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(CONSOLIDATION)

## HARYANA

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## First Project in Haryana to Get Post-facto Environmental Clearance

### Why in News?

Recently, a private university built on protected **Aravali** land was given a post-facto approval by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.

- It is the **first project in Haryana to get post-facto environmental clearance** since the **Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980** was amended.

### Key Points

- Categorized under sections 4 and 5 of **Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900** the university lies on 13.6 hectares of Aravali land, **which prohibits deforestation, resale and fragmentation of land without prior permission.**
- Due to the amended act the **government can approve projects or industries that had begun functioning without obtaining prior environment clearance and**

disclosing their environmental impact after a review in line with provisions of the Act.

- The committee gave its approval on few conditions:
  - The land **should not pass through any national park, wildlife sanctuary, elephant, or tiger reserve.**
  - The university identifies an equal area of non-forest land for **compensatory afforestation** and should carry out plantation on it.
- In exceptional cases **regional forest department offices have been directed to examine and process** such proposals and forward them to the ministry with comments and recommendations for appropriate decisions.
- The amended FCA states that **it will be applicable to land parcels "notified" as forest according to the Indian Forest Act, 1927.** The revised FCA is not applicable in areas converted from forest for non-forest purposes by any government authority authorized by the state before December 12, 1996.
- On December 12, 1996, the Supreme Court delivered its landmark judgment in the **Union of India Vs T N Godavarman case** ordering application of the FCA to **any area that qualified as a forest as per its dictionary meaning.**

## DIVERSION 'UNAVOIDABLE & BAREST MINIMUM'

- **1998** | Construction of university begins next to Badkhal-Surajkund road in Faridabad, continues till 2004-05
- **2008** | Forest dept submits report to Supreme Court, saying the university building and other encroachments on forest land are to be razed
- **2022** | Forest dept tells Union environment ministry university was built in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- **2023** | After FCA amendment, university approaches environment ministry for post-facto clearance. It's granted by advisory committee



### WHY THE NOD

According to the ministry's advisory committee,

- Requirement of land to be diverted is **'unavoidable and barest minimum'**
- As university proposal envisaged 'access' to education in area, there's forest land is unavoidable
- University is not located on forest land with any **socio-cultural or cultural** value
- There's no protected **archaeological/heritage site** or defence establishment in area
- No rare or endangered species of flora and fauna recorded in area
- University does not lie in way of any **national park or wildlife sanctuary**



Note:

## Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Issue

### Why in News?

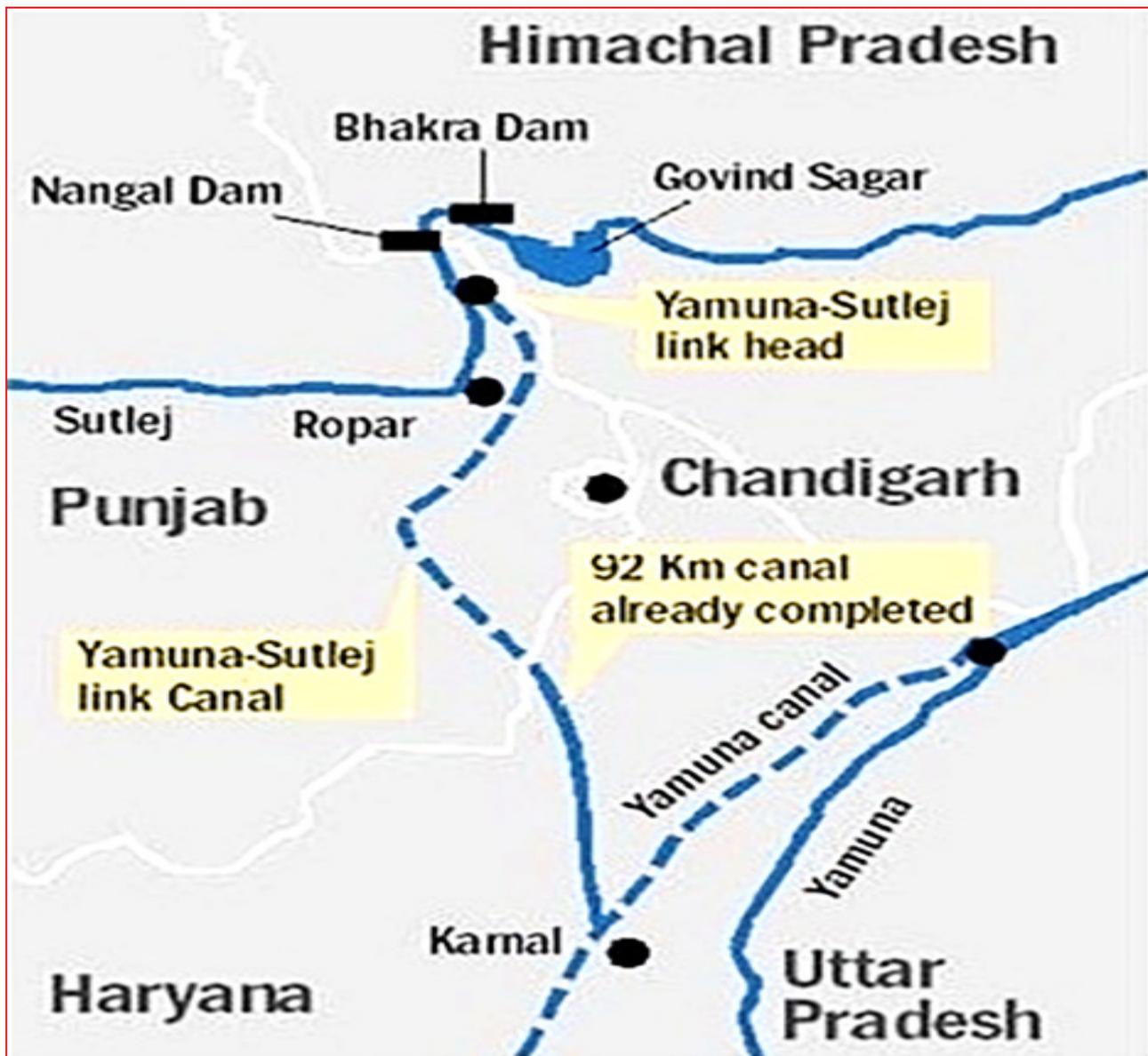
Union Jal Shakti Minister will be holding a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab, as the meeting conducted earlier failed to bridge the gap between Haryana and Punjab on the **Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue**.

