salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner** (of Centre as well as States) shall be such as prescribed by the Central Government.
- It removed the provisions regarding deductions in salary of the Chief Information Commissioner, an Information Commissioner, the State Chief Information Commissioner and a State Information Commissioner due to pension or any other retirement benefits received by them for their previous government service.
- The **RTI (Amendment) Act, 2019** was **criticized on grounds of diluting the law** and giving more powers to the central government.

RuTAG Smart Village Center

Why in News?

Recently, **the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) Smart Village Center (RSVC)** was launched in Mandaura village of Sonipat, Haryana.

Key Points

➤ About RSVC:

- The RuTAG Smart Village Center (RSVC) aims to **introduce innovative solutions to solve everyday challenges in rural areas**, such as preventing animal intrusion, promoting organic farming, and supporting small businesses like bakery production.
- The center will **benefit farmers, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs** by **providing technology solutions** directly to their doorsteps.

➤ Technological Solutions:

- Developed under the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, RSVC will introduce technologies like **satellite data for farming, water monitoring kits, solar power, Internet of Things applications, and organic fertilizers.**
- The initiative also includes **assistive technologies for differently-abled individuals and financial inclusion apps**, ensuring access to modern advancements for everyone.
- It will address rural challenges with improved agricultural practices, **waste management, renewable energy solutions**, and affordable housing innovations.
- Farmers will benefit from advanced post-harvest technologies, and the center will provide information on government welfare schemes through citizen-centric apps.
- This initiative will also enhance income for local artisans and farmers by improving market access.
- The center will collaborate with institutions like IIT Madras, and **the Assistive Technology Foundation** to provide practical solutions and training in various skills, including bakery, bread-making, and financial literacy.
- Government and Institutional Support:
 - The initiative aligns with the **Rural Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Labour ministries** to enhance rural welfare.
 - There are plans to expand RSVC across India, with 20 more centers in development.
 - The **"Techpreneurs" program will empower women** to promote these technologies within their communities, ensuring sustainability and long-term success.

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Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG)

- RuTAG is an initiative of the office of **the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA)** since 2004.
- It was conceptualized as a **mechanism to provide a higher level of science and technology intervention and support for rural areas.**
- Under this initiative, the interventions are designed to be primarily **demand-driven, focusing on bridging technology gaps at the grassroots level, upgrading technology,** and providing training and demonstrations through innovative projects.

Oncology Conclave 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Health Minister** inaugurated the **second AIIMS Oncology Conclave 2025** at **the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of AIIMS**, Jhajjar, in Haryana.

Key Points

- Jhajjar Institute:
 - The Jhajjar institute is **among India's largest public-funded healthcare projects.**
 - It **focuses on advancing cancer care** and enhancing research capabilities.
- Oncology Conclave:
 - The two-day conclave gathered top oncology experts from Institutes of National Importance (INIs) across India.
 - Discussions centered on advancements in **cancer care, treatment methodologies, and ongoing research initiatives.**
 - The event highlighted collaborative efforts in **preventing and managing breast cancers**, as well as **head and neck cancers.**
- Innovation and Research at the Institute:
 - The centre collaborates with **start-ups**, engages Ph.D. students, and involves scientists in research.
 - The **research aims to create real-world applications** benefiting both the market and society.

Cancer

- It is a complex and broad term used to describe **a group of diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells** in the body.
 - These **abnormal cells, known as cancer cells**, have the ability to invade and **destroy healthy tissues and organs.**
- In a healthy body, cells grow, divide, and die in a regulated manner, allowing for the normal functioning of tissues and organs.
 - However, in the **case of cancer, certain genetic mutations or abnormalities disrupt this normal cell cycle**, causing cells to divide and grow uncontrollably.

Waste Crisis in Gurugram

Why in News?

A 2024 survey by the **Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG)** identified around **100 illegal dumping spots in the city**, with **the Aravallis** along the Gurugram-Faridabad Road among the worst affected.

- Despite declaring a waste crisis in 2024, authorities have failed to appoint a dedicated waste collection agency since 2021.

