



Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
March - April 2020

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General Current Affairs

Rajasthan moves to SC against CAA:

The State government in Rajasthan has moved to the Supreme Court on 16th March 2020 challenging the validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying it is violative of the principle of secularism, which is part of the “basic structure” of the Constitution, and fundamental rights of equality and life. It became the second state after Kerala to move the top court invoking **Article 131 of the Constitution under which a state is empowered to directly move the Supreme Court in case of a dispute with the Centre.**

No Vehicle Day:

The first day of every month will be celebrated as ‘No Vehicle Day’ in all government colleges of the state. This advisory was issued by the college commissionerate in March 2020 and colleges have been asked to follow this.

Rajasthan Flying School:

A governing council meeting of the Rajasthan State Flying School was held where it was decided to reopen the school at Sanganer in city. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of chief minister Ashok Gehlot. It was also decided that the school would be reopened under public-private partnership (PPP) mode. Mr. Gehlot said that 19 air strips were available in the state. These strips would be strengthened and the government would explore all opportunities in the aviation sector.

8% Rise in Road Accidents in 2019

According to the data provided by Rajasthan transport department, there was an increase of 8% in the number of road accidents from 2018 to 2019. A total of 23,480 accidents were reported in 2019 from which maximum number of accidents were reported in Jaipur rural, followed by Udaipur and Alwar.

The total casualties in the accidents were **10,563 in 2019** as compared to 10,320 in 2018 indicating a hike by 2 per cent. Among the districts, the lowest number of accidents was reported in Jaisalmer with 161 road accidents in 2019, showing a dip from 169 in 2018.

Raj leads in learning outcomes: MHRD survey

Rajasthan scored the highest points in the category of 'learning outcomes and quality' of education in government schools among the states and the union territories. The category is one of the five categories further divided into a total of 70 subcategories to form the performance grading index (PGI) report 2017-18 released by the MHRD on February 27. The desert state ranked among the top five states in the PGI.

Leading the pack among the states and union territories are Chandigarh, Gujarat and Kerala. These states are listed in grade I category as their aggregate score is between 801-850 while Rajasthan stood in the grade II along with Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and D&N Haveli for having aggregate score between 751 and 800.

"Rajasthan scored 168 out of 180 to lead in the country in the important parameter of learning outcomes and quality," reads the report. The learning outcomes are defined by the students' academic performance in reading, comprehension and mathematics. The state performed poorly in two categories — infrastructure & facilities and access. It scored 84 out of 140 and 56 out of 80, respectively. The poor performance in the access category means that the state has poor retention, transition rate and high dropout rate.

Bhadla Solar Park

Bhadla Solar Park has now become World's largest Solar Park. The solar park is located in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. The project is a joint effort between the state-owned energy company NTPC, which provides electricity across the country, and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a subsidiary of the country's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

The park has been developed through following 4 stages:

- Bhadla Phase I: 65 MW
- Bhadla Phase II: 680 MW
- Bhadla Phase III: 1000 MW
- Bhadla Phase IV: 500 MW

Total Capacity: 2245 MW

Before Bhadla, Solar Park Pavagada, Karnataka with a capacity of 2,050 MW was the largest solar park.

Char Dham of Mewar:

Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari urged the Centre to consider developing a spiritual tourism circuit covering Ekling Ji, Shrinath Ji, Dwarakadhish ji and Charbhuja Ji as Char Dham of Mewar.

Banasthali Vidyapith:

Banasthali Vidyapith has become Rajasthan's first varsity to be accorded A++ grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

New Water Reserves in Jaisalmer & Barmer

After oil, now another discovery is set to change the lives of people in Jaisalmer & [Barmer](#) region. A report prepared by the Union petroleum and natural gas (PNG) ministry highlights discovery of 482 billion cubic metres (BCM) reserve (aquifer) in Jaisalmer and Barmer region that will be able to provide drinking water to the entire western Rajasthan districts for the next 100 years. The report was recently presented before the Jal Shakti ministry, PNG ministry and petroleum companies officials in Delhi.

Both the ministries along with the oil companies will work over the years to provide water in the water-scarce western Rajasthan region.

