



RAJRAS

Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
2017

Index

Persons in NEWS.....	3
Places in NEWS	5
Schemes & Policy.....	10
General NEWS	16
New Initiatives.....	21
Science & Technology	23

Persons in NEWS

Mrs. Santosh Ahlawat

- Member of Parliament from Jhunjhunu, **Mrs. Santosh Ahlawat** has been entrusted with the responsibility of representing India at the 72nd [UN General Assembly](#) session. Along with Mrs Santosh Ahalawat, the former Union Minister Smt. Renuka Chowdhury and the Rajya Sabha nominated MP, Mr. Swapan Dasgupta will also be present in the conference.

Alphons Kannanthanam

- Union minister of state for tourism [Alphons Kannanthanam](#) was elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. He was the lone candidate for the by-poll for the Rajya Sabha seat, which was vacant since former Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu being elected as the vice-president in August.

Vijaykumar Rajsoni

- Vijay kumar Rajsoni from Pratapgarh was facilitated by President Kovind for his creation Shahi Savari. Rajsoni family is famous for popularizing Thewa Art.

Kachnaar Choudhary

- Kachnaar Choudhary of Rajasthan won Silver Medal in shotput at National Open Athletics in Chennai.

Deepak Chauhan

- Shree Deepak Chauhan was awarded Veer Durgadas Rathore Award for 2017 at Jodhpur.

Manohar Singh Sankhla

- SI of Jaipur Commissionerate who won Silver Medal in World Police & Fire games 2017 held in Los Angeles.

O P Galhotra

- Rajasthan government Thursday appointed 1985-batch IPS officer Om Prakash Galhotra as the new director general of police (DGP).
- Galhotra took charge from Ajit Singh.

Aditya Garhwal

- The under-23 cricket from Rajasthan, made 316 not-out against Saurashtra.

Ganga Kumari

- State's first transgender aspirant who recently received the posting, after Court orders.

Manpreet Kaur

- Rajasthan's female Kabaddi player who played an important part in India's Gold Medal achievement.
- The event was organized at Iran.

Persons on important posts

S.No	Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current
	Rajasthan		
1	Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Pradeep Nandrajog(32nd)
2	Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan		Ashvini Bhagat
3	State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan		Prem Singh Mehra
4	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)		Suresh Chaudhary
5	RPSC Chairman		Shayam Sundar Sharma(32nd)
6	Financial Commssion Chairman		Dr. Jyoti Kiran (5th)
7	Advocate General of Rajasthan	G.C. Kasliwal	NARPAT MAL LODHA
8	Lokayukta of Rajasthan	ID Dua (1973)	SS Kothari
9	Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission	Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar	Justice Prakash Chandra Tatia
10	Chief Secretary Rajasthan		Ashok Jain
11	Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Kailash Meghwal
12	Governor	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Reorganised 1956 – Gurumukh Nihal Singh	Kalyan Singh

Places in NEWS

Moondoti Village:

Union Human Resource Minister Prakash Javedkar awarded Moondoti Village from Ajmer district as Adarsh Village.

Rawatbhata, Chittorgarh

India's second Nuclear fuel complex is going to come up at Rawatbhata, Chittorgarh.

Neemrana, Alwar

A skill development center in form of Japan Institute of Manufacturing is going to come up at Neemrana, Alwar.

Police Training School

Rajasthan government has approved establishment of new Police training school at Udaipur. The training school will come up at Mokhania in Girwa Tehsil. Before Udaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhalawar, Jodhpur Kherwada & Kishangarh already have police training schools.

Rajasthan's first Canal-top Solar Plant

Rajasthan state's first canal-top solar plant started functioning at Menawali, Hanumangarh. The capacity of plant is around 2 MWp.

1st 'Sampoorn Beema Gram' in Rajasthan

Shikarpura village of Jodhpur was declared as the first "Sampoorna Beema Gram" of the state on Tuesday by the postal department. All the 458 families of the village are covered under Grameen Dak Jeevan Beema with at least one member from each family having the life insurance policy.

Before this, Shikarpura also won accolades for being the first "Sampoorna Sukanya Samruddhi Gram" of the state.

Annual Bhang Competition held

The annual national bhang competition was held at Ramdevra township in Jaisalmer. This competition is organised every year on the 10th day of Bhadrapadra Shukla of the Hindu calendar during the Ramdevra Fair of Baba Ramdev. The fair goes on for a month in which around 50 lakh devotees from various states come here.

Rajasthan's biggest cow milk dairy plant

Ajmer is set to get Rajasthan's biggest cow milk dairy plant. Chief minister of Rajasthan would soon lay the foundation stone for the Rs 253-crore dairy plant in Ajmer. The plant will be exclusively dedicated for the processing of cow milk.

Rajasthan is among the top five milk producing states in the country. State's milk brand Saras is one of the top brands and also the highest paying milk co-operative in the country. Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF) is one of the biggest dairy co-operatives in the country, collecting 24 lakh litres of milk per day, on an average. It has milk collection unions in 21 districts of the state with a turnover of over Rs 4,500 crore.

Historical Text Museum in Bikaner

Bikaner will soon have India's first museum for historical text & records. It will be in form of a digital museum which will have close to 300 hand-written farmans from Mughal emperors to Rajput kings, 22 feet long treaty of Purandar, more than one thousand bronze inscriptions, ancient maps, rajputana history texts, etc.

Jaipur tops in DBT transactions

The Bhamashah Yojna, a flagship scheme launched by Rajasthan Government three years ago, reached a milestone after direct cash transfer to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore was crossed under it. The government is considering it a record as nearly 28 crore transactions have been done till date for the first time under the scheme.



A release by the government stated that more than 1.47 crore families and 5.41 crore members are connected under Bhamashah Platform.

GRAM Udaipur

- The 3rd edition of GRAM was organized from November 7 to 9 in the premises of Maharana Pratap Agriculture and Technology University of Udaipur.

e-Library

- State's first e-library was started at Udaipur district & Session court premises.

3 Districts removed from BIMARU category

- After a recent survey, Union Government has removed three districts from Rajasthan namely – Dungarpur, Rajsamand & Bundi from Bimaru category.

Copper Blocks identified in Chittaurgarh

- Two new copper blocks by name of Bhagal & Vari have been identified in Bhupal Sagar area of Chittorgarh.

Jaipur shortlisted in top 6 smart cities under World Smart City Expo

[Jaipur](#) has been shortlisted in top 6 among 600 cities across 127 countries which participated in World Smart City Expo at Barcelona in Spain. The expo is going to be held from November 14-16. Recently, [Jaipur](#) has signed a MoU with Australian city Adelaide for exchange of ideas on smart facilities.

Cancer Institute

Chief Minister of Rajasthan recently laid foundation for Cancer Institute at [Rajasthan](#) University of Health Sciences (RUHS) campus at Pratap Nagar, [Jaipur](#). The State Cancer Institute is proposed to be spread over 35,000 square metres of land and will have specialised wings for radiology, surgical oncology, medicinal oncology, pathology, etc.

Kota uses Google map to monitor rural development works

The district administration in Kota has started using Google map for transparency and effective monitoring of rural development works. The initiative has been taken at the Sahnawada Gram Panchayat of Itawa Panchayat Samiti of Kota district whereby all the development works done in the last 3 years time have been put on Google map. Villagers will soon be able to see and make verification of the development works in their villages.

Jhalawar scores in Digitisation

Jhalawar District has ranked at first place in Rajasthan in digitisation of medical records.

Vastra 2017

International Textile and Apparel fair "VASTRA" 2017 was organised in Jaipur. It is organised jointly by RIICO and FICCI.

78 antique silver coins recovered in Ajmer

Alwargate police has seized 78 antique silver coins of King Edward VII era while digging at Parkash Road of Nagar area of Ajmer, for laying the water pipeline. King Edward VII coins came to India during 1906 and came into use in 1910.

New Music Museum in Jaipur

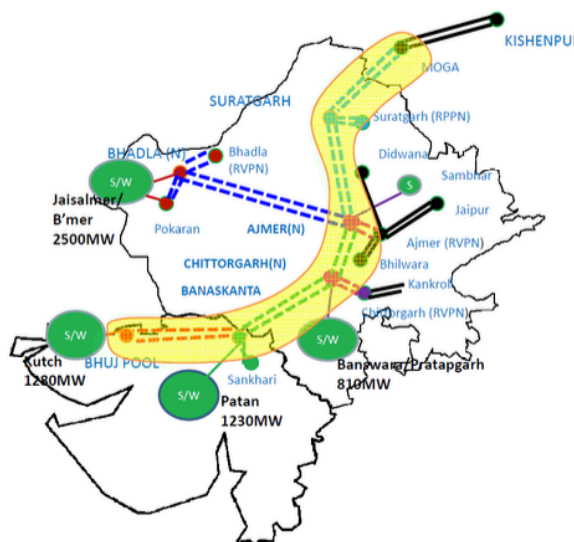
The Sisodia Rani Bagh at the Ghat ki Guni on Agra bypass is set to get a music museum. More than 50 musical instruments and sculptures will be on display in this one of its kind museum in the state. These will represent the musical culture of [Rajasthan](#) and its legacy with instruments like Sarangi, Ektara, Khartal, etc., that would be on display.

IT hub to come up at Rohat, Pali

Information Technology (IT) Industry park is soon going to come up at Rohat, Pali district. Land acquisition for the same has started.

Work begins for Green Energy Corridor

The government had planned to set new two new green energy corridors to facilitate grid integration of large-scale renewables. The second green energy corridor is planned to run from Banaskantha in Gujarat to Moga in Punjab. This corridor would pass through Chittorgarh, Ajmer, Nagaur, Bikaner & Hanumangarh districts of Rajasthan.



Khoa & Rupnagar

Khoa (Alwar) & Rupnagar (Pali) in Rajasthan have been selected by Union government for installation of Ballistic Missile Defence System. India is the fifth nation, after Russia, Israel, USA & France to have such system.

Schemes & Policy

Important Rajasthan Cabinet Decisions

- Proposal for the construction of Mini Secretariat in Shri Ganganagar, worth 173 Crores was also sanctioned in the Cabinet meeting.
- Cabinet reviewed **MJSA** 2nd Phase & work-plan for 3rd Phase, to begin in desert & non-desert districts. from 9th Dec'17 & 20 Jan'18, respectively.

RERA Unregistered real-estate projects to pay penalty

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has decided to impose 2% of project cost or 10 times of registration fee, whichever is more, as penalty on developers who have not registered their ongoing project with regulatory authority till the extended deadline of September 30. After RERA Act came into force and the RERA website launched on June 1. It became mandatory for all the builders and real estate agents to register on the website till July 31. However, the deadline was extended on request of builders.

The consumers wishing to register their complaints with the regulatory authority can go ahead after seeing the registered project profile on the RERA online portal. Those who have booked their flats in a residential complex and their developer has not registered on portal can also inform the authority.

300 government schools in Rajasthan to operate on PPP model

Rajasthan Cabinet has cleared the Policy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) in School Education-2017, paving way for government schools to operate on PPP model. There are approximately the 9895 secondary and higher secondary government schools across the state. Out of these, initially on pilot basis, 300 schools in the rural areas would be put up to be run on PPP mode.

The government will continue to own the school building and that the operations of the school would be handed over for a span of 10 years, at the end of which it would be reviewed. For this, private players, will have to shell out Rs 75 lakhs per school for operations and development, apart from providing teachers and other staff for the classes 1 to XII at these schools.

Software to review government efficiency

Rajasthan government has developed a new "public sentiment" software to check what people think of its departments and major schemes. The new analytical software developed by the department of information technology and communication (DoITC), crawls through newspapers and social media hashtags to gauge how various sectors have drawn negative and positive coverage. Every day, the software sifts through major newspapers of the state. The news reports are matched against keywords stored in the data dictionary. The software then generates a report complete with a particular department's negative and positive performance that have appeared in newspapers and social media.

Development of religious monuments in Rajasthan

Chief Minister said that for the development of temples and monuments of the state, a sum of Rs. 551 crore has been prepared. 125 temples of the state and monuments of 30 folk gods and goddesses are being developed.

Road connectivity is also being developed for connecting religious places of the state, including Pushkar-Bundupushkar, Selamabad, Khatushyamji, Braj Chaurasi Parikrama, Mehndipur Balaji, Diggi Kalyan, Kaladevi and Ramdev.

A master plan has been prepared for the development of Pushkar. The master plan of 366 crores is of two stages. To enhance the beauty of Pushkar, the ghats will be developed and restored here. The Varah Temple, Bhatayv Ganesh Kund and Mana Mandir will also be developed along with the Brahma Temple.

Deendayal Senior Tirtha Yatra Yojana

- [Rajasthan](#) State government will make 20 thousand senior citizens pilgrimage through air and rail routes this year under the Deendayal Senior Tirtha Yatra Yojana.

Rajasthan Tourism department introduces reforms to attract more tourist

With tourism season having started in the state, the tourism department is focusing on foreign and domestic tourists. Last year Rs 63 crore was spent for global publicity while this year Rs 25 crore has been sanctioned. The extra budget has resulted in improvement in the number of tourist arrivals has increased by 17%. The department is actively working to achieve the **target of 5 crore domestic tourist** arrivals in the state.

- Tourism department started global media campaign.
- The tourism department has prepared a marketing plan on different international platforms, which will include road shows as well as advertisements on foreign TV channels and magazines.
- Within the country, banners and hoardings have been put up in selected cities and publicity campaign in news channels, newspapers and magazine has been planned.

Chirayu Programme launched in Rajasthan

To reduce infant mortality rate (IMR), health department has launched Chirayu programme in eight districts - Udaipur, Jalore, Karauli, Barmer, Rajsamand, Jodhpur, Sirohi and Sawai Madhopur. The programme will focus on saving lives of under-28 days children as majority of infants (under one year) die before they complete four weeks of their lives.

As per the Centre's Sample Registration System (SRS) report 2015, the percentage of neonatal (Neonates: under-28 day infants) deaths to infant deaths in the state is 69.8%. The NMR in the state is 30 deaths per 1000 live births. It is slightly higher than the national average, which is 25 deaths per 1000 live births.

Chirayu Programme:

- The health department will strengthen its healthcare services for neonates at sick newborn care units (SNCUs).
- The health department will also focus on operationalise C-section points in districts to ensure that the pregnant women with complication receive caesarean deliveries facility immediately at the time of need.
- The health department will emphasis more on providing referral transport. This will ensure availability of vehicles for pregnant women.
- The health department will take strict action against ANMs who will fail to perform under Chirayu programme which include withholding of increments. Also, officials will face action if they provide incorrect data reporting.

The Rajasthan government has made it easier now to make birth, death and marriage certificates. Application can be made directly to the registrar or to the pehchan portal online or from the mobile app. The application can be made online through: [Pehchan Portal Rajasthan](#)

Under the UDAAN Scheme, flight service has been launched from Bikaner & Delhi.

Women and Child Welfare Department has launched "Chirali - साथ सदा के लिए " Scheme. Under the Chirali scheme, volunteers will be installed for women's safety in villages and women's pressure groups will be formed. The scheme will be launched in the first 7 districts of Banswara, Bhilwara, Bundi, Jalore, Jhalawar, Nagaur and Pratapgarh.

Rajasthan govt. notifies 7th pay commission recommendations

The Rajasthan government issued the notification to implement the 7th Pay Commission recommendations. This will revise the pay of nearly 12 lakh employees and pensioners in the state. The notification, issued by the state finance department, will be effective from October 1. The state government had constituted the Sawant Committee to examine cases of salary discrepancies, allowances and arrears and make recommendations.

Swami Vivekananda Statue to be installed in Govt. Colleges

State higher education department has directed government colleges to install statue of Swami Vivekananda in their campuses to inspire students. Rajasthan has 219 government colleges.

Rajasthan Dairy Development Fund

A 100 crore dairy development fund will be set up by the state government for the development of the Saras Dairy in across the state. In this fund, 75 crore rupees will be made available by the government for 10 years without any interest. The remaining 25 crores will be given by RCDF.

The fund will be used for development for poor category dairies of the state. At present, Banswara, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Churu, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Sikar, Tonk and Sawai madhopur belong to poor dairy category.

770 Government school students get free coaching facilities via virtual classes

State Government started providing free coaching facilities for medical and engineering entrance examination to government school students. For this, the state government signed a MoU with Kota-based Allen Coaching Institute, which will started providing live coaching through virtual classroom.

The smart virtual classrooms have been set up at 770 government schools and 11 district teaching and training institutes with the coordination of the School Education Department and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. In the first phase, free coaching facility will be provided to 11th class students of 770 government schools.

Rajasthan announces farm loan waiver of up to Rs 50,000

After a two-week-long protest by farmers **the Rajasthan government has announced a Rs 20,000 crore farm-loan waiver.**

Key Points:

- The **government** has **agreed to waive loans for farmers up to Rs 50,000.**
- The farmers were demanding waiver of all loans amounting to Rs49,500 crore but the government was firm that as per records, the loans amounted to Rs19,700 crore.

Rajasthan Government introduces bill prohibiting probes against judges, officers without sanction

Rajasthan Government introduced The Code of Criminal Procedure (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the state assembly to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in state from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction. The bill replaced Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 promulgated earlier.

Key features of Bill:

The Bill prevents courts from taking up private complaints against both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in state for on-duty action without its prior sanction. It also bars media from reporting on such matters involving accusations against public servants until sanction to proceed with probe is obtained.

The bill amends **Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC), 1973**. It curbs publishing and printing or publicising in any case the name, address, photograph, family details of the public servants.

It make additions to sections **156 (3) and 190 (1)** of CrPC which empower a magistrate to take cognizance of an offence and order an investigation. It provides 180 days immunity to officers as it has provision mentioning no magistrate can order an investigation nor will any investigation be conducted against person who is or was a judge or a magistrate or a public servant.

Its violation will call for two years imprisonment. If there is no decision on the sanction request post the stipulated time period (180 days), it will automatically mean that sanction has been granted.

General NEWS

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day

Chief Minister of Rajasthan declared – 17 September to celebrated every-year as State MSME day. Additionally, 17 September – 02 October would be celebrated as MSME fortnight. This year, Namrata Jain, founder of Padmavati Industries became the first women industrialist to get Udyog Ratna.

Rajasthan gets its first heavy metal testing lab

Central public health laboratory at mini health directorate in Jaipur has been upgraded to heavy metal testing lab. With this Rajasthan has joined the selected state like Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra where the presence of heavy metals and pesticides in fruits, vegetables, and other food items can be tested at government testing lab.

Many studies have reported the presence of high content of heavy metals like lead, cadmium, arsenic, cobalt, copper, zinc etc. in vegetables and fruits cultivated with waste-water. Irrigation of agricultural land with waste-water leads to a continuous build-up of metals at these fields which gets accumulated in the vegetables and crops grown on these fields.

Veterinary doctor develops device for artificial insemination

Amit Sharma, a government veterinary officer at [Banswara](#) has developed a new device 'DAIS' a substitute to the expensive Artificial Insemination (AI) gun. The new device is equally efficient and comparatively cheaper, while Artificial Insemination gun costs around 1 lacto 1.5 lac rupees but the price of DAIS is about 1500-2000 rupees only.

Artificial Insemination is the method of rapid dissemination of elite male genetic material to a large number of females in a short duration of time over a large geographical area.

First Cow Sanctuary

The Union government proposed a **Project Cow** in April this year, under which sanctuaries will be set up in every state to save cows from slaughter. Under this, a cow sanctuary will be set up in Bharatpur

district. This sanctuary would be first in Rajasthan and shelter stray cattle to curb their smuggling for slaughter.

Rajasthan State & Chief Minister Awarded

[Rajasthan](#) state has been selected for the 'Smart Governance State of the Year' award. Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was awarded with the Skoch Award of Chief Minister of the Year 2017 for the outstanding work done in the field of IT and e-Governance in Rajasthan.

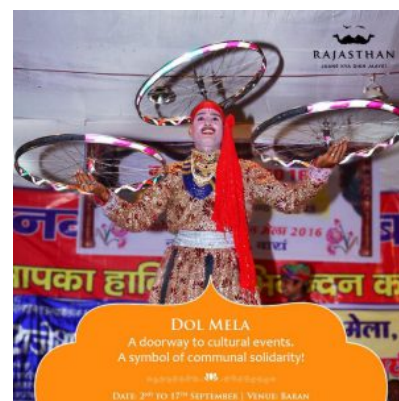
Rajasthan State Cooperative Awarded

Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded Rajasthan State Cooperative Bank (APEX Bank) for their excellent cooperative banking service in the programme organised to celebrate the birth centenary celebration of [Laxmanrao Inamdar](#), leader of Cooperative Movement and founder of Sehakar Bharti.

