



Rajasthan Current Affairs  
*of*  
May - June 2020

*Index*

PERSON in NEWS.....	1
Places in NEWS.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Environment .....	2
General Current Affairs .....	5
New Schemes.....	9
COVID-19 Related.....	10

## PERSON in NEWS

### Shri Rajeeva Swarup

On 2nd July 2020, the State Government has appointed **shri Rajeeva Swarup** has the new **Chief Secretary of Rajasthan**. He was currently additional [chief secretary](#) (home).

ACS (health) **Rohit Kumar Singh**, who has been heading the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Rajasthan, will replace Rajeeva Swarup as ACS (home).

**Akhil Arora**, who was principal secretary, social justice and empowerment department, will now hold the charge of medical, health and family welfare department.

### Murlidhar Pratihar

Bundi Zila Parishad's chief executive officer (CEO) Murlidhar Pratihar has been selected for the state level e- governance award 2018 – 19 by department of information technology and communication (IT&C) for the better execution of online government schemes of the department of rural development and Panchyatiraj on Panchyat Enterprise Suit.

### Bhavna Jaat

Rajasthan's Bhawna Jat, India's race walker created a new national record and won her seventh National Pedestrian Championship at the 7th National Open Race Walking Championships in Ranchi. She is from Kabra village in Rajsamand district. Bhavna has also confirmed the ticket for this year's Tokyo Olympics.

### Ravi Bishnoi

Ravi Bishnoi from Jodhpur, who was part of India's Under-19 World Cup squad, emerged the leading wicket taker of ICC U19 World Cup in South Africa. He is a right-arm leg spin bowler.

Continued.....

## Environment

### GIB included in Appendix I of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India had proposed to include three species- the Asian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal Florican in the list of 'migratory species threatened with extinction', under the CMS-COP 13.

Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13. Seven species were added to **Appendix I**, which provides the strictest protection: the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, **Great Indian Bustard**, Bengal Florican, Little Bustard, Antipodean Albatross and the Oceanic White-tip Shark.

The Urial, Smooth Hammerhead Shark and the Tope Shark were listed for protection under Appendix II, which covers migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status and would benefit from enhanced international cooperation and conservation actions.

### CMS COP13

- The theme of CMS COP13 is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home."
- The Government of India also issued a special stamp edition featuring the Great Indian Bustard - the mascot of COP13.
- CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by 'Kolam', a traditional art form from southern India. In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, humpback whale and marine turtles.
- The mascot for CMS COP13, "**Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard**" is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



'Gibi' the enchanting Great Indian Bustard, representing all the endangered species that need our love, care, and protection.



### About CMS

- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention is an international treaty concluded under aegis of UN Environment Programme (UNEP), concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
- Bonn Convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn (H.Q) , Germany and entered into force in 1983. It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- CMS is only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

### Other Relevant Information

- India is Signatory to the CMS since 1983. As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar headed Geese, black necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, humpbacked whales, etc.
- India has signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

### Rare Butterflies spotted in Rajasthan

Scientists from the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Mohanlal Sukhadia University working on sloth bear ecology at the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary in Southern Rajasthan spotted a very rare lilac **Silverline butterfly**. This species of butterfly was discovered in the 1880s, but only one resident population was known from Bengaluru.

In another incident, after 67 years, the **Desert Grizzled Skipper species of butterfly** has been spotted in Thar desert. This butterfly was believed to have become extinct in India. Zoology assistant professor at SB Government College in Jaisalmer, Dr Shyam Sunder Meena, who is doing a research on butterflies for the last many years, claimed to have found the species in Amarsagar area of the district.

### Rare Red-necked Phalaropes spotted at Sambhar Lake

In a first, pairs of Red-necked Phalarope, a rare species of wetland birds, have chosen India's biggest inland saline wetland Sambhar Lake as their breeding habitat. Usually, Phalarope breeds in the Arctic regions of North America and Eurasia. Red-necked Phalaropes nest around Arctic tundra pools. During migration, they pause on shallow ponds in Rajasthan. The Phalarope, known as a unusual bird, has surprised researchers too with the new pattern.

### Contagious skin disease hits foxes in Desert National Park

An outbreak of sarcoptic mange, a highly contagious skin disease, has been discovered among the desert fox population in the Desert National Park (DNP) of the state. As per the state forest department wildlife census report, 2019, there are around 1,000 foxes of both species — Indian Fox and Desert Fox — in Jaisalmer district.

The major areas of infection are Sanvtha (same camel mange area), Nedan, Sanavada, Lathi, Bhadariya, Odhaniya-Chacha, Dholiya (all in Pokhran block) and Sam, Sudasari, Ganga, Bidha, Jamra, Nimba, and few surrounding areas (all in Desert National Park).

