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- 
- 
- Home
- UPSC
 - Current Affairs IAS
 -    
 - Quiz IAS
 -    
 - UPSC News Editorial (/Eng)
 - Answer Writing ( /Eng)
 - UPSC Essay (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS (/Eng)
 - UPSC GS 1 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-2 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-3 ( /Eng)
 - UPSC GS-4 ( /Eng)
 - Kurukshetra ( /Eng)
 - Yojana ( /Eng)
 - IAS Strategy for Prelims
 - General Studies
 - CSAT
 - IAS Strategy for Mains
 - IAS GS 1
 - IAS GS 2
 - IAS GS 3
 - IAS GS 4
 - IAS Test Series
- Himachal HPAS
 - Himachal Daily Current Affairs
 -   
 - Daily Himachal GK Quiz

- Himachal News Editorial (English/Eng)
- Answer Writing (English /Eng)
- Himachal Essay (English/Eng)
- Giriraj
 - Magazine
 - Giriraj Quiz
- Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- HP Government Schemes
- Himachal Pradesh Government Schemes
- Syllabus Prelims Himachal HPAS
 - GENERAL STUDIES
 - CSAT
 - English
 - Hindi
- Syllabus Mains Himachal HPAS
 - English, Hindi, Essay & One Optional
 - HPAS GS 3
 - HPAS GS 2
 - HPAS GS 1
- Himachal HPAS Test Series
- All You need to Know about Himachal HPAS
- HARYANA HCS
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - Haryana Current Affairs
 - HCS Quiz
 - Haryana News Editorial (English/Eng)
 - Answer Writing (English /Eng)
 - Haryana Essay (English/Eng)
 - HR Government Schemes
 - Haryana Government Schemes
 - Syllabus Mains Haryana HCS
 - Syllabus Prelims Haryana HCS
 - HCS Prelims Test Series

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- [Punjab PCS Current Affairs](#)
- [Daily Quiz Punjab PCS](#)
- [Punjab News Editorial \(Eng\)](#)
- [Answer Writing \(Eng\)](#)
- [Punjab Essay \(Eng\)](#)
- [All you need to know about Punjab PCS Exam 2021](#)
- [Syllabus Prelims Punjab PCS](#)
 - [General Studies](#)
 - [Prelims GS 1](#)
- [Syllabus Mains Punjab PCS](#)
 - [PCS GS 1](#)
 - [PCS GS 2](#)
 - [PCS GS 3](#)
 - [PCS GS 4](#)
 - [Online PUNJAB PCS TEST SERIES 2020](#)
- [CSAT](#)
 - [CSAT English](#)
 - [Punjab PCS CSAT](#)
- [Concept Mindmaps](#)
 - [Polity \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Geography \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Environment \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [History \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Economics \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Science and Technology \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [CSAT Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Maps \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Art and Culture \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [International Affairs \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Punjab PCS Concepts](#)
 - [Himachal HPAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Haryana HCS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
 - [Rajasthan RAS Concepts \(Hindi / Eng\)](#)
- [Concept Quiz](#)
 - [Polity Quiz \(Hindi/Eng\)](#)

- Geography Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Environment Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- History Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Economics Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Science and Technology Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- CSAT Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Maps Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Art and Culture Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Punjab PCS Concepts Quiz
- Himachal HPAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Haryana HCS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Rajasthan RAS Concepts Quiz (हिंदी/Eng)
- Mains
 - UPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - HPPSC Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Haryana HCS Answer Writing (हिंदी/Eng)
 - Punjab PCS Answer Writing
- Exam Blogs
 - UPSC Exam Blogs
 - Himachal Exam Blogs
 - Punjab exam Blogs
 - Haryana Exam Blogs
 - Rajasthan Exam Blogs
 - E-Magazine
 - E-Magazine for HPAS
 - हिमाचल प्रदेश का हिंदी-हिंदी
 - E-Magazine for Punjab PCS
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 - National Exams
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 - Punjab Exams
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19th, July, 2022

