

# **THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF STATE LAWS IN INDIA**

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## Introduction

The State of Haryana has exhibited a proactive and progressive stance, advancing reforms in urban governance, higher education, environmental regulation, tax policy, and inclusive representation. To ensure sustainable and inclusive urban development the State has adopted technology-based solutions.

The 14<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Assembly was constituted in November 2019. The government was formed by an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, 40 seats) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP -10 seats). The opposition parties included the Indian National Congress (INC-31 seats), Independents (7 seats) and Indian National Lok-Dal (INLD-1 seat), Haryana Lokhit Party (1 seat).<sup>1</sup>

In 2023, a total of 18 legislative committees were in operation. Across the three sessions of the year—(i) Budget, (ii) Monsoon, and (iii) Winter—22 Bills were introduced. Of these, 18 Bills were passed, three (Bill No. 1, Bill No. 17, and Bill No. 19) were withdrawn, and one (Bill No. 7) remained pending in the Assembly.

During this period, two ordinances were also issued (both were later repealed), and 111 pieces of subordinate legislation were taken up, of which 33 sets of rules were finalised and notified by various departments of the State. Notably, while the official website recorded Bill No. 7 of 2023 (relating to organised crime) as having been passed on 22 March 2023, discussions with officials of the State Legislative Assembly confirmed that the Bill was still pending in the House.

Additionally, out of the 40 Bills passed in 2022, 15 received the Governor's assent in January 2023. These included five repealing Bills, one Appropriation Bill, six Bills on local self-

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<sup>1</sup> PRS Legislative Research, *MLA List*, July 23, 2023, available at:

[https://prsindia.org/mlatrack?state=Haryana&assembly\\_term=14](https://prsindia.org/mlatrack?state=Haryana&assembly_term=14) (last visited on 25 December 2025).

government and administration, one Bill relating to religion, one Bill on the promotion of enterprises, and one Bill concerning the salary, allowances, and pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Figure 1. Depicts the Legislative and Executive Business of 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

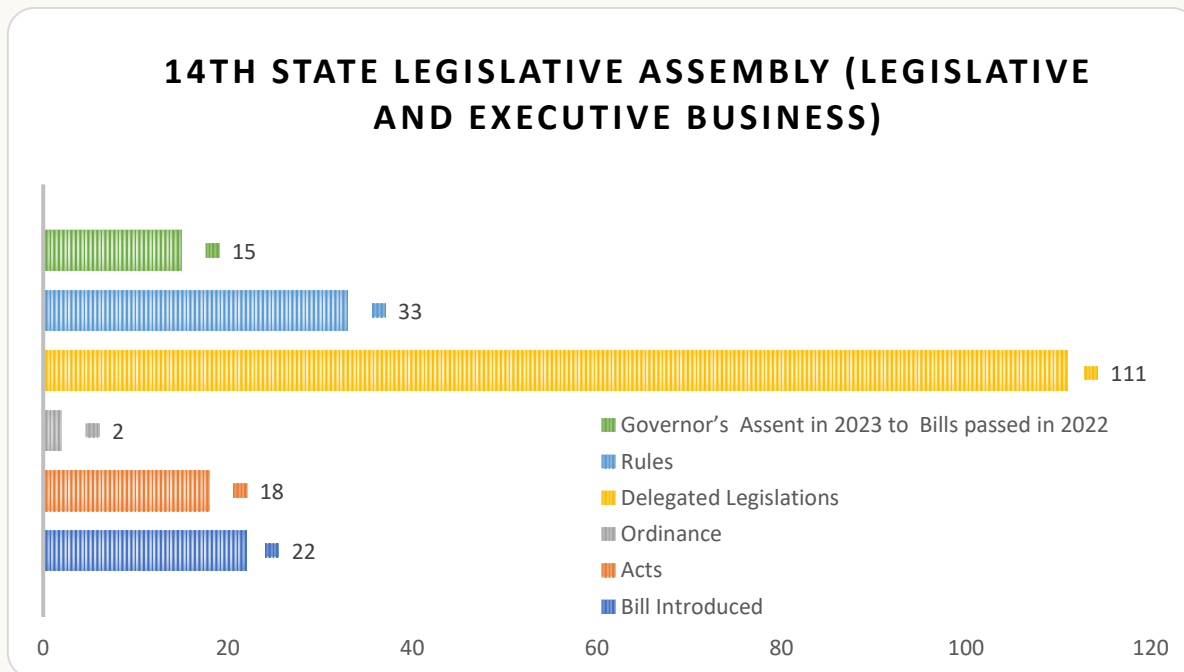


Figure 1.

Data for the figures and commentary in this survey was collected by physical visits to the State legislature Assembly, conversations with officials of the Assembly, and with the help of the official websites of the Haryana Government,<sup>2</sup> the Haryana Legislative Assembly<sup>3</sup> and PRS Legislative Research.

