



Loudspeakers at religious places

Why in News?

The **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** stressed the need for permanent **noise pollution control measures** for loudspeakers at religious places .

Key Points

▪ Important Instructions:

- The Chief Minister directed the officials to keep the noise level in religious and public events as per the prescribed standards.
- He also gave instructions to ensure a **permanent solution** regarding the use of **loudspeakers at religious places**.

▪ High Court Decision:

- Earlier, the **Allahabad High Court** has also given an important decision regarding the use of loudspeakers at religious places .
 - The court clarified that using loudspeakers for prayers is not a **legal right**, because it may cause **inconvenience** to other people. Therefore, using loudspeakers does not fall under the **category of rights**.

▪ Noise Pollution:

- Any kind of uncomfortable or excessively loud sound is called **noise pollution**.
- Sound intensity is measured in **decibels (dB)** and a decibel scale is used to determine its levels.
- Sound intensity up to **20 dB** is considered **equivalent to a whisper**.
- According to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, sound intensity less than **70 dB** is not harmful to living beings, no matter how long it persists.
 - However, if a person is exposed to noise above **85 dB** for **more than 8 hours** continuously, it may pose a health hazard.
- The main sources of noise pollution include loud **music, transportation, construction work**, etc., which have a negative impact on human life.
 - Its side effects include **high blood pressure, hearing impairment, sleep disorders** and **heart disease**.