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(CONSOLIDATION)

HARYANA

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Haryana Antarrashtriya Gita Jayanti Mela Authority Bill, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana Assembly passed 'Haryana Antarrashtriya Gita Jayanti Mela Authority Bill, 2024' to set up an independent authority for organising the annual **Gita Jayanti Mahotsav** and for **popularising and disseminating teachings of the Bhagavad Gita**.

Key Points

- A large number of devotees and people at large, both from the country and abroad, enthusiastically involve themselves with the local people during the period of Mahotsav. Currently, there is no independent authority/body in the state to organise the Gita Jayanti Mahotsav.
- According to the bill, the **main functions of the authority** will be to popularise and disseminate the teachings of Srimad Bhagavad Gita as well as **organise cultural and educational seminars, workshops, fairs, exhibitions and conferences**.
- The authority shall consist of members, including the **chief minister as its chairperson** and the **urban local bodies minister as the senior vice-chairperson**. There will be one vice chairperson, who will be an eminent and distinguished person, to be nominated by the state government.
- **Gita Jayanti festival** has been celebrated over the years and the **Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB)** has been organising the event.
 - KDB will function as before. But a new authority will specifically take care of how to expand this festival further on a global scale and take the message of Bhagavad Gita to the entire world.

Gita Jayanti Mahotsav

- The Celebration of Gita Mahotsav brings a moral and cultural resurgence among the people.
- The prime objective of celebrating the festival of Gita Jayanti is to enlighten the people by the immortal and intangible heritage of **Bhagavad Gita- the song celestial**.
- The Government of Haryana is Celebrating Gita Mahotsav festival in collaboration with the KDB in the city of Kurukshetra **since 1989**.

Haryana Passes Bill Aimed to Curb Illegal Immigration

Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana Assembly passed a bill aimed to curb illegal immigration along with Haryana **Registration and Regulation of Private Coaching Institutes Bill**, Haryana **State Sports Associations (Registration and Regulation) Bill**, and the **Hisar Metropolitan Development Authority Bill**.

Key Points

- According to the provisions of the **Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Bill**, whoever attempts or is found involved in human smuggling or found involved in the preparation of forged documents, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to 10 years and shall also be liable to pay fines between Rs 2-5 lakh.
- The state assembly also passed the **Haryana Registration and Regulation of Private Coaching Institutes Bill, 2024**.
 - Under the provisions of the bill, a private coaching violating the proposed law, 'shall be liable for each such violation with a fine of Rs 25,000 for the first violation and Rs 1 lakh for the subsequent violation'. And in case the violation still continues then the registration of private coaching institutes shall be canceled'.
 - The '**private coaching institute**' means an institute in a single premises which includes a tuition centre established, run or administered by any person or body of persons, a company, society or trust providing study programmes for competitive examinations, but does **not include individual home tuition up to 50 students per day**.
- The House also passed the **Haryana State Sports Associations (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2024**, to oversee the registration and regulation of working of sports associations by establishing regulatory bodies at both the state and regional levels.
- The **Hisar Metropolitan Development Authority Bill, 2024** was also passed according to which, rapid growth of Hisar metropolitan area and its emergence as a nucleus for economic development has thrown up

Note:



challenges in urban governance, infrastructure deficit, decentralized decision making, and independently created townships which if ignored can affect the quality of life and well-being of the citizens of Hisar.

Amitabh Dhillon to Head Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana government appointed 1997-batch **Indian Police Service (IPS) officer**, Amitabh Singh Dhillon as **Additional Director General of Police (ADGP)**, Haryana **Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB)**.

Key Points

- Another 1997-batch officer Sanjay Kumar was posted as ADGP, law and order, replacing Mamta Singh.
- The **Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to governor**, Arsh Verma was posted as Mahendergarh superintendent of police while additional **Superintendent of Police (SP)**, Yamunanagar, Himadree Kaushik was posted as **Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP)**, Panchkula.
- A 1991-batch officer, Alok Roy was posted as **Director General of Police (DGP)**, **Human Resources (HR)** and **Litigation**, while his batchmate, Sanjeev Jain was

posted as DGP, Haryana Human Rights Commission.

- DCP, Ballabgarh, Rajesh Duggal was posted as joint commissioner of police, Gurugram.

Aide-de-Camp

- The 'Aide-de-Camp' title is given to an **officer in the armed forces**, who **assists a higher-ranking officer**.
- ADCs are officers who serve as the personal assistant of top officers including the **Army Chief, Army Commanders, governors, and President of India**.
- **The President of India has five aides-de-camp**, three from the Army, and one each from the Navy and the Air Force.
 - **State governor has two aides-de-camp**, one comes from either the Army/Navy/Air Force, and the other one from the state's police force.
- An ADC should have five to **seven years of experience in the armed forces**. He is selected on the basis of his **professional performance and an interview**.

Aravali Green Wall Project

Why in News?

Haryana government has finalised its proposal for the **Aravali Green Wall project** to revive degraded areas of the hills in **seven districts** of the state for creating a continuous ecological barrier along the range.



