STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

HARYANA

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Content

Indian Grey Wolf

Why in News?

The **Indian grey wolf** *(Canis lupus pallipes)* was recently sighted near the Yamuna floodplains in Delhi, marking the **first recorded sighting in the city since the 1940s**.

- 💡 The wolf was spotted in Palla, a village located on the banks of the **Yamuna River**, at the **tri-junction of Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

Indian Grey Wolf

- 💡 **About:** The **Indian Grey Wolf** is a **subspecies** of the **Grey Wolf** native to the **Indian subcontinent** and **Southwest Asia.**
  - ✦ It is **nocturnal** and an **apex predator** that hunts **in small packs** and is **less vocal** compared to other wolf subspecies.
- 💡 **Appearance:** A **carnivore** of the **Canidae family**, the Indian Grey Wolf has a length of **100–130 cm in males** and **87–117 cm in females.**
  - ✦ It is **intermediate in size** between the **Tibetan** and **Arabian wolves** and **lacks a thick winter coat,** adapting to warmer climates.
- 💡 **Habitat & Distribution:** **From Israel in the west to the Indian subcontinent in the east**, inhabiting **scrublands, grasslands, pastoral agro-ecosystems** and **semi-arid agro-ecosystems** in warmer regions.
  - ✦ They are **found in the states of** Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and others.
- 💡 **Conservation Status:**
  - ✦ **CITES**: Appendix I.
  - ✦ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule I.

Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary

- 💡 Situated in Karnataka, it is **India's second protected area dedicated solely to wolves**, after the Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary (established in 1976) in Jharkhand.
- 💡 It spans 332 hectares and **features scrub forests, hills, and natural caves** suitable for wolf habitation.

GROUPS
- Social animals, live in packs of 6-8
- Group consists of a breeding male and female
- A group can range over as much as 200 sq km

HUNT
- Can cooperatively hunt large prey such as black bucks
- Capable of chasing prey over long distances

EAT
Small- to medium-sized animals. Livestock is a major part of their diet where there is little natural prey

PROTECTION STATUS AND POPULATION

Grey wolves (Canis lupus) of which these are a subspecies are listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. However, only **2,000-3,000** Indian wolves (Canis lupus pallipes) are left in the wild

INDIAN WOLF *(CANIS LUPUS PALLIPES)*
LIFESPAN 5-13 YEARS   WEIGHT 17-25 KG

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE: Indian subcontinent (Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal) up to southwest Asia

HABITAT: Grasslands, scrub forest, thorn and dry deciduous forest. Often share space with agro-pastoral communities

THREATS
- **Retaliatory killing** due to its depredation of livestock • Long regarded as **vermin** with a bounty placed on them • **Habitat loss** and change
- Mostly live outside the network of "**Protected Areas**" leaving them vulnerable to hunting • Most wolf **habitats are not protected**, and often categorised as "wastelands" • Susceptible to **diseases** like canine distemper and canine parvovirus transmitted by domestic dogs

CAQM's Action Plan to Combat Stubble Burning

Why in News

The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** has directed **Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh** to establish a **'Parali Protection Force'** at the **district and block levels** to curb the annual menace of **stubble burning,** which significantly contributes to **air pollution** in Delhi-NCR.

Key Points

Steps to Curb Stubble Burning

- 💡 **Parali Protection Force:**
  - ✦ It will be set up at **district/block level** in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.
  - ✦ It will include **police officers, agricultural officers, and local officials**.
  - ✦ Tasked with **monitoring and preventing paddy** stubble burning incidents.
- 💡 **Enhanced Surveillance Measures:**
  - ✦ **Intensified patrolling**, especially during **late evening hours** when farmers may attempt to bypass satellite tracking.
  - ✦ **Dedicated nodal officers** are to be assigned to every **group of 50 farmers** for effective monitoring and assistance.
- 💡 **Strict Penalties for Violations:**
  - ✦ **Red entries** are to be made in land records of violating farmers.
  - ✦ **Environmental compensation fines** are to be imposed for stubble burning.
- 💡 **Technology and Farm Mapping:**
  - ✦ All **farms** in villages to be **mapped** to assess suitable stubble management methods like **in-situ management, crop diversification** and **use as fodder.**
- 💡 **Online Monitoring System:**
  - ✦ A **real-time online platform** to be developed for tracking **generation, storage, and usage** of paddy residue.
- 💡 **Machinery Review and Support:**
  - ✦ States to **review existing Crop Residue Management (CRM) machines**.

