



STATE **PCS CA** CONSOLIDATION

HARYANA



**APRIL
2025**



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New Delhi



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Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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POCSO Fast Track Courts in Haryana

Why in News?

The Punjab and Haryana **High Court** has directed Haryana to notify four **Fast Track Special Courts** in Faridabad, Panchkula, and Gurugram within two months for effective **POCSO Act** implementation.

Key Points

Creation of Additional Courts:

- ✦ The directive came during the hearing of a **petition seeking the creation of additional courts** to deal with offences under the POCSO Act.
- ✦ The petition also sought implementation of the **Supreme Court's** guidelines issued in the **suo motu case** "Re: Alarming Rise in the Number of Reported Child Rape Incidents – Suo Motu Writ Petition (Criminal) No.1 of 2019."
- ✦ According to the **Solicitor-General of India**, the Union Government had **allocated Rs 200 crore** for setting up and running Fast Track and POCSO courts across the country.

About the POCSO Act:

- ✦ **About:** The law aims to address **offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse** of children. The Act defines a child as any person below the age of 18 years.
 - ✍ It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** in 1992.
- ✦ **Features:**
 - ✍ **Gender-Neutral Nature:** The Act recognises that **both girls and boys** can be victims of **sexual abuse** and that such abuse is a crime regardless of the gender of the victim.
 - ✍ **Confidentiality of Victim's Identity:** **Section 23** of the POCSO Act, 2012 mandates that the identity of child victims **must be kept confidential**. Media reports cannot disclose any details that could reveal the victim's identity, including their name, address, and family information.

- ✍ **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Cases: Sections 19 to 22** compel individuals who have knowledge or reasonable suspicion of such offenses to **report them** to concerned authorities.

Solicitor General of India (SGI)

- ✍ **Second highest law officer** after the Attorney General of India.
- ✍ **Not a constitutional post;** governed by statutory rules.
- ✍ Headquarters in **New Delhi**, as per **Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987**.
- ✍ Appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, headed by the PM.
- ✍ **Tenure is three years;** reappointment possible for up to three more years.
- ✍ Duties include advising the government, appearing in courts, and handling **Article 143** references.
- ✍ **Cannot appear against the government or defend criminal** accused without permission.
- ✍ **Cannot advise PSUs or ministries directly;** must go through the Department of Legal Affairs.
- ✍ **Barred from private practice** except for specified public or government-controlled entities.
- ✍ May not hold corporate positions without prior government approval.

Development Package for Haryana Panchayats

Why in News?

On **National Panchayati Raj Day**, Haryana Chief Minister announced a **Rs 368 crore development package for panchayats** across the state.

- ✍ At the state-level Gram Utthan Samaroh in Panchkula, he inaugurated 923 development projects worth Rs 233 crore and laid foundation stones for 413 more works worth Rs 135 crore.

Key Points

- ✍ **Strengthening Financial Support to Panchayats:**
 - ✦ Chief Minister transferred Rs 573 crore in stamp duty revenue to:
 - ✍ 22 Zila Parishads

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- ✎ 142 Panchayat Samitis
- ✎ 5,388 Gram Panchayats
- ✦ He released **Rs 18.28 crore** for constructing **Mahila Chaupals** in 511 Gram Panchayats, promoting **women's participation** in community activities.
- ✦ The government disbursed Rs 1.45 crore as honorarium to:
 - ✎ 411 Zila Parishad members
 - ✎ 3,081 Panchayat Samiti members
- 💡 **Jagrit Gram Puraskar Yojana:**
 - ✦ He launched the **Mukhyamantri Jagrit Gram Puraskar Yojana**, a **performance-based incentive scheme for Gram Panchayats**.
 - ✦ Panchayats will be evaluated on:
 - ✎ Education, healthcare, sanitation
 - ✎ Women's empowerment, agricultural output
 - ✎ Digital access, sustainable infrastructure
 - ✎ Cash prizes:
 - 🏆 Rs 51 lakh for first place
 - 🏆 Rs 31 lakh for second place
 - 🏆 Rs 21 lakh for third place
 - ✦ The winning Panchayats must use the prize money for local development activities.
- 💡 **Capacity Building of Elected Representatives:**
 - ✦ The CM also launched training kit distribution under the **National Gram Swaraj Abhiyan**.
 - ✦ The government will provide refresher training to all 71,000 elected PRI representatives in Haryana.
- 💡 **Expansion of Social Security Coverage:**
 - ✦ The state credited Rs 12.59 crore into the bank accounts of 41,591 new beneficiaries under various **social security pension schemes**.