Key Points

- About the Issue:
 - Despite being discussed during **Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections**, the issue of illegal dumping failed to gain significant attention.
 - With conditions worsening, residents are now demanding clear solutions from leaders.
 - Environmentalists criticized the lack of action, stating that Gurugram has turned into a massive concrete dumpyard.
 - Unchecked debris dumping is **clogging green belts**, empty spaces, and roads, leading to **severe waterlogging.**

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Aravali Mountain Range



- The Aravallis, is the **oldest fold mountains on Earth**. Geological studies indicate that it is three billion years old.
- It spans over **800 km from Gujarat to Delhi** (through Rajasthan and Haryana).
- The **highest peak** in the Aravalli Range is **Guru Peak on Mount Abu**.
- Influences Climate:
 - The Aravallis have an impact upon the climate of northwest India and beyond.
 - During monsoons, the mountain range gently guides the monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, thus **helping nurture the sub-Himalayan rivers and feeding the north Indian plains**.
 - During the winter months, it **shields the fertile alluvial river valleys of the Indus and Ganga** from the harsh cold **westerly winds** blowing in from Central Asia.

MoU to Empower Unemployed Youth

Why in News?

Recently, **Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC)**, Gurugram, and **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, Bilaspur, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to start a **vocational training program** for underprivileged youth from **economically weaker sections**.

Key Points

- About the Agreement:
 - The program aims to **uplift underprivileged youth** from economically weaker sections by providing **skill-based training**.
- CSR Initiative:
 - The initiative is part of SECL's **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** efforts.
 - A total of Rs 3.12 crore has been allocated to train 400 candidates.

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Note:

- Training Program Structure:
 - Non-Residential Training:
 - ATDC will set up **training centers for 300 candidates** under the **Self-Employed Tailor Program**.
 - Training centers will be established in SECL Bishrampur, Sohagpur, and Korba areas.
 - Residential Training:
 - **100 candidates** will undergo a **fully residential training program** at the ATDC Training Center in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The program will provide **free boarding and lodging**.
 - Candidates will be selected from within a 25-kilometer radius of SECL establishments.

➤ Objective and Vision:

- Under the guidance of **the Ministry of Coal**, this initiative aims to:
 - Empower underprivileged youth in **coalfield regions**.
 - Create self-employment and job opportunities.
 - Contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **CSR** in general can be referred to as a **corporate initiative** to assess and take responsibility for the **company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare**.
- It is a **self-regulating business model** that helps a **company to be socially accountable**. By practising corporate social responsibility, **companies can be conscious of the impact they are having on economic, social, and environmental factors**.
- **India is the first country to mandate CSR spending** under **clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013**, with a framework for identifying potential CSR activities.
 - Unlike India, **most countries have voluntary CSR frameworks**. **Norway and Sweden**, which have moved to mandatory CSR provisions, began with voluntary models.

Tribute to Guru Ravidas

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Haryana paid tribute to **Guru Ravidas** on his **birth anniversary**. **Guru Ravidas Jayanti** is celebrated on **Purnima Tithi of Magha Month**.



Key Points

- Government Initiative for Honoring Saints
 - The Haryana government launched the **Sant-Mahapurush Samman and Vichar Prachar-Prasar Yojana**.
 - Under this initiative, **birth anniversaries and centenaries of saints and great personalities** will be **celebrated at the state level**.
- About Guru Ravidas:
 - Sant Guru Ravidas, **born in 1377 CE in Seer Govardhanpur, Uttar Pradesh**, is revered as a **saint, philosopher, poet, and social reformer**.
 - Known by various names like Raidas, Rohidas, and Ruhidas, he **hailed from a community traditionally associated with leatherwork**.
 - Guru Ravidas made significant contributions to **the Bhakti Movement**, emphasising **devotion to the divine and promoting spiritual equality**.
 - His teachings emphasised **human rights, equality, and spiritual enlightenment**.
 - Some of his compositions are included in the revered scripture, **Guru Granth Sahib Ji**, adding to his literary and philosophical significance.