- Forest belt likely to run roughly **from Porbandar to Panipat**, covering entire Aravali range and beyond
- 'Green wall' will act as barrier for dust from west and check eastward march of Thar desert
- It will check desertification by **restoring degraded land through massive afforestation**

Key Points

- The project is part of the Union environment ministry's **Green Wall initiative**.

Note:

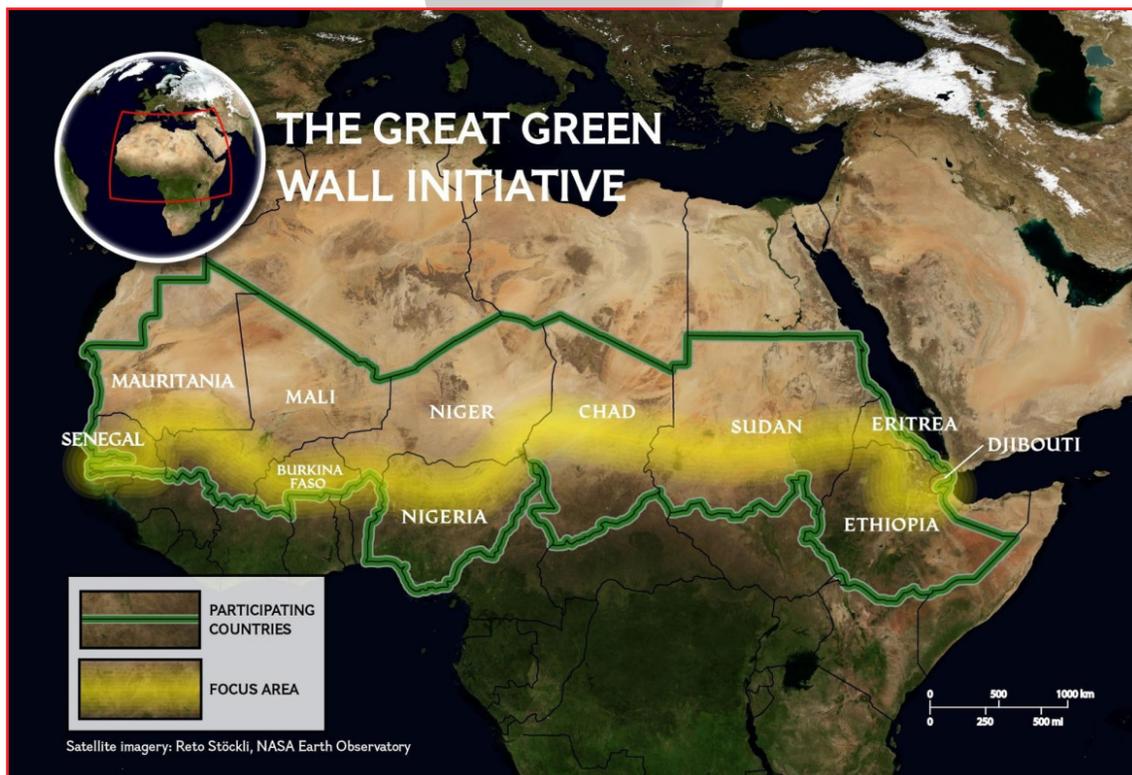


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- In the first phase, **66 water bodies** will be developed in the **Aravallis of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh, Rewari, Mahendergarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani**.
- The project is inspired by **African countries' 'Great Green Wall' initiative** and aims to restore green cover on the hills that stand as the only barrier blocking the expansion of desert-like conditions from **Thar to north India, including Delhi-NCR**.
- The goal is to **restore around 1.15 million hectares** of the forests across four states — **Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi by 2027**.
- A 2022 report by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** had found that around 8.2% of Haryana's total area had degraded to become more arid over the years.
- The project emphasis is on **soil conservation, erosion control, and improved water retention mechanisms** that contribute significantly to **stabilizing the water cycle, mitigating soil degradation** and fortifying against the detrimental impacts of droughts and floods.
- According to ecologists and wildlife experts, Aravallis have several areas that are not notified as forest, but they are still home to a rich biodiversity of plants and wildlife. Plans need to be formed to conserve these green patches.

Great Green Wall of Africa

- It aims to restore **Africa's degraded landscapes** and transform millions of lives in one of the world's poorest regions, **the Sahel**.
- The African initiative is still **only 15% complete**.
- Once fully completed, the **Wall will be the largest living structure on the planet – an 8,000 km** natural wonder of the world stretching across the entire width of the continent.
- African countries during the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of the Parties 14 (COP)** sought global support in terms of finance to make the Wall a reality in the continent's Sahel region by 2030.
 - **Sahel is a semiarid region** of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan.
 - It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south.



Note:



Aravali Mountain Range

- The Aravallis is the **oldest folded mountain on Earth**.
- 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**.
- **Impact on 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**.
 - In the winter months, it **protects** the fertile alluvial river valleys (the para-Indus and Gangetic) **from the assault of cold westerly winds from Central Asia**.

Kshatipurti Portal For Crop Damage Claims

Why in News?

The Haryana government has decided to open the **Kshatipurti portal** for the farmers across all districts to submit their reports detailing the extent of damage to their crops.