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

- 💡 **Background:** The scheme was first approved by the **Cabinet in 2018** for implementation from 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- 💡 **Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- 💡 **Components:** The main Central Components were **Incentivisation of Panchayats** and Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayat including other activities at Central level.

- ✦ The State component primarily includes **Capacity Building & Training (CB&T)** activities, institutional mechanisms for CB&T along with other activities at a limited scale.

Genome-Editing Lab in Haryana

Why in News?

The **Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** inaugurated a **genome-editing laboratory** at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR)**, Haryana.

- 💡 Funded under an ICAR scheme, the **laboratory aims to leverage modern genomic tools** to enhance desirable traits for **improved crop adaptation and enriched grain quality**.

Key Points

Appreciation for Climate-Resilient Varieties:

- ✦ Farmers appreciated the scientists for providing **climate-resilient wheat varieties** that could tolerate day-time temperature fluctuations, especially in February and March.
 - ✎ These climate resilient wheat varieties include **Karan Vandana (DBW-187)**, **MACS 6478**, and **Pusa Yashasvi**.
- ✦ They expressed satisfaction with the **reduced input costs**, as **disease-resistant varieties** eliminated the need for **fungicide sprays**.

Interest in New Barley Varieties:

- ✦ Some farmers showed **interest in hull-less barley varieties**, particularly **DWRB 223**, which had been recently released.
 - ✎ DWRB-223 offers a **high yield of 42.9 quintals/ha** and **11.7% protein**.
 - ✎ Its husk-free grain makes it **ideal for direct consumption and health food applications**.

Emphasis on Lab-to-Land Approach:

- ✦ The Minister emphasised the **importance of connecting scientific research with grassroots farming** through the 'lab to land' approach.

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- ✦ He stressed that **agricultural innovations from laboratories must reach farmers** to ensure real-world impact and adoption.

Genome Editing

- 💡 Genome editing (also called **gene editing**) is a **group of technologies** that give scientists the ability to change an organism's **Deoxy-Ribonucleic Acid (DNA)**.
- 💡 These technologies **allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered** at particular locations in the genome.



- 💡 Advanced research has **allowed scientists to develop the highly effective Clustered Regularly Interspaced Palindromic Repeat (CRISPR)**-associated proteins based systems. This system allows for **targeted intervention at the genome sequence**.
- ✦ This tool has opened up various possibilities in plant breeding. Using this tool, agricultural scientists can now edit the genome to insert specific traits in the gene sequence.

Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR)

💡 About:

- ✦ IIWBR was **established in 2014**, following the **upgradation of the Directorate of Wheat Research**.
- ✦ It is a premier **ICAR-affiliated** institute **located in Karnal, Haryana**.
- ✦ It serves as a **national hub** for research and development in wheat and barley.

💡 Core Focus:

- ✦ IIWBR concentrates on **enhancing the productivity of wheat and barley through scientific innovation and field-level interventions**.
- ✦ The institute aims to **make India a global leader in wheat production while ensuring national food security**.

💡 Major Activities:

- ✦ It coordinates the **All India Coordinated Research Project on Wheat and Barley (AICRP)**.
- ✦ Its key activities include:
 - 🔗 **Varietal improvement** through breeding and genetics.
 - 🔗 Resource management to **enhance efficiency and sustainability**.
 - 🔗 **Crop protection strategies** to combat diseases and pests.

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Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC)

Why in News?

On **World Earth Day**, authorities gave a major push to **vulture conservation** by successfully relocating **34 critically endangered vultures (20 long-billed and 14 white-rumped)** from **Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre (JCBC)** in Pinjore (Haryana) to Maharashtra.

Key Points

Sites for Wild Reintroduction:

- ✦ The vultures will be reintroduced into the wild across **three major tiger reserves** in Maharashtra:

- ✎ [Melghat Tiger Reserve](#)
- ✎ [Pench Tiger Reserve](#)
- ✎ [Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve](#)

Role of BNHS and Collaboration:

- ✦ The **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** coordinated the transfer in collaboration with forest departments of Haryana and Maharashtra.
- ✎ The **BNHS**, a pan-India wildlife research organization, has been **promoting the cause of nature conservation since 1883**.
- ✎ Its mission is **conservation of nature**, primarily **biological diversity** through action based on **research, education and public awareness**.
- ✎ Its vision is to be an **independent scientific organization** with a broad based constituency, **excelling in the conservation of threatened species and habitats**.