- ✦ Phase out non-functional machines and evaluate current equipment gaps analysis, and procure new ones by August 2025.
- ✦ **Free rental** of machines through **Custom Hiring Centres** for **small and marginal farmers**.
- 💡 **Infrastructure for Straw Storage:**
  - ✦ States to **create storage facilities** using **Panchayat or government land**.
  - ✦ Develop a **district-level supply chain** for **collection, storage, and utilization** of paddy straw in **bioenergy** and **composting**.

Stubble Burning
💡 It is a method of **removing paddy crop residue** from the field, **used for sowing wheat from the last week of September to November,** coinciding with the withdrawal of **the south-west monsoon.** 💡 It emits large amounts of toxic pollutants into the atmosphere which include harmful gases like **methane (CH_4), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.**

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

💡 **Background:**
  ✦ Formed initially through an **ordinance in 2021**, later replaced by the **CAQM Act, 2021**.
  ✦ The Act also **dissolved the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)** set up in 1998.
💡 **Objectives:**
  ✦ Ensure **coordination**, **research**, and **policy execution** to improve air quality.
  ✦ Identify and resolve issues affecting the **Air Quality Index (AQI)**.
💡 **Scope:**
  ✦ Applicable to **NCR and adjoining areas** of **Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**, where pollution affects NCR air quality.
💡 **Composition:**
  ✦ **Chairperson:** A retired Government of India Secretary or **State Chief Secretary,** for 3 years or up to 70 years of age.

- **Members included from:**
  - Central ministries
  - Stakeholder states
  - Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), ISRO, Civil Society
- **Key Functions:**
  - Coordinate with states on air quality control actions.
  - Develop and implement **pollution control plans**.
  - Identify key **air pollutants**.
  - Support **research, training, and capacity building**.
  - Address specific issues like **stubble burning**, **afforestation**, and **public awareness**.

Efforts to Curb Female Foeticide in Haryana

Why in News

A meeting was conducted by the Haryana government **to intensify efforts to curb female foeticide and strengthen measures under the flagship 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao'** campaign.

Key Points

- **Formation of District-Level Committees:**
  - District-level standing committees have been constituted, headed by Deputy Commissioners (DCs) with Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) acting as member secretaries.
  - These committees are responsible for tighter monitoring and better coordination **aimed at improving the state's sex ratio**.
- **Regular Monitoring and Inspections:**
  - Committees will hold **weekly meetings** to:
    - Review reports on the sale of **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)** kits.
    - Inspect ultrasound centres to prevent illegal **sex determination**.
    - Formulate strategies to curb female foeticide.

- **Legal Actions and Disciplinary Measures:**
  - Doctors found involved in sex-selective abortions face **stringent disciplinary action**, including cancellation of medical licenses by the Haryana Medical Council.
  - **First Information Report (FIR)** are actively being filed against offenders, and illegal centres are being sealed.
  - All abortions beyond 12 weeks, especially when the couple already has daughters, will be **thoroughly investigated** by civil surgeons.
- **Early Pregnancy Registration:** The health department has been instructed to ensure Antenatal Care (ANC) registration of every pregnancy before 10 weeks for early tracking and support.
- **Personalized Support through 'Sahelis':** Pregnant women with one or more female children are assigned **ASHA or Anganwadi workers** as 'sahelis' (friends) for counseling and monitoring.
  - Disciplinary action will be taken against any ASHA or Anganwadi worker found negligent or complicit in illegal abortions.
- **Awareness and Community Engagement:**
  - District administrations will expand **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC)** campaigns.
  - Religious and community leaders will be involved to promote gender equality and the value of girl children.

Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme
It was launched in January 2015 to combat sex-selective abortion and improve the declining **child sex ratio** (918 girls per 1,000 boys in 2011).
The scheme is a joint initiative of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Human Resource Development.
Implemented across 405 districts, its **main objectives are to prevent gender-biased sex selection**, ensure the survival and protection of girls, promote their **education** and participation, and safeguard their rights.

Other Related Government Schemes
💡 Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Pariwar Utthan Yojana
💡 National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education
💡 National Girl Child Day
💡 Scheme for Adolescent Girls
💡 Sukanya Samridhi Yojana

52ⁿᵈ Chief Justice of India

Why in News?

