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## ***20th January 2022***

***Topic: Honor for Punjab***

***Importance: Punjab PCS Prelims and Mains***

***What is the news?***

- Punjab's tableau themed on 'Punjab's Contribution in Freedom Struggle' has been selected by the Union home ministry (MHA) for the 73rd Republic Day parade in New Delhi.

**The theme of this year's Republic Day is "India@75" as it is the 75th year of India's independence.**

- The MHA had received a total of 56 proposals for the Republic Day tableaux from various states and Union ministries, out of which 21 have been shortlisted.

*(Source:timesofindia)*

## ***Topic: Drug Abuse***

***Importance: Punjab PCS Prelims and Mains***

### ***What is the news?***

- Implement a plan to prevent drug abuse amongst children in Punjab, said DEOs.

### ***Context:***

- To prevent children from drug abuse and to stop the sale of drugs in surrounding areas of schools/educational institutes and childcare institutions, the district magistrates in 18 districts have written to the district education officers (DEOs).

## *Why?*

- Effectively implement a joint action plan on “preventing substance abuse among children and illicit trafficking”.
- The National Commission for the Protection of Children’s Rights wrote to the district magistrates to implement the action plan.
- The plan was formulated on the basis of deliberations and contributions from the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), the Ministry of Education, Defence, the Ministry of Health and others.

## *Who are these 18 districts of Punjab?*

- These 18 districts are on the list of 272 districts in the country that the Centre reported as the “most affected” districts for substance abuse and addiction. The districts include **Faridkot, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Pathankot, Sangrur, Patiala, Muktsar, SBS Nagar, Tarn Taran and Hoshiarpur.**
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had identified the vulnerable districts based on the findings of a national survey on the extent and pattern of substance use in the country from the supply point of view as provided by the NCB.
- As per the action plan, school principals are told to maintain a list of shops of cigarettes, beedis and other tobacco products operating within 100 yards radius of their school as per Section 6 of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act. The list shall be shared with the DEOs, who should share it with the district magistrates.

- Upon receiving the list, the local authorities and police, will issue orders to take appropriate corrective action to ensure that no cigarettes/beedis or any other tobacco product shops exist within the radius of 100 yards of the schools/educational institutions and other institutions meant for children.
- Schools shall display and exhibit a board at conspicuous place(s) on the premises, prominently stating that sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products near the educational institutions is strictly prohibited and is a punishable offense.

*(Source: Punjab Tribune)*

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