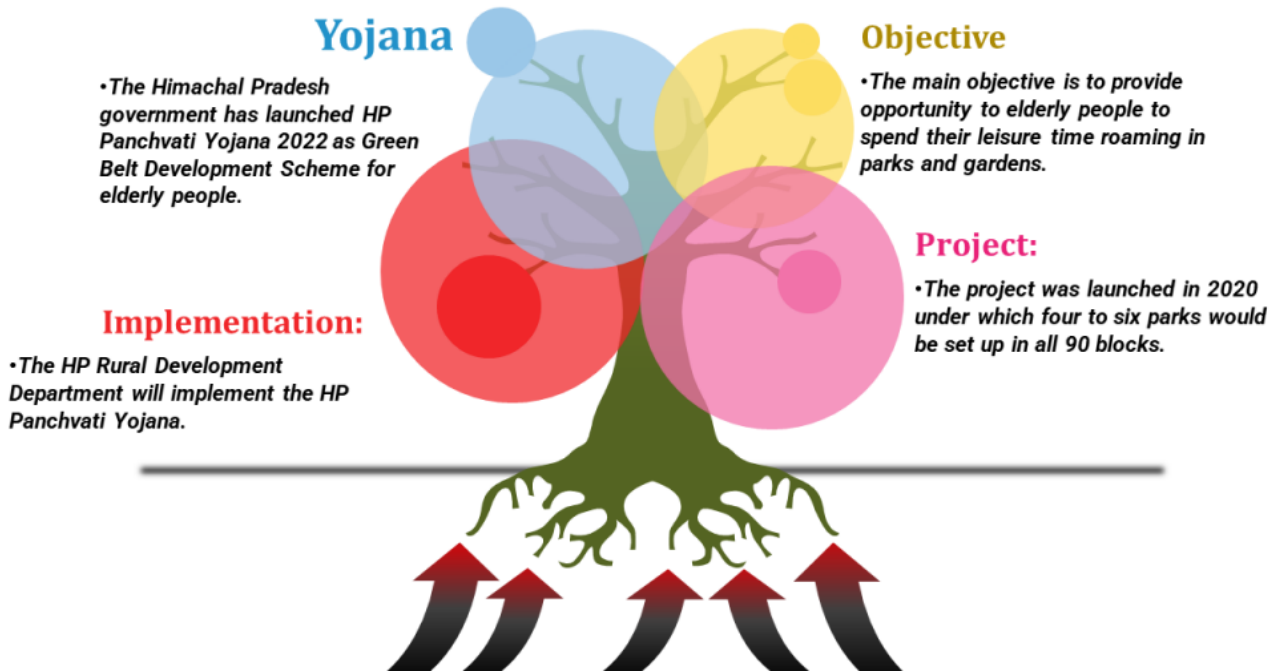
Topic: Panchvati Parks in Himachal

Importance: Himachal HPAS Prelims and Mains

What is the news?

- 518 sites identified for setting up Panchvati Parks in Himachal.
- 200 parks to be set up during this financial year.

Panchvati Parks in Himachal



About Parks:

- The project was launched in 2020 under which four to six parks would be set up in all 90 blocks.
- About 518 sites have been identified and work on setting up parks on 284 sites is in full swing, said Minister for Rural Development Virender Kanwar.

Purpose:

- The park area is meant to provide an exclusive space for connecting senior citizens to nature.
- Around 200 parks would be set up during the financial year. A sum of Rs 9 lakh will be spent on each park.
- Each park, spreading over one or two bighas, will also be used for the promoting products made by self help groups to generate additional economic and employment avenues, especially at the village level.
- Each park will have one-metre wide and 150-metre long jogging track, walking tracks, benches, space for yoga and meditation, toilets, solar lights and flower beds,

besides exercise and recreational equipment. Ayurvedic and medicinal plants such as amla, neem, tulsi and aloe vera and shade grass (lawn) will be grown in the parks.

About Scheme:

- The Himachal Pradesh government has launched HP Panchvati Yojana 2022 as Green Belt Development Scheme for elderly people.
- In this Panchvati scheme, the government will develop parks and gardens in every development block with necessary facilities for senior citizens of rural areas.
- The work under HP Panchvati Yojana will be taken up in link with the MGNREGA Scheme.

Objective:

- The main objective is to provide opportunity to elderly people to spend their leisure time roaming in parks and gardens.

How this scheme will contribute?

- This HP Panchvati Scheme will enhance the life expectancy of elderly people keeping in view health requirements of the senior citizens.
- Several Ayurvedic and medicinal plants would be grown in the parks and gardens, along with recreational equipment, walking tracks and other basic amenities for senior citizens.
- The HP Rural Development Department will implement the HP Panchvati Yojana.

Benefits of HP Panchavati Yojana:

- CM mentioned that parks will prove a boon to senior citizens to lead a healthy and happy life after taking health benefits from these parks. Moreover, HP state government was striving hard to provide maximum facilities to the people of the state, especially senior citizens and Panchvati Yojana is a major step in this direction.
- The spread of Covid-19 pandemic has forced the policy makers to rethink and reformulate govt's policies and programs with special focus on rural development. Around 90% of the Himachal Pradesh population lives in rural areas and so the government is focusing on rural oriented policies which had been ensuring an accelerated pace of development in these areas.

(Source: The Tribune)

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- [PPSC Quiz](#)
- [Punjab Mindmaps](#)
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- [Punjab E-Magazine](#)
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- [PPSC Prelims Test Series](#)

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- [Punjab Current Affairs](#)
- [PPSC Quiz](#)
- [Punjab Mindmaps](#)
- [Punjab Editorial](#)
- [Punjab E-Magazine](#)
- [PPSC Free Mock Test](#)
- [PPSC Prelims Test Series](#)

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- [Haryana Current Affairs](#)
- [HCS Quiz](#)
- [HCS Editorials](#)
- [HCS Mindmaps](#)
- [HCS E-Magazine](#)
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