## Quantitative Legislative Survey

### Budget Session

The Budget Session began on February 20 and ended on March 22 with 100.79 percent work productivity. In this session total seven Bills were introduced and six Bills were passed.

### The Monsoon Session

Monsoon Session was one of the longest sessions which started from 25 August to 29 August 2023 and spread over 19 hours and 36 minutes with 113.88 percent productivity. A

<sup>2</sup> Government of Haryana, <https://www.haryana.gov.in/> (last visited on 25 December 2025).

<sup>3</sup> Haryana Legislative Assembly, <https://haryanaassembly.gov.in/> (last visited on 25 December 2025).

total of nine Bills were passed after a discussion of two hours and 13 minutes. A proposal regarding the private member's Bill was also received by the secretariat of the legislative assembly, but it was rejected.

## The Winter Session

The session of total 16 hours and 59 minutes began on the 15 of December and concluded on the 19th of December 2023 with 103.80 percent productivity. Four Bills were introduced and passed in this session.

## Qualitative Analysis

This segment offers subject wise analysis of the Bills introduced, passed and withdrawn in the 14<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Assembly. In addition to the Bills the Assembly also adopted a resolution. This section also provides details of Bills passed in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly which received the assent of Governor in January 2023. Figure 2. depicts the subject-wise Legislative Business of 14<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Assembly.

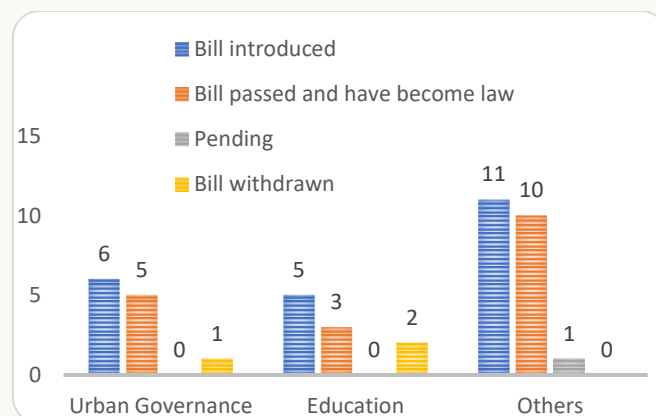


Figure 2.

With regard to urban governance, a total of six Bills were introduced, of which five were passed and enacted, while one was withdrawn. In the area of education, five Bills were introduced; three were passed and became law, and two were withdrawn. Under the 'Others' category, one Private Member's Bill relating to crime was introduced but remained pending in the House.

Two repealing Bills—one relating to the environment and another concerning the protection of children from tobacco smoke—were introduced, passed, and enacted. One Amendment Bill relating to the Goods and Services Tax Act was introduced, passed, and received the Governor's assent. Additionally, six Appropriation Bills were introduced, passed, and also received the Governor's assent. One Bill relating to the settlement of outstanding dues was introduced, passed, and enacted.

## Urban Governance

The Assembly has been actively engaged in advancing urban governance through legislative amendments, institutional reforms, and the adoption of technology-based solutions to ensure sustainable and inclusive urban development in the State.

### **Municipal Corporation**

The Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 was amended to provide statutory support for a shift towards technology-based governance and data-driven decision-making in urban administration in Haryana. The amendment replaced the earlier practice of determining the inclusion or exclusion of areas within a Municipal Corporation based on population figures physically verified on the ground or drawn from the latest census. Instead, the re-fixation of seats is now to be carried out using data from the Family Information Data Repository established under the Haryana Parivar Pehchan Act, 2021. This approach has been adopted to ensure adequate representation for Backward Classes, including the reservation of one-third of seats for women belonging to the Backward Classes in local governance bodies, by amending the Haryana Municipal Act 1973 with effect from 16 May 2023.<sup>4</sup>

This amendment aligns municipal governance with constitutional provisions and judicial directives concerning reservation for Backward Class 'A' and women. In accordance with Article 243T(6) of the Constitution, the directions of the Supreme Court in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State of Maharashtra* and *Suresh Mahajan v. State of Madhya Pradesh and Another*, as well as the interim order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the State was required to satisfy the 'triple test'. This required:

- (i) the establishment of a dedicated Commission to conduct an empirical inquiry into the nature and extent of backwardness in local bodies;
- (ii) determining appropriate proportions of reservation for each local body based on the Commission's recommendations; and
- (iii) ensuring that the total vertical reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes does not exceed the 50 per cent constitutional ceiling.

Section 203 of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and section 267 of Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 was amended to streamline urban development while removing the

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<sup>4</sup> The Haryana Municipal Corporation Act 1994, § 6 (1), 11 (3), 11(4), 267(1) substituted vide The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2023 ( w.e.f. May 16, 2023).

requirements of mandatory resolution and public notice from private individuals or companies in order to promote faster approvals and to boost affordable housing.