To be Continued....

## General Current Affairs

### World Bank approves 500 Million dollars under STARS Program

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the World Bank Group has announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India. The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India. The loan was approved as a part of the STARS Program. The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

#### **The Stars Program:**

STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program. Since 1994 the program has helped in establishing a long partnership between India and the World Bank. Through the program, the World Bank Group has provided greater flexibility to the vision of the Indian Government to provide 'Education for All'. The Government of India has made significant strides in its vision over the years as the number of students going to school has increased to 248 million from 219 million between the 2004-05 to 2018-19 period

### 2.8 kg 'meteorite'-like object falls from sky in Rajasthan's Sanchore

A 'meteorite'-like object fell from the sky in Sanchore town of Rajasthan's Jalore district creating a 2-3 feet deep crater. It weighed around 2.8 kg.

#### **What Are Meteorites ?**

A meteorite is the term given to a piece of a comet or asteroid that falls into the Earth's atmosphere and survives to hit the surface.

### 16 New Municipalities formed in Rajasthan

In June 2020, the department of local self-government announced the formation of 16 new municipalities in Rajasthan. The districts where new municipalities have been created are –

- Jaipur – Bassi & Pavta Municipality
- Alwar – Laxmangarh & Bansur Municipality
- Dausa - Mandavari Municipality
- Jodhpur – Bhopalgarh Municipality
- Sirohi - Javal Municipality
- Bharatpur – Sikari & Uchhain Municipality
- Karauli – Sapotara Municipality
- Kota – Sultanpur Municipality
- Sriganganagar – Lalgarh-Jatan Municipality
- Baran – Ataru Municipality
- Dholpur – Sirmathura & Basedi Municipality

### MoU for Smart Classes

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Rajasthan government, Power Grid Corporation of India and Educational Consultant India Limited to set up smart classrooms in 100 government schools and to make available e-content of syllabus from classes I to XII. The project will cost around Rs 1.85 crore.

### Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

On 14th June 2020, the Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has requested Union Government to conferring national project status to Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP). In Rajasthan Budget 2018, the Chief Minister has announced several schemes to the tune of Rs 52,000 crore, including development of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) at cost of Rs 37,500 crore.



## Background of ERCP

The surface water of Rajasthan has been divided into 15 River basins and one outside basin area. It is estimated that out of fifteen river basins surplus water is available only in *Chambal and Mahi* basin. Within [Chambal basin](#), during rainy season Kunnu, Kul, Parbati, Kalisindh, Mez, and Chakan sub-basins are also having surplus yield, while [Banas](#), [Banganga](#), Ghambhiri and Parbati sub-basins are deficit in yield.

Hence, Eastern Rajasthan Canal Projects (ERCP) is planned to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers and transfer to deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan.

## Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

- Under the project the surplus water in the sub basins of Kunnu, Kul, Parvati, Kalisindh and Mej rivers received during monsoon has to be carried to the sub basin of Banas, Morel, Banganga, Gambhir and Parbati rivers.
- ERCP is planned to meet the **Drinking water** needs of the 13 districts of Southern & South Eastern Rajasthan viz. Jhalawar, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, [Bharatpur](#) and [Dholpur](#) of Rajasthan for Humans and Live stock till year 2051.
- The project will help to **irrigate** nearly 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.
- Additional Benefits:
  - Will enhance availability of surface water & Ground water in the region.
  - Will also take care of Flood/ Drought situation in the area.
  - Would also boost the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in [Alwar district](#) and generate employment for youths of the state.
- The Project will be executed in three phases.
  - The first phase of the project will extend from Galwa Dam to Dholpur,
  - The second phase will extend from Galwa to Bisalpur-Isarda,
  - The third phase will extend from Galwa to Alwar

**Time Schedule:**

- The project is proposed to be completed in three phases in seven years from year 2017 to 2023.
- First Phase of about 18474.0 crore is proposed to be completed in five year from year 2017 to 2021

**Benefits of National Project Status:**

- **Increase in Central Government funding:** In the project with national project status the funding pattern is 90:10 (Center:State) but currently in ERCP it is 60% by the Centre and 40% by the state.

## New Schemes

### SMILE Program

Rajasthan School Education Council has established a new program named Smile from 13 april 2020. Through this, students of about 65,097 government schools and 82,51,029 students in Rajasthan will be able to study from home. SMILE stands for Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement.

### Subsidized loans for farmers

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced loans for farmers against their produce at subsidised interest rates to prevent distress sale. As per the announcement, farmers will get loans at 3% interest, with the loan amount capped at Rs 1.5 lakh for small and marginal farmers and Rs 3 lakh for big farmers.