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai succeeds Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the **52ⁿᵈ Chief Justice of India.**

Key Points

- **Retirement:**
  - CJI Sanjiv Khanna **retired on 13 May 2025,** concluding his tenure as the 51ˢᵗ Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
  - He assumed office on November 10, 2024, and **served in the top post for six months.**
- **Key Judgments by Justice B.R. Gavai:** Upheld 2016 **demonetisation** and he is a part of the Bench that **upheld abrogation of Article 370.**
  - He was part of the Constitution Bench that struck down the **Electoral Bonds Scheme** *(Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India).*
  - In the **State of Punjab v Davinder Singh (2024),** he advocated applying the **creamy layer principle to SCs/STs** to ensure "real equality" in affirmative action.
- **Key Provisions Related to CJI:**
  - **Appointment:** A Supreme Court judge is appointed by the **President** under **Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution. As per the convention, the **senior-most judge** of the Supreme Court is designated as the CJI.
    - The seniority is measured by the **length of service** on the Supreme Court.
  - **Qualification:** A person to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge, should have the following qualifications:
    - He should be a **citizen of India.**
    - He should have been a judge of a **High Court** (or high courts in succession) for **five years**; or
    - He should have been an **advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years**; or
    - He should be a **distinguished jurist** in the opinion of the president.
- **Role of CJI:** As the **"Master of the Roster,"** the CJI holds the authority to assign specific cases to particular benches and determine the schedule for their hearings in the Supreme Court.
  - **CJI (along with collegium of four senior most judges of SC)** is consulted by the **President** for the appointment of judges in the **SC and the High Court.**
  - CJI appoints **ad-hoc SC judges** under **Article 127** of the Constitution.
  - With the **approval of the President**, the CJI can **change the seat of the SC** from Delhi to **any other place.**
- **Removal:** The CJI can **be removed by the President only after Parliament presents an address, supported by a special majority in both Houses** (a majority of total members and **at least two-thirds of those present and voting**).

Haryana AI Development Project (HAIDP)

Why in News?

The Haryana government the **Haryana AI Development Project (HAIDP)** and the formation of a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** for 2025–28 with a total outlay of Rs 474.39 crore.

Key Points

- **About the Project:**
  - **Strategic Vision:**
    - The state envisions the initiative to transform Haryana into a national hub for **Artificial Intelligence**- enabled development.

- The project will be implemented **over three years** (2025–2028).
- The total outlay will be a **70:30 funding ratio** between the **World Bank** and the Haryana Government.

✦ **Key facilities:**
- Global Artificial Intelligence Centre (**GAIC**) **in Gurugram**.
- Haryana Advanced Computing Facility (**HACF) in Panchkula**.

✦ **Skill Development Focus:**
- The project aims to train and transition over 50,000 professionals in areas such as AI, **machine learning**, and **data science**.
- HAIDP seeks to integrate AI into **public governance** and enhance data-driven service delivery across government departments.

✦ **Support for Start-ups and Innovation:**
- The project will **promote start-ups, R&D, and entrepreneurship** by providing incubation, mentoring, and shared computing infrastructure.

World Bank

💡 **About:**
- ✦ The World Bank is a global development cooperative comprising **189 member** countries.
- ✦ These countries, or shareholders, are governed by a **Board of Governors**, typically made up of finance or development ministers.
- ✦ The Board meets annually to set policy and oversee the institution's work in global development.

💡 **Mission and Functions:**
- ✦ The World Bank aims to **reduce poverty** and promote **shared prosperity.**
- ✦ It provides **financial products, technical assistance, and policy advice** to help countries address complex development challenges.

- ✦ The **World Bank** collaborates with multilateral institutions, civil society, private sector players, and foundations to maximise impact.
- ✦ The World Bank has funded over 15,000 projects in areas such as **education, health, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.**
- Some of the Projects funded by the Word Bank in India are **India Energy Efficiency Scale-up Program**, **SANKALP**, **Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)**, **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor**, and Mumbai Urban Transport Projects etc.

Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament 2025

Why in News?

The **Indian Air Force** conducted the **6th edition** of the **Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament** from 29 April to 06 May 2025 at the Raghbir Singh Bhola Hockey Stadium, Chandigarh.

Key Points

💡 **Details of the Tournament:**
- ✦ **Twelve teams**, including Air Force Hockey Teams and teams from two foreign countries, **participated in the tournament.**
- ✦ The tournament commemorates **Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh** DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross), a legendary figure in IAF history.
- ✦ Arjan Singh's unmatched passion for hockey and inspirational leadership in both military and sports spheres continues to motivate air warriors.