With the statutory amendments obtaining approval the Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 (Haryana Ordinance No. 1 of 2023)<sup>5</sup> and the Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, (Haryana Ordinance No. 2 of 2023)<sup>6</sup> were repealed.

### ***Metropolitan Development Authority***

Sonapat Metropolitan Development Authority (SMDA) has been established to improve urban planning, infrastructure, transport, environmental sustainability, and social and economic development<sup>7</sup> on 22 December 2023.<sup>8</sup> The Authority has been established under the Sonapat Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2023.<sup>9</sup> The Authority will work in close coordination with local authorities to transform Sonapat into a fast-growing urban region with an appropriate system of urban governance and service delivery.<sup>10</sup>

## **Education**

In the Assembly, five Bills were introduced on education including Higher and School education out of which three were passed, received the Governor's assent and two were withdrawn in the house.

### ***Higher Education***

The "Pandit Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts Rohtak, Haryana" was renamed as "Dada Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts Rohtak" due to the popularity of Pandit Lakhmi Chand as Dada Lakhmi Chand<sup>11</sup>.

The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Bill 20 of 2023 establishes the "Sanskaram University" in Jhajaar to provide adequate opportunity for higher education to the youth and to achieve the target of 50% gross enrolment ratio (GER) by 2030.<sup>12</sup> Further, the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institution) Bill

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<sup>5</sup> The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2023, § 4(1)

<sup>6</sup> Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2023, § 5(1).

<sup>7</sup> *Statement of Objective & Reasons* of The Sonapat Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Haryana of Government, Town and Country Planning Department, No. 1/47/2023-1TCP (December 22, 2023).

<sup>9</sup> The Sonapat Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2023, § 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Statement of Objective & Reasons* of Sonapat Metropolitan Development Authority Act 2023.

<sup>11</sup> The Pandit Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts Rohtak Act 2014, § 2(m), § 3(1) *substituted vide* The Pandit Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts Rohtak (Amendment) Act, 2023, 10 of 2023.

<sup>12</sup> *Statement of Objectives & Reasons* of The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, 20 of 2023.

2023 was introduced in order to remove the doubt that had arisen in relation to seven castes who were brought under the category of schedule castes while being removed from Haryana Backward Classes category by the Central government.<sup>13</sup> However, the Bill was withdrawn in the house.

### **School Education**

About 220 state-aided schools had been established to address the shortage of government schools in providing education to the children in the State.<sup>14</sup> With the expansion of government schools in the State, the original purpose of aided schools for addressing the shortage of educational institutions has been fulfilled. Consequently, the Haryana School Education Act, 1995<sup>15</sup> was amended to phase out state-aided schools. Additionally, in order to reduce its financial burden, the State revised its funding commitments to these schools.<sup>16</sup>

### **Others**

Apart from urban governance and education, environment, goods and services tax, settlement of outstanding dues, crime and appropriations are the other subjects that have attracted the attention of the house.

### **The Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act of 2023**

Significant changes have been introduced to the Haryana Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017 in line with the recent amendment in Central Goods and Service Tax legislations and GST council's recommendations. The Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 passed and received the Governor's assent aligning with digital economic activities, and addressing emerging challenges in the GST framework.<sup>17</sup> Definitions such as "online gaming,"<sup>18</sup> "online money gaming,"<sup>19</sup> specified actionable claim,<sup>20</sup> and "virtual digital asset"<sup>21</sup> have been incorporated to bring digital transactions within the ambit of Act. It also introduced mandatory registration for foreign suppliers engaged in online gaming services,

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<sup>13</sup> *Statement of Objective & Reasons of The Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Amendment Bill, 2023, 19 of 2023.*

<sup>14</sup> Haryana School Education Act, 1995.

<sup>15</sup> Haryana School Education Act, 1995, § 2 (1), 2 (2), 7(1) , 7 (2), 8, 9, 10, 11, 16(1),16(2), 18 *omitted vide* The Haryana School Education (Amendment) Act, 2023 ( w.e.f. April 12, 2023).

<sup>16</sup> *Statement of Objective & Reasons of The Haryana School Education (Amendment) Act, 2023.*

<sup>17</sup> The Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2023, 2 of 2023.

<sup>18</sup> The Haryana Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017, § 2( 80 A) *inserted vide* The Haryana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2023 ( w.e.f. September 13, 2023).

<sup>19</sup> *Id*, § 2( 80 b).

<sup>20</sup> *Id*, § 102( A).

<sup>21</sup> *Id*, § 117( A).

while excluding them from the benefits of the composition scheme. The amendments impose stricter compliance timelines, including a three-year limit for filing various returns and statements, disallow the availing of input tax credit on corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, and clarify the treatment of wrongly availed input tax credit. In addition, the State has been empowered to exempt certain persons from registration and to retrospectively notify conditions for the revocation of cancelled registrations.