National Network of Conservation Breeding Centres:

- ✦ The **BNHS** has established **four Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres** across India:
- ✎ Pinjore (Haryana)
- ✎ Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
- ✎ Rajabhatkhawa (West Bengal)
- ✎ Rani, Guwahati (Assam)

World Earth Day

- 💡 It is **celebrated every year on 22nd April** with the mission of broadening, educating, and activating environmental movements worldwide.
- 💡 **Theme for 2025: "Our Power, Our Planet"**- It calls on everyone to unite for renewable energy and to work toward tripling **clean energy capacity by 2030**.
- 💡 The first Earth Day was observed in 1970 after **Senator Gaylord Nelson** witnessed the **catastrophic effects** of an oil spill in California.
- 💡 This **pivotal day** led to the passing of significant environmental legislation in the US, including the **creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.
- 💡 In 1990, Earth Day became a global event with 200 million people and **141 countries** participating.
- 💡 **Significance:** It also **offers an opportunity to celebrate green initiatives** around the world and highlight ongoing efforts toward environmental protection.

Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre

About:

- ✦ It is a joint project of the **Haryana Forest Department** and the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**.
- ✦ It aims to **save three critically endangered vulture species**—**White-backed, Long-billed, and Slender-billed**.
- ✦ The centre was initially established as the Vulture Care Centre (VCC) in **September 2001**.
- ✦ The VCC was **upgraded to VCBC (later Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre - JCBC)**.

Strategic Location:

- ✦ The JCBC is located at village Jodhpur, near **Bir Shikargaha Wildlife Sanctuary**, about 8 km from Pinjore, Haryana.
- ✦ It **spans 5 acres of land** provided by the Haryana Forest Department.
- ✦ JCBC currently houses 160 vultures, including:
 - ✎ [63 White-backed](#)
 - ✎ [74 Long-billed](#)
 - ✎ [21 Slender-billed](#)
 - ✎ [2 Himalayan Griffons](#)
- ✦ It is the **largest collection of these three Gyps species** in one location globally.

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Sr. No.	Name of the Vulture Species	IUCN status	Pictorial Representation
1.	Oriental White-backed Vulture (Gyps Bengalensis)	Critically Endangered	
2.	Slender-billed Vulture (Gyps Tenuirostris)	Critically Endangered	
3.	Long-billed Vulture (Gyps Indicus)	Critically Endangered	
4.	Egyptian Vulture (Neophron Percnopterus)	Endangered	
5.	Red-Headed Vulture (Sarcogyps Calvus)	Critically Endangered	
6.	Indian Griffon Vulture (Gyps Fulvus)	Least Concerned	
7.	Himalayan Griffon (Gyps Himalayensis)	Near Threatened	
8.	Cinereous Vulture (Aegypius Monachus)	Near Threatened	
9.	Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (Gypaetus Barbatus)	Near Threatened	

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Waste Management in Gurugram

Why in News?

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has reprimanded the **municipal corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad** for their **gross mismanagement of waste** at the **Bandhwari landfill** in Gurugram.

Key Points

- 💡 **NGT Order to HSPCB:**
 - ✦ The NGT directed the **Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)** to submit a fresh affidavit within six weeks.
 - ✦ The affidavit must disclose **details of the levy and recovery of environmental compensation** from the municipal corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad.
- 💡 **Inconsistent Planning on Waste Management:**
 - ✦ The NGT criticised the **lack of a consistent plan by the municipal corporations** for setting up waste processing facilities.
 - ✦ It noted that the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram had **earlier proposed a waste-to-energy plant**, but has **shifted focus to a torrefied charcoal facility**, expected to be commissioned by 2027.
- 💡 **Waste Accumulation Continues at Bandhwari:**
 - ✦ The **tribunal** observed a rise in waste at the Bandhwari landfill.
 - 📎 The presence of 8.84 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of unprocessed waste was recorded in Gurugram on 1 December 2024, which increased to 11.32 lakh MT by 31 March 2025.

Torrefaction

- 💡 It is a **thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material**, which has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass.
- 💡 The process involves **heating up** straw, grass, sawmill residue and wood biomass to **250 degrees celsius - 350 degrees celsius**.
- 💡 This changes the elements of the biomass into **'coal-like' pellets**. These pellets can be used for combustion along with coal for industrial applications like steel and cement production.

Haryana State Pollution Control Board

- 💡 It was formed as a **statutory organisation** by Government of Haryana in the year 1974 to preserve the wholesomeness of water and prevent water pollution after Government of India legislation of **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.