The projected annual domestic and drinking water demand for India is 55 billion cubic meters (BCM) by 2025 and 90 BCM 2050.

Findings of the Report:

- Discovered aquifers are part of Thumbli, Fatehgarh and Jagadiya water reserves with estimated availability of water of approximately:
 - Thumbli - 110 BCM
 - Fategarh - 82 BCM
 - Jagadiya - 290 BCM
- The water contains Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)/Litre in the range of 1,000-10,000 while the maximum permissible limit of TDS for drinking water is 600 TDS per litre as per the standard rules.
- Depth of water availability:
 - Thumbli: 100-1100 Meters

- Fategarh: 150-1500 Meters
- Jagadiya: 0-800 Meters
- Thumbli aquifer is found to be the most suitable reserve for large-scale desalination project.
- However, the salinity of the water in the reservoir is one of the major challenge to this project.

Panchayat Awards 2020: Rajasthan

On the occasion of National [Panchayati Raj](#) Day 2020, Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awarded the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. This post details the various awards in reference to Rajasthan State.

Brief About National Panchayati Raj Day

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993 and gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI's). It is considered as a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj.

In 2010, Government of India in consultation with the States, decided to celebrate 24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day. Consequently, the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the **National Panchayati Raj Day (राष्ट्रीय पंचायती राज दिवस) (NPRD)** is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.

Every year on this National Panchayati Raj Day Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj organises National Conference and awards best performing Gram Panchayats.

National Panchayati Raj Day 2020

This year, it was proposed to organize a national event at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and Hon'ble Prime Minister had accorded his kind consent to inaugurate the national event and address all the Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country. But, owing to unprecedented situation that emerged due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, it was been decided to commemorate the National Panchayati Raj Day digitally on 24th April, 2020.

Panchayat Awards 2020

Every year, on this occasion, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been awarding the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. Awards are given under various categories namely:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP),
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP),
- Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA),
- Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award
- e-Panchayat Puraskar (*given to States/UTs only*).

This year, due to lockdown, awards under only above three categories viz. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP), Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award have been finalized and will be shared with the concerned States/ UT.

Award in the other two categories will be finalized and communicated to States separately after completion of due process which got delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Panchayat Awards 2020: Rajasthan

Following Gram Panchayats from Rajasthan won the award under the different categories of Awards.

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award

- Nandri gram panchayat in Mandor block panchayat in [Jodhpur](#) district.

Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA),

- Sunara gram panchayat in Newai block panchayat in [Tonk](#) district.

Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP),

- Jakhora gram panchayat in Ladpura block panchayat in [Kota](#) district.

New Schemes

Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY)

Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY) is being implemented with effective convergence of various Central and [State schemes](#), effective convergence of funds, assistance of Corporate, Religious trusts, Social sects, NGOs and public contribution, and by providing State fund to execute water conservation and water harvesting activities.

Background:

Rajasthan, with a geographical area of 343 lakh hectare, is the largest State of the country, having 10.40 per cent of the total area of the country. Out of this area, about 101 lakh hectare is waste land and only 168 lakh hectare area is cultivable.

Despite being the largest state in terms of area, only 1.16 per cent of total water resources is available in the state. The annual rainfall in the state also varies from 100 mm in the arid west to 900 mm in the South-East.

Usually, every three out of five years, most districts of the state are affected by drought because of uncertain and varied distributions of rainfall. Moreover, owing to high intensity of rainfall and improper water conservation system, a large percentage of this rainfall goes waste resulting in continuous depletion of water table and further, conversion of cultivable land into waste-land.

To resolve these serious issues, the State Government has decided to launch **Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY)** to ensure maximum rainwater harvesting, water conservation and judicious use of available water sources in the State.

Major Objectives of Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY)

- To generate awareness about water conservation.
- To ensure effective implementation of rejuvenation of traditional water resources, construction of new water sources, water conservation and water harvesting related activities in rural areas from available financial resources (Centre, State, Corporate, Trusts and People's participation) through effective convergence.
- To make efforts to ensure availability of drinking water within village/ nearby village vicinity and resolve the issue of shortage of drinking water.