The bank has established 285 ATMs and 2500 small ATMs in the state. The financial inclusion doorway system has also been started by the bank to promote digital payments and provide banking services at customers' doorstep.

Dol Mela

Dol Mela was organised from 2 to 17 September. Dolmela is organised at the Dol Talab (Pond) in the Baran from Jaljhulni Akadshi. The main attraction of this day is a big Shobha Yatra (procession) which have about 54 Dev Viman (The Holy Statue Carriers) which is also known as DOL, of all the major temples of the city. In this procession some Akhadas also demonstrates their Kartab (type of physical exercise). The procession started from Shreeji temple comes to the Dol Talab where all the Dev Vimans are worshiped and then these are sent back to the respective temples. This fair is organised for 15 days which is very popular among the local residents as well as the residents from the Rajasthan state. People from adjoining Madhya Pradesh also visit for this fair. This fair is the symbol of communal harmony in the area.



Abhaneri Festival

Abhaneri Festival was held on 21st & 22nd September at the Abhaneri village in Dausa district. The festival will witness artistes performing Shehnai Vaadan, puppet show, Behrupia, Raavanhatha, among others at Chand Baori and Harshat Mata temple.

The village of Abhaneri was originally named Abha Nagri, meaning “city of brightness”. The place is popular for the Chand Baori-step-well. The beautiful structure was built during the 8th and 9th centuries and has 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect symmetry, which descend 20m to the bottom of the well.



Pushkar Fair

The pushkar fair, better known as Pushkar ka Mela began on Saturday, October 28, 2017 with the ceremonial hoisting of the tricolour . The 2017 fair will close on 4 November, coinciding with Kartik Purnima, the full moon day.

Marwar Festival being organized

Marwar Festival was organised in Jodhpur on October 4 & October 5. The festival was originally known as Maand festival. The two-day festival is held every year in the month of Ashwin (between September and October) in memory of the heroes of Rajasthan. The music and dance of the Marwar region is the main theme of this festival.

Bundi Utsav Held

Three-day [Bundi](#) Utsav, the event organized jointly by district administration and tourism department every year to promote tourism in the region, was held during 6-8 November. Bundi Utsav is celebrated during the month of Karthik.

Bird Fair in Udaipur

Udaipur will host the third edition of the bird fair in December. This year the four-day event, which will begin on December 25, will feature bird racing, an event which aims to collect data on different species of birds.

Best Tourism Film Award

Rajasthan's tourism department popular television advertisement 'Jaane Kya Dikh Jaaye' has bagged best tourism film award at National Tourism Awards 2015-16.

SC bars Rajasthan from crossing 50% quota limit

The [Supreme Court](#) restrained Rajasthan Government from crossing the 50% ceiling on total reservation until the writ petition challenging the hike in [OBC](#) quota was decided by the Rajasthan High Court.

Background:

The state government, by a new legislation titled Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in the state and of Appointments and Posts in Services under the state) Bill, 2017, intends to increase OBC quota in the state from 21% to 26%. If the increase is carried out, total reservation in state government jobs and education institutes will shoot up to 54%.

The bill was stayed by the high court last week as former MLA [Ganga Sahay Sharma](#) had challenged it on the ground that 54% overall reservation was in violation of Supreme Court's past orders that capped total quota at 50%.

Other News:

- Jaipur police launches toll-free helpline for senior citizens.
- 68,000 Anganwadi Centers in Rajasthan set to go Tobacco free.
- Siberian Crane "Khurja" has started arriving at Kheejan near Falodi Jaipur for winter migration. These birds come from Tibet, China, Mongolia etc to Rajasthan to avoid the harsh winter condition there.
- MOU has been signed between Ajeevika Rajasthan & IDBI bank for providing loan of 100 Cr to 10,000 women beneficiaries.
- Kiran Maheshwari, Higher Education Minister of Rajasthan signed an MOU with vice-president of South Hampton University UK for providing Internet services to dark zone of state. Dark Zones are areas where internet services are not available currently.
- Rajasthan State ranked third in country in Swachh School Awards.
- DoITC to develop virtual 3D model of Jaipur city
- The state government has decided to connect about 1,100 government schools in state with Wi-Fi service. This will facilitate students and teachers to access internet for study purpose.



New Initiatives

Olitia: Olive Tea of Rajasthan

On 9th September, Chief Minister of Rajasthan launched an alternative to green tea. **Olitia**, The Olive Tea, which is made from olive extracts, will soon be launched. Rajasthan started cultivating olives in 2007 in collaboration with Israel and now the state cultivates them on 5,000 hectares. Country's first Olive refinery is also operational in the Rajasthan at Bikaner.

Steps to curb witchcraft in state

The social justice and empowerment department has directed district collectors to strictly enforce the Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act of 2015 in their districts. The department has identified 14 most sensitive districts where the practice of witchcraft is still prevalent. They are Jaipur, Bundi, Tonk, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Rajsamand, Udaipur, Ajmer, Jhalawar, Kota, Pratapgarh, Banswara, Sawai Madhopur and Dungarpur.

The department has also decided to launch a campaign at the grassroots level against this inhuman practice in collaboration with local NGOs, community liaison groups (CLG), adult literacy programmes, women self-help groups (SHGs) and people's representatives. Another important aspect is the rehabilitation of the victims and providing support systems. The allotment of housing plots, medical care, power, water, pension, etc., will be provided to them under existing schemes.

ODF Districts of Rajasthan

[Ajmer](#), [Bikaner](#), [Churu](#), [Chittorgarh](#), [Jhunjhunu](#) & [Pali](#) have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) districts in Rajasthan.

In first week of December, **Sawai Madhopur**, **Pratapgarh** joined the list of ODF free districts.



Mission Clean India in Rajasthan Update

To fulfill the vision of a clean and healthy India, Chief Minister announced the mission to the practice of open defecation by October 2, 2019 during the budget session of 2014-15.

- In this mission, 6946 (70.23%) gram panchayats out of the 9891 Gram Panchayats of the state has been released from open defecation.
- 13 districts in the state including Bikaner, Ajmer, Churu, Pali, Jhunjhunun, Hanumangarh, Sriganganagar, Jaisalmer, Nagaur, Sikar, Dungarpur and Sawai Madhopur and Chittorgarh have already been relieved from open defecation.
- Additionally, out of 43519 villages of the state, 29118 villages have been made open defecation.

MOU between Devasthan Department and IRCTC for Pilgrimage Train

A MoU was signed between Devasthan Dept, Rajasthan and IRCTC for Rail Travel under Deendayal Upadhyay Senior Citizen Teerth Yatra Yojana 2017. Accordingly, railway travel to 13 pilgrim destinations selected by the Devasthan Department will be done through IRCTC. The first train of this year has been proposed to be depart from Durgapura station, Jaipur to Rameswaram on October 26.

Tiger reintroduction in Mukundra Hills Reserve

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) gave in principle approval that tigers could be reintroduced to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve by December 2017. Hence, in first phase, three tigers, two female and one male are proposed to be shifted most probably from Ranthambore National Park (RNP) to Mukundra Hills.

Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve

- Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve extends over an area of 759 sq. km. including 417 sq. km core area and 342 buffer zone,
- The reserve covers four districts namely [Kota](#), Bundi, Chittor and [Jhalawar](#).
- It was declared and notified as Tiger Reserve in 2013, and approved this September 2017.

Science & Technology

- The world's largest and powerful X-ray laser- European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany.
- India's first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati.
- CSIR scientists have developed an ultra-thin wireless device that mimics plant leaves to produce energy using water and sunlight. The artificial leaf absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water.
- The world's largest all-composite airplane Stratolaunch in terms of wingspan successfully completed its initial engine tests. It is designed for launching for sending satellite-carrying rockets into low-Earth orbit.
- Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named SAM. It was created by Nick Gerritsen, entrepreneur in New Zealand.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch first solar mission Aditya-L1 in 2019. It will be India's first dedicated scientific mission to study sun.
- Researchers from Columbia University Medical Centre (CUMC) in US have converted natural **bacterial** immune system into the world's smallest data recorder.
- Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in association with Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) has developed Improved Samba Masuri (ISM) variety rice with low Glycemic Index (GI). Rice with low GI is considered suitable for people with diabetes.

- China launched world's first fully electric cargo ship in Guangzhou. The ship uses lithium ion battery and shall mainly be used to run in inland section of Pearl River for carrying coal for generation of electric power.
- The world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells was launched in China's Tangshan city, north China's Hebei Province.
- Scientists have found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus called Lepsey NLV1 may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of the dreaded infection.
- The world's first negative emissions plant under the CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) into stone has begun operations in Hellisheidi, Iceland. It is intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks. Work on the project began in 2007.

Nobel Prizes 2017:

- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson for the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. They were selected for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution.
- American scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne for the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics. They were selected for their decisive contributions to the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory) detector and the observation of gravitational waves.
- The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Jeffrey C. Hall (72), Michael Rosbash (73) and Michael W. Young (68). They were awarded for discovering molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm. Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with Earth's revolutions.

RAJRAS

Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
JUNE - AUGUST 2017

Index

Persons in NEWS.....	3
Places in NEWS	5
Schemes & Policy.....	10
General NEWS	16
New Initiatives.....	21
Science & Technology	23
Persons in NEWS.....	27
Places in NEWS	30
Committees	34
Schemes & Policy.....	35
General NEWS	38
New Initiatives.....	48
Science & Technology	53

Persons in NEWS

Shyam Sunder Sharma

- **Shyam Sunder Sharma** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission. Sharma is currently a member of the Commission. Last Chairman, Mr. Lalit Panwar tenure ended on July 10th.

Lalit K Panwar

- Lalit K Panwar has been appointed as first chancellor of Rajasthan ILD Skills University.

Firdaus Kayamkhani

The 44th National Junior Swimming Competition held in Pune from 3-6 July. In the competition, **Firdous Kayamkhani**, a resident of Shahpura of Bhilwara district, won:

- Gold Medal in 400m individual medley
- Silver Medal in 200m butterfly
- Bronze medal in 100 butterfly

Prof R K Kothari

- Prof R K Kothari appointed as new vice-chancellor of Rajasthan University
- To remember: Governor is the chancellor of Rajasthan University.

Sundar Gurjar

- Sundar Gurjar has won the Gold Medal in the Javelin Throw competition of World Parade Athletics Championship-2017 organised in London.
- Sundar made his name on gold with a best performance of 60.36 meters.

Ajit Singh

- Ajit Singh, a 1982 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was on 31st-July 2017, appointed as the director general of police (DGP) by the Rajasthan government.
- Primary tasks at hand:
 - Influx of illegal weapons from neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh into Rajasthan.
 - Maintaining law & order at large, and controlling gangs of likes of Lawrence Bishnoi gang and Sethi gangs.
 - Western districts of Jaislmer, Barmer, and Bikaner have witnessed spike in espionage activities from Pakistan.
 - Improving technical surveillance & ground intelligence capabilities of the 89,316 strong force.

Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar

- Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar died on 29th July. He was born in Alwar on April 20, 1939, and spent his childhood and youth in city of Jaipur.
- He is credited with taking the 'dhrupad' tradition across the globe. He was part of the illustrious Dagar family of musicians.

Priyanka Kumawat

- Priyanka Kumawat stood at second place in All India **Junior Badminton Tournament 2017 Under-19 Girls' Singles**.
- She also won third place in doubles.

Advir Singh Tanwar & Sandhya Solanki

- Advir Singh Tanwar & Sandhya Solanki from Rajasthan have been selected in the 60 and 81kg weight category for World Muaythai Youth Championship of martial arts to be held in Thailand's capital Bangkok.

Devendra Jhajaria

- Devendra Jhajaria from Rajasthan who is Paralympics double gold medalist in javelin, has been named as the recipients of **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**.

Chetan Cheetah:

- CRPF Commandant from Rajasthan, Chetan Cheetah has been recommended for Kirti Chakra.

Mr. Ashok Jain

- Ashok Jain has become the new chief secretary of Rajasthan. He has replaced OP Meena.

Prem Singh Mehra

- The Rajasthan government has appointed senior IAS officer Prem Singh Mehra as state election commissioner.

Abhijeet Gupta

- Grandmaster and former world junior champion Abhijeet Gupta beat Aleksander Wohl of Australia to clinch gold at the Commonwealth Chess Championships in New Delhi.

Dr. Indushekhar Tatpurush

- Dr Indushekhar tatpurush has been appointed as the chairman of Rajasthan Sahitya Academy.

C P Joshi

- Congress leader CP Joshi won the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) elections for the post of President.

Places in NEWS

1st mother's milk store opened in Ajmer

- First mother's milk store and distribution centre was opened at government Jannana hospital in Ajmer.

Indian Road Congress Meet in Udaipur

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **212th meeting of Indian Road Congress (IRC)** in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- The Indian Road Congress is the **apex body of highway engineers in the country**.
- During his one-day visit, he will also attend a discussion by Udaipur chamber of commerce on economic growth of Rajasthan with development of roads and infrastructure.

Jaipur included in list of Five Indian Cities In World Heritage Site

- In recent news, **UNESCO** (UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC and CULTURAL ORGANISATION) has added five Indian cities in its list of tentative world heritage site.
- **These cities include:**
 - Ahmedabad,
 - Delhi
 - Jaipur City, Rajasthan
 - Ekamra Kshetra- The Temple City, Bhubaneswar
 - The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai.

Bikaner to get 'Abhay Command Centre' soon

- After Jaipur, [Bikaner](#) is all set to become the second district in the state to get hi-tech state-of-the-art police control room to ramp up security through closed circuit television camera surveillance system.

Second Centre of Excellence of ICAI inaugurated in Jaipur

- The country's second Centre of Excellence (CoE) of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ([ICAI](#)) was inaugurated at Chaisla in Jaipur district.

12 new districts to get passport seva kendras soon

- After starting passport [seva kendras](#) (PSK) at post offices in four districts of the state, the external affairs ministry is set to have similar PSK's at 12 more districts in the state.
- External affairs ministry had started passport seva kendras in districts including Kota, Jhunjhunu, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Udaipur and Bikaner.
- In second phase, these kendras would be opened at Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Karauli, Dholpur, Nagaur, Sriganganagar and Pali in the post offices of the respective districts.

Biodiversity park on Ajmer-Pushkar Road

- The foothill area on Ajmer-Pushkar road will soon have a biodiversity park and space will be reserved for wild animals. The specialty of the park will be that it will have diverse plants that are found on the hills and the arid zone.
- This park will be similar to Nahargarh in Jaipur and Sajjangarh in Udaipur where wild animals have their personal space.

Jhalawar comes first in family planning

- Jhalawar district stood first in family planning in Rajasthan for the second year in a row, recording more sterilisations than the target through effective monitoring and handing out smartphones and sarees as sops.

Rajasthan to get Camel Milk Plant

- The government is planning to install Camel Milk Plant in the state in a span of one month. It will be installed in Jaipur.

Udaipur Incorporated in 15 Best World Cities

- Udaipur, the city of lakes, has revived the name of India again on the world screen. Udaipur is ranked 14th in the world's 15 best cities.

Dholpur: 1st child-friendly district

[Dholpur](#) will be made the first child-friendly district in Rajasthan. A single window system will be set up at the collectorate which would provide information regarding child welfare schemes and would also act as a centre for registration of atrocities against children. These cases then will be monitored and followed at the single window centre.

It will ensure that the district is free of child labour and child marriage and also zero drop out from school. It was also decided to activate the Bal Manch and Bal Sansad at all schools and regular meetings every Saturday to provide children the platform to express themselves of POCSO Act, child labour, child marriage etc.

Food Labs to be opened at five places in the state

- The Department of Medical and Health has ordered the opening of Food Laboratory at 5 places in the state including Banswara, Jalore, Churu, Bikaner and Bharatpur.

Bird-Park to come up at Udaipur

- The government is planning for establishment of world-class bird park in Gulab Bagh of Udaipur.

Medical Park to come up at Kalera, Neemrana

- In order to induce advance medical facilities in Rajasthan, RICCO with cooperation of Andhra Pradesh government is planning to come up with a medical park at kalera, Neemrana (Alwar).

Advanced Sports Medicine at Jaipur

- An advanced sports medicine will soon come up at SMS stadium, Jaipur.

Wrestling Academy in Bharatpur

- A new wrestling academy has been recently inaugurated at Lohgarh Stadium, Bharatpur.

Udaipur Railway station to be auctioned under re-development scheme

Ministry of railways has planned to develop 23 stations under the Station Redevelopment Plan. Under this plan, Station Redevelopment Project would be taken up under the Swiss Challenge method, which involves inviting a proposal online and permitting rival bidders to beat that proposal with a more attractive one.

In the first phase, 23 railway stations have been selected for the project which aims to make best use of the assets of the stations. Of over 8,000 stations in the system, over 400 have been selected for the redevelopment programme based on the revenue generated by them.

Commercial establishments including hotels, multiplexes and shopping malls are proposed to be built on the land earmarked by the Railways for use by the developer. The developer will hold the rights for commercial exploitation of the land for a period of 45 years, while ownership of the land would remain with the Railways.

Udaipur Station of North-Western Railway has also been included. The reserve price has been marked as 100 Crores.

Committees

Rajasthan Government extends term of committee on Seventh Pay Commission implementation

Rajasthan government has extended the term of commission constituted to prepare report for Implementation of recommendations of Seventh Pay Commission.

Rajasthan Government had formed **DC Samant Committee** in February to remove anomalies in salaries of employees while implementing the seventh Pay Commission. The committee was also mandated to make an estimate of financial burden on the exchequer and recommend new pay scales for the government employees.

There are more than 7 lakh employees and about 3 lakh pensioners in Rajasthan. As per the estimate, government will have to spend between 9,000 to 10,000 crore in giving salaries and allowances under 7th pay commission if all recommendations are accepted.

Rajasthan HC sets up five-member committee for sports promotion

The Rajasthan High Court formed a group of five sportspersons from the state to assist the court in suggesting measures to promote sporting activities in Rajasthan based on the report submitted by Justice (retd) N K Jain committee.

The sports persons are are Gopal Saini, Krishna Poonia, Limba Ram, Surbhi Mishra and Sriram Singh Shekawat.

Justice Garg Committee submits report

- The Empowered Committee for SBC Reservation, formed under the chairmanship of **S. K. Garg** has submitted its report to Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

Schemes & Policy

Rajasthan Government orders compulsory registration of real estate

The Rajasthan State Government has now made it compulsory for all real estate projects and agents to register on the on the rear-rajasthan.in website of the Real Estate Regulations and Development Act (RERA). Now, the builders cannot start advertising, marketing, booking and selling of any new projects without getting them registered on the site. The projects which are ongoing will get three months time to register themselves.

If any promoter fails to register as per the rules, he shall be liable to a penalty which may extend up to 5% of the estimated cost of the real estate project. On continued violation of the rules, the developer shall be punishable with imprisonment.

Jaisalmer Green Mission launched

- The district administration of Jaisalmer has launched the Jaisalmer Green mission to to get rid of drought permanently in [Jaisalmer](#) and to provide a pleasurable experience to the tourists.
- Under the mission, intensive plantation of about 1 lac saplings would be done in the district.

Three districts identified for pilot project on seeds

- Three districts of [Kota](#), [Bhilwara](#) and [Udaipur](#), have been identified for the pilot project under *Mukhyamantri Beej Swavlamban Yojana(MBSY)*.
- MBSY will help farmers in producing quality seeds in their own fields and reducing their dependence on sourcing it from outside.

Rajasthan Government launches new scheme to reward 'informers' of tax evasion

The state government has now launched 'grant of rewards to informers and government servants' scheme. Under this, Informers of tax evasion will be granted up to 8% of the undisputed revenue. Additionally, the quantum of reward can be enhanced to up to 12% if awarding committee observe that without leads and documents provided by the informer, it would have been impossible for authorities to unearth evasion of tax and revenue.

However, this grant of cash reward comes with riders.