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Bhakti Movement

- The development of the **Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the 7th and 9th centuries.**
- It was reflected in the **emotional poems of the Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) and Alvars (devotees of Vishnu).**
 - These saints looked upon religion not as a cold formal worship but as a loving **bond based upon love between the worshipped and worshipper.**
- In course of time, the ideas of the South moved up to the North but it was a very slow process.
- A more effective method for spreading the Bhakti ideology was the **use of local languages.** The **Bhakti saints composed their verses in local languages.**
- They also **translated Sanskrit works** to make them understandable to a wider audience.
 - Examples include **Jnanadeva writing in Marathi, Kabir, Surdas and Tulsidas in Hindi, Shankaradeva popularising Assamese, Chaitanya and Chandidas spreading their message in Bengali, Mirabai in Hindi and Rajasthani.**

Indian Medical Association

- Indian Medical Association is the only representative, **national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine**, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well being of the community at large.
- Indian Medical Association is a **founding member of World Medical Association.**
- IMA **hosted the III World Conference on Medical Education** under the joint auspices of W.M.A. and I.M.A. in **New Delhi in 1966.**

Ayushman Bharat

- Launched in 2018, **Ayushman Bharat** is a flagship program of the Government of India, in line with the recommendations of the **National Health Policy 2017** to realize the vision of **Universal Health Coverage (UHC).**
- This initiative aligns with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, aiming to improve **healthcare access across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels** through a comprehensive **continuum-of-care approach.**
- Ayushman Bharat comprises two interrelated components:
 - **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs** (formerly Health and Wellness Centres or AB-HWCs) and **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).**

Haryana IMA Withdrew Suspension

Why in News?

The Haryana Chapter of the **Indian Medical Association** withdrew its call to suspend treatment under the **Ayushman Bharat** and **CHIRYU schemes.**

Key Points

- Government Assurance:
 - IMA Haryana former president confirmed that the **State government assured clearance of Rs 200 crore** in outstanding dues before 31st March 2025.
 - The government also pledged to increase the budget allocation for the **Ayushman Bharat and CHIRYU schemes** to around Rs 2,500 crore in the upcoming **budget.**
- Withdrawal of Call to Suspend Treatment:
 - The **IMA had earlier threatened to suspend treatment** under the two schemes from 3rd February 2025 **if payments were not cleared.**
 - Following the government's assurances, the association decided to continue providing treatment.

Garbhini-Drishti

Why in News?

India took a major step forward in its commitment to **cutting-edge biomedical research and innovation** by inaugurating the nation's first **Ferret Research Facility**, launching the **GARBH-INI-DRISHTI data repository**, and finalizing a key technology transfer agreement.

- The event was held at the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)** in the **NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad, Haryana.**

Key Points

- THSTI Ferret Research Facility:
 - India inaugurated the THSTI Ferret Research Facility, a state-of-the-art establishment adhering to the **highest biosafety and research standards.**
 - The facility plays a **crucial role in vaccine development, therapeutic testing, and research on emerging infectious diseases.**

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Note:

- It **strengthens India's pandemic preparedness strategy** and enhances its position in global scientific research.
- GARBH-INI-DRISHTI:
 - GARBH-INI-DRISHTI is a pioneering **DBT Data Repository and Information Sharing Hub** at THSTI.
 - The platform provides **clinical data, images, and biospecimens from over 12,000 pregnant women, newborns, and postpartum mothers.**
 - As one of South Asia's largest maternal and child health databases, it **enables researchers to conduct transformative studies** to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
 - This initiative represents a collaborative effort among India's leading research institutions and hospitals, fostering a strong research ecosystem.
- Technology Transfer Agreement:
 - THSTI signed a **Technology Transfer Agreement** with M/s **Sundyota Numandis Probioceticals Pvt. Ltd.** to commercialize its innovative **microbial consortium, *Lactobacillus crispatus*.**
 - **Isolated from the reproductive tracts of women** enrolled in the GARBH-INI cohort, this synthetic microbial consortium holds immense potential for **nutraceutical applications.**
 - The agreement facilitates the translation of research into real-world health solutions through **targeted microbiome-based interventions.**

Garbh-Ini

- **Garbh-Ini (Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes—DBT India Initiative)** was initiated by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), in 2014** as a collaborative interdisciplinary program.
- This program is led by **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, NCR Biotech cluster, Faridabad.
- It aims to elucidate **biological and non-biological risks of preterm birth (PTB)** to create **important knowledge-driven interventions** and technologies that can be sustainably implemented in clinical practice and in the community for this disease.

Mahri Laado Radio Programme

Why in News?

The Haryana government launched the flagship initiative "**Mahri Laado**" Radio Programme, which has become an exemplary success story under the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme**.

Key Points

- Mahri Laado Radio Programme:
 - It was launched on **16th August 2024** as a key initiative under BBBP.
 - This community-driven programme **aims to address gender inequality, empower girls, and promote the value of daughters in Haryana.**
 - **Broadcast Schedule:** Every Wednesday and Thursday on **All India Radio (AIR)** stations- Chandigarh, Hisar, Rohtak, and Kurukshetra.
 - **Content Format:** The 15-minute segments include stories, interviews, and discussions to engage communities on gender equality and empowerment.
- Mobilization Strategies for Maximum Outreach:
 - The Government of Haryana adopted a comprehensive approach to extend the programme's reach.
 - Key stakeholders mobilized communities:
 - District Programme Officers (DPOs) and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs).
 - **Anganwadi Workers** and staff from One Stop Centers (OSCs), **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, and **POSHAN Abhiyaan**.
 - Listening sessions were organized at Anganwadi Centers (AWCs), involving both men and women in discussions.
- Digital Accessibility:
 - Participants were encouraged to download the **"News on AIR" app** for easy access.
 - Guidelines on app usage were shared via WhatsApp, telephone, and email.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme:
 - The Government of India launched the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme** on **22nd January 2015** in Panipat, Haryana.

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Note:

- This initiative aims to address the declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and ensure that girls and women receive equal opportunities, care, and dignity.
- Objectives of the BBBP Scheme:
 - Increase **sex ratio at birth** through awareness and interventions.
 - Improve institutional deliveries for maternal and child health.
 - Enhance girls' enrolment in secondary education and curb dropout rates.
 - Encourage early **Antenatal Care (ANC)** registration for maternal well-being.
 - Promote awareness on safe **Menstrual Hygiene and Management (MHM)**.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- It is a **maternity benefit programme** being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from **1st January, 2017**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women** in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

Poshan Abhiyan

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)** was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.
- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls)** and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
- **POSHAN 2.0:**
 - The government has amalgamated various programmes with similar objectives such as **Supplementary Nutrition Programme** and POSHAN Abhiyaan under one umbrella—Mission POSHAN 2.0—for **creating synergies in operations and adopting an integrated approach** in the nutrition services mechanism.

Ghaggar Water

Why in News?

A joint committee constituted by the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** found that **Ghaggar river** water remains unsuitable for bathing. The committee detected **biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)** levels in the river exceeding the prescribed limit.

Key Points

- Survey and Sample Collection:
 - Committee members and department representatives conducted a survey in December 2023, to identify pollution sources in Sukhna Choe.
 - The survey revealed that slums near Mansa Devi Complex, Rajiv Colony, and Indira Colony in Haryana, as well as near Sohi Banquet Hall, were directly discharging solid and liquid waste into the choe.
 - The committee took samples from the Panchkula drain at the Vikas Nagar Bridge, which showed that **BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)** and **TSS (Total Suspended Solids)** levels exceeded environmental standards for inland surface water discharge.
- Pollution Levels in Ghaggar River:
 - The committee collected water samples from upstream and downstream of Ghaggar River, near the Ambala-Chandigarh Highway Bridge in Zirakpur, where Sukhna Choe merges with it.
 - Findings:
 - **pH values** were within the acceptable range for outdoor bathing.
 - BOD levels failed to meet the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing at both locations.
 - Recommendations:
 - Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh should:
 - Ensure regular cleaning of drains.
 - Instalment of **iron nets at culvert points** where roads cross the drain to prevent solid waste dumping.
 - Pollution Control Board should:
 - Ensure proper **operation and maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)**.
 - **Prevent the disposal of untreated effluent** into the Ghaggar River.

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○ **Panchkula Municipal Corporation should:**

- Ensure STPs operate efficiently, preventing untreated effluent from entering Sukhna Choe through drains.

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



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Note:

Key Points

Details

Summary

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Key Points

Details

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