



RAJRAS

Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
March 2018 – April 2018

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PERSON in NEWS

Sajjan Singh Kothari

Rajasthan Lokayukta Sajjan Singh Kothari has been granted extension of three years in office by Governor Kalyan Singh. An ordinance has been promulgated to amend section 5 of the Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta Act, 1973, to enable extension in Kothari's term of five years.

DB Gupta

1983 batch IAS officer Devendra Bushan (DB) Gupta has been announced as the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan. He has succeeded Nihal Chand Goel and will hold office till November 2020. Additionally, He will also hold the post of chairman, Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd, Udaipur, till further orders.

Ajit Singh Shekhawat

Former Rajasthan director general of police (DGP) Ajit Singh Shekhawat has been appointed as the head of anti-corruption unit (ACU) in The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Balkrishna V Doshi

Balkrishna V. Doshi has become the first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize, the 'Nobel' for architecture, design. In 1984, Doshi had designed Vidhyadhar Nagar in Jaipur.

Vivaan Kapoor

Rajasthan's Vivaan Kapoor delivered India its fourth and fifth medals at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Sydney, Australia, claiming bronze in the men's trap singles and team events respectively.

Rajyogini Dadi Janki

Dadi Janki received the 2018 Dr. Abdul Kalam Word Peace Award. She is also brand ambassador of Swacchh Bharat Abhiyan and Administrative head of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University.

Devendra Jhajharia

Devendra Jhajharia has become the brand ambassador of Rajasthan Election Commission.

Avni Chaturvedi

Avni Chaturvedi one of the three in the first batch of women pilots, besides Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh, who was inducted into the Indian Air Force fighter squadron on June 18, 2016, has now become India's **first female fighter pilot**.

March 2018

Government launches 2nd Swajal Yojana project in Rajasthan

The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched second project of Swajal Yojana at village Bhikampur, Karauli, Rajasthan. It was launched by Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Uma Bharti.

Under this project, four reservoirs will be constructed in village and common tap connection will be given to almost 300 households.

Swajal Yojana

Swajal is community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply. The scheme aims at ensuring availability of clean drinking water to every household round year and also generate employment. Under it, 90% of the project cost is borne by Government and remaining 10% cost is contributed by the community. The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers. Project undertaken under it will ease lives of people and ensure that potable water is available for every individual round the year.

Rajasthan passes bill giving death penalty for rape of girls up to 12 years old

- Rajasthan is now the country's second, after Madhya Pradesh, where rape or gang-rape of minor girls is a capital offence.
- Through the Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2018, the state government has added two sections to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860. While IPC Sections 376-A and 376-D included women of all ages, the new sections, 376-AA and 376-DD, separate girl victims up to 12 years from the older women victims.
- The new section 376-AA, added to IPC, says that whoever commits rape on a "woman" up to 12 years of age shall be punished with death or rigorous imprisonment for not less than 14 years and shall also be liable to fine. The jail term may extend for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that convict's life.

- Similarly, another section, 376-DD, added to the IPC, says that if a “woman” up to 12 years of age is gang-raped, each person constituting that gang shall be deemed to have committed rape and shall be punished with death, or rigorous imprisonment for not less than 20 years and shall be liable to fine. For this offence, too, the jail term may be extended for the remainder of the convicts’ natural lives.

PM launches Nutrition Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jhunjhunu on March 8 for pan-India expansion of ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ (BBBP) scheme which is currently in operation only in 161 districts and the launch of the National Nutrition Mission (NNM).

Saving Girl child: Unique initiatives in Rajasthan

- In Rajasmand's Piplantri gram panchayat 111 trees were being planted on birth of a girl child.
- In Sri Ganganagar, Bharatpur and Dausa districts the couples take the 8th round (fera) while solemnizing marriage for saving girls.

Third edition of Rajasthan IT Day

- The third edition of Rajasthan IT Day was celebrated as a four-day event from March 18 to March 21 in Jaipur.

Five railway stations of the state to be re-developed

- Ministry of Railways will develop state-of-the-art facilities at 90 stations of the country, which also includes 5 railway stations in Rajasthan.
- The responsibility of modernizing [Jaipur](#), [Jodhpur](#), [Bikaner](#) and [Udaipur](#) has been given to North-Western Railway, while the responsibility of [Kota](#) has been entrusted to National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC).

State Highway becomes Toll-free for private vehicles

- The Chief Minister made all state highways toll free for private vehicles. The announcement was implemented immediately.

Country's biggest startup hub to be developed in Rajasthan

- The State Government is building the biggest startup hub in the country with a seating capacity of 700. This will be operational in two-and-a-half months' time, around mid-June.
- The startups and entrepreneurs will be provided free space, internet, and other infrastructure at the Bhamashah Techno Hub in Jaipur.
- There are two incubation centres already running—one in Jaipur, with 45 operating startups, and the recently inaugurated one in Udaipur.

Barmer will soon get air-connectivity

- [Barmer](#) become the eighth city of state to get air connectivity.
- Earlier, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Udaipur and Kishangarh - already have established air-connectivity.

e-Mitra Plus Machines:

- e- MitraPlus Machine has been set up by the Government of Rajasthan on 71 Atal Seva Kendra Gram Panchayats in the Jaipur & Baran district as part of operation and implementation of e-governance project.
- With this machine, the common man visiting his Panchayat, can use various government services such as paying electricity bill, printing caste certificate, printing the original residence certificate, mobile and water bill deposits, getting the copy of your account, etc. without any assistance. Payment for such services can be done from same machine by cash, Net Banking, Credit, Debit cards.

UNESCO awards CLIX programme

- The [UNESCO](#) has awarded its prestigious King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize, an international recognition for the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the field of education to Connected Learning Initiative (CLIX) programme.
- The programme is being run in Rajasthan has helped in improving learning outcomes in 101 government secondary schools covering 248 teachers and 13,277 students in Rajasthan. The initiative is a joint effort of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Tata Trusts.

Rajasthan's first mega food park

Rajasthan's first mega food park-Greentech Mega Food Park Private Ltd was inaugurated at Roopangarh Village in Ajmer district. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Food Processing Industry Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The park was set up under Central Government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and 'Make in India' initiative.

BrahMos missile with indigenous seeker successfully test-fired for first time

Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for first time with indigenously developed seeker at Pokhran test range, Rajasthan. So far, seeker, a critical technology in missiles was imported from Russia. During the test missile with India-made seeker flew in its designated trajectory and target with pin-point accuracy.

Yamuna Water in Rajasthan

Rajasthan will get its full share of 1.119 billion cusec metres of water from the Yamuna, with the Upper Yamuna Review Committee decision that 1,917 cusecs water will be released from the Tajewala headworks to **Jhunjhunu, Churu and Sikar** districts for drinking and irrigation

Though Rajasthan was allocated 9% share in the Yamuna waters, the desert State was not getting it even when excess water was available in the river between July and October every year.

Jaipur will co-host 8th Theatre Olympics

Jaipur will co-host 8th Theatre Olympics, the largest international theatre festival being held for the first time in India. The Jaipur chapter of Theatre Olympics 2018 is organised by National School of Drama (NSD) under the aegis of Ministry of Culture in collaboration with Ravindra Manch Society and Art & Culture Department, Rajasthan Government.

The Theatre Olympics

The Theatre Olympics is an international festival that brings together finest productions of well-known theatre practitioners from around the world. It was established in 1993 in Delphi, Greece as an initiative of noted Greek theatre director Theodoros Terzopoulos.

Greece was the first country to host the Theatre Olympics in 1995. Since then it was held in Japan (1999), Russia (2001), Turkey (2006), South Korea (2010) and China (2014). The 7th edition of mega carnival of theatre was held in Poland in 2016.

NITI Aayog's Health Index report "Healthy States, Progressive India" - Rajasthan ranks 20th

Recently, NITI Aayog released a comprehensive Health Index report titled, "Healthy States, Progressive India". In this report, States and UTs have been ranked in three categories namely, Larger States, Smaller States, and Union Territories (UTs), to ensure comparison among similar entities.

The Health Index is a weighted composite Index, which for the larger States, is based on indicators in three domains:

- Health Outcomes (70%);
- (b) Governance and Information (12%); and
- (c) Key Inputs and Processes (18%),

with each domain assigned a weight based on its importance. Among the 21 larger states, Rajasthan stood at 20th position above Uttar Pradesh (21). Among the Larger States, Kerala, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu ranked on top in terms of overall performance.

State's Second Sainik School

Rajasthan's second Sainik School has started functioning in Jhunjhunu district. Before this, Sainik school was only at Chittorgarh (1967). This is country's 27th Sainik School.

All India Institute of Ayurveda

In line with All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Union Government is planning All India Institutes of Ayurveda in every State. In Rajasthan, the institute is going to come up at Udaipur.

Other NEWS:

- Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of Mini Secretariat in Sriganganagar.
- Specialized e-unit will be setup in Jaipur city to curb cyber crimes in State.
- AIIMS Jodhpur gets state's first surgical robotics system.
- Jaipur Wax Museum, established at Nahargarh Fort a year back, has become the first solar operated archaeological monument site in the state.
- Human milk bank in [Chittorgarh](#) has been adjudged as the best in all 16 such banks operational in the state.
- Banasthali Vidyapith has been felicitated by governor Kalyan Singh at Raj Bhawan in a joint programme organized by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Raj Bhawan, Jaipur, for its significant national and international achievements in university rankings and ratings on March 26. The QS World University ranking is regarded as one of the most influential and reliable university rankings in the world.

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National Achievement Survey 2016-17: Rajasthan

The National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted throughout the country on November 13, 2017 for Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government-aided schools. The learning levels of 2.2 million students from 1,10,000 schools across 701 districts in all 36 States/UTs were assessed.

Overall, Karnataka topped the list with Rajasthan coming at 2nd position. While the state is learnt to have fared well in the tests for all classes, it has the best score (63%) in the learning outcomes for class 8. It is huge improvement for Rajasthan which came at 15th position in year 2015 survey.

State Report:

- Jhunjhunu came out as first district in Class 3 and Class 5 while Nagaur topped in Class 8.
- Bhilwara was lowest in Class 3 rankings in state, while Banswara was lowest in Class 5 and Pali lowest in Class 8.

Rajasthan's first bone bank

Rajasthan's first bone bank is going to come up in Kota.

What is Bone Bank:

A bone bank is a medical facility where human bones are stored for use in surgeries. Like a blood bank, the bones here too are provided by a donor since real human bones are required. A small proportion of the bones come from real patients and are chunks that might be discarded during surgeries.

Bone banks, essentially, provide surgeons with real human bone material, which can be used for treating such patients. Since the constitution of the replacement is the same as a real bone in the body, the patient's system accepts it better and it helps the affected area in recovering faster.

Documentary on Machli, the tigress of Ranthambhore National Park

A 60 minute documentary, **Meet Machli: World's Most Famous Tiger**, directed by National Award-winning filmmaker S Nallamuthu and produced by Natural History Unit India for National Geographic channel was recently screened in the national capital.

New Gold Reserves identified in Rajasthan

Nearly 11.48 crore tonnes of gold deposits have been confirmed by scientists and geologists in Rajasthan, mostly located in the cities of Banswara and Udaipur.

The two-year-long intensive explorations were carried around the ancient Bhukia gold mine site in Ghatol tehsil of Banswara district. It is estimated that the area, falling under the Bhukia prospects of the Mahi and Panch Mahuri zones, contains numerous gold and base metal prospects along a 50-60 km long structural corridor in depths averaging 150 metres.

The Bhukia region supposedly had mines some 2,000 years ago. The potential of the place inhabited by Bheel tribes was re-discovered during the past 14 years through explorations undertaken by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and, of late, by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).

Union Cabinet approves declaration of Scheduled Areas in Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule

The Union Cabinet has given approval inclusion of certain areas in Rajasthan under Fifth Schedule to Constitution. The areas to be included comprise three complete districts *Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh* and nine tehsils, one block and 46 complete gram panchayats covering 227 villages in *Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Pali and Sirohi* districts of Rajasthan.

Maharana Mewar Foundation 36th Annual Awards (MMFAA) - 2018 honors

Professor John Stratton Hawley, USA was awarded the international Col. James Tod Award. Other awards are as follows:

- Haldighati Award: Ms. Suhasini Haidar the Diplomatic Editor of The Hindu
- Hakim Khan Sur Honor: Dr. E. Sreedharan - 'The Metro Man
- Maharana Udai Singh Award: Mr. Gafarbhair Qureshi, a farmer from Ramdechi, Talala, Gir Somnath District of Gujarat
- Pannadhai Award: Mr. Salim Gafur Sheikh and Mr. Harsh Desai for rendering selfless service, rising beyond the call of duty in the face of immense hostility

Rajasthan Sahitya Academy Awards 2017-18: Announced

- Highest Meera Award was given to Deepti Kulshreshta for her work – “अंधे मोड़ से आगे”.
- Sudhendra Award for Poetry – to Dr. Padmaja Sharma for the work “मैं बोलूंगी”.
- Devilal Samar Award for Drama – to Ramesh Khatri for “मोको कहा दूँडे रे”
- Kanhiyalal Sahal Award for Vividh to – Hardarshan Sehgal for “डगर-डगर पर मगर”
- Shambhu Dayal Saxena Award for Children Literature to Govind Bhardwaj for “बल्लिली मौसी बड़ी सयानी”
- Janardan Rai Nagar Award to Dr. Mathuresh Nandan Kulshreshtha.
- Dr. Rangheya Raghav Award for Story-Novel to - Hardaan Harsh for “Meera”
- Devraj Upadhyaya Award for Criticism Category to Lehri Ram Meena for “साहित्य का रंग चितिन”

While Meera Award consists of 75,000 Rupees, rest all awards include 31,000 rupees.

WHO Pollution Report

In the recently published, World Health Organization's (WHO) report on pollution, Jaipur has come-out as the most polluted city in the state. The report examined 4,000 cities of 100 countries across the world and has picked four cities of the state. Apart from Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Alwar and Udaipur have also come across as highly polluted cities.

Pollution has been measured by level of PM10 in the state. The international standards of air pollution says that index value of:

- 0-50 (micrograms per cubic meter air) is excellent,
- 51-100 is good,
- 101-150 is lightly polluted.
- More than 150, then it is alarming

City	Year	PM10	PM2.5
Jaipur	2016	193	105
Jodhpur	2016	180	98
Kota	2012	156	83
Alwar	2012	152	81
Udaipur	2016	98	41

Effect of PM10 Particles:

PM10 particles can penetrate into the lungs and may enter the bloodstream. It can cause heart disease, lung cancer, asthma and acute lower respiratory infection.

Major Sources of Air-Pollution

Major sources of air pollution from particulate matter include the inefficient use of energy by households, industry, the agriculture and transport sectors, and coal-fired power plants. In some regions, sand and desert dust, waste burning and deforestation are additional sources of air pollution

Amber Fort identified for 'Adopt a Monument' scheme

After its inclusion in the 'iconic sites' programme of the central government, Amber Fort has now been identified for the 'Adopt a Monument' scheme that aims at 'softer intervention' by a private company to improve facilities in and around the historic fort.

Adopt a Monument Scheme

The Adopt a Monument project plans to entrust heritage sites or monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities. They would become 'Monument Mitras'.

Under the scheme, they will provide basic and advanced amenities at tourist destinations, and look after operations and the maintenance of amenities. The Monument Mitras will associate pride with their CSR activities and get visibility on the monument premises and in the Incredible India website.

Trader Welfare Board

In the budget for 2018-19, the Rajasthan Chief Minister had announced to set up a traders welfare board with initial corpus of Rs 10 crore for speedy disposal of problems related to dealers, their social security and insurance needs etc. On 27 March 2018, the Board has been formed with Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje as the chairman.

Rajasthan to be declared ODF ahead of deadline

- Rajasthan has achieved 100% toilet construction target before time and is all set to be declared ODF about one and-a-half years before deadline.
- In the last four years, the state has constructed over 79.29 lakh toilets in the rural areas covering 43,344 villages, 295 panchayat samitis and 9,894 gram panchayats to achieve the onerous task.
- Already 10 districts have been declared ODF and for remaining 23 districts only the formality of verification –district, state and third party – remains.
- According to government of India's target for states, October 2, 2019 is the deadline to achieve 100% ODF status.

Rajasthan's urban areas declared ODF

- The urban area of Rajasthan has been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) in April 2018. All the 191 urban local bodies of the state became ODF.