- They will be eligible only when such information has resulted in actual realization of undisputed revenue of Rs 2 lakh or more to the exchequer.
- Informers seeking reward shall be eligible only if it is found that information provided by them was of importance and under normal circumstances without their help, the evasion could not have been detected.

Project Utkarsh launched

In order to bring qualitative change in education through information technology and quiz-based acquisition system in government schools, Project Excellence was launched by Mooney Foundation Jaipur and Education Department, Jaipur with the help of HDFC Bank.

Project Utkarsh has been initiated in more than 1400 schools of 9 districts of Jhalawar, Baran, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Sawimadhapur, Hanumangarh, Pali, Ajmer and Jaipur in the state. This will benefit more than 1 lakh students.

Intra-State air services to extend on 6 routes

Soon, the intra-air services will be extended on six new routes including direct connectivity to New Delhi and Ahmedabad. It has been decided to expand the intra-air services on six more routes which are:

- Jaipur-Kota,
- Delhi-Sawai Madhopur,
- Delhi- Kishangarh,
- Delhi-Shri Ganganagar,
- Jodhpur-Ahmedabad
- Jaipur- Jodhpur- Jaisalmer.

Currently, the service is available on three routes from **Jaipur to Jodhpur, Bikaner and Udaipur.**

“Mera Shahar, Khushaal Shahar' programme

The Rajasthan government has decided to measure the happiness index in its major cities. Christened “Mera Shahar, Khushaal Shahar' programme, the state government will judge the most happening, the most friendly and the most clean city out of the 33 district headquarters in the state.

People living in the district headquarters will rate their cities through a mobile App, which will be launched by July 30. The residents will be asked to give their rating out of the four options--satisfied, not satisfied, happy and very happy.

New Agricultural Connection Policy-2017

Rajasthan Government has approved the provisions of New Agricultural Connection Policy-2017, which aims to benefit farmers and save electricity. Highlights of new agricultural connection policy are:

- For BPL marginalised farmers, there is a provision of priority till three years for issuing demand note of up to 5 horse power (HP) agricultural connection.
- In the new policy, interest rate for restoring the disconnected connections has been reduced to 12% per year from 16% per year.
- Under the new policy, if a person is found using connection at a land or field other than the allotted one, it would be considered under power theft.
- Now, the farmers would be able to revive the cancelled demand note by paying ₹500 till five years. At present, if the amount is not deposited in 90 days, the demand note is cancelled.
- The farmers will only be given 20HP connection, if they setup five-star rated pump set certified by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. The consumer, who sets up such pump set, will be given ₹750 per HP relaxation in tariff as grant, after verified by the assistant engineer. At present, the grant is provided to farmers which are voluntarily using 3-star rated pumps.

Every district will have mini-ICU ambulance

To provide medical facilities such as ICUs in the ambulance to patients of heart, kidney and other serious diseases, soon the 34 new ambulances with modern facilities will be provided to all the districts. These ambulances will only be for those serious patients who need Advanced Life Support System. In a way this mini will be like ICU. These include life-saving equipment, defibrillators, and

cardiovascular devices to control heart failure. Initially, there is a plan to make ambulance available in all the districts.

Aadhar card made mandatory to get birth and death certificates

- Rajasthan State government has issued a circular and made Aadhar mandatory for applicants seeking certificates to get birth and death certificates, in the municipalities across the state.

Bhamashah Employment Generation Scheme

- The unemployed youth will be given 4 % interest subsidy in the Bhamashah employment generation scheme.
- Interested citizens can apply through State Government's [Self service portal](#).
- Loans of maximum 5 lacs are available for services & trade and upto 10 lacs are available for establishing Industrial units.



Antara Injectable Yojana

- In order to promote Family Planning through contraceptive injections, the government of Rajasthan has launched Antara Injectable Yojana from Bhilwara.
- An Injection is effective for 3 months and has been made available at government hospital free cost to eligible couples.

General NEWS

Palace on Wheels to be replaced by Royal Rajasthan on Wheels

- Operating since 1982, the original POW, having completed its life-cycle, will be discontinued and the Royal Rajasthan on Wheels (RROW) will be rechristened as POW.

Rajsamand District Hospital selected for the National Quality Certification Award

- The Union Ministry of Health has selected [Rajsamand](#) District Hospital for National Quality Certification,
- The hospital has been selected after getting 82 percent marks in 8 different parameters in 18 departments like OPD, Accident and Emergency, ICU, Blood Bank and Labor Room.

Rajasthan signs MoU to battle child malnutrition

- The Rajasthan government has signed a memorandum of understanding with three funding agencies to improve the nutritional status of children in 50 blocks of 20 districts.
- The new MoU was signed by the National Health Mission's (NHM) State unit and the State Women and Child Development Department with the Tata Trust, Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger) of France and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN).

Mega Textile Parks in Rajasthan

- Industry Commissioner Mr. K. Lal Meena has enticed the need to further encourage investment by attracting new investors in State Integrated Textile Mega Parks.
- In [Rajasthan](#), 6 mega textile parks are being developed with help of union government.
- These include, [Jaipur](#) Tex Weaving park in Kishangarh, Kishangarh High Tech Textile Park, [Jaipur](#) Integrated Tex Craft Park in Bagru, Nextgen Textile Park in [Pali](#), Hemada Textile Park in Balotra and Srinath Mega Power Loom Cluster Park in [Bhilwara](#).

Heritage Palace on Wheels for Shekhawati

- The luxury train Royal Rajasthan on Wheels(RROW) will replace the now running, Palace on Wheels (POW).
- The Palace on Wheels has been renamed as the Heritage Palace on Wheels (HPOW) and the train will in the last three years of its life time, traverse through the neglected land of decrepit frescoed havelis, the Shekhawati region

State Government starts purchasing Garlic

- For the relief of farmers (garlic cultivators), the state government has started garlic purchase through [RAJFED](#) at Rs 3,200 per quintal under [Market Intervention Scheme \(MIS\)](#) at Bhamashaha Mandi in [Kota](#) and four other purchase centres in [Baran](#), [Jhalawar](#), [Bundi](#) and [Pratapgarh](#) districts.
- To note: *State Government buys wheat, rice at Minimum Support Price(MSP) mechanism, for other commodities like garlic government buys through [Market Intervention Scheme](#).*

Rajasthan Government announces पद्माक्षी पुरस्कार

Cash award and certificates for girls that come at first position at the district level

- 8th Board: 40,000
- 10th Board: 75,000
- 12th Board: 1,00,000

Bhamashah Awards function organised

- Rajasthan state government honoured 109 Bhamashahs and 31 contributors for donating around Rs 62 crores for the promotion of education in the state.
- PN Sharma, chairman of CSRL, made the highest contribution of Rs 6.4 crore.
- **Important Note:** *Bhamashah Awards are given to those individuals who have made donations in cash and land for betterment of the society. Bhamashah Awards were started by former vice-president of India, late [Bhairon Singh Shekhawat](#), to recognize those individuals who have contributed in the progress of the state.*

District Ranking in Education Sector:

1. Churu
2. Bikaner
3. Jaisalmer

Rajasthan inks 3 MoUs to better health services

- Rajasthan state health department on Tuesday signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with different partners for strengthening health services in the state, especially to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate and provide quality family planning services.
- Tata Trusts, Reliance Foundation, United States Agency for International Development, MSD for Mothers, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have signed MoU to provide technical support in bringing down the infant and mortality rate in Rajasthan. These development partners will ensure quality delivery services at primary and community health centres in four districts namely Ajmer, Bhilwara, Kota and Jhalawar.
- Similarly, Cairn Foundation has signed MoU for providing assistance in emergency delivery services in Barmer district. his developing partner will provide round-the-clock services of gynaecologist, paediatrician and anaesthetist at four first referral units at Baytu, Sindari, Dhorimmana and Balotara.

Rajasthan ranked first in fining violators of tobacco act

- Rajasthan state has topped the list of states in the country which has fined violators of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in 2016-17.
- According to the health department officials, across the country, 3.69 lakh people were fined but out of these, over two lakh persons were fined only in the state.

Rajasthan to get National award for online pension scheme

- The online system of pension schemes run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Rajasthan, will be honored with the National Award.

'Abhutthanam' booklet released

- Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje released the book 'Abhyutthanam', published on two years of working of Rajasthan Subordinate and Administrative Service Selection Board.
- Nandingh Naruka is the acting chairman of the board.

Social Choupal Organized

- Understanding the power of social media, **Sawai madhopur collector Mr. K. C Verma** organised first of its kind social choupal on facebook.

India, ADB inks \$220 million Loan Agreement for Rajasthan State Highways Investment Program

The Union Government has signed a \$220 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on State Highways of Rajasthan. The first tranche of \$500 million for **Rajasthan State Highways Investment Program** has been approved by ADB Board in May 2017. The Program will upgrade about 2,000 kilometers of state highways and major district roads to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards to meet road safety requirements.

`Van Mahotsav on July 10 in Rajasthan

This year's Van Mahotsav programme will be held on July 10 across the state, district, Block and Gram Panchayat level with a focus on **water conservation**. The State-level Van Mahotsav would be held at Beed Govindpura in Jaipur district.

RPSC pegs marks for interviews at 12.5%

The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) will adopt the **12.5% mark rule** for all job interviews, with written exams accounting for the remaining marks. The new 12.5% marks for interview will make the selection process transparent as the candidate will be evaluated by the written examination.

The commission is also drafting norms for one-time document verification of candidates who appear for different competitive examinations as well as to release a reserve list of candidates after every exam in the future.

Shri Guruji Samman

Elementary education government school teachers whose students perform best in examinations would be felicitated with Shri Guruji Samman. Best performing teacher would be selected from each district and all the teachers from the 33 districts in the state would be felicitated at an event organised every year.

Every year, the Elementary Education Directorate, Bikaner would be felicitating the teachers selected at the district level at an event organised annually. Rs 11,000 and appreciation letter would also be given to the teachers who would be conferred with Shri Guruji Samman.

Rajasthan gets award for IPD services

- Rajasthan came at **second position** among all states in quality of IPD services.

State Education Department and IGNOU to open skill centres

- The state higher education department and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will collaborate to open skill development centres at government colleges in Rajasthan.
- The centres will offer courses on data-entry, basic computer operation, office management, accountancy, organic farming, dairy farming, etc. These will be six-month certificate courses.

Rajasthan sets minimum qualification to contest elections for cooperatives

Rajasthan Government has amended the State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003. Now for contesting election as members of governing boards of dairy societies, village cooperative societies, consumer societies, weavers' societies, urban banks, housing construction societies, primary land development banks, credit societies and cooperative unions, the minimum educational qualifications will range from class 5 to class 8.

The primary committee members need to have passed at least class 5. For district level members the minimum qualification required is class 8.

Rajasthan is also set to be the first state in India to establish Recruitment Board by the Cooperative Committees. The Board will be responsible for recruiting personnel for the cooperative committees.

Rajasthan gets Tourism Awards

- Rajasthan receives two national awards in tourism sector. Rajasthan has been awarded the 'Heritage Destination of Year' and 'Best Destination Promotion' categories.

Rajasthan University's documents will now be available on Raj e-Vault

- Now Rajasthan University students will not have to go through a lengthy process to get their mark sheets, degree, Provisional certificate, entry forms etc.
- Students will be able to get all the certificates from the Rajasthan e-Vault. Students will be able to present this computerized / electronic document at the time of their admission after this facility.

What is Rajasthan e-Vault

Rajasthan e-Vault is an secured storage space provided by state government, where citizen can upload all their important documents (Marksheets, Voter ID, Passport, Base, Land Documents, etc.) just once and work easily anywhere, anytime.



Features:

- Build your e-vault account with Bhamashah or Aadhar Card
- Once E-Vault is created, all your government-issued documents will be e-vaulted directly.
- Your government documents will be automatically approved by respective departments.

Rajasthan Hackathon 2.0 - Kota

Government of Rajasthan (GoR) is organizing Hackathon 2017. Rajasthan Hackathon 2017 aims for the promotion of Information Technology and eGovernance. The purpose of Hackathon is to give a platform to enterprising youth, startups & entrepreneurs across the nation and use their out-of-the-box thinking on Bhamashah, e-Mitra, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, AR/VR and Blockchain.

The top three winning teams will earn a contract with Department of Information Technology & Communication, Government of Rajasthan worth Rs.15 Lacs, Rs.10 Lacs and Rs.7.5 Lacs. Along with this, the participants would also be nominated for 10 other prize categories which would include exciting prizes like tablet, ipad, cell phones and other prizes. [{Apply or Read More}](#)

Themes:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Internet of Things
- Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality
- Bhamashah
- e-Mitra
- Blockchain

MOU for modernization of Anganwadi centers

An agreement was signed between the Women and Child Development Department and the FS Foundation to modernize the Anganwadi centers of the Jaipur District. For the contract for five years, Deputy Director of the Department, Jayshree Thagaria signed the MoU.

Barmer Munawab and Pipad Road-Bilara rail routes – Green Corridors in India

Indian railways has announced the **5 Green Corridors** under which **Barmer Munawab and Pipad Road-Bilara rail routes** in **Rajasthan** has also been included.

This initiative is taken under “**Swachh Rail- Swachh Bharat**” mission. The five green corridors are:

- Manamadurai– Rameswaram corridor,
- Okha-Kanulus corridor,
- Porbandar-Wasjaliya corridor,
- Barmer-Munawab corridor and
- Pipad Road-Bilara corridor.

Among these corridors **Manamadurai – Rameswaram** is India’s first green corridor.

Rajasthan govt spent Rs 138 crore for care of bovines

- The Rajasthan government has earned Rs 151.50 crore from the 10 per cent surcharge levied on stamp duty for cow conservation and propagation in the year 2016-17.

- Of the total income earned from the surcharge, the state government spent Rs 138.67 crore towards the care of bovines and maintenance of cow shelters.
- Under proposals for cow conservation and propagation fund rules-2016, the state government provided Rs 126.89 crore for fodder and water of 4.71 bovines at 1,036 cow shelters in the state.

Rajasthan's first dispute free village

- Araiyaali village in [Hanumangarh district](#) has got the distinction of being declared the first "dispute free" panchayat in the state relating to water and revenue disputes.
- This was achieved by means of Alternative Dispute Resolution like Lok Adalats & improving social harmony, by the setting up a 'mediation centre' in the area by an NGO.

35 lakh non-resident Rajasthanis can vote soon

- Nearly 35 lakh non-resident Rajasthanis living in various countries across the world can now take part in the electoral process as they would soon be entitled to use their voting right through **e-voting**.
- The Union Cabinet has cleared a proposal to extend proxy voting to overseas Indians by amending electoral laws. For overseas Indians, the Representation of the People Act needs to be amended to include proxy voting as other means to cast their votes.
- It was done as a bench of Supreme Court had expressed its displeasure that the government had not made the necessary amendments (of the Act or Rules) in the Representation Of Peoples Act to allow the voting by NRIs, despite repeated assurances to the court. The court was hearing PILs filed by two NRIs - Shamsheer V P, an NRI from Kerala, and Nagender Chindam, Chairman of the UK-based Pravasi Bharat - seeking the voting rights.

Operation Alert

- BSF will start its exercise 'Operation Alert' on the western international border adjoining Pakistan from August 7. The exercise would continue till August 20.

Golden Award for Rajasthan

- Rajasthan State has received [ASSOCHAM](#)'s Golden Trophy Award for Best Performance in Skill Development.
- This makes Rajasthan the best all over the country in the field of skilling for third consecutive time in a row.
- In past, the state had already won the title for the FY 2014-15 and 15-16 consecutively

PM Modi to be in Udaipur on 29th

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come to Udaipur on August 29. He will lay the foundation stone of projects of NHAI State Government of more than 25 thousand crores. including the foundation stone of Udaipur-Chittor 6-lane highway.

Swachh Rajasthan

- As per recent government release, 5080 Gram Panchayats have been declared open defecation free in Rajasthan
- Additionally, more than 59.5 lakh families got toilets.

Jhalawar gets award for education initiative

- [Jhalawar](#) got award for E-Gyankender initiative in the 10th World Education Summit held in Delhi.
- The initiative has also been included in '**New Beginning**' - a book of Innovation released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Civil Service Day 2017.
- The 'World Education Award' was presented to Jhalawar collector Jitendra Soni.

Despite Rajasthan receiving 21% more rain, 12 districts still dry

- As the third spell of the south-west monsoon has come to an end, the state has got 21% higher rain compared to 2016.

- Despite flood situation at many districts this year, 12 districts in the state have received deficit rainfall.
- According to the data available with the water resources department, the state has got an average rainfall of 408.27 mm which is 21 percent higher compared to 337.32 mm received up to July, 13, 2016.
- 12 districts including Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Alwar, Dausa, Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Baran have received a deficit rainfall.

Copy of FIR can be found online now

In Rajasthan, citizens have been given the facility of observing and downloading most of the FIR lodged in the state. The Director General of Police, Mr. Ajit Singh at the Police Headquarters, started this facility.

This facility will be available to the citizens on at <https://citizen.rajpolice.gov.in> on the link "View FIR". The citizen will have to register first by creating user ID and also log in to use the facility. The above facility is also available on the web portal of Rajasthan Police at <http://police.rajasthan.gov.in> on the CCTNS Citizen Portal (View FIR) link.

New Initiatives

Global IT Delivery Center inaugurated

- Chief Minister of the state inaugurated 'Global IT Delivery Center' at Mahindra World City, Jaipur.
- The center has been established with an investment of 100 crores.
- Once fully operation the center will provide employment to 1100 engineers, architects, IT and other professionals.

CM Helpline 181

Chief Minister of Rajasthan launched the 'CM Helpline 181', planned and developed by the Centre for Good Governance, on August 15. Around 30,000 employees and officials will be directly linked with the helpline that will work from 9am to 11pm.

The CM Helpline will cover grievances related to all departments and government bodies. All the grievances will be resolved in a time-bound manner. The mechanism adopted in the helpline is unlike how Sampark portal is operated. A four level grievance system has been developed – level 1 (tehsil), level 2 (district), level 3 (divisional) and level 4 (state).

A grievance once registered at a call centre will directly be sent to the official concerned through an SMS. Under the process adopted at Sampark portal, the grievance registered was sent to the department concerned. The official has to redress the grievance in a time frame. If time limit exceeds or complainant is dissatisfied, then the issue will be forwarded to the next level.

Mahila Garima Helpline: 1090

A 24*7 helpline for reporting crimes, emergency, law and order situations, information on criminals and harassments against women - 1090 has been launched by Jaipur Police. Features of Mahila Garima Helpline Number:

- This is the steps taken by Jaipur Police to prevent tempering with women and Girls. This initiative will be also helpful to women empowerment.
- It will be also helpful to notify information on criminals and harassments.



- Victims can register their complaint on Mahila Garima Helpline Number 1090.
- Apart from this you can also complaint on through WhatsApp number (7300363636).

Hello English App

- Government of Rajasthan, in collaboration with Hello English, has launched a social initiative - Upskill Proficiency in English for Rajasthan (UPER) to elevate English language skills across the state.
- The ten-week programme will be delivered through a mobile application named Hello English Premium mobile application, which has been designed for the project.
- It contains Hello English interactive English learning course and will be available for more than ten lakh students to improve their English through interactive lessons, games, and contextual practice exercises.
- Students from over 1,800 colleges are likely to benefit from this program.



App to monitor drinking water sources

- State Government has launched "**Rajdharaa App**" to monitor quality of drinking water sources.
- Department of Information and Technology has devised its format and dedicated it to the Water Supply Department.
- Geo-tagging will be done through 'Rajadhara Survey Mobile App' of all the sources of Public Health Engineering Department. Through this, the data can also be shared on the basis of GIS application.

Gyan Sankalp Portal

Chief Minister of Rajasthan will launch the education department's '**Gyan Sankalp Portal**' during the two-day Festival of Education, to be organised from August 5.

The Gyan Sankalp Portal will allow corporate houses and donors to support government schools in Rajasthan. A prominent feature of the initiative is the '**Mukhyamantri Vidyadaan Kosh**' (chief minister's fund for educational donations), which is aimed at reducing the funding gap in education.

Jaipur Commissionerate launches Rajasthan Old Age Security App:

- [Jaipur](#) Commissionerate has recently launched **Rajasthan Old Age Security App** to provide safety and security to the senior citizens.
- In case of an emergency, the citizens can directly contact the Jaipur Police by pressing the 'Panic' button on the app.