Key Points

- **Instructions regarding Compensation are as follows:**
 - In case of death due to flood, the relatives will get Rs 4 lakh per case.
 - Those pucca or kutcha houses that have been damaged, will be given compensation ranging from Rs 1.20 lakh to Rs 1.30 lakh.
 - 16 thousand rupees will be given to each person who has been injured in the flood or has come in any other disease. If the period is less than a week then Rs. 5400 will be given.
 - This amount will be given to those people who do not have **Ayushman Bharat Yojana card**.

Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

- PM-JAY is the **world's largest health insurance scheme** fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care** and tertiary care.
- Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- **Beneficiaries:**
 - It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data**.
 - The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to **States/UTs to use non- Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases** with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.
- **Funding:**
 - The funding for the scheme is shared – **60:40 for all states and UTs** with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.
- **Nodal Agency:**
 - The NHA has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
 - The **State Health Agency (SHA)** is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

Haryana Government Approves 113 Projects

Why in News?

The Haryana government decided to implement **113 new projects** worth more than **₹121 crore** under **Rural Augmentation and Mahagram Scheme**.

Key Points

- These will be implemented in **Yamunanagar, Panchkula, Ambala, Faridabad, Jhajjar, Bhiwani and Dadri districts**.

Note:

- The Chief minister accorded administrative approval for these projects to be implemented by the **public health engineering department**.
- Two projects were approved under mahagram scheme, 108 projects under rural augmentation programme, and three under sewerage and sanitation.
 - The projects approved pertain to augmentation of water supply scheme, sewerage facility and sewage treatment plant, setting up of new district level wastewater testing laboratory and laying new water supply lines.

Rural Augmentation and Mahagram Scheme

- This scheme was **launched by the State government through the Development and Panchayat Department in 2008-09**.
- It envisages providing sewerage system, Improvements of drinking water supply, construction of pucca streets, improvement in electricity etc.

Haryana CM Announces Development Projects for Nuh District

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced development **projects worth approximately Rs 700 crore for Nuh** district.

Key Points

- The chief minister also said that all gurukuls and madrasas **“opting for modern education”** would receive **financial assistance** upon registration with the Haryana School Education Board.
 - Gurukuls and madrasas opting for modern education through the Haryana School Education Board will receive Rs 2 lakh per year for 50-80 children, Rs 3 lakh for 81-100 children, Rs 5 lakh for 101-200 children, and Rs 7 lakh per year for above 200 enrolments.
- This was announced during a state-level function organised in honour of **Shaheed Raja Hasan Khan Mewati in Nuh**.
 - He also unveiled a 15-foot-tall statue of Shaheed Raja Hasan Khan at Government College Nagina on his martyrdom day.

- The chief minister virtually handed out job offers to 1,504 local youth for teaching positions under the **Haryana Kaushal Rojgar Nigam (HKRN)**.
- He also announced the formation of a five-member committee named after Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati, chaired by former MLA and state **Waqf Board** Chairman Zakir Hussain, to oversee development projects.

Raja Hasan Khan Mewati

- He was a **Muslim Khanzada Rajput** ruler of Mewat.
- The **son of** previous ruler **Raja Alawal Khan**, his dynasty had ruled Mewat State for nearly 200 years.
- He was a **descendant of Raja Nahar Khan Mewati**, who was the Wali of Mewat in the 14th century.

Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited

- It has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 on **13th October, 2021**.
- It has been set up with the objective of providing contractual manpower to all Government entities in Haryana in a transparent, robust and equitable manner.
- It will act as the **authorized agency for providing contractual manpower** in Haryana.
- Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam, in the process of providing contractual manpower, will focus on:
 - Uplifting socio-economically disadvantaged candidates
 - Facilitating timely payment of salary and benefits to deployed manpower
 - Ensuring adherence to the State Reservation policy

Central Waqf Council

- **It is an Indian** statutory body established by the Government of **India under the Waqf Act, a subsection of the Waqf Act, 1995**.
- It was established for **the purpose of advising it on matters pertaining to the working of the State Waqf Boards and proper administration of the Waqfs in the country**.
- **Waqf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim Law, given by philanthropists.**

Note:

Haryana Proposes Fresh Delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zone

Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana government has proposed that an area of **1,000 metres around the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** on the Haryana side be delineated as an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.

Key Points

- The proposal was sent in **January 2024** to the **Union**

ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) for issuing a final notification delineating the eco-sensitive zone on the Haryana side.

- The Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 25.98 square km (about 6420 acres), is under the **administrative control of union territory of Chandigarh** and **shares its boundaries with Haryana and Punjab**.
 - The protected area, being rich with diverse flora and fauna, contains a variety of topographical features and was **declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1988 by the Chandigarh administration**.