All Gram Panchayats in the state declared ODF

- In the last four years, 100% achievement has been achieved by constructing 79 lakhs 29 thousand chaplains for the Clean India Mission (Rural) scheme.
- With all the 43344 villages and 295 Panchayat Samitis in the state, all the 9894 Gram Panchayats have been discharged from open defecation.

CM Raje inaugurates e-library at Rajasthan High Court

- Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje on Sunday inaugurated the e-library at Rajasthan High Court at Jaipur.
- This is the first library in Rajasthan and has been set up in the court premises.
- The e-library at Jaipur is the largest court library in India and also the first e-library with state of art search engines allowing swift access to case laws on any subject.

Rajasthan gets its first child-friendly police station

- Sadar Dholpur has become the state's first child-friendly police station with a colourful room for children at the police station.

Almond-shaped trace fossils found in Barmer

- Some rare kinds of almond-shaped trace fossils have been discovered in [Barmer](#).
- This is the fourth such discovery in the world after America, Mexico and Argentina.

Three government hospitals get Kayakalp award

Three government hospitals of the Rajasthan bagged Kayakalp felicitation award.

- District hospital Jhunjhunu,
- District hospital Chittorgarh,
- Udaipur district's community health centre situated in Nai.

MoU for tourism mart

- Chief secretary N C Goel signed an MoU with the Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) for organizing the 'Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart' 2018.
- Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart will be the second such platform in the country after Kerala Travel Mart.

- Vision 2020, Rajasthan had set a target 5 crore tourists arrivals by 2020. However in 2017 itself, the arrivals have already crossed 4.5 crore mark.
- Note: Tourism contributes around 15% to State's GDP.

Other NEWS:

- Nyaya Aapke Dwar & Revenue Lok Adalats to start again from May 1 to June 30 in Rajasthan
- With the expansion of air connectivity in State, Swai Madhopur, Kota and Kishangarh are now connected to New Delhi by flight.
- Rajasthan's first mega food park-Greentech Mega Food Park Private Ltd was inaugurated at Roopangarh Village in [Ajmer](#) district.

Rajasthan State Forest Report 2017

As per Forest Survey of India, [State of Forest report 2017](#), Rajasthan has **recorded forest area** of about **32,737 square kms**. This forest area forms **9.57%** of state's geographical area and about **4.28%** of India's forest area. On the basis of Legal status, the Government has classified this forest area into three types:

- Reserved Forests - 12,475 Sq. Kms
- Protected Forests - 18,217 Sq. Kms
- Unclassified Forests - 2,045 Sq. Kms

The State has about 16,572 square kms of Forest Cover, of which

- Very Dense Forests (VDF) – 78 Square kms.
- Moderately Dense Forests (MDF) – 4340 Square Kms.
- Open Forests (OF) – 12,154 Square Kms.

Important Facts:

- The total tree and forest cover of state is 24,838 sq. kms., which is 7.26% of State Geographical area and 3.10% of India's tree and forest cover.
- District with maximum forest cover:
 - Udaipur
 - Alwar
 - Pratapgarh
 - Baran
- District with Minimum forest cover
 - Churu
 - Hanumangarh
 - Jodhpur

- Ganganagar
- Percentage-wise (Forest area / Geographical area) Maximum:
 - Udaipur – 23.58%
 - Pratapgarh – 23.47%
 - Sirohi – 17.80%
 - Karauli – 15.75%
- Percentage-wise (Forest area / Geographical area) Minimum:
 - Jodhpur – 0.46%
 - Churu – 0.59%
 - Nagaur – 0.81%
 - Jaisalmer – 0.82%
- A net gain of 466 sq km has been observed in the forest cover of the state compared to 2015, can be attributed to plantations, regeneration of fast growing species and conservation efforts.
- In the recorded forest areas (RFA), the green cover shrunk by 103 sq km whereas the same has grown by 569 sq km outside the RFA. There is an increase in the very dense forest (VDF) area in 2017, though only by one sq km (77 → 78 sq. kms).
- However, the report cannot be taken on its face value as Rajasthan's forests are not fully digitized. According to officials, only two-thirds of the total forest area has been digitized so far. Besides, a lot of the forest land has been diverted for roads, dams and infrastructure development.