Rajasthan to organize education festival

- Rajasthan is going to be the first state in the country where an important festival like 'Education Festival' will be held.
- This festival will be organized in Jaipur during August 2017,
- The theme of the festival would 'One-Young-Rajasthan'
- It will be jointly organized Rajasthan Government and Gems Education Foundation.

Rajasthan Government launches email for citizens

The Rajasthan government has offered e-mail service to its citizens for official communication. Rajasthan is the first state in the country to offer such a facility to have free new-age email service for communication and e-vault for storage of documents. Citizens will be able to register for e-mail ID on the Rajasthan.in website where they will have to link their Bhamashah or Aadhaar identity.

Site can be accessed at: mail.rajasthan.in

Vasundhara Sakhi Mahila Vahan

The Tonk City Council has taken a new initiative to give women free and safe access to their destination. On behalf of the Council, e-rickshaws are being run by the name of 'Vasundhara Sakhi Mahila Vahan'. In these e-rickshaw, the information of the flagship schemes of the Central and State Government will also be displayed on Flax and LCD. In addition, CCTV and GPS have been installed for the protection of women. Apart from this, the telephone numbers of Vasundhara Sakhi Helpline, Police Control Room and Women Helpline have also been displayed.

Startup Rajasthan

Startup Rajasthan is a flagship initiative by the Government of Rajasthan intended to foster innovation, create jobs and facilitate investment. The program aims to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship which would further help in the economic growth and development of the state. Through this initiative, the State Government intends to build an environment where there would be an easy access to knowledge exchange and funding.

The website is available at: <http://istart.rajasthan.gov.in/>

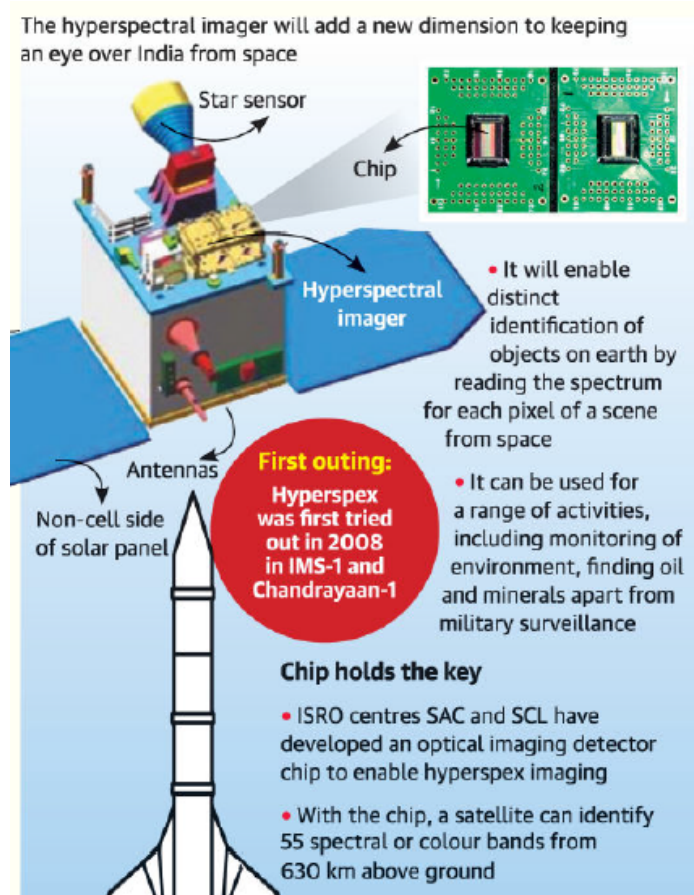
Olitia: Olive Tea of Rajasthan

The state of Rajasthan has come up with an alternative to green tea. **Olitia**, The Olive Tea, which is made from olive extracts, will soon be launched. Rajasthan started cultivating olives in 2007 in collaboration with Israel and now the state cultivates them on 5,000 hectares. Country's first Olive refinery is also operational in the Rajasthan at Bikaner.

Science & Technology

- Indian scientists have discovered **Nasikabatrachus bhupathi**, a new species of **frog** that has a snout-shaped nose, just like a pig in West Ghats. It has been named after the Indian herpetologist S. Bhupathy.
- Scientists in the United Kingdom (UK) have developed the world's smallest surgical robot called **Versius**. It was developed using low-cost technology used in mobile phones and space industries.
- India's first calf delivered by a surrogate or recipient cow through In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) technology carried out in a mobile laboratory was born in Indapur, Pune (Maharashtra). It has been named as **Vijay**.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch a full-fledged niche Earth observation (EO) satellite — called the Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS).

The **HySIS satellite** has critical chip called an “optical imaging detector array” indigenously developed by ISRO. Its launch will allow ISRO to enter the domain of operational hyperspectral imaging from earth orbit.
- US-based Rice University Researchers have found new tectonic micro-plate off Ecuador's coast in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It has been named **Malpelo plate**, after a Colombian island and an oceanic ridge it contains. It is



overall 57th tectonic microplate to be discovered so far and the first in nearly a decade. Microplates are tectonic plates with an area less than 1 million km².

- Israel has launched its first environmental research satellite named as **Venus** (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite). It is a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.
- China has successfully produced natural gas from methane hydrate, also known as “flammable ice”, in an experimental project in the South China Sea.
- The world’s first full—scale floating wind farm is being built off the coast of Scotland in the North Sea. The wind farm, known as **Hywind** is a trial project which aims to bring power to 20,000 homes.
- United States Navy successfully tested the world’s first-ever active Laser Weapons System (LaWS). In the test, the LaWS deployed aboard the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship was able to destroy a drone in flight and moving targets on the Persian Gulf. USS Ponce is first ship in the world to be deployed with such advanced weapons system.
- Tata Motors has unveiled country’s first Bio-CNG (bio-methane) bus. The bus was rolled out at the Urja Utsav, bio-energy programme, organised by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has launched SOHUM, an indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns.
- Scientists from Harvard Medical School for first time have encoded a small movie clip in the DNA of living bacterial cells and then played it back. Bacteria used was E. Coli

- A team of Indian astronomers have identified previously unknown, extremely large supercluster of galaxies located in the direction of constellation Pisces. It has been named "Saraswati".
- Scientists from University of Cambridge, UK have discovered the smallest star in the universe. It has been named as EBLM J0555-57Ab.
- NASA is developing Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), the first-ever mission that will deflect a near-Earth asteroid. The mission will help to test the systems that will allow mankind to protect the planet from potential cosmic body impacts in the future.
- NASA has launched world's lightest satellite weighing only 64 grams designed by 18-year-old boy Rifath Sharook from Tamil Nadu. The tiny satellite has been named as KalamSat after the former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur has developed a wireless technology called 'AmbuSens' for remote monitoring of condition of those patients who are ferried in ambulances.

RAJRAS

**Rajasthan Current Affairs
For
APRIL-MAY 2017**

Rajasthan Current Affairs: April-May 2017

Patients at remote locations to benefit from telemedicine

- Soon people in remote rural Rajasthan will be able to consult medical experts through telemedicine. An agreement was signed between Government of Rajasthan and Kolkata-based Global Health Care Systems.
- Telemedicine services will be available at 100 healthcare centers across the state, including 31 district hospitals, 19 sub-divisional hospitals, six satellite hospitals and 44 community health centers.
- Telemedicine is the use of telecommunications and information technology to provide clinical health care from a distance. The real-time technology allows healthcare professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in remote locations using telecommunication technology.

Rajasthan's first napkin incinerator to be installed in Jodhpur

- After installation of vending machines for sanitary napkins in girls schools in Rajasthan, Rajasthan's first napkin disposal incinerator will be installed in Jodhpur.
- These incinerators will be eco-friendly made of clay with no-pollution content, whatsoever, and would cost just Rs 2,000 in comparison to the electric incinerators, which cost Rs 10,000-25,000. These incinerators will convert the used napkins into ash which will also be used as fertilizer.

Bundi is the first city in the country to be digital mapped with a comprehensive database

- Bundi becomes the first city to have a detailed and minute digital map with a database containing demographical and geographical information. The digitalized map of the tourist city include information on small lanes, trees, electric and phone lines, poles, pillars along with details of houses, buildings, monuments, and shops.

New Announcements from Union minister for labour and employment Bandaru Dattatreya for Rajasthan:

- Rajasthan government will get three new hospitals of 100 beds each at Udaipur, Neemrana and Bikaner. They are in addition to already approved hospitals and will be operated by ESIC (Employee's State Insurance Corporation).
- Under second generation of reforms, ministry will upgrade 25 dispensaries into a six bed hospital across 25 districts in Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan will also have three new model career counselling centers (MCC). Three are already operational at Kota, Bikaner and Bharatpur. State government has been asked to identify the districts where they want it to set up MCC and send proposal to center.

Rajasthan to launch 'Jaipur Festival of Education' in August

- [Rajasthan](#) government will be hosting two-day Jaipur Festival of Education in August,
- The festival aims at enhancing opportunities in education sector and improving quality of existing system in [Rajasthan](#).
- The festival is being jointly organized by [Rajasthan](#) state government and Dubai-based Gems Education Foundation.

Rajasthan set to begin work on its first river-linking project

- [Rajasthan](#) Government has kicked off preparations for its first river-interlinking project – ensuring flow of excess rainwater in Chambal and Brahmani rivers to Bisalpur dam.
- Once operational, the project will ensure smooth drinking water supply to 19 towns and around 3000 villages in Jaipur, Ajmer, Tonk and Nagaur districts.
- **The Project:**
 - Construction of a dam to store monsoon flows in Brahmani river;
 - A diversion system will be constructed to take water from the Brahmani dam to Bisalpur dam;
 - A pump house to lift water from Jawahar Sagar dam on the Chambal river;

- A transmission system will be made to bring water from Jawahar Sagar dam to diversion system and Brahmani dam; and from here, water will be sent to the Bisalpur dam through a 54km tunnel, which will have a 20km open channel.
- The Bisalpur dam, completed in 1999 on the Banas river, caters to water needs of [Ajmer](#) and [Jaipur](#).

Rajasthan government to use GeM portal for procurement of goods & services

- The [Rajasthan](#) government has joined the Union in carrying out procurements of goods and services for the government departments through online portal 'Government e-Marketplace' (GeM).
- GeM is a Information-technology-driven platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various ministries, departments and agencies of the government. Under this, suppliers who wish to do business with the government can register and participate in bidding which will happen online.

Jaipur gets its first lady police patrol unit

- The Pink City Jaipur got its first lady police patrol unit which includes a group of 52 women constables, who will patrol various spots of the city on 26 two wheelers to curb cases of sexual harassment. The primary focus of this patrolling unit will be to effectively address the grievances of women in the city.
- Udaipur was the first to launch an all-women patrolling wing in the state in October last year.

Government hospital in Jhalawar 1st in Rajasthan to get helipad

- The Heera Kanwar Baa Janana Hospital in Jhalawar is the first government hospital in the state to get a helipad for air ambulance. The helipad is meant to transport severely sick and accidental patients from [Jhalawar](#) to Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai, etc.

Great Indian Bustard hatching center to come up in Jaisalmer

- Government of Rajasthan, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Union Government have reached an agreement to establish a GIB hatching centre in the **Desert National Park (DNP) region in Jaisalmer district**. After this, a GIB breeding centre would be setup at **Sorasan in Baran district**.

Rajasthan Assembly passes GST Bill

- The Rajasthan assembly passed the state Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 by voice vote, becoming the third state after Telangana and Bihar to adopt the tax reform measure.

Rajasthan inks MoU for Rs 2,000 crore MRO facility

- Rajasthan government entered into an agreement with Shri Vallabh Pittie (SVP) Group to set up an aircraft maintenance, repairing and overhaul (MRO) facility in Jhalawar with an investment of Rs 2000 crore and is expected to create about 2000 new job opportunities.

Swachh Survekshan 2017: Rajasthan Review

In order to pay a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, India has pledged to become Open Defecation Free and clean by 2nd October 2019. The *Swachh Bharat Mission* (SBM) was launched on 2nd October 2014 to accomplish this target and convert this mission into a citizen driven campaign. There are two components of the Mission, namely, Swachh Bharat Mission- Gramin for India's rural centres and Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban for India's urban centres.

In order to foster a healthy competition between cities, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) started the "Swachh Survekshan" survey in 2016 which rated 73 cities across the country. Following, the second round of Swachh Survekshan was conducted in January 2017, among 500 cities in India, with a population of 1 lakh and above.

The components covered in the survey included:

- Solid Waste Management (SWM) including road sweeping, municipal solid waste from residential, commercial areas and from construction & demolition waste.
- Individual, community and public toilets
- Open defecation free city/town strategy
- Information, education and behaviour change communication (IEBC) strategy, and ICT based system to enhance Urban Local Body (ULB) operations.

The Swachh Survekshan 2017 report was released by the Union government recently. Indore and Bhopal both from Madhya Pradesh, turned out to be the top two cleanest cities in India, while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh came out as the dirtiest city in India.

Swachh Survekshan 2017: Rajasthan Review

As far as cleanliness is concerned, [Rajasthan](#) still has a long way to go. This was proven shown the Swachh Sarvekshan 2017 report(survey)-2017. In Rajasthan, 18 of 29 cities are ranked beyond 300 with 13 in the bottom 100.

- Not a single city from Rajasthan managed to secure a spot in the top 150 in the cleanliness ranking this year.
- [Bundi](#), ranked at 171, was the best ranked city in the state.
- The city was followed by [Sikar](#) and [Pali](#) at 180 and 186 positions, respectively.
- [Jaipur](#) too failed to secure position in the top 200 and stood at a miserable 215.
- The four smart cities, shortlisted for the 'Smart Cities Mission' project, failed to find a place in the top 200. [Udaipur](#), considered as one of the cleanest city in the state was ranked 310.
- [Ajmer](#), another smart city, came at 226 in the survey.
- [Kota](#) came at 341 and became the lowest ranked among all four smart cities.
- Kishangarh stood the lowest in the list at 419.

The low ranking of the state was anticipated. Only two cities, [Dungarpur](#) and Deoli, were declared as ODF by the Centre. Five towns in the Rajasthan also figured in the bottom 50. The results show that Rajasthan needs to step up efforts to improve sanitation standards in urban areas.

Swachh Survekshan 2017: Citywise Ranking Table

National Rank	City	State	Overall Score	Municipal Self Declaration	On-Site Observation	Citizen Feedback
171	Bundi	Rajasthan	1064	469	271	324
180	Sikar	Rajasthan	1037	500	284	254
186	Pali	Rajasthan	1029	290	368	370
209	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	970	361	346	263
212	Bhilwara	Rajasthan	965	346	299	320
215	Jaipur	Rajasthan	954	464	211	278
226	Ajmer	Rajasthan	928	331	248	348
255	Gangapur ...	Rajasthan	883	334	183	367
285	Beawar	Rajasthan	818	254	242	323
292	Jhunjhunu	Rajasthan	805	230	296	279
300	Sujargarh	Rajasthan	790	209	264	317
301	Chittorga...	Rajasthan	787	201	214	371
310	Udaipur	Rajasthan	764	277	202	286
319	Bikaner	Rajasthan	745	281	214	250
329	Tonk	Rajasthan	725	180	255	290
332	Hanumanga...	Rajasthan	720	194	257	269
341	Kota	Rajasthan	706	273	204	229
354	Baran	Rajasthan	664	190	190	284
358	Sawai Mad...	Rajasthan	652	165	202	284
359	Ganganaga...	Rajasthan	649	161	248	240
364	Alwar	Rajasthan	638	196	189	253
367	Hindaun	Rajasthan	627	127	252	248
371	Bharatpur	Rajasthan	619	209	192	219
384	Nagaur	Rajasthan	594	143	192	258
387	Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	591	52	225	314
402	Jhalawar	Rajasthan	538	85	190	263
403	Bhiwadi	Rajasthan	533	82	169	282
405	Churu	Rajasthan	530	110	158	262
419	Kishangar...	Rajasthan	497	113	160	224

Rajasthan High court clears way for gram sevak appointment

- The Rajasthan High Court on May 12, cleared the deck for the appointment of gram sewaks by dismissing all petitions filed against the selection process.
- The government decided to adjust the *Vidhyarthi Mitras* in the new posts but a number of petitions were filed in the court raising objections to the process of appointment.
- However, on May 12, the single bench of Justice S P Sharma set aside all objections on the appointment on a petition by Rakesh Chaudhary & others and cleared way for government to go forward with the appointment process.

BSF's Operation Alert to start from Monday

- Considering the recent cease fire violations by Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir, BSF would start Operation Alert at Rajasthan Border.
- *Operation Alert or Garm Hava* would take place along the international border adjoining Pakistan from May 15.
- The exercise would conclude on May 23.

43 GIBs spotted during census on Vaishak Purnima

- Every year at Desert national park (DNP), a wildlife census is held during Vaishakh month on full moon night (Purnima).
- The census is done through *waterhole method*. This method is considered very accurate, as because of heat, wildlife come to waterholes at least once a day to drink water and, thus, counting is done.
- This year for the first time, 43 GIB were spotted in the DNP area.

Solar tariff plunges to new low at Rs 2.62 per unit in Rajasthan

- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had put up 250 MW for auction for Rajasthan government for the plants to be located in Adani Solar Park at Bhadla, near Jodhpur.

- In a reverse auction bidding, Phelan Energy Group and Avaada Power offered to sell solar energy to Rajasthan government at Rs 2.62 per unit and won the contracts for 100 MW each. SBG Cleantech won the rest 50 MW at Rs 2.63.

Centre gives nod for Rs 30,000-crore eastern Rajasthan canal project

- The Central Water Commission (CWC) has given its approval to the ambitious Rs 30,000-crore Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project.
- **About Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project:**
 - The project proposes to bring excess water of Chambal River to 13 water deficient districts of east Rajasthan.
 - The 13 districts include Bundi, Kota, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Baran, Jhalawar, Jaipur, Tonk, Dausa, Sikar and Alwar.
 - The project will cater drinking and irrigation requirements. It will help to irrigate nearly 10 lakh acres of land.
 - The first phase of the project will extend from Galwa Dam to Dholpur, the second from Galwa to Bisalpur-Isarda and the third from Galwa to Alwar.

600 PHCs to be converted into model centres

- Six hundred more primary health centres will be converted into Model primary health centres (PHC) in the state.
- The health department has planned to convert 600 more PHCs into model PHCs in two different phases. It will take up take up 287 PHCs in June and 313 in September for converting them into model PHCs.
- **What are Model primary health centres (PHC) ?**
 - The model PHCs are amalgamation of allopathy, yoga and Ayurveda.

Rajasthan leads in Solar Pumps

- According to a new release by Government of Rajasthan, the state has come up first in installation of Solar Energy based pumpset with 29,000 Solar pumps being installed till now.

Unit making ice-candies with Saccharin unearthed

- Food safety officers unearthed a manufacturing unit of ice-candies for allegedly using saccharin as a sweetener in Jaipur.

What is Saccharin?

- Saccharin is an artificial sweetener, which is quite cheaper than Sugar and about 300-400 times more sweet than sugar.
- Why use of Saccharin is not allowed?**
 - Saccharin is harmful to children especially those who are under-14 years. It affects bones badly.
 - It may also have a carcinogen effect on children.

Nearly 5,000 gram panchayats are open-defecation free in Rajasthan

- Since the inception of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (rural) three and half years ago, some 4,973 gram panchayats have become open-defecation free and 58.26 lakh toilets have been constructed in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan police gets UAVs for surveillance

- Rajasthan Police has procured UAV's (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) for its nine police zones at Ajmer, [Jaipur](#), Jodhpur, Bikaner, Udaipur, Bharatpur, Jaipur and Jodhpur commissionerate.
- The UAVs have also been provided to special units like State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) and Rajasthan Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS).
- These advanced UAVs can fly about 400 metres high and cover significant areas. They also have the power to record video and capture photographs.