Further procedural changes have been introduced to strengthen the regime, such as a sixty-day settlement period and a requirement to pay interest at the rate of 6 per cent for delays in processing tax refunds, with calculations to be made in accordance with the prescribed rules.<sup>22</sup>

### ***Settlement of Outstanding Dues***

The Haryana Settlement of Outstanding Dues (Amendment) Act 2023<sup>23</sup> extended the time period within which outstanding dues could be settled under a one-time settlement scheme from 31st March 2017 to 30th June 2017 and thus has chosen to utilise the entire six-month period in which the GST Act was not in force. The GST Act 2017 came into force from 1st July 2017.

### ***Repeal of Redundant Statutes***

Punjab Instruments (Control of Noise) Act, 1956 was repealed as redundant.<sup>24</sup>The matter of noise pollution was already being addressed by the Union's Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. On a similar reasoning of duplication The Haryana Juvenile Smoking Act, 1918 (Punjab Act No. 7 of 1918) was repealed. As matters addressed by this statute were taken care of by the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003

## **Statutes Passed in 2022 Receiving Assent in 2023**

In 2022, 40 Bills were passed out of which 15 Bills received the assent of the Governor in January 2023. A detail of which is as follows:

### ***Haryana Statute Review Committee & Repealed Legislations***

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<sup>22</sup> The Haryana Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017, *Supra* note 30.

<sup>23</sup> Haryana Settlement of Outstanding Dues Act, 2017, § 2 (ii) *substituted vide* The Haryana Settlement of Outstanding Dues (Amendment) Act, 2023 ( w.e.f. December 21, 2023).

<sup>24</sup> The Haryana Instruments (Control of Noises) Repeal Act, 2023, § 2.

The Punjab State Tube Well Act 1954<sup>25</sup>, Haryana Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Act 1943,<sup>26</sup> the Haryana Small Towns (Tax Validating) Act, 1934,<sup>27</sup> the Haryana Municipal (Tax Validating) Act 1934, the Haryana (Tax Validating) Act 1956<sup>28</sup> and Haryana Minor Canals Act 1905<sup>29</sup> were repealed on the recommendation of Haryana Statute Review Committee for being outdated and non-operative in the State.

### ***Sikh Gurudwaras Management (Amendment) Act***

In 2014, the Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Act was enacted for autonomous management and effective supervision of Sikh Gurdwaras and Gurdwara properties and matter related thereto in the State<sup>30</sup>. In 2022, an Ordinance was also promulgated<sup>31</sup> and repealed in the same year.<sup>32</sup> The validity of the Act of 2014 was challenged before the apex court in *Harbhajan Singh v/s State of Haryana*. However, the status quo of the Gurdwara was maintained by the apex court with certain directions on August 14, 2022.<sup>33</sup> As a result thereto, from October 24, 2022, the State government was empowered through the amendment to nominate key office bearers of Gurdwara Management Committee for proper management of the committee. Further, it is provided that on the failure of conducting election within 18 months, an Adhoc Committee to be nominated by the State for further 18 months which immediately after the election will hand over charge to the elected Gurudwara Management Committee<sup>34</sup>. Additionally, the State has been empowered to nominate a Patron as a member of the elected Executive Board out of members of the Gurdwara Management Committee or Adhoc Committee for the efficient management of the Gurdwaras in the State.<sup>35</sup>

### ***Metropolitan Development Authorities (Amendment) Act***

In 2022 in a move to streamline administration a Chief Executive officer not below the rank of Secretary was put in charge of the Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority

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<sup>25</sup> The Haryana State Tube Well (Repeal) Act 2022, § 2.

<sup>26</sup> The Haryana Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Repeal Act 2022, § 2.

<sup>27</sup> The Haryana Small Towns (Tax Validating) Repeal Act, 2022, § 2.

<sup>28</sup> The Haryana Municipal (Tax Validating) Act 2022, § 2.

<sup>29</sup> The Haryana Minor Canals (Repeal) Act, 2022, § 2.

<sup>30</sup> The Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Act, 2014.

<sup>31</sup> The Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Amendment Ordinance, 2022, 2 of 2022.

<sup>32</sup> The Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Amendment Act, 2022 § 3(1).

<sup>33</sup> *Statement of Objective & Reasons* of the Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Act, 2014.

<sup>34</sup> The Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Act, 2014 § 16(8) *substituted vide* The Haryana Sikh Gurudwaras (Management) Amendment Act, 2022 (w.e.f. October 24, 2022).

<sup>35</sup> *Id*, § 9 *inserted*.

(FMDA)<sup>36</sup> and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA)<sup>37</sup> and the Principal Secretary was relieved from these managerial duties. Director of the Town and Country Planning Department will act as an ex-officio member of the FMDA<sup>38</sup> and GMDA<sup>39</sup> for better administration in the state.