Haryana Government Launches Medical Insurance Scheme for State Players

Why In News?

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Sain announced **₹20 lakh medical insurance** to every player in the state. The announcement was made during the inauguration of **3rd All India Shiv Kumar Smriti Basketball Competition** held in Kilo village, Rohtak.

Note:

- 💡 The All India Shiv Kumar Smriti Basketball Competition is a **tribute to Late Sh. Shiv Kumar**, who was remembered for his dedication to **sports and social service**.
- 💡 A special grant of **₹21 lakh** was announced for the development of **Shiv Kumar Smriti Stadium**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Medical Insurance for Athletes:**
 - ✦ All registered players in Haryana will receive **medical insurance worth ₹20 lakh**.
 - ✦ This is aimed at ensuring financial support in case of injuries or medical emergencies.
- 💡 **Promotion of Sports Through Policy Reforms:**
 - ✦ **Haryana Utkrisht Khiladi Seva Niyam 2021** has been implemented to provide job security and support to athletes.
 - 📎 **550 new posts** created in the Sports Department.
 - 📎 **224 athletes** already appointed to government jobs.
 - 📎 **Reservation in direct recruitment** from Class-I to Class-III government posts.

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- ✦ Haryana offers the **highest cash rewards** to medal-winning players in India. So far, **₹593 crore** has been awarded as prize money **298 athletes** are receiving regular honorariums.

Support for Young Athletes:

- ✦ **1,489 sports nurseries** are active across the state, training **37,225 young athletes**.
- ✦ Monthly stipends:
 - ₹1,500 for athletes aged **8–14 years**.
 - ₹2,000 for those aged **15–19 years**.
- ✦ Since 2014:
 - ₹53.45 crore in scholarships** awarded to **29,000+ students**.
 - Sports equipment** distributed to **15,634 players**.

Compulsory Sports in Schools:

- ✦ Sports are being made **mandatory in schools** to ensure **balanced physical and mental development** from an early age.
- ✦ **Aim:** Promote sports not just as a profession, but also as a way of life.
- ✦ Emphasis was laid on the role of sports like **basketball** in building qualities such as **teamwork, discipline, quick decision-making and strategic thinking**.
- ✦ Sports are seen as essential in creating a **healthy, active, and aware society**.

Haryana Utkrisht Khiladi Seva Niyam 2021

- 💡 **Haryana Utkrisht Khiladi Seva Niyam 2021** is a policy introduced by the Haryana government to **promote sports, support athletes, and secure their future** through job opportunities, financial assistance, and recognition.
- 💡 It is a comprehensive step toward making sports a sustainable and respected career path in the state.
- 💡 Key Features of the Policy:
 - ✦ **Government Jobs for Athletes:**
 - 550 new posts created in the Sports Department.
 - 224 sportspersons have already been appointed to government positions.
 - ✦ **Reservation in Recruitment:**
 - Athletes get **reservation in direct recruitment for Group A to Group D posts** in the state government.

Highest Cash Rewards in India:

- ✦ Haryana provides the **highest cash prizes** to medal-winners at various levels.

Monthly Honorarium:

- ✦ So far **298 top-performing athletes** have received an honorarium for their achievements.

Scholarship Support:

- ✦ Since 2014, **₹53.45 crore in scholarships** has been distributed to over **29,000 students** who have performed well in sports.

Mauritius Signs ISA's Country Partnership Framework

Why in News?

The Republic of Mauritius and the intergovernmental organisation **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** signed a **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** to strengthen **solar cooperation** and accelerate the **clean energy transition**.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

About:

- ✦ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an **action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform** for increased deployment of **solar energy technologies**.
- ✦ Its basic motive is to facilitate **energy access, ensure energy security, and drive energy transition** in its member countries.
- ✦ The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by **India and France** to mobilize efforts against **climate change** through deployment of **solar energy solutions**.

Vision:

- ✦ Let us together make the sun brighter.

Mission:

- ✦ Every home, no matter how far away, will have a light at home.

Headquarters:

- ✦ The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being set up in **Gurugram**.

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Key Points

💡 The Country Partnership Framework (CPF):

- ✦ The CPF outlines a structured, **strategic approach for collaboration on solar projects and policy support.**
- ✦ **Mauritius** is the **first African country** and the **fourth globally** (after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba) to sign this framework.
 - 📌 The CPF is **valid for three years**, with a **provision for renewal** based on mutual agreement.