Police starts using facial recognition software to track offenders from crowd

- Jaipur Police has started the test run of its facial recognition system (FRS) software. The system would enable police control room to keep a check on offenders and suspects in large crowds.
- How FRS System functions:**

- The FRS system has cameras to detect faces and sends it to remote servers which has a database of serial offenders and other wanted suspects.
- The software then tests it with the database and shows how much a particular person's face has been matched with the suspect. If facial outlines of suspect and the person match upto 65 percent, it sends alert the police control room.
- The FRS is installed at the Jaipur police's newly operational command and control centre called Abahay.

Operation Thar Shakti concludes:

- Indian Army's exercise 'Thar Shakti' culminated in Mahajan Firing Field of Thar desert area in Bikaner.
- The Indian Air Force also participated in this exercise to promote synergy of operations.

Rajasthan Governor signs Rajasthan Ministers' Salaries Bill-2017

- Governor Kalyan Singh signed the Rajasthan Ministers' Salaries (second amendment) Bill-2017. Important provisions of the bill include that the former chief ministers, who have completed their five-year tenure, *are entitled to house and staff for life*.

Force Nirbhaya launched in Alwar

- Alwar police has formed Nirbhaya Force to fight crime against women.
- Six teams of Nirbhaya Force will be deployed around schools and colleges in the morning hours and in the evening they would be deployed at crowded market places thronged by women.

Early man evidence found in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

- Recently nearly 2,000-year-old paintings have been discovered in *Kailadevi* forests of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
- These paintings validate that the early historic man lived in Vindhyan Range caves of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve area.

- These paintings are of early historic era and located in **Shrinathpura**, also known as village Sankra in the Kailadevi range. In the local dialect these paintings are popularly known as '*Gurjari Ke Chappe*,' and are over 2,000 years old.
- All the paintings on the rocks in the region revolve around wildlife. There are standalone pictures of the leopard, tiger and the ones of the antelopes depict them in a herd.

Efforts to revive tribal Mandana Painting art

In an effort to revive the declining, tribal painting art of Mandana, the district administration of Pratapgarh organized a 20-day training programme.

What is Mandana

- Mandana is an art of the tribal *wall and floor paintings* found in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
- It is derived from the word 'Mandan' referring to decoration and beautification and comprises simple geometric forms like triangles, squares and circles to decorate houses.
- In tribal ideology they are famed for warding off evil and acting as a good luck charm.
- It uses white khariya or chalk solution and geru or red ochre.
- The design may show Ganesha, peacocks, women at work, tigers, floral motifs, etc.

First divisional edition of GRAM - Kota concludes

- With the aim to double the income of farmers by 2022, the Centre and the state government are focusing on four 'T' i.e. Irrigation, Infrastructure, Lower Interest Rates and Insurance

Rajasthan Comes at 2nd Position in Milk production in Country

- Rajasthan is ranked 2nd in the list of highest milk producing states in India and produces more than 18 Million Tonnes of milk every year.
- Rajasthan has more than 15 dairy cooperatives, that fulfil the demand of milk of the state.
- Among all dairy cooperatives, Bikaner Zila Dugdh Utpadak Sahakari Sangh Ltd has the highest average milk procurement of 90,000 litres per day.

- Nagori, Rathi, Tharparkar and Kankrej are some of the cow breeds found in Rajasthan. Among all cow breeds in Rajasthan, Tharparkar has the highest yield of milk per lactation.

Leopard Reserves to be launched in Rajasthan

- 'Project Leopard', will be launched across eight conservation reserves and sanctuaries across Rajasthan.
- The project will start from Jhalana Reserve Forest in Jaipur.
- On recommendation of standing committee on wildlife by Valmik Thapar.
- The estimated cost of the project is likely to be Rs 5-8 crore and a Leopard Task Force comprising national and local experts would soon be constituted for the policy execution of Project Leopard.

Rajasthan to train youth for green jobs

- Rajasthan government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Skill Council for Green Jobs to promote trades in solar power, green businesses and water management.
- Besides training youths in these sectors, 16 more trades will be added soon.
- Additionally, upcoming skill universities in the State will also have a Green Sector Centre of Excellence.

Postman mobile app launched in Rajasthan

- Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of Digital India, the Department of Post, Rajasthan Circle has launched 'Postman Mobile Application'.
- Under this, the postmen would be provided with smartphone, using which the real time distribution data would be made available. Required training would also be given to the postmen to ensure smooth running of this project.
- The real time tracking of all the letters, parcels send via Indian Post would be made easy. The actual time and date of delivery would be uploaded on the application. At the time of delivery, signature or thumb impression of the receiver would also be taken via the application.

- The application was developed by the Centre of Excellence in Postal Technology, Mysore.

Rajasthan Government to felicitate industrialists and businesses with Udyog Ratna Awards

- With a view to motivate industrialists and businesses in the state, the Rajasthan Government will honor industries for their excellent performance with Udyog Ratna Awards.
- The award would include One lakh rupees cash, letter of appreciation and a shawl.
- A total of fourteen awards will be given including four awards in each category of micro, small and medium enterprises, one award each would be given to national award winning handicraft artisans and weavers.
- In order to apply for the state award, the enterprises should be running for past three years with relevant certificates or under the MSMSD Act, 2006.

SBC's five castes again included in OBC

- The state government of Rajasthan has issued a notification on Friday to re-cast the five SBC castes in the list of OBCs in the [state of Rajasthan](#).
- According to the notification, Banjara, Baldia, Labana, Gadia-Lohar, Gadolia, Gujjar, Gurjar, Raikka, Rabari (Debasi) Gadaria (Gadari) and Gayari castes were again included in the Other Backward Classes list of Rajasthan State.
- It is notable that in the past these five castes were included in Special Backward Classes (SBC) under Rajasthan Special Backward Classes Act 2015.

Bhadla Solar Park Will Provide The Most Affordable Electricity

- Bhadla village, located about 200 km from Rajasthan's [Jodhpur city](#).
- The plant is proposed to generate 2,255 megawatts of power.
- The park has two phases already in operation.

- Recently, auction for 500 MW of fourth place were held in which M/s ACME Solar Holdings Pvt. Ltd. (200 MW) at a tariff of Rs. 2.44 per unit and M/s SBG Cleantech One Ltd. (300 MW), quoting a tariff of Rs. 2.45 per unit.

RTO Jaipur to start accepting only online application for driving licence

- The *Regional Transport Office (RTO)* in Jaipur started accepting only online applications for driving licences from May 22.
- The new system will reduce the workload and help regional transport office personnel in processing applications quickly and will curb the role of middlemen.

Rajasthan government working to give reservation to economically backward

- Rajasthan State Backward Class Commission has started a survey of the socio-economic backwardness of the unearned families in the state.
- Based on the survey report, the criteria for reservation will be decided.
- Last year, the bill has been passed to give 14 percent reservation to economically backward people in the assembly. This reservation will be given to those sections which have not got reservation in any category and which are financially vulnerable.

ODF certificate for six cities

- Recently six urban areas of the state, Mundwa, Dungarpur, Vijayanagara, Anupgarh, Parbatsar and Ramgarh were declared open-defecation in the open.

Rajasthan tops in digital India mission

- In the Digital India Summit 2017, organized by the Central Government on May 26, Rajasthan was awarded in four categories.
- Awards include:
 - Digital Leader of Year' award.
 - e-Governance Initiative of Year for Bhamashah

- For the use of technology in Abhay Command Center and Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme

Orange cultivation in Rajasthan

Orange is one of the most grown fruits after banana and apple. Brazil leads the production of oranges with 24% share of the world, followed by US and India. In India, the important commercial orange variety are mandarin (40%), sweet orange (23%) and acid lime (23%). Oranges are mostly grown in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, [Rajasthan](#), Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh.

Uses of Oranges:

- This fruit is rich in vitamins like C, A, B and phosphorus.
- Used in production of juice, squash, syrup and jam.
- Oranges are main source of peel oil, citric acid.
- Oranges are also used in production of cosmetics.

Orange Cultivation in Rajasthan

In India, [Rajasthan](#) occupies Sixth place in production of orange. The main variety of Oranges cultivated in [Rajasthan](#) is 'Mandarin or Nagpur orange' with [Kota](#) division is contributing 98% of the State produce of this variety. The suitable rainfall and climatic condition allows higher productivity and [Jhalawar](#) in Kota region is known as "*Nagpur of Rajasthan*".

Rajasthan Government support for orange cultivation:

- Development of Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Citrus Fruits at Nanta near [Kota](#).
- Development of 24 varieties including Clementine, Michale Daisy, Kinnow, Nagpur Mandarin, Nagpur Seedless, and Jaffa among others.
- Introduction of better technology like mulch, drip and ridge bed system for irrigation and promoting mechanization in orchard operations.
- The horticulture department of Rajasthan Government is mulling a project to market orange from the state under the brand, '*Raj Santra*'.

Rajasthan News Snippets:

- Jaisalmer railway station of North Western Railway (NWR) has set new records in revenue generation by earning Rs 154.4 crore revenue in last three months. Jaisalmer Railway Station is one of the maximum revenue-giving stations by transporting *limestone* in the country.
- Rajasthan forest department switching over to use technology to monitor the tigers and critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, GIB. Forests of *Ranthambhore and Sariska* Tiger Reserve and GIB areas of *Jaisalmer* will soon use satellite based technology 'e-Patrol' to automate the process of monitoring the far and distant areas of the forest with just the click of a button. It is android based software developed by a Bengaluru based company that has successfully been tried in 20 other tiger reserves. This was launched in Ranthambhore on February 9, 2017 by the Forest Minister, Gajendra Khimsar.
- Central Government has approved to set up seven *livelihood business incubators (LBI)* in Rajasthan. They will come up at Jaipur, Udaipur, Alwar, Kota, Ajmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur. One of the LBI with ten trades has already been sanctioned by the ministry for Jhalawar district where process of setting up is underway. For each LBI, a grant of Rs 1 crore has been sanctioned under which youth will be provided skill development in various trades.

Livelihood Business Incubators (LBI):

- LBIs are aimed at self-employment generation among aspiring entrepreneurs and to boost the development of small enterprises in the manufacturing and service sectors.
 - Through LBIs government will train youths in streams like account management, food processing, computer hardware, tailoring etc.
 - LBIs will also facilitate youths in getting loans under several schemes of state and Centre.
 - Sanctioned by Union ministry for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- GRAM-2016 in Jaipur was the single largest agriculture meet in the country that attracted participation of 54500 farmers, 18900 visitors, international delegations from 6 countries, 10 international experts and over 200 corporates. GRAM-2017 is going to be held in Kota from 24th to 26th May 2017.

- Parwan Dam project will now see the light of day as its tender process is in final stage. Worth Rs 7,500 crore, the project is supposed to supply drinking water to over 800 villages situated in Jhalawar and Bundi and also to wild life area in the vicinity of the dam.
- The admissions under Right to Education Act quota of 25% at private schools have kicked off in Rajasthan. The online admission process is for 2.5 lakh seats in around 33,500 private schools in the state. This year, the state has revised the income cap to Rs 1 lakh aiming to provide the benefit of the scheme to the marginalised sections of the society. The parents will have to submit an affidavit stating that their annual income is not more than Rs 1 lakh. The last date of submitting the admission form is April 30. The admission will be announced through the lottery system on May 8.
- Rajasthan has emerged as the leading state in building toilets in rural areas. Rajasthan built 26.87 lakh individual toilets in rural areas under the SBM in 2016-17, reveals the union ministry of drinking water and sanitation data. West Bengal, which added 23.08 lakh individual toilets in 2016-17, was at the second spot. The mission was introduced after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to make India open defecation free by 2019 during his Independence Day speech in 2014.
- Rajasthan's Department of Information Technology and Communications will soon be introducing a public email domain that can be used by any resident of the state to create an email ID on it. Importantly, this email ID will be linked to the person's Bhamashah and Aadhar account.
- Responding to Supreme Court order of banning alcohol shops within 500 meter of highways, the Public Works Department (PWD) will bring a one-time notification allowing existing and proposed sections of state highways passing through populated areas to become urban roads if a by-pass connects to it. The move will make such stretches of highways passing through urban or rural areas immune to the recent SC ruling banning alcohol within distances of 500 meters and 220 metres.
- Malaysia has expressed keen interest in investing in Rajasthan, especially in tourism and infrastructure sectors. Prime Minister Najib Razak, held talks with Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and senior officials to discuss investment opportunities for Malaysian companies.
- After issuing record number of passport in 2016, the external affairs ministry is coming up with more passport camps and passport seva Kendras in Rajasthan. Jhunjhunu, Jaisalmer and Jhalwar will get passport seva Kendra at the post offices while Udaipur is all set to get a new passport office within this month.

- The Rajasthan government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Rs 2600-crore project to renovate 137 dams and irrigation structures in 25 districts.
- Rajasthan Government had formed the *D C Samant committee* to remove anomalies in salaries of employees while implementing the seventh pay commission. The committee is working towards that.
- Jaipur Smart city mission is set to introduce a public bicycle sharing (PBS) scheme named "*Cyclo*". The scheme will provide pollution-free last-mile connectivity for residents. As per the scheme, one can rent a bicycle from docking stations that will be set up at 20 public and tourists locations in the city. An app will also be launched for residents to book cycles.
- An olive tea manufacturing plant is set to open in the Rajasthan's village **Bassi**. Three olive farms in Jhunjhunu, Jaipur and Jalore have been selected for the collection of olive leaves. While Indian olive leaf tea is a fresh brew, global demand for the product is increasing. **Why?**
 - It is believed that olive leaf tea delivers more health benefits than green tea and contains more anti-oxidants and vitamin C.
 - Olive tea leaves can also be used to extract oleic acid, a fundamental ingredient in medicines used to treat heart disease.
 - Olive leaf tea contains *Oleuropein*, a phenylethanoid. Oleuropein has shown to be effective in lowering blood pressure, reducing cholesterol and preventing cardiovascular disease. It is anti-inflammatory and an anti-cancer compound. Oleuropein is also believed to ease arthritis, strengthen the immune system, protect against diabetes and improve brain function. It has been credited with controlling symptoms in AIDS sufferers.
- Rajasthan has rich legacy of Sanskrit texts which are yet to be excavated, translated and interpreted at historical sites. "The once flourishing Buddhist monasteries or complexes at four places—*Bhairat in Alwar, Kholvi in Jhalawar, Bandarez in Dausa and Ramgoan in Tonk* treasures of knowledge. These complexes have inscriptions in Magadhi Prakrit shares a genealogy with Sanskrit.
- State-run power producer NTPC has commissioned 55 mega watt (MW) of Bhadla Solar Power Project in Rajasthan.
 - About **Bhadla Solar Power Project**:

- **Bhadla Solar Park** is a solar park spread over a total area of 10,000 acres (40 km²) in Bhadla, Phalodi tehsil, [Jodhpur](#) district, Rajasthan, India.
- The park is proposed to have a capacity of 2,255 MW.
- In the first phase, the NTPC auctioned 420 MW of capacity split into 6 packages of 70 MW each.
- Out of this, NTPC has commissioned about 205 MW, till 23 March 2017.
- The Rajasthan government has taken a lead to preserve monuments using the most advanced design technology from Autodesk, the US-based 3D design technology firm. The project is part of the state government's aim to scan all existing buildings and infrastructure and create a 3D digital model of the state. So far, this project has completed true scale as-built 3D models for Albert Hall Museum, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal, Udaipur City Palace, Jaipur City Palace, Albert Palace, seven gates of the walled city in Jaipur. And, at present, Amer Fort and Kumbhalgarh Fort are being scanned.
- Tanushree Pareek, from Bikaner has become the First Woman Field Officer of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- West Bengal topped the list of states with the maximum number of human trafficking cases in 2016 followed by Rajasthan as the two accounted for around 61 per cent of such cases in the country. To put a check on human trafficking, the Centre had signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates.
- Rajasthan state government's move to provide vitamin-enriched and ready-to-use therapeutic food to malnourished children has borne fruit, with a large number of youngsters now leading healthy lives.

The *Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM)*— a project undertaken by the government in December 2015— has helped in treating 9,117 children below 5 years who were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). UNICEF, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and Action Against Hunger are the project partners.
- In a collective show of strength, residents of five villages including Rojda (Rozda), Sindolai, Harchandpura, Jaitpura and Sardarpura voted overwhelmingly in favour of permanent closure of all liquor shops in the cluster of five villages. The voting was conducted under the provision for

referendum in the Rajasthan Excise Act, 1975. This is the second instance of referendum over liquor ban in Rajasthan. Last March, 90% of villagers in Kachchbali panchayat of Rajsamand district had voted against keeping the only licensed liquor outlet open.

- Rajasthan is the only state in the country to have implemented an integrated IT architecture, creating applications and platforms while capturing various functionalities for improving efficiency, transparency and outreach. In the last three years, the number of active e-mitra kiosks has gone up from 3,000 to 40,000. Similarly, the number of services has also increased from about 50 to in excess of 270. If one compares the overall scenario in the country, Rajasthan has 25% of the total kiosks in the country. Additionally, in terms of transactions and kiosks, Rajasthan is far ahead of even five states put together.
- The central government has cleared the appointment of the Delhi High Court's Justice **Pradeep Nandrajog** as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.
- The second edition of IT Day was observed in Rajasthan on **March 21**.
- Rajasthan is planning a 4.7-km pod taxi link between Ajmer railway station and the Ajmer Dargah. Pod taxi is a public transit system for cities in which pods are suspended from an overhead rail. Each pod can carry up to five passengers. The ropeway-like system runs on electricity and driverless pods zip along five to 10 metres above ground. The pods descend and ascend at designated stations to pick up and drop passengers.
- Rajasthan government has sent plan to Centre for rejuvenating 'Saraswati' river.
- The Rajasthan government has identified land to develop Jodhpur-Pali area as an Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR), and it will submit a detailed project report on it to the Centre by mid-April.
- The **Mallinath Fair**, Tilwara started at Balotara in Barmer from March 24. Many years ago, bulls formed majority of the animals coming to the fair. Later, the number of bulls reduced and camels started coming. For the first time, this year a craze for horses, instead of camels, is being witnessed at the fair.

- Lokayukta Justice S S Kothari submitted the annual report on Lokayukta for the last financial year to governor Kalyan Singh.
- Rajasthan Government and HPCL have come together to set up a 9 MT refinery in Barmer. It is important to note here that Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producer in the country after the offshore field Bombay High. Oilfields in the state (of ONGC and Cairn India) were producing nearly 90 lakh tones oil annually, which is 24% of the total domestic crude oil production.
- The state-level technical committee on Thursday sanctioned various projects worth Rs 230.67 crore under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. In the 9th meeting chaired by local self government (LSG), principal secretary, Majit Singh, approval was given for water supply, sewerage, drainage and green space projects. In last year ranking announced in December 2016, the state stood at first position for successfully implementing work under AMRUT.