The government will allocate Rs 50 crore from the Kisan Kalyan Yojna to provide the interest rate subsidy of 7% on the loans.

### Rajasthan to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana

On 22 June 2020, [Rajasthan Chief Minister](#) Shri Ashok Gehlot announced that the state government will soon launch a new [scheme in Rajasthan](#) "Indira Rasoi Yojana" that will provide pure and nutritious meals to the needy on concessional rates twice a day.

Earlier in December 2016, former State Government had launched the '[Annapurna Rasoi Yojana](#)', a subsidised meal scheme offering breakfast and lunch for Rs 5 and Rs 8 respectively on the lines of 'Amma Unavagam' (mother's canteen / Amma Canteens) of Tamil Nadu. As per Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Rajasthan the tenure of the Annapurna Rasoi Yojana had expired on March 31 this year.

### Salient Features of Indira Rasoi Yojana

- The basic idea behind the scheme is to ensure that "no one sleeps hungry" in the state.

- Needy people living in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies will be getting nutritious meals twice a day at concessional rates.
- The state government will spend Rs 100 crore every year on the Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme).
- The rate for the meals are yet to be finalised.
- Local NGOs will also be roped in for the successful implementation of the scheme .
- A committee headed by the district collector will be monitoring this Yojana and effective monitoring will be done with the help of information technology.

### COVID-19 Related

#### PM SVANidhi Portal

On 29th June 2020, Union Secretary, Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra launched the Beta version of **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi** labelled as "PM SVANidhi" Portal.

#### What is PM SVANidhi Scheme ?

A [Central Sector Scheme](#), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi labelled as PM SVANidhi Scheme has been launched on 1 June 2020. The scheme aims to facilitate street vendors to access affordable **working capital loan** for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

#### Salient Features of PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Urban street vendors will be eligible to avail a Working Capital (WC) loan of up to INR 10,000 with tenure of 1 year and repaid in monthly instalments.
- For this loan, no collateral will be taken by the lending institutions.
- On timely or early repayment, the vendors will be eligible for the next cycle of working capital loan with an enhanced limit.

- No prepayment penalty will be charged from the vendors for repayment before the scheduled date.
- The vendors, availing loan under the scheme, are eligible to get an interest subsidy @ 7%. The interest subsidy amount will be credited into the borrower's account quarterly.
- The scheme will incentivize digital transactions by vendors through cash back facility.
- The Scheme shall be implemented up to March, 2022.

### Objectives

The scheme is a [Central Sector Scheme](#) i.e. fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:

1. To facilitate working capital loan up to ₹10,000;
2. To incentivize regular repayment; and
3. To reward digital transactions

The scheme will help formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

### States/UTs:

The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**. Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act may, however, participate.

### PM SVANidhi Portal

PM SVANidhi Portal is an integrated IT platform ([pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in](http://pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in)) to provide an end-to-end solution for scheme administration is being developed by SIDBI, which is the scheme implementation partner for PM SVANidhi.

The portal will facilitate multiple scheme functions viz. loan application flow, Mobile App, e-KYC of applicants, integration with UIDAI, Udyamimitra, NPCI, PAiSA, lenders, States, ULBs and other stakeholders, calculation of digital incentives and payment of interest subsidy etc.

The PM SVANidhi Portal shall start accepting loan applications from Street Vendors from July 2nd, who can apply directly or with the help of CSCs/ ULBs/ SHGs.

The Mobile App facilitated with e-KYC module and loan application flow, to be used by lenders and their agents for application origination, shall be released during this week.

The Portal integration with various lenders shall commence during this week and over next few weeks we hope to complete this integration with all the major lenders. The module for enabling street vendors to apply directly for Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to the concerned ULB will be ready by July 10, 2020.

### Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

In March 2020, the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus pandemic. One of the scheme under the package is **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** aimed at providing food-grains to approximately two-third of the population.

### Salient Features of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ?

- Covered about 80 crore poor people.
- Initially, for 3 months from April to June end.
- Individuals got extra 5 kg rice or wheat each month for three months in addition to the 5 kg they already got.
- Each household also got 1 kg of dal of their choice.
- Both grains & pulses provided free of cost

### Why Scheme in NEWS on June 30th, 2020 ?

On 30th June 2020, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation and announced an extension of Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana - till November 2020. It means, this scheme giving free ration to 80 crore people will continue in July, August, September, October, November.

Along with providing 5kg free rice/wheat to each member of a family, 1 kg free whole chana will also be provided to each family per month.

Over 90 thousand crore rupees will be spent on this extension of PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. The total outlay of the scheme will now be about 1.5 lakh crore rupees.

End of Free Sample

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