💡 Country Partnership Strategy (CPS):

- ✦ Following the CPF, ISA and Mauritius will **co-develop a Country Partnership Strategy (CPS)** aligned with Mauritius's national energy goals.
- ✦ The CPS will be **country-driven and needs-based**, focusing on enabling conditions for solar deployment.
- ✦ Key Focus:
 - 📌 Strategic Planning & Regulation:
 - 🏠 Formulation or revision of solar energy roadmaps.
 - 🏠 Development of regulatory frameworks to facilitate solar applications.
 - 📌 Technology & Capacity Building:
 - 🏠 Establishment of a **Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C).**
 - 🏠 Training and upskilling in technical, regulatory, and financial domains.
 - 📌 Deployment of Solar Applications:
 - 🏠 Promotion of solar rooftops, floating solar, **agrivoltaics**, and solar water pumping.
 - 🏠 Support for solar-driven green hydrogen initiatives.
 - 🏠 Exploration of solar ferries and other innovations tailored to island ecosystems.

💡 ISA's Ongoing Role in Mauritius:

- ✦ Mauritius, a **founding member of ISA**, has actively partnered in ISA-led initiatives.
- ✦ Notable among them is the solarisation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, implemented under the **ISA CARES Initiative**, which aims to solarise healthcare facilities in **Small Island Developing States (SIDS).**

- 📌 The hospital, originally **established in 1984** with Indian support, was **solarised in June 2024.**

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- 💡 **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)** refer to a group of small island nations and territories that face shared challenges in sustainable development, alongside significant social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
 - ✦ Some of SIDS include the Maldives, Seychelles, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Guyana, and Singapore.
- 💡 SIDS are primarily located in three major geographical regions: the **Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean & South China Sea (AIS)** regions.
- 💡 At the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992**, SIDS were formally recognized as a special case due to their unique environmental and developmental challenges.

Development Projects Inaugurated in Haryana

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister** of India launched **development and infrastructure projects** worth Rs 10,000 crore in Haryana.

Key Points

- 💡 Major Infrastructure and Energy Projects:
 - ✦ Thermal Power Expansion in Yamunanagar:
 - 📌 The PM laid the foundation stone for the third 800 MW unit of the **Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar**, worth Rs 8,469 crore.
 - 📌 The unit will be built on 233 acres, with commercial operations expected by March 2029.
 - 📌 Once operational, Haryana's in-house **power generation capacity will rise to 3,382 MW.**

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✦ GOBARDhan Plant for Waste-to-Energy in Yamunanagar:

- ✎ The PM also laid the foundation for a Rs 90 crore **GOBARDhan plant** in Mukarampur, Yamunanagar.
- ✎ It is a collaboration between the **Municipal Corporation Yamunanagar-Jagadhri and BPCL**.
- ✎ Scheduled for completion by May 2027, the **plant will process**:
 - 👤 45,000 metric tonnes of **solid waste**,
 - 👤 36,000 metric tonnes of cattle dung annually.
- ✎ **It will produce:**
 - 👤 2,600 metric tonnes of **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** per year (equivalent to CNG),
 - 👤 10,000 metric tonnes of **bio-fertilizer**.
- 👤 The project will cut CO₂ emissions by 7,700 metric tonnes/year, prevent landfill fires, and **reduce air pollution**.

✦ Rewari Bypass Inaugurated to Ease Traffic:

- ✎ He also inaugurated the Rewari Bypass, built under the **Bharatmala scheme** in **Hybrid Annuity Mode**, at a cost of Rs 1,069 crore.
- ✎ The 14.4 km, four-lane bypass connects NH-352 to NH-11, improving access to Narnaul and bypassing Rewari city.

✦ New Airport Terminal for Hisar:

- ✎ He laid the foundation stone for the **new terminal building of Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar**, worth over Rs 410 crore.
- ✎ The PM announced upcoming **flights connecting Haryana to Ayodhya Dham**.

Compressed Biogas (CBG)

- 💡 CBG is a **renewable energy** source produced from organic waste, including **agricultural residues**, cattle dung, municipal solid waste, and sewage sludge.
- 💡 It helps in **replacing fossil fuels**, managing agricultural and animal waste, and reducing open burning.

GOBARDhan Scheme

- 💡 The **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARDhan)** initiative focuses on converting **waste into wealth** to promote a circular economy.
- 💡 It aims to establish a strong ecosystem for **Biogas/Compressed Biogas (CBG)/Bio-CNG plants** to foster sustainable growth.
- 💡 The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, serves as the nodal department.