✦ **Final Match:**
- The final match featured a contest between **Indian Railways and Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.**
- Indian Railways won the match by scoring 3–1 in the tie-breaker after a 2-goal draw.

💡 **Awards and Felicitations:**
- ✦ Medals, trophies, and cash awards were presented during a befitting award ceremony.
  - 🏅 Winners received Rs 3,00,000/-
  - 🏅 Runners-up received Rs 2,00,000/-
- ✦ Prominent international hockey players were also felicitated for their contributions.

Air Force Marshal Arjan Singh

💡 He was **born in 1919** in Lyallpur (now in Pakistan), was commissioned into the **Royal Indian Air Force in 1939** and awarded the **Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)** for his role in the **Burma Campaign during World War II.**
- ✦ He became **Chief of Air Staff in 1964** at the age of 44.

💡 During the **1965 Indo-Pak war**, his decisive leadership enabled the **IAF to repel Pakistan's offensive in Akhnoor within hours**, earning him the **Padma Vibhushan.**

💡 In 2002, he became the **only IAF officer** to be conferred the **Five-Star rank of Marshal of the Air Force.**

💡 Post-retirement, he served as **ambassador** and **Lt Governor of Delhi.**

Indian Air Force

💡 **Background:**
- ✦ The **Indian Air Force** was established in 1932 during **World War II** to support the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom in its war against Japan.
  - 🪖 To stop the Japanese army's progress into India, the IAF was utilised to target Japanese bases in Burma.
- ✦ In 1945, **King George VI** bestowed the **prefix "Royal"** in recognition of the IAF's accomplishments. After India became a **republic in 1950**, this honorary title was abolished.
- ✦ After the independence of the nation, it evolved into the **Indian Air Force in 1950**.

💡 **About:**
- ✦ President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces,
- ✦ The **fourth-largest air force in the world** is the Indian Air Force.
- ✦ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- ✦ Motto of India Air Force: **Touch the sky with Glory.**
  - 🪖 It was taken from the **eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita.**
- ✦ The **Chief of Air Staff, an air chief marshal** is responsible for the operational command of the air force.

SC Warns to Ensure Ban on Firecrackers

Why in News?

On 6 May 2025, the **Supreme Court** directed the governments of **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana** to **strictly enforce the firecracker ban** in NCR areas and warned that any failure to comply would invite contempt action.

Key Points

💡 **Instructions by the Court:**
- ✦ The Court instructed the states to issue directions under **Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act (EPA)** to implement the ban.
- ✦ Section 5 **empowers the Central Government** to instruct any authority or officer to act for environmental protection.
- ✦ The Bench emphasized that both the Court's earlier orders and the EPA directives must be strictly enforced by state law enforcement agencies.

💡 **Strict Implementation:**
- ✦ The Court demanded "scrupulous implementation" of the ban and asked states to set up dedicated enforcement mechanisms.
- ✦ It warned that any failure by officials or authorities to implement the orders could

lead to contempt proceedings under the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**.

✦ The Bench **ordered all NCR states to submit compliance affidavits** and to widely publicize the ban and related penalties.

💡 **Previous Directives:**

✦ **In December 2024**, the Court had already **directed Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to impose a complete ban on firecrackers** until further notice.

👩 It **acknowledged that Delhi had implemented a round-the-year ban** on all firecracker-related activities, including online deliveries.

✦ The Bench called for **uniformity in enforcement across NCR**, noting that Rajasthan had already imposed a similar ban in its NCR regions.

👩 The Court stressed that bans are effective only if all NCR states enforce them together.

Environment (Protection) Act

💡 **About:**

✦ It was **enacted in 1986** with the objective of providing the **protection and improvement of the environment.**

✦ It **empowers the Central Government** to establish authorities charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country.

✦ The Act is **one of the most comprehensive legislations** with a pretext to protection and improvement of the environment.

💡 **Background:**

✦ The roots of the enactment of the EPA lies in the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** held at **Stockholm in June, 1972 (Stockholm Conference),** in which India participated, to take appropriate steps for the improvement of the human environment.

👩 The **Act implements the decisions** made at the Stockholm Conference.

💡 **Constitutional Provisions:**

✦ The EPA Act was enacted under **Article 253** of the Indian Constitution which provides for the **enactment of legislation for giving effect to international agreements.**

✦ **Article 48A** of the Constitution specifies that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

✦ **Article 51A** further provides that every citizen shall protect the environment.