RAJRAS RAS MAINS 2016 RAJASTHAN CURRENT AFFAIRS

FAST REVISION MODULE-II

December 2016 – March 2017

INDEX

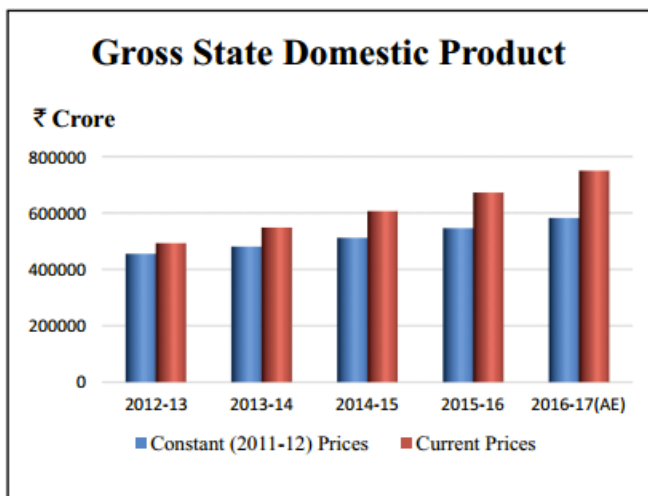
Persons in NEWS.....	3
Places in NEWS	5
Schemes & Policy	10
General NEWS	16
New Initiatives.....	21
Science & Technology	23
Persons in NEWS.....	27
Places in NEWS	30
Committees	34
Schemes & Policy	35
General NEWS	38
New Initiatives.....	48
Science & Technology	53
Rajasthan Current Affairs: April-May 2017	57
INDEX	2
Rajasthan Economic Snapshot: 2017	4
Rajasthan Agriculture Current Affairs.....	8
Current Affairs on Environment & Geography of Rajasthan.....	10
Current Affairs on Social Aspects/Issues of Rajasthan	12
Current Affairs on Polity/Governance in Rajasthan	21
Current Affairs on Infrastructure in Rajasthan.....	22

Current Affairs of Culture of Rajasthan	26
Rajasthan: Miscellaneous Current Affairs	27
Rajasthan & International Current Affairs	29
Rajasthan Budget 2017-18 Snapshot	30
Rajasthan Policy Brief	32
Rajasthan Government Important Schemes	35

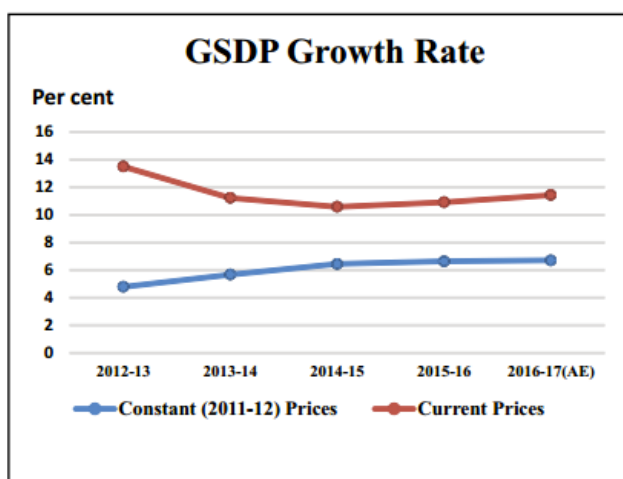
Rajasthan Economic Snapshot: 2017

Key Indicators of Economic Development 2016 (Based on Economic Survey 2016-17, Published 2017)

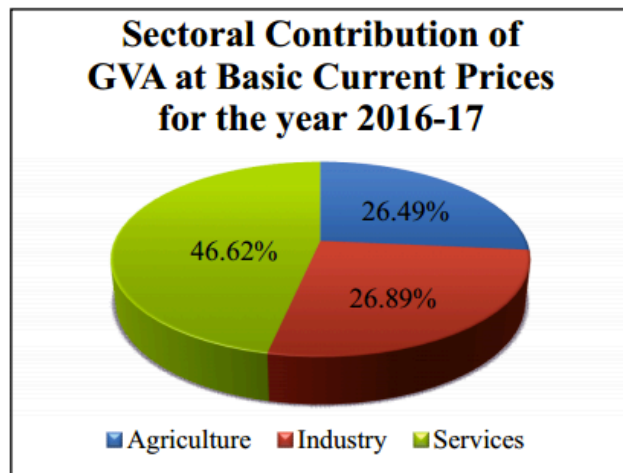
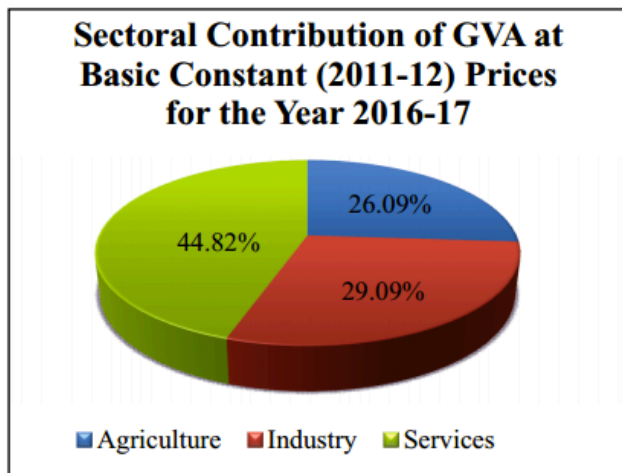
- Gross State Domestic Product at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: 5,82,000 Crores
 - (b) Current Prices: 7,49,000 Crores



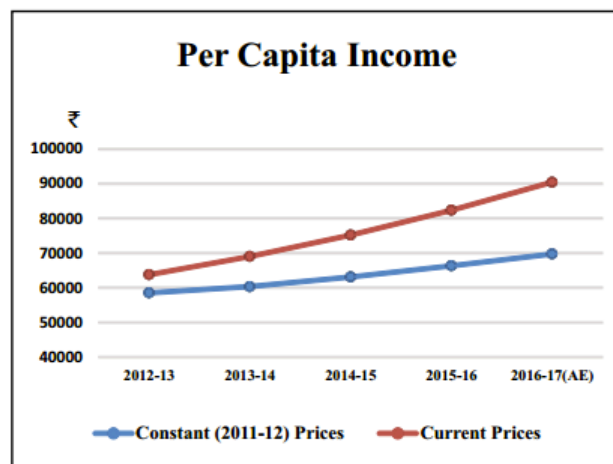
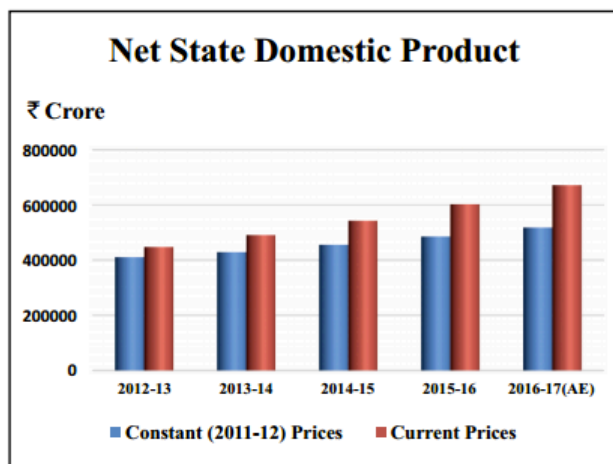
- Economic Growth Rate as per GSDP at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: 6.71 %
 - (b) Current Prices: 11.4%



- Sectoral Contribution of GVA at Current Prices by
 - (a) Agriculture: **26.89 %**
 - (b) Industry: **26.89%**
 - (c) Services: **46.62 %**



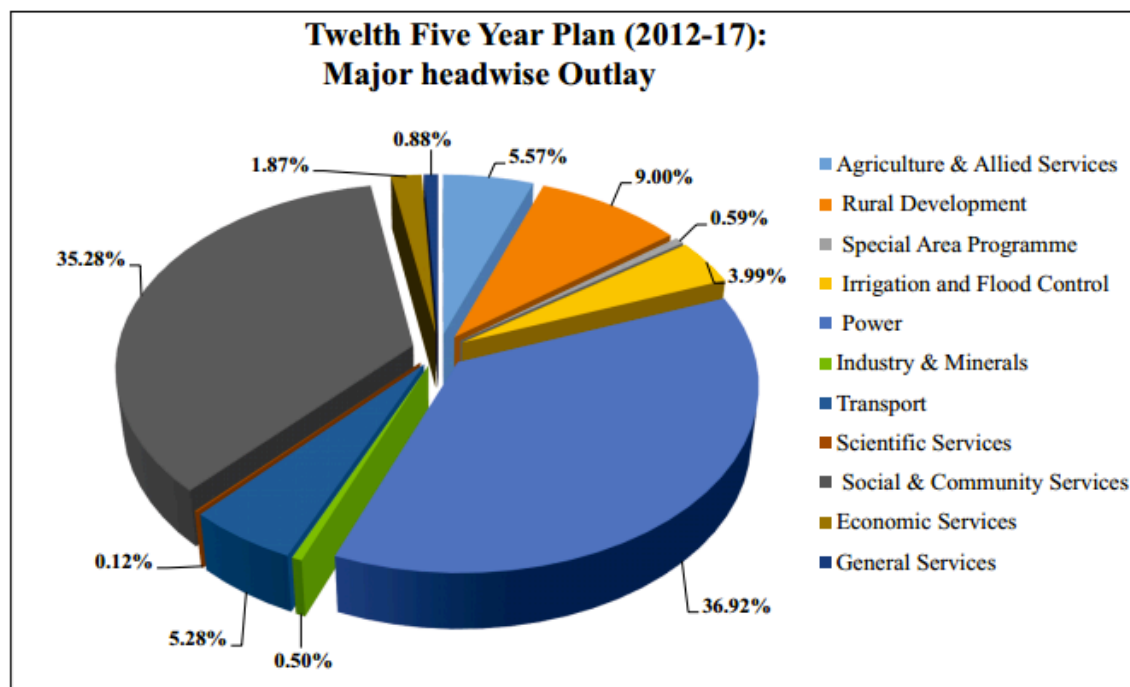
- Net State Domestic Product at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **517,000 Crores**
 - (b) Current Prices: **671,000 Crores**
- Per Capita Income at
 - (a) Constant (2011-12) Prices: **69,730 INR**
 - (b) Current Prices: **90,447 INR**



****Quote above figures in answers related to Economy of Rajasthan**

Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17)

An outlay of **1, 96,992 crore** has been proposed for Twelfth Five Year Plan. The major head-wise proposed allocations are:



Economic Growth Targets:

		(Per cent)
Sector	Target for Twelfth Plan for Rajasthan	
Agriculture	3.50	
Industries	8.00	
Services	9.50	
Total Growth Rate	7.70	

Price Inflation Indices Rajasthan:

- The Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) has been collecting the wholesale and retail prices of the essential commodities regularly, since 1957 from selected centres across the State on weekly basis.

- The Consumer Price Indices for industrial workers are prepared and released by the Labour Bureau, Shimla for Jaipur, Ajmer and Bhilwara centres of the State.
- The DES also prepares Building Construction Cost Index for Jaipur Centre.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Rajasthan

- Base Year 1999-2000=100
- The primary use of the state level WPI is in computation of GSDP as an indicator.
- WPI serves as an important determinant in formulation of trade, fiscal and other economic policies by the government.
- It is also widely used by the banks, industries and business circles. It is released on **monthly** basis.
- It covers 154 commodities, of which 75 are from 'Primary Articles' group, 69 from 'Manufactured Products' group and 10 from 'Fuel and Power' group.
- The Wholesale Price Index for 'All Commodities' increased from 272.75 in the year 2015 to 282.61 in the year of 2016, registering an increase of **3.62 percent**.

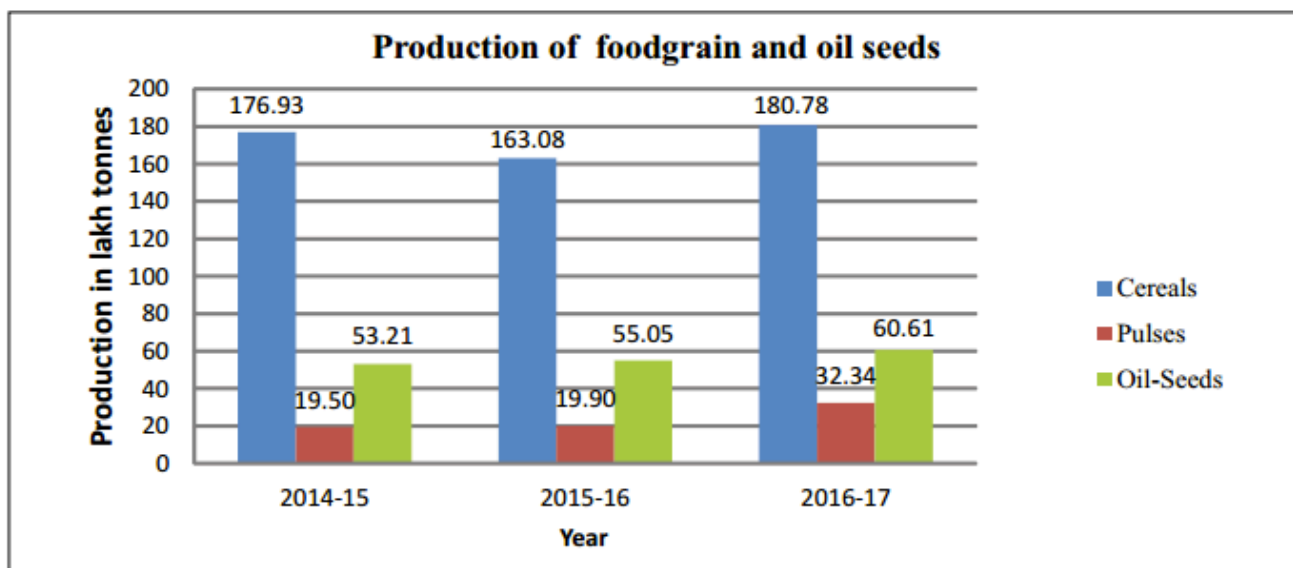
Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- At present there are four different types of Consumer Price Indices are being constructed every month. They are Consumer Price Index for
 - Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)
 - Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)
 - Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) and
 - Rural and Urban (CPI-R&U).
- The first three indices are constructed and released by the Labour Bureau, Shimla and the fourth one by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), New Delhi.

Rajasthan Agriculture Current Affairs

Agriculture Snapshot:

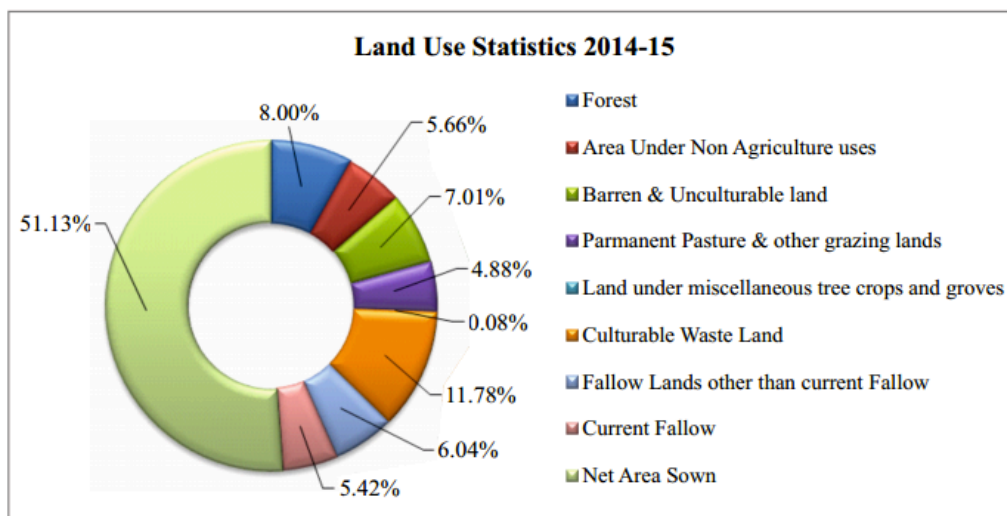
- **75 per cent** population of the State resides in the rural areas and about **62 per cent** depend on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood.
- Agriculture in Rajasthan is primarily rain-fed and the period of monsoon is short. The rainfall patterns indicate that during current monsoon season, in 2016, the onset of monsoon was with 7 days delay than its normal date of **15 June**. In 2016, Rajasthan experienced **excess rainfall** throughout the monsoon season except Sriganganagar district.
- Snapshot of production of foodgrain and oil-seeds in Rajasthan:
 - Cereals: 180.78 Lakh tonnes
 - Pulses: 32.34 Lakh tonnes
 - Oil-Seeds 60.61 Lakh tonnes



Land Utilization Rajasthan:

- The total reporting area of the State during the year 2014-15 is **342.67-lakh hectare**. Out of this:
 - 8.00 % under forests (27.40 lakh hectare),

- 5.66 % area is under non-agriculture use (19.40 lakh hectare),
- 7.01 % land under barren and uncultivable land (24.03 lakh hectare),
- 4.88 % land under Permanent pasture (16.74 lakh hectare),
- 0.08 % land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves (0.26 lakh hectare),
- 11.78 % land under culturable waste land (40.38 lakh hectare),
- 6.04 % under fallow lands other than current fallow (20.69 lakh hectare),
- 5.42 % under current fallow (18.56 lakh hectare) and
- **51.13 % area is under net area sown (175.21 lakh hectare).**



Current Affairs on Environment & Geography of Rajasthan

GIB Population Increasing

The Desert National Park (DNP) in Jaisalmer has witnessed the successful birth of 11 Great Indian Bustards (GIB), taking the figure of the "critically endangered" species at its facility to 151.

African Catfish Problem in Keoladeo

Generally known as African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), the species is native to Africa and the Middle East where it inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers, swamps and urban sewage systems. The African catfish was introduced all over the world in the early 1980s for aquaculture purposes.

The earliest introduction of this species in the Keoladeo area was possibly around the year 2005 - by then, businessmen from West Bengal who had won contracts for fish cultivation in local ponds had begun to introduce this species as it could adapt to poor quality water, eating even the flesh of dead animals. It grows fast, could be raised in high densities and reproduces well in captivity, making it ideal for those looking to sell the fish for food.

In June 2000, the Agriculture Ministry issued orders banning the cultivation of this exotic species of fish. In December 1997, the Union department of agriculture wrote to all state governments seeking destruction of existing stocks of African catfish.

Why African catfish is dangerous:

- This fish poses immense risk to local varieties, preying on them and invading their ecosystem. Hence, the local fish breeds of keoladeo are getting eliminated by this fish.
- African catfish are easy to rear because the fish can be fed chicken and mutton waste as well as dead animals, who are often diseased, that the farmer gets at a cheap price. But this is the cause of problem as it possess health hazard.

Government actions to remove African Catfish from Keoladeo

Massive operations have been undertaken since 2009 to remove these catfish from Keoladeo wetlands. In 2014-15, 7,304 fish were caught and removed. In 2016, 40,117 fish were cleared. Keoladeo has now embarked on a 10-year project to cull the catfish.

- Native species are being put back into the water and African catfish is dumped on the ground at different points in the park or buried.
- The government is also taking steps to aware local farmers of the harm this fish can do and educated about the fact that breeding this fish is illegal.

The problem of African catfish is not just limited to Keoladeo but also found in the Cauvery, Ganga, Yamuna and even the streams of the Western Ghats. To add to problem, the female matures in about three years and can bear tens of thousands of eggs. This species has now spread in the subcontinent. There is an urgent need to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species that pose great risk to the environment, economy, or human health.

Four Water Concept & its Relevance in context of Rajasthan

- The Four Waters Concept' technology was first adopted in Nampi Project in Hebei province in China and later in the new watersheds in Andhra Pradesh between 2000-2004. It was developed by **T. Hanumantha Rao**.
- The Four water are, rainwater, soil moisture upto water table level, ground water and surface water.
- This technology emphasizes on water spreading techniques to facilitate recharge to ground water, in the upper areas of watershed, through mini percolation tanks instead of the conventional checkdams in main valley.
- Four Waters concept can come very handy in the drought-prone Rajasthan for countering drought and subsequent damage. This low-cost technology can increase recharge of groundwater by four times and provide thrice the benefit than conventional models.
- The methodology of the Four Waters concept revolves around the harvesting of available runoff (rain water, groundwater, underground water & in situ soil moisture) in rural areas by treatment of catchment, proper utilization of available water harvesting structures, renovation of the non-functional water harvesting structures & creation of new water harvesting structures.
- The Four Water Concept is integral part of IWMP. During the year 2016-17 a provision of `50 crore has been made for work execution based on four water concept.

Current Affairs on Social Aspects/Issues of Rajasthan

National Family Health Survey NFHS-4: Rajasthan

The National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4), the fourth in the NFHS series, provides information on population, health and nutrition for India and each State / Union territory. NFHS-4, for the first time, provides district-level estimates for many important indicators. The NFHS-3 was conducted in 2005-06. After a gap of 10 years, **NFHS-4 (2015-16)** has been released recently by the ministry of health.

Key Observations for Rajasthan from NFHS-4:

- NFHS-4 fieldwork for Rajasthan was conducted from 23 January 2016 to 21 July 2016 by *Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR University)* and gathered information from 34,915 households, 41,965 women, and 5,892 men.
- *Infant mortality rate (IMR)* in Rajasthan has taken a dip from 65 per 1,000 live births to 41 per 1,000 live births in the past 10 years.
- However, according to NFHS -4, there is a vast difference between IMR in rural areas and in the urban areas. In rural areas, IMR is 44 deaths per 1,000 live births. In urban areas of the state, it is 31 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- *Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR)* has also witnessed a dip of 34 points in the state in the past 10 years from 85 per 1,000 live births to 51 per 1,000 live births.
- More percentage of women in urban areas is receiving maternal and child care in comparison to their rural counterparts. The difference between urban and rural women in getting maternal treatment indicates that rural women are yet to get the same kind of health facilities which the urban women are getting.
- Percentage of children in urban areas receiving vaccination against diseases is higher in comparisons to kids in rural areas. NFHS-4 shows that 53.1% of children (12-23 months) in rural areas are fully immunised whereas 60.9% of such children in urban areas have received vaccination.