➤ As per the draft proposal sent to the MoEFCC:

- The total area of the proposed eco-sensitive zone will be 2,460 hectares (about 6,078 acres).
- 10 villages - Prempura, Sukhomajri, Damala, Lohgarh, Manakpur Thakardas, Surajpur, Chandimandir Kotla, Darra Kharauni, Rampur and Saketri/Mahadevpur fall within the proposed ESZ.
- The state government has proposed to divide the ESZ into four zones:

- The extent of **zone 1** will be 100 metres from the boundary of Sukhna wildlife sanctuary.
- **Zone 2** will be 100 metres to 300 metres from the boundary of the protected area.
- **Zone 3** will comprise of area falling in 300-700 metres from the boundary of the protected area.
- The rest of the area that is 700 to 1,000 metres from the boundary in the protected area shall be in **zone 4**.

Note:



- All activities other than the activities prescribed for conservation and protection of its habitat are prohibited.
- Eco-sensitive zones act as shock absorbers and insulate the protected area from the likely adverse impact of the activities in the adjacent areas.
- In the revised draft the state government has also incorporated the suggestions of **Wildlife Institute of India** that the eco-sensitive zone be extended till the reserve forest boundary.

Eco Sensitive Zones

- The **National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** stipulated that state governments should declare land falling **within 10 km of the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries** as eco-fragile zones or **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** under the **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- While the **10-km rule is implemented as a general principle**, the extent of its application can vary. **Areas beyond 10 km can also be notified by the Union government as ESZs**, if they hold larger ecologically important **“sensitive corridors”**.

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Chandigarh**.
- It forms the part of **Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in Shivalik hills**.
- **Fauna:** Sambar deer, Barking deer, and wild boar, as well as several species of birds, reptiles, and amphibians.
- **Flora:** The sanctuary is characterized by a mix of forests, grasslands, and wetlands, with the Sukhna Lake forming an important part of the ecosystem.

Haryana's First 'Drone Didis'

Why in News?

Recently, Sharmila and Himanshi, have become Haryana's first 'Drone Didis'. They inspire other women and girls while empowering rural communities through their contribution to agriculture.

Key Points

- Drone Didis initiative was launched by the PM on November 30, 2023 after his interaction with women beneficiaries of the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**.

- It aims to **provide drones to 15,000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs)** in the **next two years to be rented out to farmers for agricultural purposes**.
 - The women beneficiaries are **trained to become drone pilots** under the initiative.
 - The trained women drone pilots will help farmers in various agricultural operations like **fertiliser spraying, sowing seeds and crop monitoring**. This will help rural women **generate income** by utilising their skills.
 - The initiative intends to **modernise Indian agricultural practices** and enhance productivity by placing cutting-edge technology at the disposal of rural women.
- The scheme will cover 15,000 women SHGs, to be identified from among 89 lakh SHGs formed under the **Centre's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana**, and will provide them a sustainable business model and livelihood support.
- The Centre will provide each SHG identified a subsidy up to 80% towards the cost of a drone or a maximum of Rs 8 lakh. It is expected to generate an additional income of about Rs 1 lakh per head for them.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- These are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions.
- The **genesis of SHG in India** can be traced to the formation of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1970**.
- The SHG Bank Linkage Project launched by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 1992** has blossomed into the world's largest microfinance project.
- NABARD alongwith RBI permitted SHGs to have a savings account in banks from the year of 1993. This action gave a considerable boost to the SHG movement and paved the way for the SHG-Bank linkage program.
- In 1999, Government of India, introduced **Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** to promote self-employment in rural areas through formation and skilling of SHGs.
- The programme evolved as a national movement in 2011 and became **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** – world's largest poverty alleviation programme.

Note:

- Today, **State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs)** are operational in 29 states and 5 UTs (except Delhi and Chandigarh).
- NRLM facilitated universal access to the affordable cost-effective reliable financial services to the poor like financial literacy, bank account, savings, credit, insurance, remittance, pension and counselling on financial services.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)

- It was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, Government of India in **2011**.
- The Mission aims at creating efficient and **effective institutional platforms for the rural poor enabling them to increase household income** through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.
- It lays **special emphasis on targeting the poorest of the poor** and the most vulnerable communities and their financial inclusion.
- It **provides for mutually beneficial working relationships** and formal platforms for consultations between Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

PM Inaugurates Dwarka Expressway in Haryana

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Haryana segment of the **first-ever 8-lane section of the Dwarka Expressway**.

Key Points

- This newly constructed 19 km stretch, completed at a cost of Rs 4,100 crore, is designed to **enhance traffic flow and alleviate congestion on National Highway (NH)-48**, providing **smoother connectivity between Delhi and Gurugram**.
 - The inaugurated segment covers a distance of 10.2 km from the Delhi-Haryana Border to Basai Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) and an additional 8.7 km section from Basai ROB to Kherki Daula.
- This roadway establishes a **direct link between the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi and the Gurugram Bypass**.

Key things about Dwarka Expressway:

- The Dwarka Expressway, designed with a budget of Rs 9,000 crore, is segmented into **four parts**.
- Gurugram houses the third and fourth sections, covering approximately 19 km, while the first two segments, totaling 10 km, are situated in Delhi.
- It stands out as a fully access-controlled, grade-separated **14-lane Expressway**, marking a pioneering initiative in the country.
- According to the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** the entire project is set to **conclude by August 2024**.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- It was set up under **NHAI Act, 1988**. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- It has been entrusted with the **National Highways Development Project**, along with other minor projects for development, maintenance and management.
 - National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in India to a higher standard. The project was **started in 1998**.
- NHAI maintains the National Highways network to global standards and cost effective manner and promotes economic well being and quality of life of the people.