Contempt of Court

💡 **About:**

✦ Contempt of court seeks to protect judicial institutions from **motivated attacks and unwarranted criticism**, and as a legal mechanism to punish those who lower its authority.

💡 **Statutory Basis:**

✦ When the Constitution was adopted, contempt of court was made one of the restrictions on freedom of speech and expression under **Article 19 (2) of the Constitution of India.**

✦ Separately, **Article 129 of the Constitution** conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish **contempt of itself.** Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts.

✦ The **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**, gives **statutory backing** to the idea.

Water Resource Atlas 2025

Why in News?

The **Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority (HWRA)** has launched the **Haryana Water Resource Atlas 2025-** an **AI**-powered geospatial platform that monitors, manages, and conserves the state's rapidly **depleting water reserves**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Key Features of the Atlas:**
  - ✦ HWRA developed the atlas in collaboration with the **Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC).**
  - ✦ The platform is publicly accessible and provides real-time, layered insights on:
    - Groundwater levels and aquifers
    - Surface water bodies and canal systems
    - Recharge zones and water-intensive cropping patterns
  - ✦ It offers **interactive thematic maps and dashboards.**
  - ✦ It **tracks district and block-level water stress**, with a focus on **over-extraction zones** and areas facing erratic rainfall.

- 💡 **Urgency Behind the Initiative:**
  - ✦ Internal assessments reveal that over **76% of Haryana's administrative blocks are either "critical" or "over-exploited"** in terms of **groundwater** use.
  - ✦ The platform aims to enable **data-driven interventions** at both administrative and grassroots levels.

- 💡 **Data Scope and Update Cycle:**
  - ✦ Most core datasets (like groundwater depth and soil composition) won't be revised annually.
  - ✦ Such parameters typically require updates once in a decade, making the **platform low-maintenance in terms of data renewal.**
  - ✦ **The atlas integrates data from:**
    - Satellite observations and **GPS** surveys
    - Meteorological inputs and agriculture records
    - Inputs from **Central Groundwater Board (CGWB), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Irrigation Department, and Agriculture Department.
  - ✦ The National and State-level agencies have validated the data to ensure accuracy and operational relevance.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

- 💡 **About:** The CGWB, established under the **Ministry of Water Resources, (now Ministry of Jal Shakti)**, is the apex body for **managing, exploring, monitoring, assessing, and regulating** groundwater resources in India.
  - ✦ Established in **1970,** CGWB was initially formed by renaming the **Exploratory Tube Wells Organization** and was later merged with the **Ground Water Wing of the Geological Survey of India** in **1972.**
  - ✦ The **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)**, constituted under the **Environmental Protection Act, 1986**, regulates groundwater development to ensure its sustainability.

- 💡 **Key Functions and Responsibilities:** CGWB provides scientific expertise for groundwater management, including exploration, monitoring, and water quality assessments.
  - ✦ It also implements schemes for **artificial recharge** and **rainwater harvesting** to augment groundwater levels.

- 💡 **Scientific Reports:** CGWB releases State and District hydrogeological reports, ground water year books and Atlases.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

- 💡 **About:**
  - ✦ It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in **all matters relating to meteorology** and allied subjects.
  - ✦ It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, Government of India.

- 💡 **Objectives:**
  - ✦ To take **meteorological observations** and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.

- To **warn against severe weather phenomena** like tropical cyclones, norwesters, duststorms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To **provide meteorological statistics** required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To **conduct and promote research** in meteorology and allied disciplines.

Water Sharing Issues

Why in News?

Punjab and Haryana clashed over water sharing after the **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)** decided to release water to Haryana.
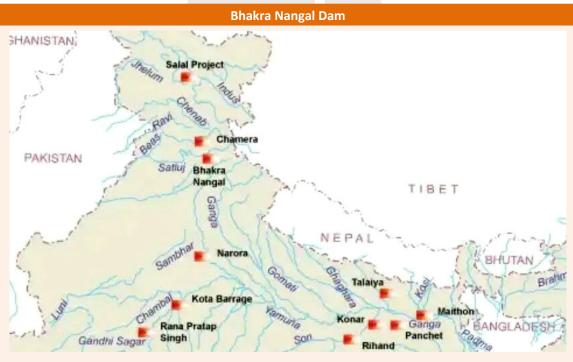
Key Points

- 💡 **BBMB Decides to Release Water to Haryana:**
  - On April 30, the BBMB decided to release 8,500 cusecs of water to Haryana.
  - The decision followed Haryana's demand for drinking water amid rising summer needs.
  - BBMB manages water from **Bhakra, Pong, and Ranjit Sagar dams**, supplying Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan for irrigation and other uses.
- 💡 **Punjab's Allegations on Water Share Misuse:**
  - According to Punjab Chief Minister, Haryana exhausted its annual water quota (May 21–May 20 cycle) by March 2025.
  - He accused Haryana of now trying to grab extra water at Punjab's expense.
  - He said Punjab holds a 60% stake in BBMB, and releasing water without its consent is "dictatorial and undemocratic."