### Key Points

- Underscoring the importance of constructing the SYL, the Punjab government will submit an affidavit to

the Central government, providing details about the SYL and water situation.

- According to officials, Punjab has no surplus water to share with Haryana and reassessment of availability is required as per international norms.
  - In Punjab 76.5% of blocks (117 out of 153) are over-exploited. Here groundwater extraction is estimated at more than 100%. In Haryana the figure for over-exploited blocks is 61.5% (88 out of 143).
- Earlier the apex court directed the union government to conduct a survey of the land in Punjab that was assigned for construction of the SYL canal.



Note:

## OTS Scheme for Pre-GST Tax

### Why in News?

In Gurugram, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched **One Time Settlement-2023 (OTS) scheme** to settle pending tax payments pertaining to **pre-GST regime**.

- This scheme will be operational from **January 1 to March 30, 2024**.

### Key Points

- During the event, the CM also announced the opening of a **GST training institute** in collaboration with Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Gurugram.
- The government plans to establish branches of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Tribunal** in Gurugram and Hisar to respond to the demands of traders and industry organizations.
- Under the OTS scheme, the tax amount will be divided into four categories, starting with an undisputed fee category for cases without dispute.
  - Taxpayers will pay 100% of the amount in this category, with **no penalties or interest**.
  - In case of disputed taxes under **₹50 lakh**, taxpayers will pay **30%** of the outstanding amount and if the disputed tax amount is above **₹50 lakh**, they will pay **50%**.
  - In the third category, undisputed taxes will be assessed by the department where no appeal was made. Taxpayers will pay **40%** if the amount is below **₹50 lakh** and **60%** if it is above **₹50 lakh**. There will be relief from penalties and interest.
  - The fourth category includes outstanding amounts due to differences in tax rates. Here, the government has discounted the amount, requiring taxpayers to pay **only 30% of the total**.
- If the outstanding amount is **between ₹10 lakh and ₹25 lakh**, the amount can be paid in two installments.
  - If the outstanding is **more than ₹25 lakh**, the payment can be spread across **three installments: 40% in the first 90 days, 30% in the next 90 days, and 30% in the final 90 days**.
- OTS scheme addresses outstanding tax issues pertaining to the excise and taxation department until June 30, 2017. It specifically resolves concerns related to seven **VAT-related acts**.

## Cashless Health Facility

### Why in News?

On the occasion of the new year, the Haryana government has brought in a cashless health facility for **government employees and their dependents**.

### Key Points

- The Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya in the presence of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, inaugurated the **cashless health facility under Ayushman Yojana**.
- The scheme was started on a **pilot basis**, initially covering employees from the **Fisheries and Horticulture departments**, offering cashless healthcare facilities starting November 1, 2023.
  - The coverage has expanded to include **all regular government employees**. Furthermore, the scheme is being **extended on a pilot basis** to encompass employees of the department of horticulture and fisheries, as well as IAS, IPS, and IFOs, along with their dependents.
- Implementation of this scheme is carried out through the **Ayushman Bharat Haryana health protection authority** (state health authority).
- **Procedures under the scheme are completely cashless** and the hospitals will get their claims approved from a single platform within a specified time frame.
  - The scheme will provide more efficient, seamless, hassle free and time bound services to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders
- Apart from **six life-threatening emergencies** which are, cardiac emergency, cerebral hemorrhage, coma, electric shock, third and fourth stage cancer patients, and any kind of accidents as per the existing provisions; **the scheme covers all types of indoor treatments**, day care procedures catering to the health care needs.
- Services will be available to the beneficiaries in all the **hospitals empaneled with Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)** under this scheme.
  - **E-card/CCHF card** will be issued to all the beneficiaries to avail benefits. The entire expenditure under the scheme will be borne by the state government.

## Haryana's Vikas Rana Wins Gold

### Why in News?

Recently, Vikas Rana, 31, daughter of a farmer in Haryana created history by winning the **maiden gold**

Note:



medal for the country in the cross country skiing championship in Germany.

- She has also represented India in the **Asian Games**.

### Key Points

- She belongs to Sukhain Khurd village in the Uchana area of Jind.
- She won four gold, one silver and four bronze medals at the national games.
- She started her skiing practice at a young age and practiced most of the time in Gulmarg.

### Asian Games

- The Asian Games is the biggest sports competition in Asia, held once every four years.
- The symbol for the Asian Games is the rising sun with interlocking rings.
- It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- Asian Games were regulated by the Asian Games Federation from 1951 to 1978. Since 1982, the Olympic Council of Asia has regulated the Asian Games.
- India won 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silvers and 41 bronze) at the Asian Games 2023.