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.

Trend of Wheat Production in Punjab and Haryana

Why in News?

Favourable winter weather in Punjab and Haryana is **likely to increase wheat yields in 2025**, even though recent unseasonal hailstorms **caused some minor crop damage**.

Key Points

💡 Wheat Production and Yield Estimates:

- ✦ An increase in the average wheat yield compared to the previous year has been projected:
 - ✎ **Punjab:** In 2023–24, average wheat yield was 50 quintals/ha. In 2024–25, it **may exceed 60 quintals/ha**.

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- ✍ **Haryana:** In 2023–24, average wheat yield was 46 quintals/ha. In 2024–25, it may **exceed 50 quintals/ha**.
- ✳ Punjab and Haryana are **major contributors to the Central procurement pool**, especially for wheat.
- 💡 **A strong harvest will:**
 - ✳ Improve **food security** and stabilize market supply.
 - ✳ Enhance **farmer incomes** through better procurement prices.
 - ✳ Benefit the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and reduce **food inflation**.

Wheat Production in India

- 💡 Wheat is a **Rabi crop, sown between October and December**, and harvested from April to June.
- 💡 It is **India's second most important cereal after rice** and is a staple food in the northern and northwestern regions.
- 💡 **Area and Production:**
 - ✳ Wheat is the **second-largest crop in India (after paddy)** in terms of area covered.
- 💡 **Top Wheat-Producing States:**
 - ✳ Uttar Pradesh (largest producer)
 - ✳ Punjab
 - ✳ Haryana
 - ✳ Madhya Pradesh
 - ✳ Rajasthan
- 💡 **Top Wheat-Producing Countries:**
 - ✳ China
 - ✳ European Union
 - ✳ India
- 💡 **Ideal Conditions for Wheat Cultivation:**
 - ✳ **Soil:** Grows best in well-drained loamy or clayey soils
 - ✳ **Temperature:**
 - ✍ 10–15°C for sowing
 - ✍ 21–26°C during ripening and harvesting
 - ✳ **Rainfall:** Needs 75–100 cm of moderate rainfall
 - ✳ **Sunlight:** Bright sunshine is essential during grain formation for a good yield

Approval for Zirakpur Bypass

Why in News?

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved the construction of a six-lane **Zirakpur bypass** at a capital cost of Rs 1,878.31 crore.

- 💡 The project **aims to ease congestion in cities like Zirakpur and Panchkula** by redirecting traffic bound for Himachal Pradesh.

Key Points

- 💡 **Route and Specifications:**
 - ✳ The six-lane Zirakpur bypass will **start from the Zirakpur–Patiala junction on NH-7** and end at the **Zirakpur–Parwanoo junction on NH-5**.

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- ✦ The bypass will cover a **total length of 19.2 km**, passing through Punjab and Haryana.
- ✦ The project will be developed using the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)** as part of the **National Highway (Original) [NH(O)] programme**.

💡 **Strategic Importance under PM GatiShakti:**

- ✦ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways described the project as a key step in building integrated transport infrastructure.
- ✦ It aligns with the objectives of the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan**, which seeks to synchronise infrastructure planning and boost multi-modal connectivity.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

- 💡 The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, launched in October 2021 is a transformative Rs. 100 lakh crore initiative aimed at **revolutionising India's infrastructure** over the next five years.
- 💡 It has been developed as a **Digital Master Planning tool by BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics)**.
 - ✦ It has been prepared in a **dynamic Geographic Information System (GIS) platform** wherein data on specific action plans of all the Ministries/Departments have been incorporated within a comprehensive database.
- 💡 The plan seeks to **accelerate project completion**, reduce timelines, and enhance India's global competitiveness by breaking down inter-ministerial obstacles.
- 💡 The vision of PM GatiShakti is to **create a world-class infrastructure** that improves the **ease of living**, boosts economic growth and makes Indian businesses more competitive.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF PM GATISHAKTI



Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)

- 💡 It is a mix of EPC and BOT-Annuity models. As per the design, the **government will contribute 40% of the project cost in the first five years** through annual payments (annuity).
- 💡 The remaining payment will be made on the basis of the assets created and the performance of the developer.

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Mining Activities Prohibited in Aravalli

Why in News?

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has issued a show-cause notice to the **Haryana Government** and the **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change** over alleged mining on protected **Aravalli forest land**.

- It also directed the state to halt all **mining and stone-crushing** activities until 7th August 2025.