- Percentage of child marriages has gone down significantly over the last 10 years. In 2005-06, 65.2% of women in the 20-24 year age-group had got married before 18 years. The percentage of such women has reduced to 35.4% in 2015-16, reporting a decline of 29.8%.
- There has been a decline in spousal violence cases and a rise in women having bank accounts. The percentage of women experiencing spousal violence has also seen a huge drop. NFHS-4 survey says this category has dipped from 46.3% to 25.1%.
- Over the past 10 years, the percentage of women participating in household decisions has risen from 65.1% in 2005-06 to 81.7% in 2015-16.
- There is also a decline in the percentage of women with anaemia. Ten years ago, 52.6% of non-pregnant women and 61.7% of pregnant women were anaemic. But, now it has reduced to 46.8% among non-pregnant and 46.6% among pregnant women.
- As far as access to healthcare facilities is concerned, more women are now have such facilities in hospitals. In 2005-06, 29.6% of the total childbirths happened in hospitals. This has increased to 84% in 2015-16. Additionally, now, 86.6% of the births are assisted by a doctor nurse or any other health personnel in comparison to only 41% 10 years ago.
- Women are taking literacy seriously. The NFHS data shows that the literacy rate has increased from 36.2% to 56.5%, a jump of 20.3% over past 10 years.
- The state has witnessed a sharp decline in the total fertility rate (TFR) over the past 10 years, Rajasthan's TFR has reduced to 2.4, which is still slightly higher than 2.1 — the goal for achieving a stable population growth. The TFR is calculated as an average number of children expected to be born per woman during her entire span of reproductive period.
- The percentage of children who are severely wasted (low weight for height) has increased in the state in a decade from 7.3% to 8.6%. Besides, only 3.4% of the total children in the 6-23-month category receive adequate diet in the state.

Key Indicators for Rajasthan:

Rajasthan - Key Indicators

Indicators	NFHS-4 (2015-16)			NFHS-3 (2005-06)
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Population and Household Profile				
1. Population (female) age 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)	73.7	52.0	57.2	43.9
2. Population below age 15 years (%)	27.1	32.6	31.2	38.9
3. Sex ratio of the total population (females per 1,000 males)	928	989	973	957
4. Sex ratio at birth for children born in the last five years (females per 1,000 males)	845	899	887	847
5. Children under age 5 years whose birth was registered (%)	81.5	62.5	66.6	16.4
6. Households with electricity (%)	98.6	88.4	91.0	66.1
7. Households with an improved drinking-water source ¹ (%)	91.7	83.3	85.5	81.8
8. Households using improved sanitation facility ² (%)	72.5	35.6	45.0	19.3
9. Households using clean fuel for cooking ³ (%)	80.4	15.2	31.8	20.7
10. Households using iodized salt (%)	97.8	92.0	93.5	63.3
11. Households with any usual member covered by a health scheme or health insurance (%)	19.4	18.5	18.7	4.5
Characteristics of Adults (age 15-49)				
12. Women who are literate (%)	75.8	49.8	56.5	36.2
13. Men who are literate (%)	92.4	82.6	85.4	73.9
14. Women with 10 or more years of schooling (%)	43.1	18.8	25.1	11.7
Marriage and Fertility				
15. Women age 20-24 years married before age 18 years (%)	20.3	40.5	35.4	65.2
16. Men age 25-29 years married before age 21 years (%)	16.4	44.7	35.7	57.0
17. Total fertility rate (children per woman)	1.9	2.6	2.4	3.2
18. Women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey (%)	4.5	6.9	6.3	16.0
Infant and Child Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)				
19. Infant mortality rate (IMR)	31	44	41	65
20. Under-five mortality rate (U5MR)	37	54	51	85
Current Use of Family Planning Methods (currently married women age 15-49 years)				
21. Any method ⁴ (%)	64.1	58.3	59.7	47.3
22. Any modern method ⁴ (%)	57.9	52.1	53.5	44.4
23. Female sterilization (%)	35.3	42.5	40.7	34.2
24. Male sterilization (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8
25. IUD/PPIUD (%)	2.1	1.0	1.2	1.6
26. Pill (%)	3.5	2.1	2.4	2.0
27. Condom (%)	16.5	6.1	8.7	5.7
Unmet Need for Family Planning (currently married women age 15-49 years)⁵				
28. Total unmet need (%)	12.4	12.3	12.3	15.7
29. Unmet need for spacing (%)	5.2	5.8	5.7	7.3
Quality of Family Planning Services				
30. Health worker ever talked to female non-users about family planning (%)	17.7	17.4	17.5	10.4
31. Current users ever told about side effects of current method ⁶ (%)	49.7	41.8	43.5	31.6

Female Foeticide in Rajasthan: Social Issue

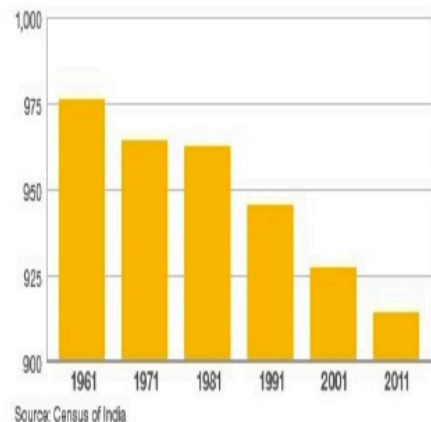
Female foeticide is the abortion of a female foetus, after **sex determination test**, outside of legal methods. Female foeticide has been linked to the arrival, in the early 1990s, of affordable ultrasound technology and its widespread adoption in India. By one of the estimate since 1990, more than 10

million female fetuses may have been illegally aborted in India and 500,000 girls were being lost

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Falling number of girls born in India since 1961

Number of girls born for every 1,000 boys born



Sex ratio and Child sex ratio (0-6 years) India		
Year	Sex ratio	Child sex ratio
1991	927	945
2001	933	927
2011	940	914

annually due to female foeticide.

Female Foeticide in Rajasthan

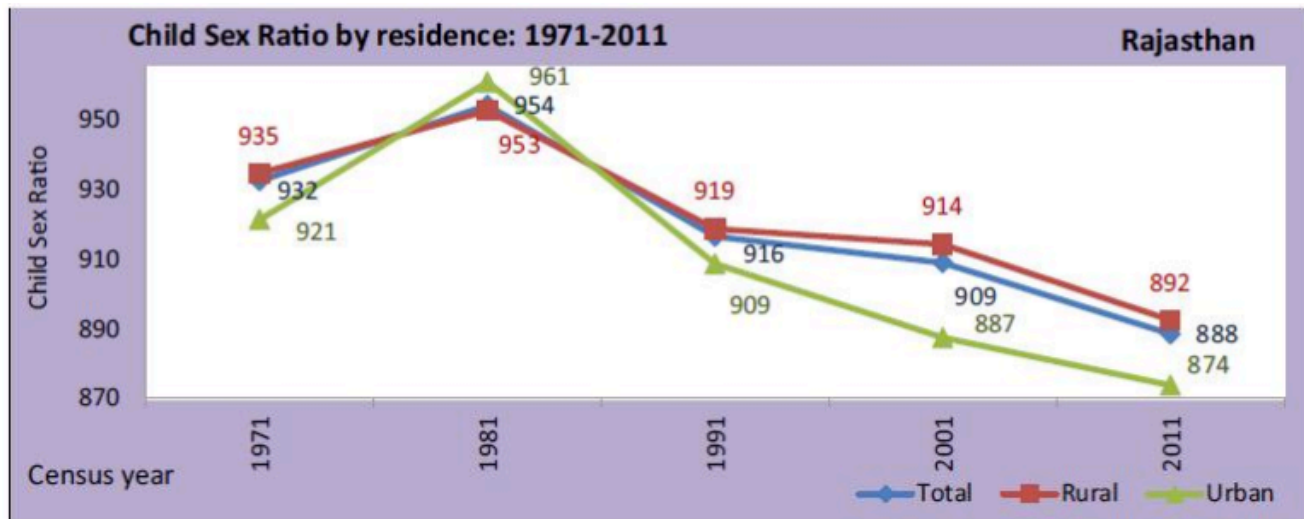
Female foeticide is commonly practiced across the Rajasthan and female infanticide is also common especially in districts like Jaisalmer. The archaic social structure has always given preference to males over females in the state. Unit recent times, the state had high maternal mortality rate of 445 per 100,000 live births. The birth of a girl child meant bad news, this was mainly due to the hefty dowry system prevalent in the state.

A countrywide study conducted by Sabu M. George, revealed that the ultrasound machines were luring even the tribal population in the States like Rajasthan. As a result of that a steep decline of over 75 points in sex ratio at birth has been reported during a period from 1991-2001 in urban areas of Ganganagar, Banswara and Sirohi in Rajasthan.

Child-Sex Ratio in Rajasthan

The child sex ratio is an important indicator of discrimination against the girl child, whereas the sex ratio in the entire population is a key indicator of serious societal problems at large, especially gender discrimination over the life cycle of an infant girl, the girl child, the adolescent girl and the woman. Since, for biological reasons, women in all societies live longer than men; the natural expectation is that

the share of women in the population will be larger than 50%. However, the child sex ratio (number of



females for every 1,000 male children in 0-6 age group) dropped from 954 in 1981 to 888 in 2011.

Current Update:

Child sex ratio has shown a marked improvement in 2015. According to government figures, the child sex ratio has jumped 37 points in 2015 reaching 925 as against 888 by the 2011 Census in the 0 to 6 age group. However, Female foeticide is still prevalent in border districts of Rajasthan which leads to declining sex ratio. Jaisalmer is still of those districts where number of girls is less compared to boys. Last year, the number was 925, which has fallen drastically to 888 per 1,000 boys in November this year.

Positive beginnings:

- In 2016, Piplantri village in Rajasthan has taken initiative that encourages empowerment of women and environment conservation simultaneously with planting of 111 trees for every girl child born.
- Rajasthan, saw the highest impact in terms of implementation, with 634 court cases reported under the act. A total of 137 convictions have taken place in the state till now with 21 medical licences being suspended on account of pre natal sex determination in the state.

Steps taken by Government:

Sections 312-316 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)

- Sections 312-316 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) deals with miscarriage and death of an unborn child and depending on the severity and intention with which the crime is committed, the penalties range from seven years to life imprisonment for fourteen years and fine.

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 - PC&PNDT Act

- To combat the practice of female foeticide in the country through misuse of technology, done surreptitiously with the active connivance of the service providers and the persons seeking such service, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was enacted on September 20, 1994 by the Government of India.
- The Act was amended in 2003 to improve regulation of technology capable of sex selection and to arrest the decline in the child sex ratio as revealed by the Census 2001 and with effect from 14.02.2003, due to the amendments, the Act is known as the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

- National campaign “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” was launched in 100 gender critical districts in partnership with the Ministry of Woman and Child Development and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Mukhyamantri Rajshree Yojna:

- Government Scheme related to encouragement of birth of girl-child.
- Previously, shubh laxmi yojna was implemented but government pulled it out and started CM Rajshree Yojna from June 1, 2016.
- Government will pay 50,000 rupees in installment for education of girl child born in government hospitals and registered hospitals.

Daughters are precious campaign

Laado Chaupal

- ‘Laado Chaupal's' are organised in state to lay emphasis on the strict implementation of the drive to check foetus sex determination tests in order to improve the declining child sex ratio in Rajasthan.

Female foeticide: What is to be done:

Improve conviction rate in PC&PNDT Act

- During 1991 to 2011, a total of 25.5 million girls i.e. 1.3 million girls per year went missing primarily because of the sex selection.
- But only 2,021 court and police cases were filed from 1994 to 2014 under the PC&PNDT Act, which implies that on an average only 1 (one) court case was filed approximately for 12,614 cases of sex selection.
- Further, as conviction was secured only in 206 cases during 1994-2014, it also implies that only 1 (one) conviction was secured per 1,23,755 cases of sex selection.
- Rajasthan government had setup separate fast-track court for cases related to sex selection and other offences under the PCPNDT Act 1994 but conviction rate has only 137.

Establish Central Authority

- Establish a Central nodal agency to combat female foeticide under the joint collaboration of Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare by bringing increased accountability of the Appropriate Authorities of the PC&PNDT Act.

Increase Awareness and sensitization

- There is a need to empower women and educate them and also to create awareness and sensitization amongst population.
- The National Commission for Women and State Women Commissions could be given a proactive role to launch campaign against sex-selection in a concerted manner, to create awareness among the medical fraternity, society and the public.
- Focus on Districts/Blocks/Villages with low Child Sex Ratio to ascertain the causes, plan appropriate Behaviour Change Communication campaigns

SBM Update: Rajasthan has 39% open defecation free villages

According to latest report accessed from the *Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)* management information system (MIS), has declared 39% of its villages as *open defecation free (ODF)* till January 10, 2017.

Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have attained 100% ODF in rural areas while Haryana is inching towards them with 84%. Bihar with just 2% villages declared ODF followed Uttar Pradesh with 4% villages as ODF are worst performers in the drive. Union government verified an aggregate of 40% villages that were declared ODF till the same period.

Rajasthan had spent 219% of the budgetary allocation amount till January 10, 2017. Of the total budget, Rajasthan has spent 99% amount on construction of *Individual Household Latrines (IHHL)* while one per cent is used on other activities of SBM like construction of community sanitary complexes, construction of Anganwadi toilets, information education and communication activities to push behavior change. This is contrary to SBM guidelines which rule that at least 8% of the amount should be spent on non-IHHL functions of the SBM.

Individual Household Latrines (IHHL)

- IHHL are low-cost toilets provided to Below Poverty Line households and certain category of above poverty line household such as scheduled caste and scheduled tribes along with marginal farmers, landless labourers, physically handicapped and women headed households.
- Post construction, an incentive of Rs 12,000 is given to the household. The funds are shared between the central and state government in 60:40 ratio.

Last year, Churu from Rajasthan was selected among top 10 cleanest districts in plains as per the Quality Council of India (QCI) survey. The same survey revealed Bikaner, Ajmer, Pali and Dungarpur in Rajasthan at the bottom of the list relating to districts in plains. Additionally, Jhalawar Collector, Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni will be awarded at National Stage for his efforts to construct Sulabh Toilets in public places.

New Initiative in Rajasthan For *Swachh Bharat Mission*

To **encourage Swachh Bharat Mission** and make use of lavatory a must, Cairn India in collaboration with Rural Development Organisation (RDO) and district administration of Barmer has launched a unique scheme in Baytu and Gida panchayats, under which Rs 2,500 per month are given to every family that will use lavatory in regular basis.

During launch, eight families were handed over the cheques of Rs 2,500 in Baytu village. Recently, an action plan was made with the help of Cairn India's rural development organization to encourage and

aware the beneficiaries of using lavatory. The beneficiaries were handed over the cheques after the inspection of the condition of loos and regularity of their use.

Barmer district collector Sudhir Sharma has said the scheme will benefit 15,000 families of Baytu and Gida panchayats and if it fulfils the desire, the scheme will be expanded to other areas too.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India in 2016.
- At present under PMSMA, ante-natal care (ANC) services are provided by OBGY specialists/ Radiologist/ Physicians including private sector volunteers only at government health facilities.
- In Rajasthan, more than 5,00,000 women have been benefitted by the campaign.

Current Affairs on Polity/Governance in Rajasthan

RAHAT Launched

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan Heart Attack Treatment programme (**RAHAT**) to provide people timely treatment during heart attacks in remote and rural areas. With this, Rajasthan became the second state in the country after Tamil Nadu to launch health programme against Heart Diseases.

Rotavirus Vaccine Expansion

The Union Government has announced the expansion of rotavirus vaccine in five additional states under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). They are Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

The Rotavirus is a genus of double-stranded RNA virus and causes gastroenteritis after it damages the cells that line the small intestine and causes gastroenteritis. In some cases it causes malnutrition, delayed physical and mental development among children.

Mission Parivar Vikas

- Union Government has launched *mission parivar vikas* under which 145 high focus districts in the country will be taken up for improving family planning services. 14 districts from Rajasthan including Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Rajsamand, Banswara, Jalore, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pali, Baran and Sirohi, have been included in the mission.

Under mission pariwar vikas:

- Injectable contraceptives will be introduced in these districts in free of cost. Four doses of injectable contraceptives will be provided to beneficiaries every year, which will remain effective throughout the year.
- Focus would also be on focus on improving access to contraceptives through delivering assured services, dovetailing new promotional schemes, ensuring commodity security, building capacity (service providers), creating an enabled environment along with close monitoring and implementation.

All Women Police Station

Rajasthan has become India's first state to have all-women staff police station. In this Gandhi Nagar (Jaipur) Mahila Thana, at least 22 police personnel have been deployed and each of them is a woman right from police constable to Station House Officer (SHO).

The main idea to commission such a police station is to provide a place for female victims where they can share their grievances without any inhibition. The new police station will have a separate place where women will be able to keep their kids.

Rajasthan leads in creating employment under NREGA in January

Rajasthan leads in creating employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) in the country for the month of January. According to the figures, 2.42 crore new jobs were created in January in Rajasthan, while Tamil Nadu came second by creating 2.02 crore jobs.

POSHAN

- Rajasthan Government has launched **Social Household Approach for Nutrition (POSHAN)**, to take care of children suffering from **severe acute malnutrition (SAM)**.

Apna Baccha Apna Vidyalay' Yojana

- Apna Baccha Apna Vidyalay (ABAV) launched by the administration in Jhujhunu district in April last year has seen tremendous response and has helped to enroll more and more girls in schools, especially the drop-outs. As per the district administration, the campaign has brought around 6,000 girls to government schools in the last one year.

Current Affairs on Infrastructure in Rajasthan

- Shamlaji Check-post on Rajasthan-Gujarat Border has become the first digital check-post of the country. The check-post is equipped with laser technology, Automatic Vehicle Monitoring System(AVMS) which can check overloaded vehicles.
- The state government has decided to set up a Construction and Demolition of Waste Processing Plant (CDWP) in 29 cities of Rajasthan with estimated cost of Rs. 48 Crore, which will recycle 1050 (Tonnes Per Day) waste. Construction debris in Jaipur and other cities of the state is choking roads, wetlands and green areas and the problem is becoming more acute every year. Dumped callously wherever there is space, it is rarely recycled on a large scale. Once these plants will be established, the state government will be able to recycle 70- 80% of the construction waste.
- Like the Centre, now Rajasthan too has an e-Project Monitoring System (e-PMS) portal. The e-PMS has been put in place to facilitate projects having investments between Rs 50 crore to Rs 1000 crore to resolve issues including their approvals and expeditious implementation.
- MoU has been signed for laying a new railway line between [Jaisalmer](#) and Kandla Port. The railway department and government will share the cost of the project. This line will prove useful in supplying necessary items to the defence.

Inland Container Depot to come up at Bhiwadi and Sirohi

The government of Rajasthan has approached the Centre with a proposal for setting up two inland container depots (ICDs) in Bhiwadi ([Alwar](#)) and [Sirohi](#).

What is Inland Container Depot:

Inland Container Depot or ICD's are inland points away from sea ports equipped for handling and temporary storage of containerized cargo as well as empties. ICD is formed to help importers and exporters to handle their shipments near their location. If the sea port is away from the places of importers and exporters, Inland Container Depot helps them to save time and money in the procedures and formalities.

In Inland Container Depot, a combination of services of customs department, carriers, freight forwarders, customs brokers etc. are carried out to facilitate exporters and importers for smooth handling of cargo.

Inland Container Depots (ICDs) are known as *Dry ports* in India.

Inland ports already functioning in Rajasthan:

- Kanakpura, Jaipur
- Bhagat Ki Kothi, Jodhpur
- Rawtha Road, Kota

Need of new Inland Container Depots in Rajasthan:

Currently, exporters from Udaipur use the inland ports available in Ahmedabad for exporting while the industry in Bhiwadi routes its goods through an inland depot at Khatuwas in Haryana. The proposed Bhiwadi depot would help Industries located in Bhiwadi and nearby areas and Sirohi depot will help in moving the consignments from Udaipur. This would majorly help the marble industry while agriculture, handicraft and textiles Industries located in Udaipur region would also be benefitted.