Note:

## Drop in Sex Ratio in Haryana

### Why in News?

9 out of 22 districts of Haryana recorded a drop in **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)**. Though the state's overall SRB remained consistent at 916 (the national SRB is 933).

➤ **Gurgaon**, on the other hand, recorded a rise from **925 in 2022 to 928 in 2023**.

### Key Points

- Northern and central districts such as **Sirsa, Fatehabad, Sonipat, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Bhiwani, Rohtak, Jind and Charkhi Dadri** saw a fall in the number of girls born.
- Since the 2011 Census, **the gap between boys and girls in Haryana has been a cause for concern**. The state's sex ratio at birth of 834 is the lowest in the country, which led to the state launching a stringent crackdown against **female foeticide**.
- In 2015, '**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**' was launched with the Centre's support to bring about social change.
  - In 2015, from 876, the state's sex ratio at birth climbed to 900 in 2016, followed by 914 in 2017.

- It remained the same in 2018 but improved to 923 in 2019.
- After that, it saw a dip again from 922 in 2020 to 914 in 2021.
- At 916, the SRB showed a slight improvement in 2022 and continued to stay in the same mark 2023 as well.
- According to the officials, a total of **17 cases were filed under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act, 1994**.
  - Around **2,387 raids** were conducted **on clinics carrying out sex determination tests** in the last five years across the state. Out of these, 487 raids were in other states.
  - A total of **1,376 First Information Reports (FIR)** were also registered **for sex determination and use of medical termination of pregnancy kits** across Haryana.
- The government needs to further strengthen the PCPNDT Act and should take strong legal action against illegal abortions.
- It is essential to organize awareness campaigns. **The key is to conduct these initiatives and regularly monitor the progress.**

## STATE'S SRB STILL BELOW NAT'L AVERAGE

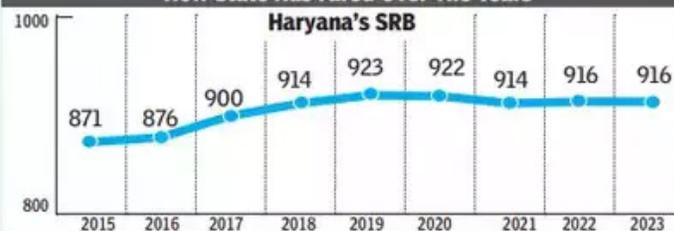
- Sex ratio at birth (SRB) is the **number of girls born per 1,000 boys**
- Haryana's SRB had been a cause for concern **since 2011**, when the Census showed that the state's SRB of **834** was the **lowest** in the country
- But the numbers have seen an improvement **since 2015**



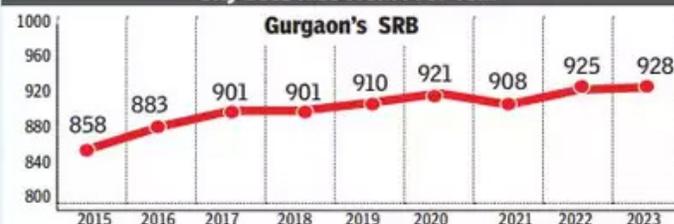
### HOW HARYANA DISTRICTS PERFORMED LAST YEAR

Rank	District	SRB
<b>Top 5</b>		
1	Palwal	946
2	Panchkula	942
3	Fatehabad	934
4	Nuh	932
5	Gurgaon	928
<b>Bottom 5</b>		
1	Rohtak	883
2	Mahendergarh	887
3	Sonipat	894
4	Charkhi Dadri	897
5	Rewari	897

### How State Has Fared Over The Years



### City Sees Rise From Prev Year



Note:

## Haryana to Tackle Waste Management in Gurugram and Faridabad

### Why in News?

According to Haryana chief secretary, the state government has awarded contracts worth ₹126 crore to process 15 lakh metric tonne legacy waste at Bandhwari in Gurugram.

- An action plan has been prepared to achieve this target by June 2024.

### Key Points

- The officers of the pollution control board are directed to take **strict action against agencies and officials failing to address issues related to waste management.**
  - Penalties will be imposed against those responsible for delay in waste management and disposal tasks in landfills at Gurugram and Faridabad.
- Faridabad Municipal Corporation (MC) commissioner is also directed to **complete development at Mujheri and install trammels** by January end and to commence operations at Pratapgarh site by mid-February 2024.
- **Regular awareness programs on waste segregation** and daily monitoring of compliance will be conducted by Gurugram MC and Faridabad MC.

## 18 IAS Transferred in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has transferred 18 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in the state.

### Key Points

- **Amit Kumar Agrawal**, a 2003 batch IAS officer serving as the Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been entrusted with the role of **Managing Director at Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam.**

- **Mandeep Singh Brar**, a 2005 batch IAS officer and the state director for Mines and Geology, has assumed additional responsibilities as the **Director of Information and Public Relations.**
- **D Suresh**, a 1995 batch IAS officer and Resident Commissioner at Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi, now serves as the **Principal Secretary for Human Resources.**
- **Ashima Brar**, a 2004 batch IAS officer and the Director General of School Education, has taken on the role of **Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister.**
- **Mr. PC Meena**, Chief Executive of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority, now serving as **Managing Director at Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam in Hisar.**
- **Mr. Narhari Bangar**, a 2011 batch IAS officer and Agriculture Director, transitions to the role of **Commissioner at the Municipal Corporation in Gurugram**, with **Mr. Raj Narayan Kaushik** from the 2010 batch taking over as the new **Agriculture Director.**
- **Mr. CG Rajinikanthan**, a 2004 batch IAS officer, as **Director for General Industries and Commerce, Director General for MSME, and Adviser for Civil Aviation.**
- **Aditya Dahiya**, a 2011 batch IAS officer and **Special Secretary for Human Resources and General Administration**, adds to his responsibilities by assuming the role of **State Director for the National Health Mission.**

**Note:** The change of cadre of All India Service officers is governed by Rule 5(2) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 and analogous Rules in the Indian Police Service (IPS) (Cadres) Rules, 1954 and Indian Foreign Service (IFS) (Cadre) Rules, 1966.