- To improve the status of ground water availability and to check the rate of depletion of water table.
- To increase cultivable area and irrigated area through water conservation and rain water harvesting activities.
- To increase green cover through intensive afforestation

Major Activities in Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana:

- Watershed (catchment) area treatment: Trenches, Farm Ponds, Mini Percolation Tank (MPT), Khadin, Johar, Tanka, Small Anicuts, Earthen check dams, Water harvesting structures, Field Bund, Water storage structures etc.
- Repair of minor irrigation work, renovation and reinforcement work.
- Reinforcement of drinking water sources.
- Construction of artificial recharge structures.
- Pasture development & plantation.
- Promotion of advanced methods of cropping & horticulture (Drip, Solar pump etc.).

The first phase of Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana commenced on 20 August 2019 in around 4,000 villages of all 295 blocks of all 33 districts of the State. The completion period of phase-I is two years.

Chief Minister Raj Neer Scheme

On 13th March 2020, Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced "Chief Minister Raj Neer Scheme" in the [Vidhan Sabha](#).

Chief Minister Raj Neer Scheme

- Water charges will be waived if the monthly water consumption of domestic consumers is less than 15 thousand litres in the urban area of the state.
- For this non-working water meters will be replaced with smart water meters.
- In the first phase, 10 lakh water meters will be replaced in the next 3 years in 29 cities with more than one lakh population.
- For this, a provision of Rs 25 crore is being made in the financial year 2020-21.
- Similarly, 55 LPCD free drinking water will be supplied to domestic consumers in rural areas and up to 70 LPCD water consumption will be waived in desert areas.

Suposhit Maa Abhiyan

In March 2020, Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan', a scheme for pregnant women and adolescent girls, on pilot basis in Kota and Bundi. The scheme which will provide nutritional support to pregnant women for 11 months taking on infant and female mortality rates. The programme will run for the next nine months.

Over 1,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls were chosen after screening over 5,000 such females in Kota. They have been chosen to receive a 17-kg kit which contains food items. Medical cards will also be given to monitor their health. The initiative is being supported by the Kota Grains and Seeds Merchants' Association.

Indira Gandhi Matratva Poshan Yojana

Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot launched the Indira Gandhi Maternity Nutrition Scheme in the TSP districts of Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Udaipur. Under this scheme, on the birth of the second child, an amount of Rs 6 thousand will be directly transferred to the mother's bank account.

THAR Scheme

The State Government is planning to bring *Transforming and Harvesting agriculture and allied sector in Rajasthan scheme* - **Thar scheme** for new investment in agriculture sector.

The scheme will aim at reducing the cost of farming, increasing the income of farmers, encouraging agricultural processing, promoting information technology in agriculture and bringing the agriculture and related products of the state to the markets of the country and the world under Rajasthan. Innovations will be involved.

PCPIR to come up in Rajasthan

In March 2020, Chief Minister announced that a new Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) will be created in Panchpadra of Barmer, which will create large number of jobs and employment opportunities for the youth of the state in various sectors.

The special investment area in the petroleum sector in Rajasthan will be similar to such areas created in Paradip (Orissa), Dahej (Gujarat) and Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)

New Civil Aviation Policy to be framed

A comprehensive civil aviation policy will be introduced to provide new employment opportunities to the youth of the state and to make possible the full use of the infrastructure related to civil aviation available in the state.

eGram Swaraj portal

On the occasion of National [Panchayati Raj](#) Day 2020, PM Modi launched eGram Swaraj Portal and [Svmitva Yojana](#) for development of villages. The e-GramSwaraj portal is intended to help prepare and execute Gram Panchayat Development Plans. The portal will ensure real time monitoring and accountability. The portal aims to be major step towards digitization down to the Gram Panchayat level.

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993 and gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI's). In 2010, GOI in consultation with the States, decided to celebrate 24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day. Consequently, the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.

What is eGram Swaraj Portal /App?

The E-Gram Swaraj Portal / App is a step to make Gram Panchayats digital. The egramswaraj.gov.in portal is one single interface on which the details of development works will be listed panchayat wise. The platform will provide records of work from planning to the implementation in every village panchayat under Gram Panchayati Development Plan (GPDP).

eGram Swaraj is one of the applications developed as part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MOPR).