Key Points

About the Issue:

- It was alleged that the **Haryana Government** auctioned **25% of 506.33 acres of notified protected forest land** to stone crushing units.
 - This land had been declared a protected forest as part of compensatory afforestation for the **Great Nicobar Island project**.
- The case highlights potential violations of the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980** and questions the legality of the auction process.
- Petitioners and environmentalists pointed out that mining and stone crushing have **severely impacted the local water table, flora, and fauna**.
 - They also stressed that while the country is losing dense forests in Great Nicobar, the **'Nicobar swap' land meant to restore the Aravallis** is being sabotaged by illegal mining.
- About Aravallis:
 - The Aravalli Range extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, 692 km in length and varies between 10 to 120 km in width.
 - The range acts as a natural green wall, with **80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat**.
 - The Aravalli mountains are divided into two main ranges – the **Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan**, where their extension is about 560 km.

- It serves as an **ecotone** between the **Thar Desert** and the **Gangetic Plain**.
- Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet**.
- Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters.

Great Nicobar Island Project

- The Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project, **launched in 2021**, is a mega project **to be implemented at the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar islands**.
- It involves **developing a trans-shipment port, an international airport, township development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant on the island**.
- The project was implemented after a report by **NITI Aayog** which **identified the potential to utilise the advantageous position of the island**, which is approximately equidistant from Colombo in Sri Lanka to the southwest and Port Klang (Malaysia) and Singapore to the southeast.

Protected Archaeological Sites in Haryana

Why in News?

The Haryana government has declared two **Harappan civilisation** sites in Bhiwani district as **protected monuments and archaeological sites**.

Key Points

About the Notification:

- The Haryana's Principal Secretary for Heritage and Tourism issued a notification declaring the Mitathal site, covering 10 acres, as protected under the **Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964**.
- The Department will take steps to safeguard the site, including fencing and deploying a guard.

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Historical Significance of Mitathal:

- ✦ Excavations at Mitathal, conducted since 1968, have revealed evidence of a **Copper-Bronze Age** culture from the 3rd-2nd millennia BCE.
- ✦ The site was **first identified in 1913** when a **hoard of Samudra Gupta coins** was found. Further discoveries included **beads, copper implements, and proto-historic material** between 1965 and 1968.
- ✦ Excavations at Mitathal demonstrate **Harappan traditions in urban planning, architecture, and craftsmanship**. The site yielded well-burnt pottery, geometric designs, and various antiquities including **beads, bangles, and terracotta objects**.

Archaeological Importance of Tighrana:

- ✦ The Tighrana site **offers insight into the evolution of human settlement** after the Harappan period.
 - ✦ Evidence suggests that the **region was first inhabited by Chalcolithic agricultural communities** around 2,400 BCE.
- ✦ The Sothians, as the early settlers were known, **lived in small mud-brick houses with thatched roofs**. They were engaged in agriculture and used wheel-made pottery with black-and-white designs.
- ✦ The remains from Tighrana show **evidence of bead-making and jewellery production**, with the discovery of beads and green carnelian bangles.
- ✦ Officials have confirmed that the ongoing discoveries provide valuable insights into pre-Siswal, pre-Harappan, and post-Harappan settlements in the area.

Harappan Civilization

- ✦ The **Harappan Civilization**, also known as the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**, flourished around **2500 BCE** along the **Indus River**.
- ✦ It was the **largest of the four ancient urban civilizations** alongside **Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China**.
- ✦ The IVC is classified as a **Bronze-age civilization** due to the discovery of numerous artefacts made from **copper-based alloys**.

✦ **Daya Ram Sahni** first excavated **Harappa in 1921-22**, and **Rakhal Das Banerji** began excavating **Mohenjo-daro in 1922**.

- ✦ **Sir John Marshall, DG of ASI**, was responsible for the excavations that led to the discovery of **Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro** sites of IVC.

Gram Panchayats Declared TB-Free in Haryana

Why in News?

The Health Department has declared **sixty-six gram panchayats in Karnal district in Haryana** **tuberculosis (TB)-free** based on six key indicators.

Key Points

Assessment and Awards:

- ✦ A state-level team conducted an assessment in March 2025 to evaluate the panchayats.
- ✦ Recognized panchayats were **honored by the Additional Deputy Commissioner**.
- ✦ To receive TB-Free Gram Panchayat status, a panchayat must meet the required conditions for one year.

Award Categories:

- ✦ 14 panchayats **received a silver statue of Mahatma Gandhi** with an appreciation certificate for being recognized TB-free for the second time.
- ✦ 52 panchayats were **awarded a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi** and certificates for achieving TB-free status for the first time.