## Haryana to Waive Outstanding Water Charges

### Why in News?

Recently, a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Manohar Lal has decided to **waive outstanding water charges, including surcharge and interest, amounting to ₹372.13 crore** for rural households in the State.

Note:

### Key Points

- According to the sources, **28.87 lakh water connection holders will be benefited** from this waiver. This **does not extend to institutional, commercial, or industrial consumers falling under the Public Health Engineering department.**
- The Cabinet has approved the **waiver of water charges amounting to ₹336.35 crore**, accumulated from April 1, 2015, to December 31, 2022, for all types of consumers in villages and rural areas.
  - This **includes the general category as well as Scheduled Caste categories.**
- The policy on the **development of ecotourism** has also been approved. The policy emphasises the **conservation of Haryana's diverse landscapes**
  - These include **two national parks, seven wildlife sanctuaries, two Ramsar sites, two conservation reserves, and five community reserves.**
  - It also includes many niche faunal habitat ecosystems, including the **old Aravalli hill range, Shivalik hills, rich biodiversity, dense forests, host of water bodies and scenic places.**

## Development Projects in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, inaugurated and laid the **foundation stones for 16 development projects** worth Rs. 215.65 crores in Fatehabad district.

### Key Points

- These projects include **7 in the Fatehabad assembly constituency, 5 in the Ratia assembly constituency, and 4 in the Tohana assembly constituency.**
- Under the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) scheme**, the Deputy Chief Minister initiated:
  - The **strengthening and widening of the 19.65-kilometer Fatehabad-Hanspur road** with an allocation of Rs 19.86 crores,
  - The **strengthening and widening of the 2.555-kilometer Mamupur to Chuharpur via Nardail road** with Rs 3.60 crores, and the **30.14-kilometer**

**NH148B Surewala Chowk to Haryana-Punjab border** with estimated cost of Rs. 149.63 crores.

- The Deputy Chief Minister **also inaugurated 13 development projects** worth Rs. 42.54 crores, which include road and infrastructure development.

## Haryana Felicitates Arjuna Awardees

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar honored the **state players awarded with the Arjuna Award** and their coach at Haryana Bhavan in New Delhi.

### Key Points

- The Chief minister congratulated **Wrestlers Sunil Kumar, Antim Panghal and Golfer Diksha Dagar** who were honored with the Arjuna Award in the **National Sports Awards 2023.**
- The athletes praised **Haryana's sports policy** stating that it has **boosted the morale of athletes, and the youth** are now more **inclined towards sports due to this Pro-player Policy.**
- According to the Chief minister, a **foundational framework for sports will be developed from village to village** in Haryana so that the youth can be nurtured from childhood.
- Plans are also underway to establish **specialized high-power performance centers** to train youth in popular sports. **Sports equipment will be made available through gram panchayat.**

### Arjuna Award

- It was **instituted in 1961** by the Government of India to **recognise outstanding achievement in national sports events.**
- It is given for **good performance over a period of previous four years** and showing **qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.**
- The award carries a **cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a bronze statue of Arjuna and a scroll of honor.**
- **In 2023, 26 athletes won the Arjuna Award** from Droupadi Murmu, the **President** of India.
- The list **mostly features athletes from the Asian Games 2023** where India made history by winning over **100 medals** in a single edition of the event.

Note:

## Sedition Charges

### Why in News?

Recently, the Punjab & Haryana High Court issued a notice to the Haryana government regarding a revision petition filed against a Sessions Court order framing charges against the petitioner under **Section 124A IPC (Sedition)**. The charges were related to allegations that he used 'filthy language' against India and raised an anti-national slogan.

- After the video of the alleged incident, the police registered the **First Information Report (FIR)** under **Sections 153A, 124A, 504 Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and arrested accused for creating "animosity among several groups".

### Key Points

- **Section 124A IPC** defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".
  - **Disaffection includes disloyalty** and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to **excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, will not constitute an offence under this section.**
  - The Supreme Court in **Balwant Singh v. State of Punjab (1995)**, reiterated that the real intent of the speech must be taken into account before labeling it seditious.
- It is a **Non-Bailable Offence. Punishment** under Section 124A ranges from **imprisonment up to three years to a life term**, to which a fine may be added.
  - A person charged under this law is **barred from a government job.**
  - They have to **live without their passport** and must **produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.**

#### Indian Penal Code (IPC)

- It is the **official criminal code of India** drafted in 1860 in the wake of the **first law commission established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833.**
- In line, the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** provides procedures for administering criminal law in India. It was **enacted in 1973 and became effective on 1 April 1974.**

## Haryana Pitches Non-NCR Areas at Gujarat Summit

### Why in News?

During the recently concluded **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024**, Haryana CM has marketed **opportunities for investors in non-National Capital Region (NCR) areas.**

- Air connectivity and logistics were the main concerns of the summit

### Key Points

- Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Ambala, Sirsa and Fatehabad were the **non-NCR districts marketed at the event.**
- The Centre for **Australia-India relations** had shown **interest in encouraging foreign investors to look at Haryana.**

## Haryana Declares Dry Day on January 22

### Why in News?

Ahead of the **inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya**, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a **dry day on January 22.**

#### Note:

- The CM also **laid the foundation stone of a medical college in Panchkula.**
  - **Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP)** is being built on nearly 30 acres at Sector 32 adjacent to the Ghaggar river at an estimated cost of ₹650 crore.