### **Rural Development (Amendment) Act**

Haryana Rural Development Act of 1986 amended in 2022 to usher clarity and flexibility in the levy of the Haryana Rural Development (HRD) fee. The said amendment empowered the State Government to revise the fee rate from time to time on sale proceeds of agricultural produce bought, sold, or brought for processing by any dealer in a notified market area. Such fee could be levied upon the actual delivery of the produce and non-delivery transactions and transactions involving produce brought solely for processing purpose<sup>40</sup> were excluded. These changes aimed to align the application of the HRD Fee with the evolving agricultural trade and rural development in Haryana.

### **Municipal Laws**

For coherent and efficient urban development, the State has amended both the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 and the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 to ensure effective governance in municipal towns, while adopting a standardised approach for controlled areas and core areas.<sup>41</sup> Under these amendments, a “Core Area” has been defined as “a built-up zone developed at least fifty years prior to the enforcement of this Amendment, including old townships and village abadis falling within municipal limits”<sup>42</sup> This definition enables the formal recognition and distinct treatment of such areas in development plans.

The amendment to the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act requires the Director, after the declaration of any such areas, to prepare and submit a plan for both controlled and core areas—specifying applicable restrictions and conditions—within six months, or within an

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<sup>36</sup>Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority, 2018, § 9(1) substituted vide the Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2022 ( w.e.f. January 16, 2023).

<sup>37</sup> The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority 2017 § 9(1) substituted vide the The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (Amendment) Act, 2022 ( w.e.f. January 16, 2023).

<sup>38</sup> The Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority, *Supra* Note 65, § 5(ma) inserted.

<sup>39</sup> The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority, *Supra* Note 66 § 5(ma) inserted.

<sup>40</sup> The Haryana Rural Development Act, 1986, § 5(1) substituted vide The Haryana Rural Development (Amendment) Act, 2022 ( w.e.f. October 1, 2022).

<sup>41</sup>Statement of Objective and Reasons of the Haryana Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 2022 and the Haryana Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Act, 2022.

<sup>42</sup> Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, § 2 (4B) inserted vide The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Act, 2022 ( w.e.f. January 16, 2023). Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, § 2 (7B) inserted vide The Haryana Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 2022 ( w.e.f. January 16, 2023).

extended period as approved by the Government.<sup>43</sup> Additionally, the amendment permits mixed land use in core areas, subject to planning norms and the payment of charges notified by the Government. This measure addresses long-standing ambiguities and facilitates more structured and context-sensitive urban development.<sup>44</sup>

### ***Panchayati Raj***

The Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 was amended to ensure fair and proportionate representation for individuals belonging to Backward Class (A) in Panchayati Raj Institutions, including Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads,<sup>45</sup> based on the recommendations of the Haryana Backward Classes Commission.

The amendment also mandates that the Director or Deputy Commissioner assess any loss caused by Panches or Sarpanches who are removed from office on allegations of misusing or wasting village funds or property through negligence or misconduct.<sup>46</sup> The assessed loss is to be recovered within three months of the order; if the amount is not paid within this period, it will be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

Further, the role of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer in assessing such losses has been replaced by the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO). The SDO is required to assess the amount of loss incurred by a Sarpanch or Panch due to any loss, waste, or misapplication of Gram Funds or property belonging to the Gram Panchayat, after providing the concerned individual an opportunity to explain.<sup>47</sup> The Deputy Commissioner is then responsible for ensuring recovery of the amount assessed by the SDO within three months of the order, failing which it will be recovered as arrears of land revenue.<sup>48</sup>

### ***Allowances for Assembly Members***

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<sup>43</sup> Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994, *supra* note 72, § 346 (2) *substituted*.

<sup>44</sup> Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 *Supra* note 73, § 203C (2 i, iii) inserted and § 203C (2 ii) *substituted*.

<sup>45</sup> The Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, § 9(4) and § 9(7) *substituted vide* The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act, 2022 (w.e.f. September 2, 2022).

<sup>46</sup> *Id*, § 51(3 A) *inserted*.

<sup>47</sup> *Id*, § 53(2 a) *substituted*.

<sup>48</sup> *Id*, § 53(4 A) *inserted*.

Secretarial allowance for the Members of the Assembly was increased from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand per month<sup>49</sup> because it had not increased in a long time. In addition, an allowance of twenty thousand rupees per month was fixed for drivers.<sup>50</sup>

## **Executive Functioning**

In 2023, two ordinances, one hundred and eleven delegated legislations, including thirty-three rules and regulations have been issued by the various departments of the State.<sup>51</sup> The details of the significant executive work are as follows.

### **Ordinances**

The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 (Haryana Ordinance No. 1 of 2023) and The Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, (Haryana Ordinance No. 2 of 2023) were promulgated which were repealed by section 4 (1) of The Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2023 and section 5(1) of Haryana Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2023 respectively.