Key Criteria for TB-Free Status:

- ✦ **Annual sputum sample collection:** At least 30 samples per 1,000 population.
- ✦ **TB prevalence:** Fewer than 1 TB patient per 1,000 people.
- ✦ **Treatment success rate:** At least 85%.
- ✦ **Diagnostic testing:** Minimum 60% of TB patients must undergo CBNAAT or TrueNAAT testing.
- ✦ **Financial aid distribution:** 100% disbursal under the **Nikshay Poshan Yojana**.

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✦ **Nutritional support:** Provision of nutrition kits to all TB patients.

💡 **Role of Nikshay Mitra Yojana:**

- ✦ **Nikshay Mitra Yojana**, launched under TB-Free India, allows citizens, **NGOs**, corporates, and public representatives to support TB patients.
- ✦ Contributors (Nikshay Mitras) provide monthly nutrition kits to aid TB patients in their recovery.

Tuberculosis

💡 **About:**

- ✦ Tuberculosis is an infection caused by ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***. It can practically affect **any organ of the body**. The most common ones are lungs, pleura (lining around the lungs), lymph nodes, intestines, spine, and brain.

💡 **Transmission:**

- ✦ It is an airborne infection that spreads through **close contact with the infected**, especially in **densely populated spaces** with poor ventilation.

💡 **Symptoms:**

- ✦ Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

PM Awas Yojana in Jhajjar

Why in News?

Officials of Jhajjar district of Haryana are conducting a large-scale survey for **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Gramin (PMAY-G) 2.0** to identify needy families in rural areas and provide them with financial assistance for constructing new permanent houses.

Key Points

💡 **Fulfilling the Dream of a Permanent Home:**

- ✦ The PMAY-G initiative is designed to help needy families achieve a secure and dignified life through permanent housing.
- ✦ Officials have been instructed to speed up the survey process to include every eligible beneficiary and help fulfill the residential dreams of rural families.
- ✦ The **last date to apply for PMAY-G 2.0 has been extended to 30th April 2025** to ensure that more eligible families benefit from the scheme.
 - 📎 So far, 6,163 applications have been received from all seven blocks of the district.
- ✦ Villagers can also apply themselves through the **“Awas Plus” mobile app** to avail benefits.

💡 **Financial Assistance Structure:**

- ✦ Under the scheme, beneficiaries receive a **total financial assistance of Rs 1.38 lakh** for the construction of permanent houses.
- ✦ The amount is **disbursed in three installments**:
 - 📎 First installment: Rs 45,000
 - 📎 Second installment: Rs 60,000
 - 📎 Third installment: Rs 33,000

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Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)

💡 **About:** Launched in 2016, the PMAY-G aims to provide housing for the poorest segments of society.

✦ The selection of beneficiaries involves a thorough **three-stage validation process**, including the **Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011**, **Gram Sabha approvals**, and **geo-tagging**, ensuring that aid reaches the most deserving individuals.

💡 Under PMAY-G Beneficiaries Receive:

✦ **Financial Assistance:** Rs 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states, including northeastern states and union territories.

✦ **Additional Support for Toilets:** Rs 12,000 for constructing toilets through convergence with schemes like **Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G)** or **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** or any other dedicated source of funding.

✦ **Employment Support:** Mandatory provision of 90/95 person-days of unskilled wage employment for beneficiaries through **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** for house construction.

✦ **Basic Amenities:** Access to water, **Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)**, and electricity connections through convergence with relevant schemes.



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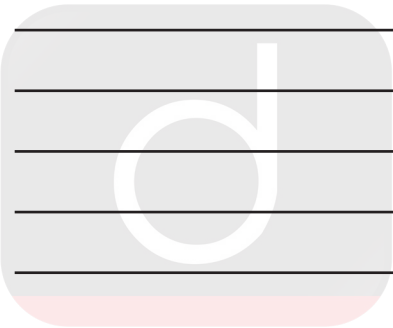


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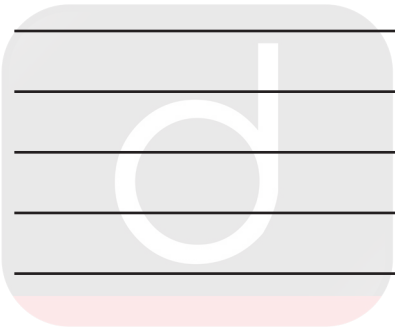
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Summary

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Summary