### Key Points

- Haryana has become the **seventh state to ban liquor sales on the day of the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) ceremony at Ram Temple in Ayodhya.**
  - These include **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Chhattisgarh.**

## Medical College and Hospital in Panchkula

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar laid the **foundation stone of a medical college and hospital in Panchkula.**

Note:

### Key Points

- The **project is expected** to cost **over Rs 800 crore**, to be **constructed** over 30 acres of land at **Sector 32 in Panchkula by the Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikarn (HSVP)**.
- The initial phase will involve an expenditure of Rs 500 crore, with an anticipated additional expenditure of Rs 300 crore. The entire **project is slated to be completed within 30 months**.
- The **number of medical colleges in the state** will increase to **29 in the future** and the **MBBS seats will go up to 3,500**.
  - The number of **postgraduate medical seats** in the state is **set to rise from 851 to 1,200**, addressing the need for specialised doctors.
  - **Para-medical colleges and physiotherapy colleges** will also be set up within these medical colleges.
  - Medical colleges are being established across the state, such as **Shri Krishna Ayurveda Vishwavidyalaya in Kurukshetra**, an **Ayush AIIMS in Panchkula for natural treatment**, and the **Kalpna Chawla University of Health Sciences in Kutail**.

## Project e-Adhigam and iDream Education

### Why in News?

In 2022, the School Education Department, Government of Haryana has launched project e-Adhigam giving Samsung tablets to every Government School student of classes 10th, 11th and 12th in Haryana.

- It comes with an **integrated Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) solution** for remedial and supplementary learning support.

### Key Points

- For the PAL platform on these tablets, the Department has awarded work to three PAL solution providers to iDream Education.
  - **iPrep PAL** has been designed to become the **one-stop, all-inclusive supplementary learning platform** for students, including **adaptive and dynamic access to animated video lessons**, **DIKSHA (Digital**

### Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) content,

practice **questions, digital books and reference material**, and practicals with simulations.

- **e-Adhigam (Advanced Digital Haryana Initiative of Government with Adaptive Module)** became the first of its kind, planned PAL on tablets project in the country.
  - **Digital devices with pre-installed Personalized adaptive learning applications** have been **provided to all students** for both **in-school and at-home learning** under teacher guidance and monitoring.
  - The tablets are issued to **every student at the beginning of the academic year**, they use it for learning in classrooms and revision at home throughout the year.
  - The tablets are then **returned to the school at the end of the academic year**, before being **reissued to the new batch**.
- Every **student's usage and learning outcomes** data are **deeply tracked through central reporting dashboards**, and student level usage and learning improvements are monitored through detailed analytics.
- PAL on tablets is one of the **best ways to empower government school students** to **cover** their previous year's **learning gaps** in a **personalized, enjoyable and non-judgemental learning environment** and achieve their grade-level learning objectives.

#### Note:

- iDream Education **works with a vision to facilitate universal access to learning and growth**. Solutions are **designed to break the learning barriers** and empower students to learn unlimitedly.
- To achieve this, it **partners with System Integrators, Government, CSR, NGOs, and other ecosystem partners** working with schools and students to deliver its digital content and learning platform through Smart Classrooms, ICT Labs, Tablets, Notebooks, and Mobile Devices.

## Haryana Panel to Decide Aid in Accidents Due to Stray Animals

### Why in News?

According to Haryana chief secretary Sanjeev Kaushal, the **state government** was taking **significant steps to address accidents/incidents caused by stray animals**.

Note:

### Key Points

- A committee, chaired by the deputy commissioner, **in all districts** has been established to determine compensation in such cases, with **decisions expected within four months of claim submission**.
- The committee includes members such as the superintendent of police or deputy superintendent of police (traffic), sub-divisional magistrate, and a representative of the chief medical officer.
  - The committee **will adhere to the guidelines and standards of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, while deciding on compensation for such cases.
  - The decision will be forwarded to the principal secretary of the department concerned or the project director of the **NHAI (National Highways Authority of India)**, who must disburse compensation to **the claimant within six weeks**.
- **Stray animals**, for the **purpose of compensation**, encompass animals like **cows, bulls, dogs, donkeys, nilgai and buffaloes**.
- The **Chandigarh high court** has specified **compensation amounts**, such as Rs 10,000 for a dog's bite and a minimum of Rs 20,000 for injuries caused by a dog bite.
- '**Deen Dayal Antyodaya Parivar Suraksha Yojana**' was already in operation to provide compensation for such accidents.

#### Deen Dayal Upadhaya Antyodaya Parivar Suraksha Yojana

- Government of Haryana announced the launch of 'Deen Dayal Upadhaya Antyodaya Parivar Suraksha Yojana' **in the budget for the financial year 2023-24**.
- Under this scheme, on the basis of the **data verified in Family Information Data Repository (FIDR)**, financial assistance will be **provided on the death or permanent disability of a member of a family above the age of 6 years and upto the age of 60 years** having an annual income less than Rs 1.80 lakh.
- The scheme **will provide assistance based on the age of the individual at the time of death or permanent disability**.