Nayab Singh Saini is Haryana's New Chief Minister

Why in News?

Recently, **Nayab Singh Saini**, was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Haryana after Manohar Lal and his Council of Ministers resigned as the strained ruling **coalition** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** and the **Jannayak Janta Party (JJP)** broke apart.

Key Points

- The new Chief Minister inducted **five MLAs**, including an independent, into the Cabinet.
- **Governor Bandaru Dattatreya** administered the oath of office and secrecy to all of them.
- The MLAs include Kanwar Pal, Mool Chand, Banwari Lal, Jai Parkash Dalal — all from the BJP — and Ranjit Singh (Independent).

Note:

Coalition Government

- The term 'coalition' is derived from the **Latin world 'coalitio'** which means '**to grow together**'.
- Thus, technically, coalition means the **act of uniting parts into one body or whole**. Politically, coalition means an **alliance of distinct political parties**.
- Coalition usually occurs in modern parliaments **when no single political party can muster a majority of votes**.
- Two or more parties, who have enough elected members between them to form a majority, may then be able to agree on a common programme

that does not require too many drastic compromises with their individual policies and can proceed to form a government.

Environmental Awareness Event at Kurukshetra University

Why in News?

Recently, the Vice Chancellor of **Kurukshetra University (KU)** inaugurated the marathon, awareness cum exhibition and extension lecture under the **Mission LIFE** campaign in KU.

Mission LiFE

Lifestyle For Environment
(Encourage P3 i.e. Pro Planet People)

Approach

-  Focus on Individual Behaviours
-  Co-create Globally
-  Leverage Local Cultures

- Concept was introduced by Prime Minister at **COP26** in Glasgow in November 2021.
- **LIFE Global Movement** invites ideas from across the world aimed at individuals, households and communities to drive climate-friendly behaviours.
- **Mission LiFE** has been launched at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.
 - To mobilise at least one billion Indians and other global citizens to take individual and collective action for conserving the environment in the **period 2022-28**.
- **Piloted by NITI Aayog and implemented by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

According to UNEP, if **1 out of 8 billion** people worldwide **adopt environment-friendly behaviours** in their daily lives, **global carbon emissions could drop upto 20%**.

Examples Set by India

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** led to the use of over 100 million toilets in rural India within a span of 7 years.
- **Ujjwala Scheme** increased households with LPG connections from 62% in 2015 to 99.8% in 2021.
- **Traditional Indian practices** such as adaptive architectural forms that minimise electricity consumption and dietary preference for plant-based foods and millets can serve as foundations for LiFE.



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Note:

Key Points

- On this occasion the Vice Chancellor also formally **inaugurated the activities of the Eco Club** and **administered the oath of Mission LiFE to everyone**.
- Mission LiFE is proving to be a people's movement to make India self-reliant and closer to nature.
 - In 2021, India gave the mantra of environmental lifestyle to the world from the platform of the United Nation.
- The program was organised under the joint aegis of **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** India and KU in collaboration with the **EIACP (Environment Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme)** of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- Further students will also participate in the **Earth Hour** program and will be a part of the world campaign.
 - Earth Hour is the WWF's annual initiative that **began in 2007**.
 - It encourages people from more than **180 countries to switch off the lights from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm** as per their local time.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

? It is the **world's leading conservation organisation** and works in more than 100 countries.

- It was **established in 1961** and is headquartered at Gland, Switzerland.
- Its mission is **to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats** to the diversity of life on Earth.

EIACP (Environment Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme)

- EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner "Wildlife & Protected Areas", Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun formerly known as ENVIS was established as the **23rd Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre** in India in **September 1997**.
- The Programme Centre is a repository of all information, publications and other value added products on its assigned subject area; maintaining a database; conducting various events and activities across the year including mass awareness campaigns and events as directed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Kurukshetra University Announces Rajib Goyal Prizes

Why in News?

Recently, **Kurukshetra University's Goyal Award Committee** announced the **Rajib Goyal prize for young scientists**.

Key Points

- The award consists of a **medal, citation** and a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh** for which four scientists of the country **below the age of 45** have been selected in the young scientists category.
- The recipients are:
 - **Dr Saptarshi Basu**, department of mechanical engineering, Bengaluru, (applied sciences).
 - **Dr Sebastian C Peter**, JNCASR, Bengaluru, (chemical sciences).
 - **Dr Bushra Ateeq**, department of biological sciences and bioengineering, IIT Kanpur (Life Sciences).
 - **Dr Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal**, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, (physical sciences).
- Through these awards Kurukshetra University honours the best scientists of the country every year, **recognising their significant contributions in the field of science and technology**.

FSSAI Sets up Lab Network to Test Food for Pathogens

Why in News?

The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** is working towards creating a **network of 34 microbiology labs** across the country that will be equipped to **test food products for 10 pathogens**, including **E. coli, salmonella and listeria**.