These ports are also required as 2015, initiative of Rajasthan Government of building an *artificial inland seaport at Jalore* has been recently declared infeasible by *Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS)*. The government had proposed to build a canal between Mori creek and Jalore or using existing cherras and rivers, like Luni, but, when WAPCOS evaluated the the internal rate of return (IRR) for the project, it came out as negative. Additionally, reservations were raised by the defense authorities and there were also concern of disturbing ecological sensitivity of the area. Subsequently, the state government's water resource department has also now raised the red flag and declared the project unviable.

Chhabra thermal plant to be transferred to NTPC

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RVUN) and Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RUVNL). Under the MoU four units of 250-250 MW each of Chhabra Thermal Power Plant will be transferred to NTPC in the first phase while the two units of 660-660 MW each shall be transferred after commissioning.

By using advanced technology NTPC will get more production with low consumption of coal and the tariff benefit will reach to the consumers of the state. Best practices of NTPC in efficiency and system improvement will also be beneficial for other plants of the state. The employees of Chhabra TPP will get the option of merger in NTPC on their will.

Rajasthan Investment Promotion Initiatives:

Single Window Clearance System (SWCS)

Rajasthan's Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) is a single point of contact to reduce the time and efforts involved in various clearances and approvals of layouts/applications for the proposed investment submitted by investors.

This online application shall render transparency to the system, thereby facilitating investors with expeditious and time-bound clearances and approvals. This system has come into effect from 1 April 2011 in all the districts of the state. Application through SWCS is mandatory for all projects involving investments above US\$ 165,893.

Agencies Involved in Investment Promotion:

Bureau of Investment Promotion

BIP is a nodal agency of the Government of Rajasthan that facilitates investments in various sectors in the state. It provides one stop service, mainly for large projects, by acting as an interface between entrepreneurs and the Government.

Role of BIP in Rajasthan:

1. Identifying investment opportunities.
2. Providing access to information that is critical for setting up of projects.
3. Assisting translation of investment possibilities into concrete investment proposals.
4. Nodal agency for single-window clearances.
5. Facilitation on behalf of investors with all Government departments /agencies to ensure that proposals get immediate attention.
6. Assisting in site selection and obtaining infrastructural facilities.
7. Interfacing with Government departments for required clearances.

Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)

RIICO is the sole agency in the state that develops land for industrial growth. It provides financial assistance and other vital infrastructural facilities for industries.

Role of RIICO:

1. Site selection and acquisition of land.
2. Financial assistance to small, medium and large scale projects.
3. Equity participation in large projects on merit.
4. Technical consultancy for project identification and technical tie-ups.
5. Escort services, facilitation of Government clearances.
6. Merchant banking and financial tie-ups.
7. Extending incentives and concessions according to the policy of the State Government.

Rajasthan Financial Corporation (RFC)

RFC provides medium- and long-term loans for new industrial units in the SME sector. It also assists in planning a balanced development of industries in the state.

PDCOR Limited

PDCOR Limited (PDCOR) is a company jointly promoted by the Government of Rajasthan and Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) to facilitate private sector investment in the infrastructure sector of Rajasthan.

Current Affairs of Culture of Rajasthan

Annual Two day Camel Festival Held in Bikaner

- The annual camel festival was held in **Bikaner, Rajasthan** from January 14-January 15, 2017 in the presence of domestic as well as foreign tourists.

- The two-day festival was organised by the **Rajasthan Tourism Department** and the **Bikaner district administration**. The District Collector, Ved Prakash flagged off a procession from Junagarh which ended at Karni Singh Stadium in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Dabadiya Nullah

- Remains of bricks, bones and utensils have been discovered at the Dabadiya nullah site of Jankipura village in Malpura block of Tonk District. Additionally, the police has also seized some gold coins which upon inspection (by ASI Jaipur team) were considered to be belonging to Gupta Dynasty, ruling between 3rd and 5th century AD.

Rajasthan: Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- In Rajasthan, after demonetisation, the footfall of Indian tourists has increased by 20-25%, while that of foreigners has dipped by 10% from last year.

- Four schools across Rajasthan may soon have Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) on their premises. ATLs, part of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) launched by the Niti Aayog, will be established in selected schools in the country to help create an innovation ecosystem in the country. MDS Sr Secondary school (Udaipur), Birla Shishu Vihar (Pilani), Mohanlal Dayal Vinay Mandir School (Alwar) and Ryan International have been approved.
- Only three districts of Rajasthan — Ajmer, Bikaner and Jhunjhunu have achieved 100% open defecation free (ODF) status while other 27 districts are not even halfway through their targets.
- Abu Road railway station has become the first energy efficient station of [Ajmer](#) division by saving 53,000 units of power per year. This became possible through LED light fitting at the station under *UJALA scheme*. The station will save Rs 3.3 lakh per annum.
- Rajasthan Government has introduced SMS-based system to monitor daily attendance of students in government schools. This has helped to reduce the wastage incurred on account of mid-day meals (MDM) by these institutions. The system can monitor food being sent or prepared in schools. Details of food being consumed and the number of students present in schools are provided daily by the principal. By 5pm, this information reaches the MDM office in Delhi directly. Based on these figures, the monitoring agency calculates the average food utilization in every school, helping them to check any malpractice. The SMS-based system has brought in transparency in the scheme.
- Chief minister Vasundhara Raje launched the second phase of Mukhyamantri Jal Swavalamban Scheme (MJSS) in Jhalrapatan on 9 December.
- The Ajmer Development Authority (ADA) has begun the task of renovating the '*Nachan Bawri*' under Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Yojana. Nachan Bawri lies at the entrance road to Ajmer (from Jaipur) in the premises of Samrat Ashok Udhiyan. It is a stepwell built during the time of Chauhan dynasty in Ajmer.
- District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) under Jodhpur Metropolitan has been bestowed with the first prize in Rajasthan for exemplary work in the field of legal service to the common man.
- Rajasthan **ILD Skill University (RISU)**, the first Skill University of India in the Government sector has been established in Jaipur by the virtue of an ordinance passed by the Government of Rajasthan. A MoU was signed in Resurgent Rajasthan Investment Summit, Nov 2015, with **Institute of Leadership Development (ILD)**, as an entity under Industrial Finance Corporation of India. RISU will soon function from a 33 acre sprawling and picturesque ILD campus, near the famous **Sisodia Rani ka Bagh, Jamdoli**.

- Rajasthan State received the Nari Shakti Puruskar – 2017 from President of India. Rajasthan has received this award for great work in “Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Campaign” together with other women empowerment programs. According to an official advertisement, Rajasthan award is being given for the increase in child sex ratio.

Rajasthan & International Current Affairs

4th India-CLMV Business Conclave held in Jaipur

The fourth edition of India – CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave was held in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan.

- The conference was aimed at identifying specific project opportunities and seeks business partnerships in the region. It consisted of business to business meetings and sectorial sessions.
- The conclave focused on sectors such as Pharma, Healthcare, manufacturing, Agri Business, Food processing, Gems and Jewellery, Textiles, Leather, Renewable Energy and education.

Rajasthan Budget 2017-18 Snapshot

Rajasthan Budget 2017: Fiscal Indicators

- Estimated Revenue Deficit for 2017-18
 - without effect of UDAY deficit of Rs. 1528 crore.
 - with effect of UDAY - deficit of Rs. 13528 crore.
- Estimated Fiscal Deficit for 2017-18 Rs. 24753.53 crore which is 2.99% of GSDP.
- Estimated total revenue receipts for 2017-18 Rs. 130162 crore.

- Estimated own tax revenue for the year 2017-18 Rs. 59455 crore against Rs. 69062 crore in the 2016-17 RE, which is higher by 16.16% .
- Estimated own tax revenue for 2017-18 as percentage of GSDP is 8.34%.
- Estimated interest payment in 2017-18 is Rs. 19626.91 crore which is 15.08% of total revenue receipts.

Important points:

- No change in VAT except 15% increase on tobacco products.
- Internet service providers will be exempted from paying entertainment tax on online booking of movie tickets.
- Recommendations of seventh pay commission to be implemented in the state.
- Home department to get Rs 5,600 crore which is 11.80% more than the previous year.
- Block headquarters will be connected with fibre, eight lakh people will be given IT training in 2017-18.
- Rs. 158.63 crore allocated for art, culture and archaeology department which is 49.42% more than the Revised Estimates of 2016-17.
- Rs 36 crore allocated for basic infra, conservation, beautification and renovation works at various tourist places in state.
- Rs. 2 crore allocated for 25 lac bigger plants, provision of Rs. 3 crore for development of 5 Smriti Van.
- Rs. 10.90 crore to be allocated for conservation of wood fossils, display and development of infra facilities for tourism at Aakal Wood Fossil Park.
- Eco-tourism to be developed at Trevor's Tank at Mount Abu, Rs. 7 crore to be allocated for Project Leopard.
- 90 cities will get WiFi facilities in next financial year.
- Villages with population of more than 5,000 will be developed as smart villages.
- Rs 100 crore allocated to establish district hospital in Dholpur.

- 14 districts in Rajasthan will get new screening facilities for breast cancer, Rs 3.36 crore allotted for this.
- Rs 1,399 crore allotted for higher education in the budget, Karauli and Bharatpur will get new engineering colleges.
- Admission in government schools to be increased by 32%, smart labs will be set up in schools.
- Self defense training will be provided to 3 lakh 60 thousand girls in state schools.
- New sports policy will be released, Bharatpur district to get wrestling academy; Volleyball academy will be established in Jhunjhunu.
- Rs 5986 allocated for social justice department in the budget.
- Economical weaker students from the General Category who get admissions in medical colleges, IITs and NLUs will get Rs 25,000. Those selected for administrative services will get Rs 50,000.
- Rajasthan Budget 2017 makes provision for 1,000 women milk societies in the state.
- One lakh farmers will get soil health cards, announces Vasundhara Raje in her third Rajasthan Budget 2017 speech.
- Rs 88 crore allocated to promote tourism as Rajasthan witnessed 17.31 % increase in the number of tourists in 2016-17. Rs 36 crore to be spent in developing tourists facilities.

Rajasthan Policy Brief

Policy for Promoting Generation of Electricity from Wind, 2012

Objectives:

- To promote generation of power from wind.
- To offer solutions to various problems faced by developers, power producers and utilities
Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) has been increased to 6.8%.

Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2014

Objectives:

- To reduce dependence on conventional sources of energy by promoting the development of nonconventional energy sources, especially solar power.
- To help Rajasthan attain self-sufficiency in its energy needs.
- To facilitate installation of 25,000 MW solar power through state or private enterprises or through public private partnerships or through individual efforts.

Policy for Promoting Generation of Electricity from Biomass, 2010

Objectives:

- To promote generation of power from biomass.
- To offer solutions to various problems faced by developers, investors, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and utilities.

Rajasthan Industrial and Investment Policy, 2010

Objectives:

- To achieve higher and sustainable economic growth through greater private investment in manufacturing as well as services sectors.
- To promote environmentally sustainable industrial growth and balanced regional development.
- To create a supportive policy and institutional environment as well as infrastructure that facilitates and fosters private sector investment and enterprise.
- To encourage rapid growth of sectors in which Rajasthan has natural or strategic advantages.
- To achieve optimal development of human capital and promote knowledge-led growth.
- Enhance employment opportunities for the growing young population.

Rajasthan State Environment Policy, 2010

Objectives:

- Conserve and enhance environmental resources.
- Assure environmental sustainability of key economic sectors.
- Improve environmental governance and build capacity.

Rajasthan Policy for Promotion of Agro-processing and Agri-business, 2010

Objectives:

- To increase farmers' income through more remunerative prices for their produce.
- To encourage value addition in agricultural produce and to reduce post-harvest losses.
- To bring in new technologies and practices to modernise agro-processing and marketing.
- To promote export of agri-products of the state and to build a strong state brand in the domestic and international markets.
- To attract private investment in agro-processing and create new employment opportunities on a large scale.

Rajasthan E-Governance and IT/ITeS Policy, 2015

Objectives:

- Released in November, 2015, the main objective of the policy is to bring the citizens and public services closer to one another.
- Provision of IT for good governance in the state.
- Enhanced investments in IT/ITeS, ESDM and robotics sector for promoting economic development of the state.
- Achieving efficiency, transparency and reliability in different public services to improve these services by controlling e-Governance in the state.

Tourism Policy of Rajasthan, 2015

Objectives:

- The Rajasthan Tourism Unit Policy, 2015 is expected to reinforce existing infrastructure
- It will encourage infrastructural development
- It will generate income as well as employment and will also increase the availability of rooms in hotels for tourists
- Rural tourism is expected to increase with opening up of heritage hotels in the rural or panchayat areas

Rajasthan Biotech Policy

Objectives:

- Positioning Rajasthan as an attractive destination for the biotech industry.
- Creating and upgrading biotechnology infrastructure.
- Creating quality infrastructure for research and commercial activities. Creating a strong base in academics
- Creating most basic understanding about the sector
- Human resources should be generated for the sector
- More and more biotech industries should be invited in the state

Rajasthan Mineral Policy 2015

Objectives:

- The Rajasthan Mineral Policy 2015 aims at providing a favourable framework for the legal, procedural, fiscal as well as regulatory aspects in the investment system.
- The other objective of the policy is to improve the exploration of the mineral wealth of Rajasthan through various in-house facilities and by outsourcing different enhanced techniques.
- To enhance and improve the employment opportunities in the state.

Rajasthan Government Important Schemes

Bhamashah Yojna:

Bhamashah Yojna is the flagship scheme of Rajasthan Government for financial inclusion and women empowerment. Under the scheme, multiple cash benefit accessed through the Bhamashah Card and transferred to bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Non-cash benefits are also given directly to entitled beneficiaries.

In Bhamashah Scheme, more than 1.37 crore families and 4.94 crore persons have been enrolled. Benefits of different cash as well as non-cash schemes like Social Security Pensions, MGNREGA, Janani Suraksha Yojna, Rajshree Yojna, Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojna, Palanhar, Scholarships, Ration distribution etc. have been transacted through Bhamashah platform.

Mukhyamantri Rajshree Yojana:

To develop a positive attitude towards the girl child in the society and to improve health and education status of the girl child in the State, this flagship scheme has been started which expects to bring women empowerment and gender equality in the State.

Under this scheme, a total grant of ₹50,000 is being provided in 6 instalments to the parents/guardians of the eligible girl. A total number of 3,16,066 girls have been benefitted with the first instalment of the scheme in a period from 1st June, 2016 to December, 2016.

Mukhya Mantri Jal Swawlamban Abhiyaan

To overcome the problems of shortage of fodder, drinking water and fall of water table in the wells, State Government has initiated Mukhya Mantri Jal Swawlamban Abhiyaan.

The main aim of this Abhiyaan is to make approximately 21,000 villages water selfreliant, by raising funds through convergence, public contributions and donations etc. In first phase, 95,071 works have been completed and the second phase has been started from 9 December, 2016.

Smart City Mission:

This mission aims to promote those cities, who provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to their citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'Smart' Solutions.

In Rajasthan 4 cities namely: Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota & Ajmer are shortlisted to be developed as Smart Cities.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Jan Kalyan Shivir:

For settling the grievances of rural people at panchayat level “Pandit DeenDayal Upadhyay Jan Kalyan Shivir” are being organized from 14 October, 2016 in the State with the objective to provide services to the rural people and provide an ease to the laymen by making settlements at their own panchayat itself.

AMRUT Mission:

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) was launched by Prime Minister of India in June 2015.

29 cities in Rajasthan have been selected under AMRUT Mission. The sectors for development identified under this mission are Water Supply, Sewerage & Septage, Drainage, Urban Transport and Green Spaces.

Pradhan Mantri JanDhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Under the scheme in Rajasthan, Jan Dhan Yojana has been linked with Bhamashah scheme and Co-branded cards have been issued in the state.

1.91 crore accounts have been opened and Aadhaar Seeding of 68.12 per cent accounts have been completed upto December, 2016.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

APY is a pension scheme for citizens of India focused on the unorganized sector workers. Under the scheme, guaranteed minimum pension is being given at the age of 60 years, depending on the contribution by the subscriber.

In the State, under this scheme total 1.58 lakh persons have been enrolled upto December, 2016.

Rajasthan Yuva Vikas Prerak Internship Program (RYVP):

It has been initiated with an object of ensuring outreach of benefits of flagship government schemes to the beneficiaries residing in the state. State Government aims to develop a talented pool of Yuva Vikas Preraks (YVPs) who have a passion for working with all the stake-holders, especially various segments of civil society and have the potential to become change catalysts.

At present, 87 Preraks are in the field for this purpose.

Major schemes and programmes implemented by Agriculture Department:

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

National Food Security Mission on Wheat and Pulses had been launched in Rajasthan in the year 2007-08 as a centrally sponsored scheme by the Central Government. During the year 2015-16, GoI has changed the funding pattern and now GoI: GoR ratio is 60:40.

NFSM has four components including NFSM – Wheat (implemented in 14 districts), Pulses (implemented in 16 districts), Coarse Cereals (implemented in 12 districts) and Commercial crops (implemented in 16 districts).

National Mission on Oil Seed and Oil Palm (NMOOP)

This mission envisages increase in production of vegetable oil sourced from Oilseeds, Oil Palm and TBOs, and self sufficiency in foodgrains and food security. Mission consists of 2 Mini-Missions (MM-I on Oilseeds, and MM-III on TBOs) are implemented in Rajasthan.

Main Components of this mission are production of foundation seed and certified seed, distribution of certified seed, crop demonstration, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), plant protection chemical, distribution of PPEquipments bio-fertilizer, Gypsum, pipes for carrying water, farmers trainings, agriculture implements, innovative, seed treatment drums, sprinkler set, distribution of minikits, infrastructure development etc.

National Mission On Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET)

The aim of the Mission is to restructure and strengthen agriculture extension to enable delivery of appropriate technology and improved agronomic practice to the farmers.

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) consists of 3 sub missions:

- Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
- Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture
- Soil Health Management

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

PMKSY has been conceived as an amalgamation of ongoing schemes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and the On Farm Water Management (OFWM). PMKSY is being implemented in the state, since 2015-16. PMKSY's funding pattern between GoI: GoR is 60:40.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

PMFBY was restructured by the Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and modified National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) during the year 2016-17. This scheme has been implemented since kharif crops 2016.

National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

NHM is being implemented in selected 24 districts of the state to increase the area, production and productivity of different horticulture crops like fruits, spices and flowers.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana-Micro Irrigation (PMKSY-MI)

To increase the adoptability of the drip and sprinkler system, Government of India has launched Micro Irrigation Scheme under PMKSY. The ratio of central share and state share for all categories of the farmers is 60:40.

National Mission on Medicinal Plants (NMMP)

To promote cultivation of medicinal plants raw materials to pharmacy sector could easily be available in sufficient quantity along with several other objectives the Government of India has launched this mission in the State since 2009-10. The mission is being implemented in all districts of the State since its inception.

Rajeev Gandhi Krishak Sathi Yojana

Under "Rajeev Gandhi Krishak Sathi Yojana" financial assistance for farmers / agricultural labourer and hamals have been increased from `1 lakh to `2 lakh in case of work side accidental death.

Kisna Kaleva Yojana

“Kisan Kaleva Yojana” has been introduced for farmers to provide them quality food on subsidized rates in 'Super', 'A' and 'B' class krishi upaj mandi samities of the State.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phoolle Mandi Sharmik Kalyan Yojana 2015

Important features of the scheme are:

Pregnancy assistance of rupees equivalent to 45 days non skilled labour rate is being provided to licence holder lady labourer for two pregnancy period.

Licensed lady labourer will be entitled for a sum of `20,000 for marriage of her girl.

The son/daughter of licenced labourer obtaining 60 per cent or above marks is entitled for scholarship under this scheme.

Medical Assistance: Financial assistance of `20,000 will be given to licensed labourer in case of serious disease (Cancer, Heart attack, Liver, Kidney etc.) if he might have been admitted for treatment in government hospital.

Gyan Sagar Credit Scheme:

This scheme has been started to provide entrance to rural and urban students in professional and technical courses and to provide financial assistance to students and their parents.