## Bharatmala Project

### Why in News?

In a meeting Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and Union Minister of Road Transport and

Highways Nitin Gadkari discussed various issues related to the **National Highways**, including the **Bharatmala project**.

### Key Points

- The discussion included the demand to **open entry and exit points near Baghot in Mahendragarh district on NH-152 D**.
  - The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised on:
    - The construction of **bypass roads under the Bharatmala project in Uchana, Hisar, and Jind**.
    - The construction of **underpasses on dividing roads in sectors 26 and 27 on the Panchkula-Yamunanagar highway**.
    - A survey to **upgrade the Gurugram-Farukh Nagar-Jhajjar-Charkhi Dadri-Loharu road**.
    - To **connect Nelson Mandela Marg Delhi MG Road Gurugram to Faridabad Road**.

#### National Highways

- National Highways (NH) are the arterial roads of the country for inter-state movement of passengers and goods.
- They **traverse the length and width of the country connecting the National and State capitals**, major ports and rail junctions and link up with border roads and foreign highways.
- The NHs **including Expressways constitute only about 1.7% of the length of all roads**, they carry about 40% of the road traffic.

#### Bharatmala Project

- It was **started in 2015 by the Union government**. It is an umbrella project under the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- Under the plan the government **intends to develop 83,677 km of highways and roads at an investment of around Rs 7 lakh crore**.
- In the first phase, the plan is to construct 34,800 km of highways at a cost of Rs 5.35 lakh crore.
- It **focuses on the new initiatives like** development of Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal & port connectivity roads, improving efficiency of National Corridors, Economic corridors and others.

Note:



# BharatMala:

## Connecting India Like Never Before



34,800 km of roads  
to be constructed



Rs. 5,35,000  
crores to be invested



- **Economic Corridors (9000 km):**  
To unlock full economic potential
- **Inter Corridor and Feeder Route (6000 km):**  
Ensuring holistic connectivity
- **National Corridors Efficiency Improvement (5000 km):**  
Enhancing efficiency
- **Border Roads and International Connectivity (2000 km):**  
Boosting Border Connectivity
- **Coastal Roads and Port Connectivity (2000 km):**  
Leveraging Ports for Progress
- **Green field Expressways (800 km):**  
Express speeds for Express gains
- **Balance NHDP works (10,000 km):**  
Boosting all round connectivity

## Mukhymantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal directed the officials to swiftly process applications under the **Mukhymantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana** and grant ownership rights to occupants of shops and houses built on government land for 20 years.

- This applies to land owned by departments, boards, municipal corporations, nagar parishads and municipalities.

### Key Points

- The State Nodal Officers (SNO) have been designated by Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Printing and Stationery Department, Public Health Engineering, Haryana Shari Vikas Pradhikarn and Revenue and Disaster Department.
- It was informed that as of now, 99 applications have been approved for ownership rights, while 901 remain pending. **Each department must decide on pending applications within 15 days.**
  - If the decision is not taken within this period, then the decision of the district level officer of the department to which the land belongs will be valid.

Note:



- The Urban Local Bodies Department will hold regular meetings with all the concerned departments in this regard and will send their report to the Chief Secretary office.

#### Mukhymantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana

- It is designed to give ownership of Commercial Land of Municipalities running on rent or lease for more than 20 years in the State.
- Under this Scheme, individuals who have been occupying the land for 20 years through rent or lease are being given Ownership Rights on payment of up to 80% of the Collector Rate.
- Similarly, according to the limit of years occupied by the land, the Collector Rate will have to be paid at different rates, such as 75% of the Collector Rate for 25 years, 70% for 30 years, 65% for 35 years, 60% for 40 years, 55% for 45 years. There is a provision to give Ownership Rights on payment of 50% for 50 years.

## Hisar Airport to be Operational by April 2024

### Why in News?

Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar, Haryana will be open for commercial operations from April 2024.

### Key Points

- The state government held talks with Alliance Air to start flights from Hisar to cities like Chandigarh, Jaipur and Ahmedabad and that the carrier has already obtained necessary licences from DGCA (Director General of Civil Aviation) for the operations from the airport.
- According to the sources, it will be a greenfield airport conceived in an area over 7,000 acres which will be implemented in three different phases. Phase 1 was already implemented a few years ago.
  - Under phase 2, a runway of 10,000 feet, a terminal building with an annual capacity of 2.1 million passengers and all the related facilities for cargo and MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) of the aviation ecosystem were in place.
- In addition to the Hisar airport, the state government has developed five airstrips in Haryana.

## Sariska Tiger Roaming in Haryana

### Why in News?

A male tiger believed to have strayed from Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan has been spotted in a village near Masani barrage in Rewari, Haryana.

- The tiger is identified as ST-2302.

### Key Points

- Forest and wildlife teams from Haryana and Rajasthan are collaboratively tracking the three-year-old tiger.
  - While monitoring the situation, authorities are taking precautions to prevent any untoward incidents in case the tiger ventures into human-inhabited areas.

#### Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is located in Aravali hills and forms a part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan.
- Sariska was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978, making it a part of India's Project Tiger.
- Kankarwadi fort is located in the centre of the Reserve and it is said that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh at this fort in struggle for succession to the throne.

#### Note:

- Kalesar National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary:
  - It is located on the Siwalik foothills. It is contiguous to Rajaji National Park (Uttarakhand) and Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh).
- Sultanpur National Park:
  - It is a Ramsar Site located 15 km from Gurugram.
  - The park is famous for migratory birds.
- Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:
  - It is a human-made freshwater wetland.
- Other Wildlife Sanctuaries of Haryana:
  - Morni Hills (Khol-Hi-Raitan) Wildlife Sanctuary & Bir Shikargarh Wildlife Sanctuary located in the Shivalik hills.
  - Chhilchhila Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (Seonthi Reserve Forest) in Kurukshetra district.
  - Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar district.