Key Points

- These labs will help test food for microbial contamination that can lead to spoilage of food and potential health risks.
- Data from the **National Centre for Disease Control**, which tracks the trajectory of several diseases every week, shows that **acute diarrhoeal disease** and **food poisoning** were the two most common outbreaks in the country.

Note:

34 MICROBIOLOGY LABS IN 24 STATES

Three labs	Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh
Two labs	Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra
One lab	Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Puducherry and Tripura



(Source: FSSAI)

- There were over 1,100 outbreaks of acute diarrhoeal disease across the country in the last four years and nearly 550 outbreaks of food poisoning.
- There are **79 state food testing laboratories in the country, none of them are currently equipped to test for pathogens** as they require maintaining live reference samples, expensive reagents and a microbiologist.

E. coli

- **Escherichia coli**, commonly known as E. coli, is a **type of bacteria** that can be **found in the intestines of humans and animals**.
- It is a **rod-shaped bacterium** of the Enterobacteriaceae family.
- Some kinds of E. coli **can cause diarrhea**, while others **cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia**, and other illnesses.
- Pathogenic E. coli can be transmitted to humans through **contaminated food, water, or contact with fecal matter from infected individuals or animals**.

Salmonella

- It is a **group of bacteria** that can **cause food-borne illnesses** known as **salmonellosis**.
- Salmonella bacteria typically **live in animal and human intestines** and are shed through feces. Humans become **infected** most frequently through **contaminated water or food**.
- The symptoms of Salmonella include **nausea, diarrhoea, fever, and abdominal cramps** 12-72 hours after contracting the infection.

- WHO has identified Salmonella as **one of four key global causes of diarrhoeal diseases**.

Listeria

- This bacterium is **naturally present in the environment** and can be found in the intestines of certain animals, as well as in soil and water.
- It can cause **symptoms similar to the flu**, making it particularly **dangerous for people over 65 and pregnant women**.
- It can **infect humans** through the **consumption of unpasteurized milk and dairy products**, as well as certain pre-prepared fruits like sliced melons.

One-Time Settlement Schemes Under 'Vivadon Ka Samadhan' Initiative

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini introduced two new **one-time settlement schemes** under the **'Vivadon Ka Samadhan'** initiative in a bid to boost business operations in the state.

Key Points

- These schemes will provide option to plot allottees for settlement of dues and related legacy matters against plots (industrial, commercial, residential/group

Note:



housing and institutional use) in respect of cost of plot and enhanced cost in industrial model townships and industrial estates of the **Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC)**.

- The scheme intends to **benefit over a 1,000 allottees** of industrial plots.
- The government is making a special concession to **allottees of the 'Food Park'** in Sonipat's Barhi town, allowing them to change the ownership of plots from leasehold to freehold.
- This one-time settlement scheme is applicable to all existing allottees of industrial plots/ sheds as well as commercial, institutional, residential or group housing plots or sites, who have been **allotted plots and sites before 1st January 2021**.
- The Scheme will **come into force immediately** and the allottees will have to **apply by 30th June, 2024** to avail the benefit of the scheme.

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC)

- It was **established in 1967** as a wholly owned company by the State of Haryana. It functions under the aegis of the **Department of Industries and Commerce**, Government of Haryana.
- Its objective includes inter-alia, the **development of industrial infrastructure** of the State and to **acquire lands for integrated industry** townships/parks including housing and related social, institutional, recreational and commercial infrastructure essential for **promotion and growth of industry** in the state of Haryana and develop them suitably.

SC Directs all UTs and States to Issue Ration Cards to Unorganised and Migrant Workers

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to ensure that **ration cards** are issued to **80 million migrant and unorganised workers** within the **next two months**.

Key Points

- Under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013**, the apex court ordered governments to issue ration cards to 80 million persons.

- These people are registered on the **eShram portal** but do not possess the cards.
- The court noted that the exercise of matching eShram registrants with NFSA beneficiaries had already been undertaken and on that basis, it had been found that nearly 80 million people do not possess ration cards.
- Hence, they are not able to avail the benefit of monthly food grains under the Act.
- The SC further directed that the ration cards must be issued irrespective of the quotas defined in **section 3 of the NFSA**.
 - **Section 3:** Right to receive food grains at subsidised prices by persons belonging to eligible households under Targeted **Public Distribution System**.

National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA)

- It marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to **rights based approach**.
- **NFSA covers 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under:**
 - **Antyodaya Anna Yojana:** It constitutes the **poorest-of-the-poor**, are entitled to receive **35 kg** of foodgrains per household per month.
 - **Priority Households (PHH):** Households covered under PHH category are entitled to receive **5 kg** of foodgrains per person per month.
- The **eldest woman of the household of age 18 years** or above is **mandated to be the head of the household** for the purpose of issuing ration cards.
- In addition, the act lays down special **provisions for children between the ages of 6 months and 14 years old**, which allows them to receive a nutritious meal for free through a widespread network of **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** centres, known as **Anganwadi Centres**.

e-Shram Portal

- It aims to **register 38 crore unorganised workers** such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others.
- The workers will be issued an **e-Shram card** containing a **12 digit unique number**.
- If a worker is registered on the eSHRAM portal and meets with an accident, he will be **eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability**.