### **Urban Governance**

The Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority Rules, 2023, were issued under Act of 2021<sup>52</sup> for governing the administrative functions of the Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority. These rules articulate procedural guidelines for the Authority's, financial management, and urban development initiatives within the Panchkula Metropolitan Area. Financial oversight addressed through detailed schedules encompassing budget estimates, revenue receipts, expenditure, investments, and balance sheets. The rules attempt to ensure transparency by requiring a mandatory annual report of progress on infrastructure development, mobility management, and sustainable urban environmental practices. The rules promote sustainable urban development, effective administration, and accountability within the Panchkula Metropolitan Area, aligning with long-term regional objectives.<sup>53</sup>

### **Panchayati Raj**

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<sup>49</sup> Haryana Legislative Assembly (Salary, Allowances, and Pension of Members) Act, 1975, § 3D *substituted vide* The Haryana Legislative Assembly (Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members) Second Amendment Act, 2022 (w.e.f. January 16, 2023).

<sup>50</sup> *Id.*, § 3E *inserted*.

<sup>51</sup> Delegated Legislations, Haryana Government Gazette, January 12, 2024, available at <https://egazetteharyana.gov.in/home.aspx>

<sup>52</sup> The Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2021, § 57(2)(1).

<sup>53</sup> Government of Haryana, Town and Country Planning Department, No. S.O.61/H.A.23/2021/S.57/2023 (October 5, 2023).

The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Rules, 2023 introduced Rule 28A to the Haryana Panchayati Raj Rules, 1995 for the purpose of regulating the use of funds by Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads. These local bodies were permitted to utilise their funds for performing such functions as assigned under the Act. The bodies were required to carry out specific development work if demands were raised by local residents and were deemed to be in the public interest.<sup>54</sup> Further, a tentative date<sup>55</sup> for the general elections for the Panches and Sarpanches of particular Gram Panchayats were specified.<sup>56</sup>

The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Rules, 1964 were also amended by the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Haryana Amendment Rules, 2023.<sup>57</sup> The Panchayats were empowered to lease common village land for up to 20 years to charitable organisations for establishing gaushalas, biogas plants, veterinary hospitals, and fodder cultivation. It also provides for detailed eligibility criteria, land allotment norms based on cattle population, minimum lease rent, and strict conditions to ensure animal welfare and land use compliance. It mandates bi-annual cattle counts, audited financial reporting, and prohibits sub-leasing or commercial use of such land with cancellation of lease and dispute resolution.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Government of Haryana, Development and Panchayats Departments, No. S.O. 52/H.A. 11/1994/S. 209/2023 (August 18, 2023).

<sup>55</sup> *Id.*, No. S.O. 43/H.A.11/1994/S.211/2023 (August 18, 2023).

<sup>56</sup> *Id.*, No. S.O. 32/H.A. 11/1994/S. 211/2023 (May 23, 2023). *Id.*, No. S.O. 43/H.A.11/1994/S.211/2023 (August 18, 2023).

<sup>57</sup> No. S.O. 20/P.A. 18/1961/S. 15/2023 (May 9, 2023)

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

## **Environment**

In Districts, Nuh (Tehsils Firozpur,<sup>59</sup> Tauru, Nagina, Indri),<sup>60</sup> Mahendergarh (Narnaul),<sup>61</sup> Hisar (Hisar),<sup>62</sup> Gurugram (Manesar,<sup>63</sup> Sohna and Badshahpur)<sup>64</sup> and Rewari (Rewari),<sup>65</sup> the forest-land or waste-land was declared as protected forest<sup>66</sup> for ecological preservation, restriction of unregulated activities, ensuring sustainable management and preserving forest ecosystems for future generations. All the private rights pertaining to the standing and planted trees in the designated protected forests have been suspended while closing such areas for the period of 30 years. Activities like quarrying, burning, collecting forest produce, cultivation, construction, and grazing have been prohibited to ensure forest conservation.<sup>67</sup> To ensure compliance, the Forest officer was empowered to inspect the produce passing out of such forest.<sup>68</sup>

However, in Hisar,<sup>69</sup> Firozpur,<sup>70</sup> Rewari,<sup>71</sup> Manesar, Sohna and Badshahpur,<sup>72</sup> such activities were allowed with the written permission from the Divisional Forest Officer. Additionally, a state-wide ban was imposed on the sale, production, storage, supply, import, and use of plastic, nylon, and synthetic kite-flying threads, including “Chinese manja” and those coated with glass or metal. It was to prevent injuries and fatalities to humans and migrant birds and environmental pollution caused by non-biodegradable materials. Only cotton thread without any sharp or metallic additives was permitted for kite flying. Designated officers from the Revenue, Disaster Management Department not below the rank of Naib Tehsildars, the officials of Environment, Forest and Wildlife Department not below the rank of Wildlife Inspectors, Police not below the sub-inspector, and Urban Local Bodies (Executive Officer, Secretary, Municipal Engineer, Junior Engineer and Sanitary Inspectors of the Municipal

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<sup>59</sup> Government of Haryana, Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department, No. S.O. 73/C.A.16/1927/S.29/2023 ( December 21, 2023)

<sup>60</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 16/C.A. 16/1927/S. 29/2023 (April 11, 2023).

<sup>61</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 74/C.A.16/1927/S.29/2023 (December 21, 2023).

<sup>62</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 64/C.A. 16/1927/S.29/2023 (November 24, 2023).

<sup>63</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 57/C.A. 16/1927/S. 29/2023 (September 1, 2023) and No. S.O. 47/C.A.16/1927/S.29/2023 (August 1, 2023).

<sup>64</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 10/C.A. 16/1927/S. 29/2023 (April 11, 2023) and No. S.O. 10/C.A. 16/1927/S. 29/2023 ( April 11, 2023)

<sup>65</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 13/C.A. 16/1927/S. 29/2023 (April 11, 2023).

<sup>66</sup> The Indian Forest Act, 1927, § 29 (1), (2).

<sup>67</sup> The Government of Haryana, Environment, Forests and Wildlife Department, No. S.O. 75/C.A.16/1927/S.30/2023, No. S.O. 76/C.A.16/1927/S.30/2023 (December 21, 2023).

<sup>68</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 66/C.A. 16/1927/S.32/2023 (October 24, 2023).

<sup>69</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 66/C.A. 16/1927/S.32/2023 (October 24, 2023).

<sup>70</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 77/C.A.16/1927/S.32/2023 (December 21, 2023).

<sup>71</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 15/C.A. 16/1927/S. 32/2023 (April 11, 2023).

<sup>72</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 11/C.A. 16/1927/S. 30/2023 and No. S.O. 12/C.A. 16/1927/S. 32/2023(April 11, 2023).

Committees/Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations) were authorised to enforce these directions. Sub-Divisional Magistrates and the Haryana State Pollution Control Board were responsible for monitoring and taking actions against the violation of the directions.<sup>73</sup>

### ***Alteration in the Limits of Sub-Divisions in Districts***

The State revised the boundaries of certain administrative sub-divisions to improve local governance. In several districts, specific tehsils and sub-tehsils were separated from their existing jurisdictions to form new sub-divisions, each with its own headquarters. These changes included the creation of new sub-divisions in areas such as Julana, Manesar, Nilokheri, Nangal Chaudhary, Israna, and Chhachhrauli, each designated with administrative headquarters in the same locality.<sup>74</sup>

### ***Establishment of Fast Track Special Courts***

As per the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985<sup>75</sup>, six exclusive Fast Track Special Courts have been established in Ambala, Hisar, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, and Panipat to ensure speedy trials of NDPS-related offences.<sup>76</sup>

### ***The Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee***

The Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (Delimitation of Wards and Election) Rules, 2023, were issued under the Haryana Sikh Gurdwaras (Management) Act, 2014 providing framework for delimitation of wards and conduct of elections for the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee. The Rule outlines the process of delimitation of wards based on geographical compactness and population uniformity. The Keshadhari Sikhs adhering to specific religious practices were eligible for election. It also provided for procedure for electoral roll preparation, nomination, scrutiny, voting, and result declaration of the election. The Commissioner, Gurdwara Elections was empowered to handle all the election petitions, including corrupt practices, bribery and undue influence for ensuring transparency and fairness in the electoral process of the committee.<sup>77</sup>

### ***Service Rule Amendments***

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<sup>73</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 5/C.A. 29/1986/S.5/2023 (March 11, 2023).

<sup>74</sup> Government of Haryana, Administration of Justice Department, No. S.O. 67/C.A. 2/1974/S. 7/2023(December 7, 2023).*Id*, No. S.O. 68/C.A. 2/1974/S. 7/2023(December 7, 2023). *Id*, No. S.O. 69/C.A. 2/1974/S. 7/2023. *Id*, No. S.O. 70/C.A. 2/1974/S. 7/2023.

<sup>75</sup> The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, § 36(1).

<sup>76</sup> Government of Haryana, Administration of Justice Department, No. S.O. 1/C.A. 61/1985/S. 36/2023 (January 23, 2023).

<sup>77</sup> Government of Haryana, Home Department, No. S.O. 42/H.A.22/2014/Ss.6 and 52/2023 (July 17, 2023).

Service rules of the various services have been amended in 2023. Generally, for the Group (C) Services, the minimum qualification was increased from matric to 10+2 in different departments. Group B services rules were also amended for direct recruitment in various departments. The Haryana Local Audit (Group B) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2023 increased minimum age from 18 to 21 years and reduction in maximum age from forty two to forty years for direct recruitments,<sup>78</sup> the Haryana State Accounts Service (Group B) Amendment Rules, 2023<sup>79</sup> and the Haryana Finance Department Treasuries (Group B) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2023<sup>80</sup> reduced the minimum age from twenty one to eighteen years and maximum age forty two to forty years for direct recruitment.<sup>81</sup>

The Haryana Skill Development and Industrial Training (Group B) Directorate and Field Offices Service Rules, 2023 provide for appointment of Directorate and Field Offices Service in Haryana Skill Development and Industrial Training.<sup>82</sup> The Haryana Public Relations Department (Group A) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2023 reduced minimum age from thirty to eighteen years and maximum age forty-five to forty-two years for direct recruitment.<sup>83</sup> Further, the confusion regarding age as an eligibility criterion under Act of 1998 and the Haryana Group D Employees (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2018<sup>84</sup> has been removed by uniformly fixing the minimum age at not less than eighteen years and not more than forty-two years as prescribed in Act of 2018.<sup>85</sup>

### ***Evaluation Norms for Civil Service and Selection of Civil Judges***

The Haryana Civil Service (Executive Branch) Rules, 2008 were amended by introducing negative marking for not attempting a question in the preliminary examination . Further a candidate would be disqualified if they did not attempt more than ten percent of the questions<sup>86</sup>. Additionally, the Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch) Rules, 1951 were amended to introduce a special recruitment process for existing and unforeseen vacancies

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<sup>78</sup> Government of Haryana, Finance Department, No. G.S.R. 9/Const./Art. 309/2023 (April 11, 2023).

<sup>79</sup> *Id*, No. G.S.R. 6/Const./Art.309/2023 (January 25, 2023).

<sup>80</sup> *Id*, No. G.S.R.1/Const./Art.309/2023.

<sup>81</sup> *Id*, No. G.S.R. 6/Const./Art.309/2023.

<sup>82</sup> Government of Haryana, Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Department (May 12, 2023).

<sup>83</sup>Government of Haryana, Information, Public Relations and Language Department, No. G.S.R. 8/Const./Art.309/2023 (March 17, 2023).

<sup>84</sup> Government of Haryana, Finance Department, No. G.S.R. 5/Const./Art. 309/2023 (January 20, 2023).

<sup>85</sup> *Id*, No. G.S.R.4/Const./Art.309/2023 (January 05, 2023).

<sup>86</sup> Government of Haryana, Personnel Department, No. G.S.R. 10/Const./Art. 309/2023(April 12, 2023).

of Civil Judges (Junior Division) in the State. The amendment, also established a high powered Selection Committee to make the selection<sup>87</sup>.

In addition to this, the Haryana Voluntary State Education Service (Amendment) Rules, 2021 were made effective from August 9, 2017 in the State.<sup>88</sup> Certain properties in District Charkhi,<sup>89</sup> Bhiwani,<sup>90</sup> Panchkula,<sup>91</sup> Ambala,<sup>92</sup> Kurukshetra,<sup>93</sup> Karnal,<sup>94</sup> Panipat,<sup>95</sup> Kaithal,<sup>96</sup> Fatehabad,<sup>97</sup> Sirsa<sup>98</sup> and Jhajjar<sup>99</sup> have been notified as Sunni property in the State while exercising powers conferred under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Waqf Act, 1995 read with rule 5 of Haryana Waqf Rules, 2021.

## Conclusion

The Assembly distinguished itself by significantly reducing paper use—saving nearly 95 per cent—through digital tabling of documents on the NeVA portal and by extending daily working hours. It introduced a range of reforms aimed at inclusive urban development, improved education, good governance, and economic growth. In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a new private university was established in Jhajjar to help raise the Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50 per cent by 2030. Urban development was prioritised through the creation of a new metropolitan development authority in Sonapat and by further strengthening those in Faridabad and Gurugram. The definition of “core areas” was clarified to resolve long-standing issues in land-use planning and municipal administration. Representation of marginalised groups was expanded to support greater social equity and grassroots participation.

The 14th Legislative Assembly was comparatively less active than the 13th, introducing 22 Bills, of which 18 were passed, three were withdrawn, and one remained pending. Fifteen

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<sup>87</sup> *Id*, No. G.S.R.25/Const./Art.234 and 309/2023 (November 7, 2023).

<sup>88</sup> Government of Haryana, School Education Department, 2023 No. G.S.R. 11/Const./Art.309/2023 (May 1, 2023).

<sup>89</sup> Government of Haryana, Administration of Justice Department, No. S.O. 55/C.A. 43/1995/S.5/2023 (August 24, 2023).

<sup>90</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 56/C.A. 43/1995/S.5/2023.

<sup>91</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 56/C.A. 43/1995/S.5/2023.

<sup>92</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 23/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>93</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 24/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>94</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 25/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>95</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 26/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>96</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 27/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>97</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 28/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>98</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 29/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

<sup>99</sup> *Id*, No. S.O. 30/C.A. 43/1995/S. 5/2023.

Bills passed by the previous Assembly received timely assent from the Governor during this period, with the Governor consistently approving legislation without delay, reinforcing cooperative federalism. Meanwhile, the executive issued new rules and notifications relating to environmental protection, urban and rural development, the establishment of fast-track courts for NDPS cases, and updates to civil service norms, including steps to fill vacancies in the judicial services.