Note:



# TIGER

Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera Tigris*) is the National animal of India.

## Subspecies of Tiger

- \* The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- \* The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

## Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

## Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

## Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I

## Threats

- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict



## National Girl Child Day (NGCD)

### Why in News?

**National Girl Child Day (NGCD)** is observed on 24th January every year to shed light on the challenges faced by girls in Indian society.

- The day focuses on creating awareness about the inequalities girls encounter and advocates for equal opportunities in education, healthcare, and nutrition.

### Key Points

- NGCD was established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2008.
  - The initiative acknowledges the unique challenges faced by girls, including **child marriage**, and **gender-based violence**.
- NGCD commemorates the inaugural anniversary of **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme** (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) launched on January 22, 2015.

### Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme

- About:**
  - The Scheme was launched to address the declining **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** and related issues of women's empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

- It is a **Tri-ministerial effort** of the Ministries of Women and Child Development (MW&CD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MH&FW), and Ministry of Education.

### Main Objectives:

- Prevention of gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child.
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child.
- Protecting rights of Girl children.

### Innovative Interventions under BBBP: Innovations that have created a positive ecosystem/ enabling environment for girls include:

- Guddi-Gudda Boards:** (Display of Birth Statistics (number of Girls born vis-à-vis number of Boys) in public).
  - Example:** Jalgaon district, Maharashtra has installed digital Guddi-Gudda Display Boards.
- Breaking Gender Stereotypes & Challenging Son-centric Rituals:** Celebration of birth of the girl child, dedicating special day on value of girl child, plantation drives symbolizing nurturing and care for girl child.
  - Example:** Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), Selfie with Daughters (Jind district, Haryana).

Note:



## Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme

### Why in News?

The Central government is spearheading a significant transformation in the realm of wetland tourism with the 'Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme'.

- This initiative, launched in June 2023, aims to revolutionize tourism practices at **ecologically-sensitive wetlands**, particularly **Ramsar sites** like **Odisha's Chilika Lake** and **Haryana's Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary**.

### Key Points

- The scheme is a **collaborative effort** between the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
- The scheme will be **implemented over the next three years (2023 onwards)** to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock,

eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.

- The primary focus of the Scheme is to strategically transition from high-volume tourism to high-value nature tourism at ecologically-sensitive wetlands.
- The aim is **to enhance livelihood opportunities for local communities through harnessing the nature-tourism potential** of the Ramsar Sites across the country.
- The scheme is being implemented in convergence with various Central Government ministries and agencies, State wetland authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals, working together for a common cause.
- Out of **16 identified Ramsar sites, five have been selected for pilot projects under the scheme**.
  - These **pilot sites include** Sultanpur National Park (Haryana), **Bhitarkanika Mangroves (Odisha)**, Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sirpur (Madhya Pradesh), and **Yashwant Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)**.

# RAMSAR CONVENTION

## About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America**

## Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

## Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- **World Wetlands Day: 2<sup>nd</sup> February**



## India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 75**
  - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- **Related Framework in India**
  - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
  - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

## Key Facts

- **Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal**
- **Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu**
- **State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)**
- **Wetlands in Montreux Record:**
  - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
  - Loktak Lake: Manipur



Note:

## Monthly Electricity Bills in Haryana

### Why in News?

Recently, Haryana Chief Minister announced that in **four cities across Haryana, electricity bills will now be issued on a monthly basis** instead of the current system of clubbing bills of two months.

### Key Points

- The **four cities** where monthly electricity bills will be issued are **Panchkula, Karnal, Hisar and Mahendragarh**.
- According to the Chief Minister, the state government is all set to launch a scheme to provide **small land parcels to the homeless and the poor from 1st February, 2024**.
  - Under the **Mukhyamantri Shehri Awas Yojana**, the state government had **issued an advertisement to know the requirement for such plots and flats**.
- The **Atal Kisan Majdoor Canteens** will also be opened in **15 more grain markets of the state**.

#### Atal Kisan Majdoor Canteens

- These will provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate.
- The canteen will be **run by women self-help groups** in collaboration with the **Haryana state agricultural marketing board** and **Haryana state rural livelihood mission**.