Note:

ICAR Celebrated Golden Jubilee of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

Why in News?

Recently, the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has celebrated the **Golden Jubilee of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in 2024**.

Key Points

- The **first Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)** was established by the ICAR **on 21st March 1974**.
 - At present India has a network of 731 KVKs, where each KVK serves more than 5000 farmers.
 - KVK network is spread across various states such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, West Bengal, etc.
- KVKs serve as a comprehensive hub for **technology transfer, capacity building, market information, and skill development** for farmers at the grassroots level.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

- KVK is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**.
- The **mandate** of KVK is technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development.
- It aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations.
- KVKs also produce quality technological products (**seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock**) and make it available to farmers.
- The KVK scheme is **100% financed by the Government of India** and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and **Non Government Organizations (NGOs)** working in Agriculture.
- KVKs act as a bridge between the laboratories and farmland. According to the Government, these are crucial to fulfilling the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

World Kabaddi Day

Why in News?

Recently, the **World Kabaddi Day** was celebrated on 24th March at **Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium, Panchkula, Haryana**.

Key Points

- **HIPSA (Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association)**, along with an organisation named **World Kabaddi**, jointly organized this year's event.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** recently signed between HIPSA and the Government of Haryana, for **globally promoting Kabaddi**, was one of the main reasons to choose India as a venue and Haryana for the event.
- The **Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatreya** was the **Chief Guest** and the Guinness World Record certificate was presented to the Governor by the Guinness team.
 - The Guinness World Record attempt was for **'Most players in a Kabaddi exhibition match'**.

World Kabaddi Day

- It has been celebrated every year on **March 24, since 2019**.
- **Theme:** Created by Men, Perfected by Women.
 - The theme was chosen to promote the game among the women and in line with the recent MoU with the **HIPSA** to develop and promote the sport of kabaddi globally.

HIPSA (Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association)

- It is a Not for Profit Company, registered under **Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, headquartered in India**.
- It aims to promote and 'Integrate' **Pravasi Bhartiya youth** into India through the medium of Sports with a special focus on those Sports that India is proud of.
- **Cricket, Kabaddi, Chess, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, Kusti, Archery** are some of the Sports that our country has grown to become Internationally renowned.
- Sports, along with **'Yoga as a Practice' & 'Culture for Knowledge'** are the Holistic objectives laid down in HIPSA'S vision for the future.

Note:

Palwal: Top Spot in Child Birth Sex Ratio

Why in News?

According to a report of the Health Department, Palwal district ranked first in having the **best child birth sex ratio of 946 girls against 1,000 boys** in the state for the year 2023.

- 25 villages in the district have achieved 1,000 or higher child birth sex ratio.

Key Points

- The **district was ranked at 12th position in 2022**. Deputy Commissioner received the cash reward of Rs 5 lakh at a function held in Panchkula under the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign**.
- The district recorded a total of 28,989 births between January and December 2023.
 - The number of girl children born during this period was 14,090 against the birth of 14,899 boys making the average sex ratio touch the figure of 946 for the first time.
- **Panchkula and Fatehabad got the second and third position**, respectively, with a ratio of 942 and 934.
- While **Nuh and Gurugram remained at fourth and fifth position, Rohtak was placed at the bottom** with a figure of just 883 in 2023.
- Palwal's neighbouring district of **Faridabad got the 16th spot** with a ratio of 906 in 2023.
- The **state average child sex ratio was 906 in 2023**.
 - The child sex ratio is calculated as the number of girls per 1000 boys in the 0-6 years age group.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Campaign

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The programme is being **implemented across 405 districts in the country**.

Haryana Commission Gets Auto Appeal Software's Copyright

Why in News?

The **Haryana Right to Service (RTS) Commission** has secured the **"copyright"** for '**Auto Appeal Software**' (AAS).

- Haryana RTS Commission applied for copyright in 2022 and it was granted on March 20, 2024.

Key Points

- The AAS (**launched in 2021**) is the **first software of its kind** in India which eliminates the need for the complainant to do anything to file an appeal.
 - Through AAS, a total of 11,70,766 appeals have been raised by 27th March 2024, out of which 11,56,595 appeals have also been disposed of.
 - The **disposal rate of appeals in AAS is 98.8%**.
- Haryana is the **first state in the country** to provide this facility to its citizens.
- The copyright is a type of **intellectual property** that grants the creator of an original work, or another **rights holder**, exclusive and **legally protected rights to copy, distribute, adapt, display, and perform** the work.

Copyright

- **Copyright refers to the legal protection provided to creators** of literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, as well as producers of cinematograph films and sound recordings.
 - The **Copyright Act of 1957 aims to safeguard these creative works** as the intellectual property of their creators.
 - Unlike the case with patents, **copyright protects the expressions and not the ideas**.
 - In addition to the act, the **Copyright (Amendment) Rules 2021**, are brought into effect to bring the copyrights in line with other relevant laws.
- Copyright owners have the **right to take legal action** against infringers, including seeking remedies such as **injunctions, damages, and accounts**.

Haryana Right to Service Commission

- It was constituted by the state government via a notification issued on **31st July 2014**.

Note:

- It is a statutory body constituted under **Sections 12(1) and (2) of the Haryana Right to Service Act, 2014.**
- The Commission will consist of **one Chief Commissioner and a maximum of four Commissioners**, who will oversee the effective implementation of the Haryana Right to Service Act, 2014.
- The HRTS Act, 2014, has empowered people to make the most of the services in a hassle-free, transparent and time-bound manner through an effective service delivery mechanism.

Haryana Declares Winners for 24,484 Solar Water Pumps under PM-KUSUM

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) has granted contracts for the **provision, installation, and commissioning of 24,484 solar water pumping systems** as part of Component B of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan Yojana (PM-KUSUM)**.

Key Points

- **Component B of PM-KUSUM** centers on the **installation of two million independent solar water pumps**, intended for agricultural irrigation purposes.
- **The project targets a range of beneficiaries**, such as individual farmers, water user associations, cattle shelters, **farmer-producer organizations**, **primary agricultural credit societies**, and community-based irrigation systems.

What is PM-KUSUM?

- **About:**
 - The PM-KUSUM is a **flagship scheme** initiated by the Indian government in 2019 with the **primary objective of transforming the agricultural sector by promoting the adoption of solar energy solutions.**
 - It operates on a **demand-driven approach**. Capacities are allocated based on the demands received from various states and union territories (UTs).
 - Through various components and financial support, **PM-KUSUM envisions** achieving a significant **solar power capacity addition of 30.8 GW by 31st March, 2026.**

Objectives of PM-KUSUM:

- **De-dieselisation of the Farm Sector:** The scheme aims to reduce the dependence on diesel for irrigation by encouraging the use of solar-powered pumps and other renewable energy sources. It also seeks to increase farmers' income by reducing irrigation costs through the use of solar pumps and enabling them to sell surplus solar power to the grid.
- **Water and Energy Security for Farmers:** By providing access to solar pumps and promoting solar-based community irrigation projects, the scheme aims to enhance water and energy security for farmers.
- **Curbing Environmental Pollution:** Through the adoption of clean and renewable solar energy, the scheme aims to mitigate environmental pollution caused by conventional energy sources.
- **Components:**
 - **Component-A: Setting up of 10,000 MW of Decentralized** Ground/Stilt Mounted Solar Power Plants on barren/fallow/pasture/marshy/cultivable land of farmers.
 - **Component-B: Installation of 20 Lakh Stand-alone Solar Pumps** in off-grid areas.
 - **Component-C: Solarisation of 15 Lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps** through: Individual Pump Solarisation and Feeder Level Solarisation.

MGNREGS Wage Rates Revised for Different States

Why in News?

Recently, wages under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** have been revised, with hikes ranging between 4 and 10% for different states.

Key Points

- **Haryana has the highest wage rate for unskilled workers** under the scheme at **Rs 374 a day**, while **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have the lowest at Rs 234.**
- **The increases have been made on the 2023 wage rates** under the scheme that is aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas

Note:



by providing **at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year** to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- **About:** It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- **Launch:**
 - It was launched on 2nd February 2006
 - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23rd August 2005.
- **Objective:**
 - The primary objective of the scheme is to **guarantee 100 days of employment** in every financial year to **adult members of any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- **Legal Right to Work:**
 - Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act **aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.**
 - At least **one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.**
 - Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948.**
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:**
 - The most important part of MGNREGA's design is **its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days** of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
 - This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- **Decentralized Planning:**
 - There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in planning and implementing these works.
 - The act mandates **Gram sabhas** to **recommend the works** that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

GST Evasion: Fake Credit Claims Worth Rs 19,690 Crore

Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana** along with Delhi, **stood at the top in terms of value** detected in **fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims** as **Goods and Services (GST) Evasion.**

Key Points

- A total of 1,999 cases have been booked for fake ITC claims in India in the ongoing financial year 2023-24 (till January), involving an amount of Rs 19,690 crore.
- The amount involved in fake ITC claims in FY24 (till January) is **49% higher** than Rs 13,175 crore detected in 1,940 cases in FY23.
- **In terms of value detected, Haryana and Delhi stood at the top** with an amount of Rs 10,851 crore, as per data. Haryana and Delhi together account for **55% of the total amount** of Rs 19,690 crore detected in the fake ITC claims under GST in the current financial year.

Input Tax Credit

- It is the **tax that a business pays on a purchase** and that it can use to reduce its tax liability when it makes a sale.
- It means **at the time of paying tax on output, one can reduce the tax that has already been paid on inputs** and pay the balance amount.
- **Exceptions:** A business under **GST composition scheme cannot avail** of input tax credit. ITC cannot be claimed for personal use or for goods that are exempt.

GST Council

- **Article 279A** - GST Council to be formed by the President to administer & govern GST. It's Chairman is Union Finance Minister of India with ministers nominated by the state governments as its members.
- The council is devised in such a way that the centre will have **1/3rd voting power and the states have 2/3rd.**
- The decisions are taken by **3/4th majority.**

Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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