Bhakra Nangal Dam

- 💡 Bhakra Dam is a **concrete gravity dam across the Sutlej River and is near the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** in northern India.
- 💡 It is **India's second tallest at 225.55 m high next to the 261m Tehri Dam.**
- 💡 Its reservoir, **known as the "Gobind Sagar"**, stores up to 9.34 billion cubic meters of water.
- 💡 **Nangal dam is another dam** downstream of Bhakra dam. Sometimes both the dams together are called Bhakra-Nangal dam though they are two separate dams.

Pong Dam
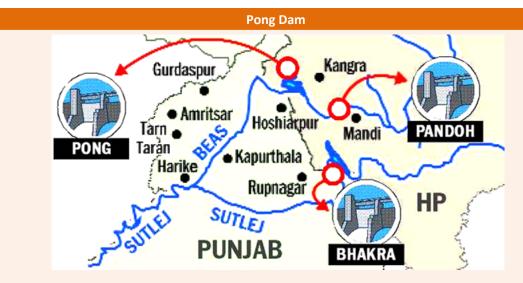

- 💡 **In 1975**, Pong dam was built across **the Beas River.** It is also called the Pong reservoir or **the Maharana Pratap Sagar.**
- 💡 **In 1983**, the entire reservoir was **declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary by the Himachal Pradesh government.**
- 💡 **In 1994,** the Government of India declared it a **"Wetland of National Importance"**. Pong Dam Lake was declared as **Ramsar Site** in November 2002.

Greater Racket-Tailed Drongo

Why in News?

A **greater racket-tailed drongo (Dicrurus paradiseus)** was spotted in Jhanjhrola, Gurugram marking the bird's first recorded sighting in the district.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Greater Racket-tailed Drongo:**
  - ✦ **Appearance:**
    - 🐦 A **medium-sized bird native to Asia**, notable for its **elongated outer tail feathers with webbing** only at the **tips.**
    - 🐦 Diurnal in nature but **remains active before dawn and after dusk.**
  - ✦ **Vocal Abilities:**
    - 🐦 Known for **producing a variety of loud calls**, including accurate imitations of other bird species.
  - ✦ **Distribution in India:**
    - 🐦 Found from the western to eastern Himalayas, including the **Mishmi Hills.**
    - 🐦 It also inhabits hilly regions of peninsular India and the **Western Ghats**.
  - ✦ **Conservation Status:**
    - 🐦 **IUCN Red List Status:** Least Concern
    - 🐦 **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule IV
  - ✦ **Migratory Pattern:**
    - 🐦 The species is **usually found in moist, dense forests** along the **Himalayan foothills and terai regions.**
    - 🐦 It **rarely descends to lower elevations**, except marginally during snowfall in the higher ranges.
    - 🐦 It is an **altitudinal migrant**, not commonly seen in the National Capital Region (NCR).

IUCN Red List

- 💡 The IUCN Red List is the foremost global resource for assessing the risk of extinction among animals, fungi, and plant species.
- 💡 Accessible to all, it serves as a crucial indicator of global biodiversity health, it offers comprehensive insights into species' characteristics, threats, and conservation measures, playing a pivotal role in shaping informed conservation decisions and policies.
- 💡 The IUCN Red List Categories define the extinction risk of species assessed. **Nine categories** extend from NE (Not Evaluated) to EX (Extinct). Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with extinction.
  - ✦ It is also a key indicator for the **Sustainable Development Goals** and **Aichi Targets.**
- 💡 The IUCN Red List includes the **IUCN Green Status of Species**, which assesses the recovery of species' populations and measures their conservation success.
  - ✦ There are **eight Green Status Categories**: Extinct in the Wild, Critically Depleted, Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, Non-Depleted and Indeterminate.
  - ✦ A Green Status assessment examines how conservation actions have affected the current Red List status.

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Key Points

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Summary

Key Points

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Summary