Main Features of eGram Swaraj Portal:

- Single platform for all planning and accounting needs of the Panchayats
- Panchayat Profile: Maintains Panchayat profile with Election Details, Elected Members, Committee, etc.

- Planning: Facilitates the planning of activities and action plan creation.
- Accounting: Facilitates the work-based accounting and monitoring of funds
- Asset Directory: Stores all the immovable and movable assets
- Progress Reporting: Records the physical and financial progress of approved activities
- Simple and User-Friendly
- Work-flow Enabled
- Assets available on Gram Manchitra GIS
- Supports multi-tenancy; multiple tenants in the same instance.
- Strong Authentication Mechanism
- Based on Open Source technologies
- Web-based and available 24X7
- Technical architecture supports inter-operability with other PES products

What will be the benefits of eGram Swaraj Portal /App?

- The portal will bring transparency and speed up the work of projects.
- The biggest advantage of this will be that every person in the village will know about the developmental project and the money spent on it.
- The portal will give boost to e-governance in the Panchayati raj institutions across the nation and work towards digitization of work at the Gram Panchayat level. This in turn would improve the accountability.

Who can create an account on the eGram Swaraj Portal /App?

- Anybody can create an account on the Gram Swaraj Portal and know about the developmental works of villages.

Svemitva Yojana for Mapping Rural Properties

On the occasion of [National Panchayati Raj Day](#) 2020 (24th April), PM Modi launched [eGram Swaraj Portal](#) and Svemitva Yojana. The Svemitva scheme provides for an integrated property validation

solution for rural India. It will help in the demarcation of inhabited land in rural areas, by the use of latest surveying methods like – Drone's technology.

Brief Overview of Svamitva Yojana

Svamitva Scheme will be a collaborative effort of the [Ministry of Panchayati Raj](#), State Panchayati Raj Department, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India.

The outcome from the scheme would include updating the '**record-of-rights**' in the revenue/property registers and issuance of **property cards** to the property owners.

The scheme is proposed as a Central Sector scheme titled "SVAMITVA – Survey of villages and mapping with improvised technology in village areas", with a projected outlay of Rs 79.65 crores for the pilot phase (FY 2020 -21).

Survey of Villages And Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas - Svamitva Yojana

Key features of the 'Svamitva Yojana':

- The Scheme would provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages which, in turn, would enable them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits from Banks.
- This would also enable updation of property and asset register to strengthen tax collection and demand assessment process of Gram Panchayats.
- Consequently, apart from demarcation of individual rural property, other Gram Panchayat and community assets like village roads, ponds, canals, open spaces, school, Anganwadi, Health sub-centres, etc. would also be surveyed and GIS maps would be created.
- Thus, the legal record of property holders and issuance of '**Property Cards**' to household owners based thereon would facilitate monetization of rural residential assets for the purchase of credit and other financial services.

Objectives of the Svamitva Scheme

The scheme seeks to achieve the following objectives: -

- To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
- Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.
- To reduce property related disputes and legal cases.

Coverage of the Svamitva Scheme:

There are about 6.62 lakh villages in the country which will be eventually covered in this scheme. The entire work is likely to be spread over a period of four years (2020-2024).

Presently, the pilot phase is being approved for the year 2020-21. The scheme is launched in pilot mode in 6 states (Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) covering approx. 1 lakh villages.

Benefits of the Svamitva Yojana:

- The scheme will ensure streamlined planning, revenue collection and provide clarity over property rights in rural areas.
- This would facilitate monetization of rural residential assets for credit and other financial services.
- Disputes related to property would also be settled through the title deeds allotted through this scheme.
- The GIS maps and spatial database would also help in preparation of accurate work estimates for various works undertaken by Gram Panchayats and other Departments of State Government.

Committees & Commissions

Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council

In march 2020, the state government has issued an order and constituted the Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council.

Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council

The aim of the council is to tackle challenges coming in the way of progress and development of the state. "The council will advise the state on the following — management of state finances, increasing production, identifying areas for employment generation, ensuring the smooth implementation of [schemes](#) and [policies](#) related to health, cleanliness and education,".

Members:

- Chief Minister will be the head of the council.
- Arvind Mayaram will be the vice-chairman of the council.
- Dr. Govind Sharma - Advisor Member.
- The Council has made Chief Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary Finance and Principal Secretary Chief Minister as - Member and Principal Government Secretary Planning as Member Secretary.
- The members of the council also include — Ashok Gulati, businessmen Anil Agarwal and Laxmi Niwas Mittal, Bollywood actor Nandita Das, former banker Naina Lal Kidwai, economist Rathin Roy, Mr. Vikram Mehta and Dr. Devi Shetty and few others.

Tenure:

- The tenure of the council is up to March 2022 and can be extended if required.

Working:

- The meeting of the council will take place once in six months on a mandatory basis.
- A working group of the council will be formed in which subject experts will be nominated by the Chief Minister. The responsibility of the Working Group will be to provide meaningful suggestions along with research and analytical activities to prepare a policy paper for the Council. Members of the working group may be nominated from the Council members or from outside the Council for a period of 2 years.
- In the Council meetings, the Minister nominated by the Chief Minister, Minister of State and Additional Chief Secretary of the concerned departments, Principal Secretary of Government will also be called for discussion

Task force on Post Lockdown Working

The Rajasthan State Government has started working on recovery plan for post lockdown stage. Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has constituted two task forces for suggesting important measures for removing lockdown and formulate strategies to improve the economy post lockdown. The Chief Minister released orders on 03 April 2020 in this reference.

Task Force 1:

- **Aim:** To suggest important measures for removing lockdown at the earliest. These suggestions will be sent the Union Government.
- Headed by Shri Rajeev Swarup, additional Chief Secretary, GoR
- Home Department will be the administrative department for this task force.
- Includes 12 officials & other expert members.
- Key Members:
 - Additional Chief Secretary Medical and Health Mr. Rohit Kumar Singh,
 - Additional Chief Secretary Industries Shri Subodh Aggarwal,
 - Director General of Police Mr. Bhupendra Singh,
 - Additional Director General of Police Crime Mr. BL Soni
 - Principal Secretary of Energy and Agriculture Department
 - Secretary of Food Supply and Labor Department

- Medical Experts Dr. Ashok Panagadia, Dr. Virendra Singh and Dr. SD Gupta will also be a member of the task force.

Task Force 2:

- **Aim:** The second task force will formulate a strategy to improve the economy, on which the state and central government can start work immediately, once there is improvement in the condition of corona virus infection.
- Headed by Shri Arvind Mayaram, Deputy Chairman - [Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council](#)
- Planning department will be the administrative department for this task force.
- Key Members include:
 - Advisor to the Chief Minister Dr. Govind Sharma,
 - Additional Chief Secretary Finance Mr. Niranjana Arya
 - Additional Chief Secretary Industries Mr. Subodh Aggarwal
 - Principal Secretary of Planning, Social Justice and Agriculture Departments
 - Secretary of Science Technology and Animal Husbandry Departments.

The Chief Minister has instructed that any other officer, subject matter expert or other person can be nominated as a member as per the requirement in both task forces.

New Bills & Acts

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 Promulgated

On 1 May 2020, the [Governor of Rajasthan](#) in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India, promulgated the **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**.

Why Ordinance is promulgated

The Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly is not in session and the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action.

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 - Summary

1. Short title, extent and commencement

- The ordinance extends to the whole of the State of Rajasthan and came into effect immediately.

2. Definitions

- Defines **epidemic disease**" means any disease declared as epidemic disease by notification published in the Official Gazette, by the Government

3. Power of Government to notify epidemic disease.-

- Empowers State Government to notify any disease as epidemic disease by notification in the Official Gazette

4. Power to take special measures and specify regulations as to epidemic disease

In case of threat of an outbreak of any epidemic disease in the state, the Rajasthan Government may specify such temporary regulations or orders to be observed by the public or by any person so as to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof and require or empower District Collectors to exercise such powers and duties as may be specified in the said regulations or orders.

Additionally, the Government may take measures and specify regulations:

- (a) to prohibit any usage or act which the Government considers sufficient to spread or transmit epidemic diseases from person to person in any gathering, celebration, worship or other such activities within the State;
- (b) to inspect the persons arriving in the State by air, rail, road or any other means or in quarantine or in isolation, as the case may be, in hospital, temporary accommodation, home or otherwise of persons suspected of being infected with any such disease by the officer authorized in the regulation or orders;
- (c) to seal State Borders for such period as may be deemed necessary;
- (d) to impose restrictions on the operation of public and private transport;
- (e) to prescribe social distancing norms or any other instructions for the public to observe that are considered necessary for public health and safety on account of the epidemic;
- (f) to restrict or prohibit congregation of persons in public places and religious institutions or places of worship;
- (g) to regulate or restrict the functioning of offices, Government and private, and educational institutions in the State;
- (h) to impose prohibition or restrictions on the functioning of shops and commercial and other offices, establishments, factories, workshops and godowns;
- (i) to restrict duration of services in essential or emergency services such as banks, media, health care, food supply, electricity, water, fuel, etc.; and
- (j) such other measures as may be necessary for the regulation and prevention of epidemic diseases as decided by the Government.

5. Punishment for offences

Any person/institution/company who is bound by regulations or orders contravenes or disobeys any such regulation or order made under this Ordinance, or obstructs any officer empowered under this Ordinance, shall on conviction be punishable with **imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.**

6. Punishment for abetment of offences

Whoever abets an offence under this Ordinance shall be punished in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence.

7. Offence by a company

(1) Where an offence under this Ordinance has been committed by a company, every person, who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Ordinance has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section,-

- (a) "company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) "director", in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.

8. Offences to be cognizable and bail-able

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act No. 2 of 1974) all offences under this Ordinance shall be cognizable and bailable.

9. Authorized Officer-

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, authorize one or more persons who shall be competent to act under this Ordinance.

10. Power to delegate

The State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette direct that any power exercisable by it under this Ordinance may also be exercised by such officer as may be mentioned therein, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein.

11. Compounding of offences

- Allows offences to be compounded by such authorities or officers and for such amount as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

12. Ordinance not in derogation of any other law

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

13. Protection of action taken in good faith

- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done by or under this Ordinance.

14. Power to remove difficulties

- Empowers State Government may to make provisions necessary for removing the difficulty in implementation of this ordinance.

15. Power to make rules

- Empowers the State Government to make rules by notification in the Official Gazette into effect the provisions of this Ordinance.
- Every rule and regulation made under this Ordinance shall be laid before the House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of not less than fourteen days.

16. Repeal and Saving

- Repeals the **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957** (Act No. 31 of 1957).
- All orders made under the above Act shall be deemed to have been done, taken or made under this Ordinance.

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 - Rules

Consequently, based on the above **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**, the State Government notified set of rules on 3rd May 2020.

Covid 19 as Epidemic Disease:

- In exercise of powers conferred under Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance, 2020, the state government notified **Covid-19** as an epidemic disease for the whole of Rajasthan.

Important Rules & Regulations under declared under Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020

The State Government made the following regulations to be observed by the persons to prevent the outbreak of the COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019), :

1. Every person shall wear face mask or face cover (nose and mouth covered properly) in public or work place.
2. No shopkeeper shall sell any item to a person who is not wearing face mask or face cover properly.
3. No person shall spit in public place.
4. No person shall consume liquor in any public place.
5. No person shall sell paan, gutka, tobacco etc.
6. Every person shall maintain social distancing (minimum 6 feet from the other person) in public place.
7. No person shall organize any marriage related function or gathering without prior intimation in writing submitted in the Office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, and shall also be responsible to

ensure that social distancing is maintained throughout the function and that the total number of persons does not exceed 50.

8. There shall not be more than 20 persons at funerals / last rites and social distancing shall be ensured.
9. No person shall organize any other kind of social/ political / sports/ entertainment / academic / cultural/ religious function/ other gathering.

Authorized Officers:

- The state government authorized police officers not below the rank of head constable, within their respective jurisdiction, as authorized officer to act in respect of any offence committed.

Compounding of Offences - Fines

The State Government also authorized all Executive Magistrates to compound offences as under:

S.N.	Offence	Amount in Rupees for which the offence is to be compounded
1	2	3
1.	Any person not wearing face mask or face cover (nose and mouth covered properly) in public or work place	Rs. 200/-
2.	Selling any item by a shopkeeper to a person not wearing face mask or face cover	Rs.500/-
3.	Any person found spitting in public place	Rs. 200/-
4.	Any person found consuming liquor in public place	Rs. 500/-
5.	Any person found selling <i>paan</i> , <i>gutka</i> or tobacco	Rs. 1,000/-
6.	Any person not maintaining social distancing (minimum 6 feet from the other person) in public place	Rs. 100/-
7.	Organizing any marriage related function or gathering without prior information in writing to the Sub Divisional Magistrate or not maintaining social distancing during that function	Rs.5000/-
8.	Organizing any marriage related function and having more than 50 persons	Rs. 10,000/-

Government Apps

During the Covid19 pandemic in March & April 2020, both State & Union Government have released a number of mobile apps to help general masses. A brief about few of them.

Aarogya Setu App by GOI for COVID-19 Patient Tracking

The ministry of electronics and IT (MEITY) has launched a mobile app on 02 April called as **Aarogya Setu App**, to connect essential health services with the people of India in our combined fight against [COVID-19](#). The App is aimed at augmenting the initiatives of the Government of India, particularly the Department of Health, in proactively reaching out to and informing the users of the app regarding risks, best practices and relevant advisories pertaining to the containment of COVID-19.

This app is a unique example of the nation's young talent coming together and pooling resources and efforts to respond to a global crisis. It is at once a bridge between public and private sectors, digital technology and health services delivery and the potential of young India with a disease-free and healthy future of the nation.

Kisan Rath App

The Department of [Agriculture](#), Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India is taking several measures to facilitate the farmers and farming activities at field level during the lockdown period.

On 17 April 2020, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare had launched "Kisan Rath App" to facilitate Farmers and Traders in identifying right mode of transportation for movement of farm produce ranging from food grain (cereal, coarse cereal, pulses etc), fruits & vegetables, oil seeds, spices, fiber crops, flowers, bamboo, log & minor forest produce, coconuts etc.

The app has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar, launched transport aggregator mobile app- Kisan Rath.

About the Kisan Rath App:

Kisan Rath Mobile App facilitates the farmers and traders across the country for transportation of agri-produce by connecting them with the transporters. The app interfaces with leading transport

aggregators and individual transporters for providing a wide range of transport vehicles at required date and place, in a quick and easy way.

The app allows posting the requirements of part-load as well as full-load. The app also provides a feature to the transporters to register their vehicles and provide services to farmers and traders. The transporters can view the posted loads and respond back with their availability and quotes.

The farmers and traders can view the responses to their posted loads, communicate with the transporters to finalise the deal, and can provide a rating for the transporter once the trip is completed.

Janaushadhi Sugam Mobile App

In 2019, The Janaushadhi Sugam Mobile App was launched as part of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK). The Mobile App is available on both Android & I-phone platforms. It can be downloaded free of cost by the user from Google Play Store and Apple Store.

During Covid-19 pandemic the App has been in NEWS as the mobile application is being used by masses to help locate their nearest Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) and availability of affordable generic medicine with its price.

Apps by State Government of Rajasthan

RajCovidInfo Android App

Official Rajasthan Government App to get Corona epidemic related information, guidelines, health advice, state related data, hospital / helpline details and information alerts.

E-bazaar COVID 19 Mobile App

The eBazaar Covid 19 App has been developed with the objective of providing a single platform for sellers and buyers to sell, buy and doorstep delivery of daily essential groceries.

RSMP RajConecT

RSMP RajConecT is a Rajasthan government platform. On this you can take part in various surveys related to Covid-19. Additionally, through the chat box and channel, you can keep yourself updated about the information related to Covid-19.

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