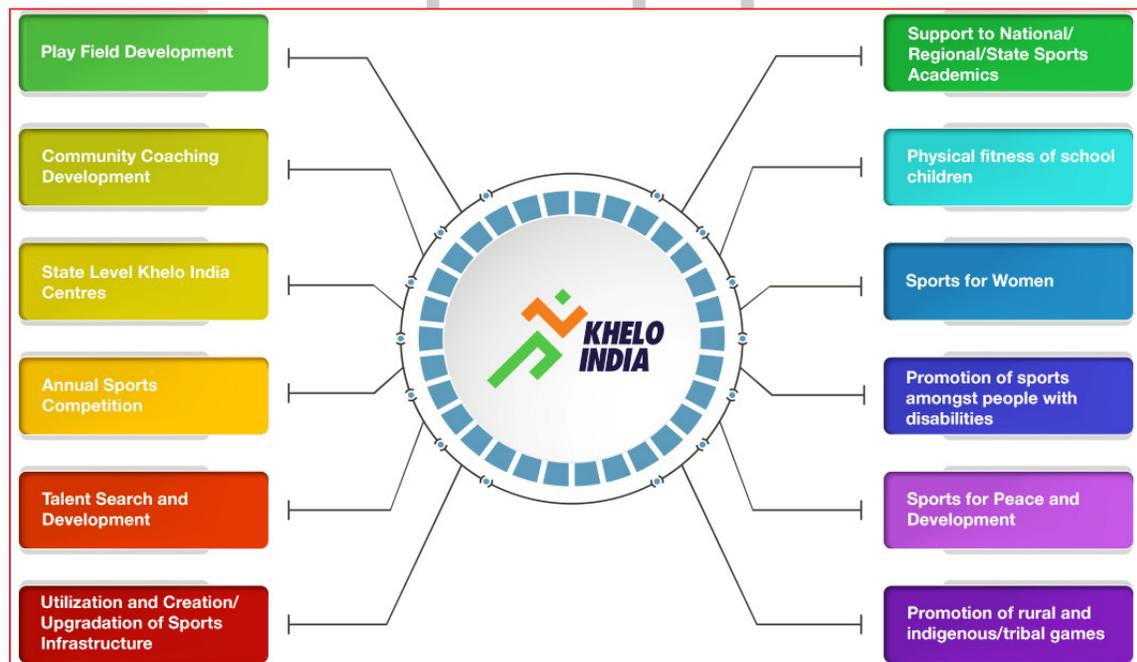
## Khelo India Youth Games

### Why in News?

Recently, **Haryana bagged the boys and girls hockey titles in the 6th Khelo India Youth** along with Orissa.

### Key Points

- The **Khelo India Youth Games** was started in **2018** under the name Khelo India School Games.
  - The aim of these games is to **find and groom sports talents at the local level** and train them for national and international sports events.
  - The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship **Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- Under this, the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)**, the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** and the **Khelo India Winter Games** were set up as annual national sports competitions where youngsters, representing their states and universities, respectively, showcased their skills and competed for medals.
- **Results of Hockey Finals:**
  - **Boys:** Odisha won the final against Madhya Pradesh with 4 goals.
  - **Girls:** Haryana won the final against Madhya Pradesh with 1 goal.



Note:

## Haryana Tableau Depicts 'Mera Parivar-Meri Pehchan' in R-Day Parade

### Why in News?

Haryana tableau in the **Republic Day** parade on **26th January 2024**, depicted the theme of '**Mera Parivar-Meri Pehchan**' which is an ambitious programme of the Haryana Government which is playing a meaningful role in realizing the dream of "**Viksit Bharat**' (Developed India).

### Key Points

- The main objective of this program is to provide the **benefits of government schemes to eligible families** by connecting with technology through the data of every family collected and updated by the government.
- The government is delivering the schemes to every eligible person through the **Parivar Pehchan Patra**.
- The Tableau has been crafted as a **traditional symbol of empowerment for women**.
  - Woman holding a digital device symbolizes a **developed digital India, enabling people across every corner of Haryana to access and redeem government schemes** with just one click from the comfort of their homes through the Parivar Pehchan Patra.
  - Significant **benefits were also highlighted of the "Parivar Pehchan Patra"** such as the seamless procurement of ration, agricultural subsidies for farmer families, scholarships for young students, and pensions for the elderly.

#### Parivar Pehchan Patra

- The Parivar Pehchan Patra Scheme was **started by the Haryana Government in the year 2020**.
- Under Parivar Pehchan Card, considering **each family as a unit, an eight digit unique family ID is being provided**.
- Its objective is to **prepare authentic, verified and reliable data of all the families in Haryana**, so that the benefits of government schemes can be provided to every beneficiary in a hassle-free manner.

### Note:

- '**Rashtrapati Ke Angrakshak**'- 2024 Republic Day (75th) is special for the elite Regiment as the 'Angrakshak' has **completed 250 years of service** since its raising in 1773.
- President of India and President of France, Emmanuel Macron, who is the chief guest at 75th Republic Day celebration arrived at Kartavya Path in the '**Traditional Buggy**', a practice which made **a comeback after a gap of 40 years**.

## Honourable Disposal of Dead Body Bill-2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Haryana cabinet approved a draft bill which seeks **to prohibit any protest with the body of a dead person**.

### Key Points

- According to an official statement, this landmark **bill aims to ensure decent and timely last rites of the dead**.
- In consideration of the respect and dignity owed to a dead person, nobody should be allowed to raise any **demand or bait for pursuing any demands by way of any protest or agitation by not performing the timely last rites of a dead body**.
- It is essential to **prevent any individual from using a body as a means of protest or demonstration** in any form.
  - The proposed legislation also emphasizes the **responsibility of public authorities** in cases **where family members disown a body**, leading to denial of proper last rites.
- It is pertinent to note that the entitlement to dignity and fair treatment, in accordance with **Article 21 of the Constitution of India**, extends beyond the living to include the body after death.
- The state cabinet also approved another draft bill, '**The Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel**

Note:

**Agents Bill, 2024'** to check unscrupulous travel agents, who cheat innocent people wanting to move abroad.

- The draft bill mandates that **no person can undertake the profession of a travel agent without obtaining a registration certificate under the Act.**
- The competent authority **can cancel a registration certificate on the grounds of criminal activities and violation of terms.**
- A cancelled registration will debar the travel agent from the profession for a prescribed period.

- Individuals involved in **human trafficking** or forging **documents** may face **imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine ranging from Rs 2 to 5 lakh.**
- The Haryana government is committed to **protecting its citizens from falling victim to illegal immigration scams.**
- The proposed legislation reflects a **proactive approach to regulate travel agents**, ensuring transparency, legality, and accountability in **immigration-related services.**



Note:



