



Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
September October November
2020



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PERSON in NEWS

Persons on Important Posts: RAJASTHAN

Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current
Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Indrajit Mahanty (37th)
Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan (CEO)		Praveen Gupta
State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan (SEC)		Prem Singh Mehra
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	M. D. Kaurani	D B Gupta
RPSC Chairman	Sir DR. S K GHOSH	Dr. Bhupendra Singh Yadav
Rajasthan Financial Commission Chairman		Dr. Jyoti Kiran (5th)
Advocate General of Rajasthan	G.C. Kasliwal	Mahendra Singh Singhvi
Lokayukta of Rajasthan	ID Dua (1973)	-
Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission	Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar	Mahesh Chandra Sharma (Acting)
Chief Secretary Rajasthan	K. Radhakrishnan	Niranjan Kumar Arya
Pro-Term Speaker	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
Leader of Opposition	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Governor of Rajasthan	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Reorganised State 1956 - Gurumukh Nihal Singh	Kalraj Mishra
Deputy Chairman - Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council		Arvind Mayaram
Chairperson State Commission for Women		-
DGP Rajasthan Police		M L Lather

Persons on Important Posts: NATIONAL

Post (India)	First	Current (August 2020)
Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	V. Narahari Rao	Girish Chandra Murmu
Chief Justice of India	H. J. Kania	Sharad Arvind Bobde
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Sukumar Sen	Sunil Arora
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Wajahat Habibullah	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Nittoor Srinivasa Rau	Sanjay Kothari
UPSC Chairman	Sir Ross Barker	Pradeep Kumar Joshi
RBI Governor	Osborne Smith	Shaktikanta Das
Lokpal of India	Pinaki Chandra Ghose	Pinaki Chandra Ghose
Financial Commission Chairman	K. C. Neogy	Nand Kishor Singh (15th)(2020-2025)
Law Commission Chairman		Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
National Commission for SC		Ram Shankar Katheria
National Commission for ST		Nand Kumar Sai
Chairman - National Commission for Minorities		Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi
Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes		Bhagwan Lal Sahni
National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson		Justice H.L.Dattu
Chairperson, National Commission for Women		Rekha Sharma
Cabinet Secretary	N. R. Pillai, ICS	Rajiv Gauba
National Security Adviser		Ajit Kumar Doval
Attorney General of India		K.K Venugopal

Speaker Lok Sabha	G. V. Mavalankar	Om Birla
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission		Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
Chairman, ISRO		Kailasavadivoo Sivan
Principal Scientific Adviser		K. VijayRaghavan
Chairman, University Grants Commission		D.P.Singh
Chairman, Central Water Commission of India		Narendra Kumar
Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)		Ajay Tyagi
Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India		Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Chairman, 7th Pay Commission		Ashok Kumar Mathur
Chairman, SIDBI		Muhammad Mustafa
Chairman, NABARD		Govinda Rajulu Chintala
Chairperson, State Bank of India		Rajnish Kumar
Chairman, IDBI		Mahesh Kumar Jain
Chief Economic Advisor		Krishnamurthy Subramanian
Chief of Army Staff		Manoj Mukund Naravane
Chief of Air Staff		Rakesh Kumar Bhaduria
Chief of Naval Staff		Karambir Singh
Chief of Integrated Defence Staff		R Hari Kumar
Chief of Defence Staff		Bipin Rawat

M L Lather

On 3rd November 2020, Shri Mohan Lal Lather (M L Lather), a 1987 batch IPS officer has been appointed Director General of Police (DGP) Rajasthan. As per the official order released by department of Personnel, Rajasthan, he has been appointed to this post as per the relevant Supreme Court order and recommendation of the **Empanelment Committee constituted by Union Public Service Commission** for this purpose.

Shri Lather who was Director General of Police, Crime Branch, Rajasthan, Jaipur, had been given the additional charge last month after former DGP Bhupendra Singh took VRS and was appointed as chairman of RPSC.

Dr. Bhupendra Singh

On 14th [October 2020](#), Rajasthan State Government has appointed former DGP Dr. Bhupendra Singh as the new chairman of [Rajasthan Public Service Commission \(RPSC\)](#) as per **Article 316(1)** of the Constitution of India. Dr. Bhupendra Singh has replaced current **RPSC Chairman** IAS Deepak Upreti.

Dr. Bhupendra Singh, who retired from the post of DGP, is the 6th IPS officer to become the chairman of the commission. Additionally, four new members were also appointed to complete the quorum of seven members. The four newly appointed members are

- **Manju Sharma,**
- **Sangeeta Arya,**
- **Jaswant Rathi**
- **Babulal Katara.**

The other members of the commission are Shiv Singh Rathore, Rajkumari Gurjar and AR Raika.

Niranjan Kumar Arya

On 31st [October 2020](#), the State Government has appointed **shri Niranjan Kumar Arya as the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan**. Nirajan Kumar Arya was currently serving as additional [chief secretary](#), finance, excise & taxation department. The State Government had requested extension of 3 month for outgoing chief secretary [Shri Rajeev Swarup](#) but it did not receive centre's nod. Shri Swarup retired on October 31.

IPS Nina Singh

1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Nina Singh, has become the first ADG-level officer from [Rajasthan](#) to receive the Ati Utkrisht Seva Medal (AUSM) by the Ministry of Home Affairs for professional excellence. Nina Singh is Rajasthan's first woman IPS officer. She is currently posted as ADG (Training) in Rajasthan Police.

IAS DB Gupta

On 4th December 2020, Governor of Rajasthan Shri Kalraj Mishra has appointed former [chief secretary](#) DB Gupta as the Chief [Information Commissioner](#) (CIC). The post of Chief Information Commissioner in Rajasthan had been lying vacant since April 2019 after Suresh Choudhary completed his tenure in December 2018.

Apart from DB Gupta, the governor also appointed a former professor at Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication, **Narayan Bareth**; and **Sheetal Dhankar** as the information commissioners at Rajasthan State Information Commission. With this appointment, the strength of the commission has increased to five. The other members of the commission are **Rajendra Prasad Barwar** and **Laxman Singh Rathore**. The commission can have a maximum of 10 information commissioners.

Professor R C Mehrotra and I P Jain

Two Indian scientists and professors of the University of Rajasthan (RU) — (Late) R C Mehrotra and I P Jain — have been made it to the list of top 2% scientists in the world by the renowned Stanford University of US after conducting a high-level independent study.

(Late) Prof. R C Mehrotra, department of chemistry, RU, has been ranked 450th in the world ranking in organic and nuclear chemistry, while Prof. I P Jain, physics department, currently working at the Centre for Non-Conventional Energy Resources, has been ranked 1,574th in the world ranking.

Gulab Kothari

Editor-in-Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group, Gulab Kothari, was presented with the Mahatma Gandhi International Award by the Norwegian Information and Cultural Forum of India, Norway. The award was given at a virtual ceremony held on October 2.

Dileep Shivpuri & Rajiv Sharma

Dileep Shivpuri was elected president of Rajasthan Tennis Association & Rajiv Sharma was declared as Secretary.

Jasodha & Vasundhara

Two young change-makers from Rajasthan are the nominees for the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize 2020.

Jashoda from Ashapura, village in Osian, Rajasthan has been nominated for her work to end violence against women and girls. As per Save The Children, she was recently able to stop four child marriages, 10 girls were motivated for higher education and 500 girls were oriented on preventing violence against women.

Vasundhara from Darda Turki village in Tonk, Rajasthan is nominated for her work to end child marriage and on sexual and reproductive health and rights among girls. She leads the 'Chuppi Todo' menstrual hygiene campaign in her village.

Places in NEWS

Constitution Park in MLSU, Udaipur

Governor Kalraj Mishra laid the foundation stone of a Constitution Park at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. The park to be built at a cost of Rs 90 lakh will have the Preamble of the Constitution, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles of State policy on display. The park will help create awareness among students as well as the common man of their rights and duties towards society and country.

Organ Donor Memorial at Central Park, Jaipur

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the country's first memorial for organ donors, on the National Organ Donation Day through virtual platform on November 27. The Mohan Foundation Jaipur Cultural Forum (MFJCF) and Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) build the memorial jointly. Notably, at present the rate of organ donation in India is only 0.08 per million populations, while in Spain, it is 35.01, in America 21.9, in Britain 15.5 per million.

India's longest water tunnel

Country's longest water tunnel will become operational by January 2021. The 8.75km-long tunnel will connect the dam at Ahawad Kalan village. From here the water will be supplied through canals to 2.5 lakh households and 1.41 lakh hectares of land in Baran and Kota districts. The tunnel has been constructed at a cost of Rs 299 crore.

PM unveils statue of Jain saint in Jaitpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Acharya Vijay Vallabh Maharaj through video conferencing to mark the 151st birth anniversary of the Jain saint. The grand ashtadhatu statue of the saint christened as the 'Statue of Peace' has been installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhna Kendra in Pali district's Jaitpur.

National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur

The National Ayurveda Day 2020 was observed on 13th November 2020 on occasion of **Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**. PM Modi dedicated two future-ready Ayurveda institutions namely:

- Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar
- National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur

Both the Institutes are premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country. ITRA, Jamnagar has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an Act of the Parliament, and NIA, [Jaipur](#) is an Institution Deemed to be University by the University Grants Commission.

Oxi-Zone, Kota

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot laid foundation of Oxi-zone at Kota. In the oxi-zone about 15,000 trees will be planted.

Cruise on Chambal River

An initial survey has found it appropriate to cruise from Kota Barrage to Jawahar Sagar on Chambal River. A total of 30 km long cruise will include sights such as Kota Barrage, Garh Palace, Hanging Bridge, Kotia Bhil's Palace, Gepparnath, Gardiya Mahadev.

Environment

MoEFCC notifies MHTR Eco-Sensitive Zone

On 1st December 2020, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued final notification declaring MHTR Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve spread across the districts of **Kota, Bundi, Chittorgarh and Jhalawar**. The draft notification regarding the same was released on 13/01/2020.

In exercise of the powers conferred by various sections of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (29 of 1986) and rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government has notified an area to an extent varying from 0 (zero) to 1.0 (one) kilometre around the boundary of Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, in [Kota](#), [Jhalawar](#), [Bundi](#) and [Chittorgarh](#) districts in the State of Rajasthan, as the **MHTR Eco-sensitive Zone**.

- 75 villages will come under the ESZ
- The area of the Eco-Sensitive Zone is 248.70 square kilometres.
- The State Government in consultation with local people prepare a Zonal Master Plan within a period of two years for the purposes of the Eco-sensitive Zone.
- A total of 8 activities including mining will be completely prohibited in ESZ, while 21 regulated and 11 promoted activities will be allowed.

Activists write to PM to ban painkillers for saving raptors in Rajasthan

As raptors in Jorbeer, an Important Bird Area (IBA), are continuously falling prey to drugs used by veterinarians, environmentalists have written to Prime Minister Modi and the state chief wildlife warden to ban two drugs to treat livestock. The letter dated November 19 reads, "Aceclofenac and ketoprofen in cattle are equally toxic as diclofenac and can kill vultures.

Survey for Cheetah Reintroduction in Rajasthan

Forest and environment minister Sukhram Vishnoi said a survey was being carried out in a few areas of [Chittorgarh](#) to check feasibility if [African cheetahs could be reintroduced in the State](#). A committee to study the feasibility of bringing the cheetahs is headed by Wildlife Institute of India chairman Ranjeet Singh. In addition to Chittorgarh, Nauradehi sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is considered suitable to settle cheetahs.

The Centre has allotted Rs 2.50 crore to WII for the cheetah project. Initially, a plan was made to translocate a cheetah to Jaisalmer but the move was dropped due to oil and gas exploration works and BSF and army camps objecting to the move citing non-availability of food for the animals.

Additionally, a proposal had been sent to the Centre to make a [new tiger reserve at Kumbhalgarh](#).

New Species of Butterfly Recognized

Spialia Zebra known as the Zebra Skipper, spotted in 2014 in Sagwara town of Dungarpur district, has been recognized as the 1328th species of butterflies in the country.

A government school teacher Mukesh Panwar spotted the butterfly at a farmhouse on November 8, 2014. He clicked pictures of the butterfly and sent it for further study to the Butterfly Research Center at Bhimtal, Uttarakhand. After six years of intense research, the institute finally recognized it as the 1328th species found in India.

Lost river found in Bikaner

An international team of researchers have found the evidence of a “lost” river that ran through the central Thar Desert, near Bikaner, as early as 172,000 years ago, and may have been a life-line to human populations enabling them to inhabit the region.

The findings, published in the journal Quaternary Science Reviews, represent the oldest directly dated phase of river activity at Nal Quarry in the central Thar Desert. The study by researchers from The Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Germany, Anna University in Tamil Nadu, and IISER Kolkata indicates that Stone Age populations lived in a distinctly different Thar Desert landscape than we encounter today.

This evidence indicates a river flowed with phases of activity dating to approximately up to 172 thousand years ago, nearby to [Bikaner, Rajasthan](#), which is over 200 kilometres away from the nearest modern river.

Expert Committee on Sambhar Lake set up by Rajasthan HC

[Rajasthan High Court](#) has constituted an expert committee on Sambhar Lake under the chairmanship of the head of the forest department. The seven member expert committee includes three experts as well as officers from the industries, environment, forest and animal husbandry departments. The committee will submit its report to the High Court in four weeks on steps to be taken to prevent a repeat of [2019 incident when more than 20,000 migratory birds died due to botulism](#). In 2019, high court took suo motu cognizance on the mass death of migratory birds in Sambhar.

September 2020: Hearing

The case was heard on September 28th, in the bench of Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta. The court has also made the state wetland authority a party to the petition and directed to immediately set up a temporary bird nursery near the lake.

During the hearing, amicus curie Nitin Jain gave names of experts to the court while additional advocate general Ganesh Parihar gave names on behalf of the state government. The court formed a seven-member committee headed by the head of the forest department and the state government will bear all the expenses of this committee.

The members include:

- Dr Ajit Patnaik, former chairman of the Chilika Lake Development Authority of Odisha,
- Dr P Satia Selvam, scientist of animal botulism of the Bombay Natural History Society,
- RN Mehrotra, former head of the forest department,
- Chief DCF Jaipur,
- Additional director, Industries department,
- Member secretary Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and
- Additional director animal husbandry department.

The court has directed the state government to set up a temporary nursery on the shore of the lake, with facilities for the treatment birds.

Mandate of Expert Committee on Sambhar Lake

The committee has to suggest measures to prevent encroachment in the lake and how to remove them in addition to suggesting ways to prevent sodium sulfate and sewerage from being added to the lake as residue and other relevant aspects on the development of the lake.

Panel to study salt mining at Sambhar lake

Earlier, In [July 2020](#), Rajasthan High Court directed the advocate general, additional solicitor general and amicus curiae to suggest names of officials and scientists to form a committee to carry out inspection of Sambhar lake and assess impact of salt mining.

The division bench of chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta gave the direction during the hearing of a suo motu petition on the death of migratory birds at Sambhar lake last winter. The names have to be given to court within seven days, while posting the matter for next hearing on 27 July 2020.

Two new butterfly species in Ranthambore reserve

During recent surveys, experts have discovered two new species of butterflies — the Dakhan Tricolour Pied Flat (*Coladenia Indrani Indra*) and the Desert Spotted Small Flat (*Sarangesa purendra sati*) — on the outskirts of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur.

State Govt. to work on action plan for introduction of cheetah in Rajasthan

As per a recent News in HT, the [Rajasthan State government](#) will prepare an 'action plan' to explore the possibility of introduction of cheetah in the state.

An expert committee set up by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has zeroed in three states - [Rajasthan](#), Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh - where cheetah population could be re-introduced. For that, the WII needs to conduct feasibility studies.

On 10th September 2020, a WII proposal to conduct the study in Rajasthan was taken up for consideration in the state wildlife board. A presentation was also made by WII scientists on why Rajasthan has possible sites for reintroduction of cheetah and its potential to have the animal.

In February 2020, the Supreme Court had allowed the introduction of cheetah hearing an application filed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia.

In 2010, the central government set up an expert panel for reintroducing the cheetah in India. This panel recommended that the home of the fastest animal in the world could be Kuno Palpur in Madhya Pradesh, Velavadar National Park in Gujarat and [Tal Chapar sanctuary in Rajasthan](#).

Divya Bhanu Singh, member of the expert committee formed by Central government in 2010 and author of 'The end of a trail: The cheetah in India' book, said, "The Wildlife Institute of India surveyed possible sites to introduce cheetah where one was Shahgarh Bulge in Jaisalmer; and other two in Madhya Pradesh – Kuno Palpur and Nauradehi".

Kuno Palpur was selected as the site for the introduction of cheetahs and the environment ministry had given its permission to the Madhya Pradesh government to import nine cheetahs in different batches from Namibia for translocation into Kuno Palpur wildlife sanctuary at Sheopur where the last cheetah was hunted in the 1950s.

But before the process to import cheetahs could start, the project was challenged in the Supreme Court on the ground that the sites selected were not viable for cheetah re-introduction. The apex court stayed the project and formed an expert committee to examine all aspects. In February 2020, it finally approved the project.

Cheetahs roamed about India's grasslands till the 1950s when they were hunted to extinction in the country. Iran has a sub-species of the Asiatic cheetah but has refused to share them with India, forcing the government to look for the African ones. The Asian and the African species separated between 30,000 and 60,000 years ago.

Rajasthan plans to introduce lions under Project Lion

The 11th meeting of the [State Wildlife Board](#) held under the chairmanship of chief minister Ashok Gehlot on 10th September 2020 has suggested for lion reserves to be developed in the state under Project Lion. It is worth mentioning that, PM Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020, announced that the centre will launch Project Lion and [Project Dolphin](#) using modern technology to replicate the success of [Project Tiger](#).

The board was first constituted in 2010 to suggest the state government on issues related to wildlife conservation. The [State Wildlife board was reconstituted in February 2020](#) after which it held the first

meeting on 10th September. Because of [Covid-19 pandemic](#), CM chaired the meeting from his residence along with forest and environment minister Sukhram Vishnoi, chief secretary and other senior bureaucrats from forest and other departments.

Lions once used to inhabit Rajasthan, however, extensive hunting made them extinct in the state by end of the 19th century. The state forest department is also working for [reintroducing cheetah in Rajasthan](#).

About Project Lion:

As per the official from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Project Lion announced by PM Modi will involve the conservation of Asiatic Lion and its landscape. The project will involve habitat development by engaging modern technologies in management as well as in addressing the issue of diseases in lion and its associated species through veterinary care and advanced world-class research.

The project will also be addressing the Human-Wildlife conflict which will involve local communities living in the vicinity and will also provide livelihood opportunities. Notably, in NDA's first term, the Asiatic Lion Conservation Project was launched with a budgetary contribution of Rs. 97.85 crores from the Central government.

The Ministry had earlier approved the project for three financial years- FY 2018-2019, FY 2019-2020, FY 2020-2021. However, as per the Ministry officials, the earlier announced contribution was related to the finance aspect, while the Project Lion announced by Prime Minister Modi will not only entail the enhanced duration and finances but will also address all the issues required to conserve a species.

Asiatic Lions have been confined to Gir National Park and its surrounding environments in Gujarat's Saurashtra. The Gujarat Forest Department in June 2020 had suggested their population to be increased by 29%- 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.

The department also informed that the distribution area of lions in Saurashtra has been increased by 36%. In 2015, it was 22,000 sqkm which has now gone to 30,000 sqkm. Experts have also been calling for the reintroduction of the species outside Gujarat for the long-term conservation of the Asiatic Lions.

Economy

Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust

In [September 2020](#), the [state government](#) has formed **the Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust** to prepare a vision and mission for the planned development of mineral resources and their exploration and prepare master plan for undertaking detailed exploration and assaying of resource.

Salient Features of Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust

The Trust will have nine-member governing body headed by mines and petroleum minister and seven-member executive committee will be headed by ACS mines and petroleum.

The Trust facilitate geophysical, ground and aerial survey to find potential mineral resources and undertake study for their sustainable development, while adopting advanced scientific and technological practices.

The Trust will undertake research and development in the field of mineral analysis and testing of ores, identification of associated impurities of rocks and mineral samples submitted by the Department, public sector undertakings, private sector mineral industries, research institutions, laboratories etc. so as to assess quality of ores, minerals by chemical, physical testing and instrumental analysis on no profit no loss basis.

The Trust will initiate action to strengthen and upgrade the department laboratory and provide impetus to research and development and to provide certificate on the basis of testing and analysis to exporters of mineral based products after obtaining accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

Rajasthan ranks 4 in Export Preparedness Index-2020

[Rajasthan](#) has been ranked at 4th place after Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index-2020. The state emerged as a top performer among 11 landlocked states.

What is Export Preparedness Index 2020 ?

India's vision of becoming a USD5 trillion economy by 2024 is intricately linked with an export-oriented approach. So [NITI Aayog](#) has taken an initiative of developing the first-ever Export Preparedness Index for Indian states. The Index ranks states and union territories on critical parameters required for promoting the country's exports.

Methodology

The Index framework is an aggregation of four pillars, 11 sub-pillars, and 55 indicators, which capture the export landscape of sub-national governments in the country.



Weightage structures of the pillars and sub-pillars

Results:

- Gujarat (75.2) emerged as the top-performing state in the 'Coastal States' category, followed by Maharashtra (75.1) and Tamil Nadu (64.9).
- In the category of 'Landlocked States', Rajasthan (62.6) was the best-performing state.

- Among 'Himalayan States' and 'City-States', Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top performing states respectively.

Rajasthan Scorecard



Rajasthan Pillar-Wise Performance:

- Policy - Rank 5
- Business Ecosystem - Rank 7
- Export Ecosystem - Rank 3
- Export Performance - Rank 15

Use of Cow cess for epidemics

Rajasthan is the first in the country to have a separate gopalan department. The government had imposed 10% surcharge on registration of property (raised to 20%) to find money for the department. Later in 2018, a 20 per cent cess was imposed on liquor for cow protection. The state had 2,727 registered gaushalas in the state with about 9.5 lakh cows. The government provides financial

assistance of Rs 20 per day for calves less than three years old and Rs 40 per day to grown [cows](#) in gaushalas. However, this grant is given only to goshalas which have more than 200 cows and have a registration of more than two years. Thus about 35% of the gaushalas are not reeving the funds.

The state government had announced a **nandi shala in every gram panchayats** to find a solution to stray cattle menace. But the project has not progressed much

Raj Government to signs MoU with MECL for Potash Mining

The [Rajasthan](#) state government is set to sign a tripartite MoU involving mines department, state PSU [RSMML](#) and Central PSU MECL (Mining Exploration Corporation Ltd) to carry out economic feasibility for mining of potash blocks.

Potash Reserves in Rajasthan

Rajasthan sitting over 2,400 million tonnes of potash reserves, around four times of the global deposits. India imports most of the potash for its use, at over 4 million tonnes annually, whereas Rajasthan has 90% of the mineral's reserves in the country.

After preliminary exploration (G3 level), Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found potash reserves of 133 million tonnes in Satipura block of Hanumangarh. Most of the potash deposits in Rajasthan are identified in Nagore-Ganganagar basin of the state covering parts of Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh and Bikaner districts.

Scope for Potash Mining in Rajasthan

However as per the same news article, the deposits in the block lay between 450-700 metres below the surface. Additionally, the potash content is estimated to be around 4-5% against a global average of 17-18%. But the studies of the block show, the mine is rich in industrial salt, polyvinyl chloride and other minerals, which can enhance the attractiveness of the block.

Uses of Potash

Potash is mainly used for making fertiliser and has other uses in the manufacturing of glass, explosives and chemicals, petrochemicals.

Governance

Rajasthan passes bill to make face masks compulsory

On 3rd November, the [Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha](#) passed an amendment to Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act 2020, inserting a new clause to make the use of facemasks compulsory in the state to regulate and prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease in the state of Rajasthan.

Accordingly, **section 4** of the [Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020](#) has been amended by inserting a new clause to this effect. Section 4 of the Act provides that State Government may specify such temporary regulations or orders to be observed by the public to prevent the spread of epidemic disease.

Rajasthan bans Sell & Use of fire-crackers

On 3rd November 2020, the State government has issued [official notification](#) as per the powers conferred on it under the **section 4** of [Rajasthan Epidemic Act 2020](#). As per the regulation specified in notification:

14. *No shopkeeper shall sell any kind of fireworks.*
15. *No person shall use or allow to fire any kind of fireworks.*

Additionally, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 11 of the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020, the State Government has penalties on violation of above regulation. As per the notification:

Offence	Penalty
Any shopkeeper selling any kind of fireworks.	Rs 10,000
Any person found using or allow the firing of any kind of fireworks	Rs 2,000

Rajasthan Assembly passes three bills to negate impact of Centre's farm laws

On 2nd November 2020, Rajasthan Assembly passes three bills to negate impact of Centre's farm laws. The three bills include:

- The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020,
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020
- The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill 2020.

Earlier in October 2020, Punjab legislative assembly adopted a resolution against the farm laws and passed four bills to counter the Centre's farm legislations.

A number of provisions to protect the interests of farmers, including sale or purchase of a crop under farming agreement on a price equal or greater than minimum support price and imprisonment of three to seven years for harassment of farmers, have been included in the bills.

Three new sections have been added as special provisions for Rajasthan, providing for punishment for harassment of farmers and powers to the state government to give directions. The bill proposes punishment of imprisonment from three to seven years with or without a fine of Rs 5 lakh if any person, company or corporate house or any other association or body of persons harasses farmers.

Rajasthan Signs MoU with WFP for Food Security

On 30th October 2020, MoU was signed between the state government and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) at the CMO. WFP will provide its international experience, best practices and technical skills as well as full support for better implementation of food security schemes in Rajasthan. The Public Distribution System, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services programmes could be implemented better through this MoU.

Polling for new Municipal Corporations

Polling for election to three municipal corporations of the state – Jaipur Heritage, Jodhpur North and Kota North were conducted on 29th October 2020. The second phase of polling – for Jaipur Greater,

Jodhpur South and Kota South – will be held on November 1. Counting for both phases will be done on November 3. The state government bifurcated municipal bodies in three big cities of the state in October last year, making way for two Mayors in each of these. The decision has increased the number of municipal corporations in Rajasthan to 10 – two each in [Jaipur](#), [Jodhpur](#) and [Kota](#), [Ajmer](#), [Bikaner](#), [Udaipur](#) and [Bharatpur](#).

RBSE reduces Syllabus

In October 2020, the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education ([RBSE](#)) reduced the syllabus for Classes IX to XII by up to 40 per cent because of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#). The move comes after the CBSE cut the syllabus by 30 per cent.

‘Meri Saheli’ Campaign by Railways

Under the directions of the ministry of railways and NWR, the Railway protection Force (RPF) has unveiled a [special campaign "Meri Saheli"](#) for the safety of female passengers who are travelling alone on the trains. Under the initiative, the team will approach such female passengers at their station of boarding and will share their mobile numbers with them.

Shudh ke liye Yudh Campaign

A core group has been constituted at the state level and committees at district levels will be constituted for ‘Shudh Ke Liye Yudh’ campaign from October 26. At the district-level committees, collector will be the head with SP, police commissioner (Jaipur, Jodhpur), chief medical health officer, district supply officer, managing director dairy, additional district magistrate level officer and legal advisor as members.

The core group will remain in constant touch with committees at the district level headed by district collectors to ensure on-the-spot action against those who involve in food adulteration, such as manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, and also to follow up the legal action against them.

Rajasthan HC: Schools can't collect 70 per cent tuition fees till October 12

Rajasthan High Court has extended the moratorium on the order of a single bench to collect 70% tuition fees by private schools till 12th October 2020. Under this order, no private school operator can recover the fees from any student or punish a student for not paying fees. A division bench comprising Justice Prakash Gupta and Justice Mahendra Kumar Goyal gave this interim order while hearing the appeal filed by the state government and others. The bench has deferred hearing of the case till 12th October 2020.

Earlier, on 7th September, a single bench of the high court while hearing the petition of the Progressive Schools Association and others gave exemption to private school operators to collect 70% of tuition fees. Thereafter, an appeal was filed against this order by the state government and various parents association. The state government, which is also a party in the appeal, said the single bench's decision to collect 70 per cent tuition fees from parents was baseless and had no grounds.

CM Gehlot lays foundation stone for 17 industrial zones

In October 2020, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot laid foundation stone for 17 industrial zones and inaugurated 6 new areas at a virtual event. Among the 17 new zones, 10 are product specific, including a sports goods and toys zone in Khushkeda in Bhiwadi, manufacturing of medical devices at Jodhpur, pharmaceutical at Kota, ceramic products at [Chittorgarh](#).

To attract new investments, land rates in the new industrial areas have been reduced by 35%.

Rajasthan has 98% of India's Silver Reserves

As per [Niti Aayog](#) estimates, [India](#) has about 30,000 tonnes of reserves of Silver and about 98% of which is in [Rajasthan](#). This was stated by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant at a webinar organized by Vedanta Resources and Hindustan Zinc where Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot also participated. The chief minister said Rajasthan is committed to improve the mining ecosystem in the state through the recently formed [Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust](#).

Govt adds tourism under thrust sector

State finance department has brought in tourism industry under the [Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme - 2019](#) extending the benefits offered under the scheme.

Tourism projects having an investment of Rs 5 crore or above will be granted benefits like capital subsidy equivalent to 20% of investment made in plant, machinery and equipment, subject to maximum Rs 25 lakh or 5% interest subsidy on term loan taken by enterprise from financial institutions for a period of five years subject to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh annually.

Public services should be provided online by March 2021

On 21st September 2020, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot directed officials to provide 221 public services by various government departments online by March 2021. He asked that the chief secretary of the state coordinate with the respective departments and ensure good governance.

As per government officials said, all processes related to [Right to Information \(RTI\)](#), from application to information, will be soon made online. The administrative reform department of the Rajasthan government in presence of the CM signed MoU with department of information and technology to conduct all the work of providing RTI applications and information.

According to a government release, to get any information under the [RTI, applications and appeals can be now made online](#) on the RTI portal (www.rti.rajasthan.gov.in)

SIDBI signs MoU with Industries Department to help MSMEs

In September 2020, Small Industries Development Bank of India ([SIDBI](#)) entered into an MoU with [Industries Department, Rajasthan](#) for setting up a Project Management Unit (PMU) to facilitate need-based intervention, increase access to financial products, and work to create a conducive environment for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

The PMU will be developed by SIDBI taking inputs from the state government to design schemes, programmes in the areas of equity support, interest subvention, resolution of stressed MSMEs, supporting MSME entrepreneurs, and facilitate other need-based intervention.

NCRB releases Road Accident Statistics Report

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released report on road accidents in 2019. According to report:

- Rajasthan stood fourth in terms of number of deaths in all forms of accidents, including road accidents in 2019.
- State's share in deaths was 6.8%, while its share in the country's population is 5.9%.
- 50% of the road accidents are taking place on the national highways which constitute about 3-4% of the total roads in the state.

Committees to increase effectiveness of schemes

The State government has formed four state-level committees to find ways to make various schemes more effective. In the 2020-21 budget CM Shri Ashok Gehlot had announced to set up a group of officers to rationalise various schemes operated in the state and prioritize them.

These committees will give suggestions regarding agriculture and allied services, rural development and panchayati raj, medical and health services, education, training and employment services and state schemes operated under welfare and social security for the marginalised sections of society.

Water resource dept bags national innovation award

The Jal Shakti ministry has awarded the state water resource department and Indira Gandhi Canal department, the national water innovation award, increasing the efficiency of the water bodies and making projects cost-effective by technological advancement.

District collectors in Rajasthan empowered to acquire private hospitals for Covid-19

Alarmed over increasing [number of Covid-19 cases in Rajasthan](#), the health department empowered the [district collectors](#) to acquire any private hospitals fully or partially for the treatment of patients. [District Collectors](#) would be able to order for acquiring these hospitals by using special powers of

[Rajasthan epidemic ordinance, 2020](#) and will bear the cost of the treatment. Besides, the government will provide disinfectants, surgical masks and other things to the acquired hospitals.

State's first underground Metro train inaugurated

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated Metro Phase 1-B, the state's first underground Metro train, which will run in the Walled City covering a distance of 2.12 km from Chandpole to Badi Chaupar.

Vastra 2020

The international textile and apparel fair, Vastra, that provides marketing opportunities in global markets to textile and garments manufacturers in [Rajasthan](#) is being organised in September 2020 on a virtual platform.

For the 5-day virtual edition, the organiser of the event along with RIICO has enlisted over 500 buyers and over 80 exhibitors. About 80% of the exhibitors are from Rajasthan and the rest are from other states.

Efforts begin to get international recognition for yellow stone of Jaisalmer

Efforts have started on various levels to get international recognition for the famous yellow stone of Jaisalmer. The peculiar yellow stone found in Jaisalmer is world famous for its art, cultural and historical heritage. The stone is available only in Jaisalmer in the entire world and has been used in the Sonar fort and many other historical monuments. This yellow stone is related to 160-million-year-old marine rock.

RRECL to run 200 mini-drinking Solar based water supply systems

The Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited ([RRECL](#)) has approved a proposal to equip stand-alone mini-drinking water supply systems to 200 villages with [solar power](#).

As per the statement, the decision is in accordance with the [Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2019](#) and [Rajasthan's 2020-21 Budget](#) announcement, mandating RRECL to run 200 water supply systems with solar energy on a pilot basis. The locations have been identified from a list of 248 areas specified by the Public Health and Engineering Department ([PHED](#)) and the pilot project is estimated to cost Rs 8 crore.

JVVNL launches Vigilance App

In November 2020, Energy minister B D Kalla launched the 'vigilance app' of Jaipur Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Ltd (JVVNL). The application will help bring transparency and reduce distribution loss. The app will also improve accountability of vigilance engineers and remove complaints of consumers. The app helps the consumers to register their complaints online.

Rajasthan Police launch mental health helpline for its staff

Rajasthan police has launched a helpline number for its officials on which they can call in case of mental health issues. The police staff can call at 0141-2821500 between 10.30 am and 5pm for redressal of their issues.

National Water Award-2019: Rajasthan wins 3rd Prize

[Rajasthan](#) has won third prize in the general category for outstanding work in the field of water resources management under the **National Water Award-2019**. The award been given to the state for work in the field of increased water use efficiency, water harvesting management, integrated water resources management through participatory approach, micro irrigation with solar pumps, water harvesting and achievements under irrigation management and micro irrigation.

Cabinet sub-committee for Barmer refinery project

In November 2020, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot constituted a cabinet sub-committee under him to review the progress of the [Barmer](#) refinery so that the ambitious project could be completed on time.

This group of ministers will regularly monitor the progress of the work. This will lead to better coordination between various departments of the government as well as quick resolution of interdepartmental issues. Coordination with [Hindustan Petroleum](#) officials will also be established.

The other members of the committee are PHED and energy minister Dr BD Kalla, UDH minister Shanti Dhariwal, industry minister Parsadilal Meena, mines and petroleum minister Pramod Jain Bhaya, revenue minister Harish Chaudhary, Indira Gandhi irrigation project minister Udailal Anjana, skills development minister Ashok Chandana and Pachparda MLA Madan Prajawat.

The officials in the committee include chief secretary, advisor to the chief minister Dr Govind Sharma, principal secretaries of home, finance, revenue, energy, PHED, PWD, UDH, industry, mines and petroleum, IGNP, skill development and employment, MD RIICO, director petroleum, divisional commissioner Jodhpur and collector and SP of Barmer.

Additional Budget for Isarda water project

In [2019-20 Budget](#), CM Shri Ashok Gehlot had announced **Isarda Water Project** costing Rs 3,159 crore for the supply of drinking water to five towns and 1,244 villages of Dausa and Sawai Madhopur. In the original project, drinking water was to be supplied to the people of these villages and towns at 40 litres per person per day, including the local water source. Now the project cost has increased by 899.12 crore with the addition of 12 villages and one town and the direction of the Centre to supply 55 litre per person per day under the [Jal Jeevan Mission](#) project.

IMPACT

Health Minister of Rajasthan, Raghu Sharma, launched 'IMPACT' (Integrated System for Monitoring of PCPNDT Act) mobile app to ease the monitoring of action taken under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 and the inspection activities. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) developed the app.

One District One Product Scheme

Since February-March 2020, Rajasthan Government has been working on one district one product scheme.

District	Product	District	Product
Alwar	Food processing & handicrafts	Jalore	handloom
Ajmer	गोदालूम & Handicrafts	Jhalawar	Stone & handloom
Banswara	Handicrafts & agriculture based industries.	Jhunjhunu	Agriculture & food processing
Baran	Agriculture based industries, forest products, handicrafts & handloom	Jodhpur	Handicrafts
Barmer	Handicrafts & handloom	Karauli	Stone & lac bangles
Bharatpur	Food Processing	Kota	Food processing
Bhilwara	Textile & Mining	Nagaur	Handicrafts & tools
Bikaner	Ceramic, food processing & Woolen textile.	Pali	Textile & tourism
Bundi	Food processing & rice	Pratapgarh	Agriculture & food processing
Chittorgarh	Stone Cutting & Hotel Tourism	Rajsamand	Stone cutting, ceramic, jewelry & handicrafts.
Churu	Wooden handicrafts	Sawai madhopur	Tourism & food processing
Dausa	Food processing & Handicrafts	Sikar	Handicrafts & mining
Dholpur	Milk	Sirohi	Marble Handicrafts
Dungarpur	Handicrafts & stone	Sri Ganganagar	Food Processing
Hanumangarh	Agriculture based Industries	Tonk	Stone & Food Processing
Jaipur	Engineering & electrical products & Casting	Udaipur	Textile, handicrafts & tourism
Jaisalmer	Stone		

New Schemes

Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana

In [November 2020](#), Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot launched the '**Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana** or **Indira Gandhi Maternity Nutrition scheme**' in the state. The scheme was announced in the last state budget, giving priority to the health and nutrition of women and children.

Objectives:

- The objective of the scheme is to provide proper nutrition to pregnant mothers and children upto the age of 3 years.

Salient Features:

- **Area:** Based on the ranking made on maternal and child nutrition indicators, currently, the scheme has been launched in four most backward tribal districts of [Udaipur](#), [Banswara](#), [Dungarpur](#) and [Pratapgarh](#). The state government will extend the scheme across the state in a phased manner.
- **Coverage:** Over 77,000 women will be benefited every year.
- **Budget & Funding:** Under this, an annual cost of Rs 43 crore will be incurred, funding will be done by the [State Mineral Foundation Trust](#) under the department of mines and geology.
- **Implementing Agencies:** This scheme will be implemented through Anganwadi Centres. ANMs and ASHA Sahayoginis of the health department would be in regular touch with the beneficiary women for proper nutrition and care of their children. Children's Investment Fund Foundation and IP Global will help the state government for implementation of this [scheme](#).

Benefits:

On birth of the second child, the beneficiary woman will be given Rs. 6000 directly in her bank account in five instalments.

- First instalment of Rs. 1000 will be given after the pregnancy test and registration;
- Second instalment of Rs. 1000 after completion of minimum two ante-natal check-ups;
- Third instalment of Rs. 1000 on institutional delivery;
- Fourth instalment of Rs. 2000 after getting all the regular vaccines administered to the newborn within 105 days of birth and after the birth registration of the child and the fifth and
- Fifth instalment of Rs. 1000 will be given on the couple adopting a means of family planning within three months after birth. This way, this scheme would also encourage family planning.

On the inauguration of the scheme, 2,000 beneficiaries of the four districts were given checks of Rs 1,000 as the first installment. As per Mamta Bhupesh, Minister of state for women and child development, pregnant women will get benefits under the scheme at the time of second child born on November 1 this year.

Van Dhan Yojana

The [state government](#) has decided to implement **Van Dhan Yojana** in Modified Area Development Agency (MADA) areas in [Rajasthan](#) along with tribal sub-plan and Sahariya localities. For this, a district-level coordination and monitoring committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the [district collector](#). Additionally, the project officer (MADA) will be the district nodal officer (MADA area) for implementation of Van Dhan Yojana and additional commissioner (first) tribal area development department, [Udaipur](#), will be the state nodal officer (MADA area).

Child rights week observed in Rajasthan

Rajasthan observed child rights week from November 14 to 20, 2020 through skill development activities, awareness programmes and new welfare schemes. The initiatives were part of the **Nehru Child Protection Fund**, announced in the 2020-21 State Budget. The week was virtually inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister **shri Ashok Gehlot**.

Two new schemes — **Vaatsalya Yojana** and **Samarth Yojana** — were launched for orphan and destitute children during the week. A skill development and counselling centre for children was also inaugurated in **Jodhpur**.

Special Festival Advance Scheme

A SFAS for non-gazetted employees, as well as for gazetted employees too, is being revived as a one-time measure to stimulate demand. All Central Government employees can now get an interest-free advance of Rs. 10,000, to be spent by 31st March, 2021 on the choice of festival of the employee. The interest-free advance is recoverable from the employee in maximum 10 instalments.

The employees will get pre-loaded RuPay Card of the advance value. The Government will bear Bank charges of the card. Disbursal of advance through RuPay card ensures digital mode of payment, resulting in tax revenue and encouraging honest businesses.

The one-time disbursement of Special Festival Advance Scheme (SFAS) is expected to amount to Rs. 4,000 crore; and if the SFAS given by all State Governments, another tranche of Rs. 8,000 crore is expected to be disbursed.

LTC Cash Voucher Scheme

Central Government employees get LTC in a block of 4 years in which air or rail fare, as per pay scale/entitlement, is reimbursed and in addition, Leave encashment of 10 days (pay + DA) is paid. But due to COVID-19, employees are not in a position to avail of LTC in the current block of 2018-21. Therefore, the Government has decided to give cash payment in lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, in which:

- Full payment on Leave encashment and
- Payment of fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement
- Fare payment will be tax free

An employee, opting for this scheme, will be required to buy goods / services worth 3 times the fare and 1 time the leave encashment before 31st March 2021. The scheme also requires that money must be spent on goods attracting **GST of 12% or more** from a **GST registered vendor** through **digital mode**. The employee is required to produce GST invoice to avail the benefit.

Who can take the benefit of the Scheme ?

Central Government employees, Employees of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will also be allowed this facility. **The tax concession will be allowed for State**

Government/Private Sector too, for employees who currently are entitled to LTC, subject to following the guidelines of the Central Government scheme.

Consumer Demand Infusion by LTC Cash Voucher Scheme

The demand infusion in the economy by Central Government and Central PSE/PSB employees is estimated to be Rs. 19,000 crore approx. The demand infusion by State Government employees will be Rs. 9,000 crore. It is expected that it will generate additional consumer demand of Rs. 28,000 crore.

Rajasthan Government Announces Diwali 2020 Bonus for Employees

On 8th November 2020, Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has announced that Rajasthan Government will provide Diwali 2020 Bonus to its 7.30 lakh employees. The bonus amount will cost the exchequer Rs 500 crore.

As per the official statement, 25% of the bonus amount has to be given in cash while the remaining 75% will be deposited in employees provident fund.

Additionally, the chief minister has also declared that salary-cut being done for providing better Covid-19 management, will also become voluntary from now on. The move was taken after considering the demands of several employees association. The salary deduction was started in August this year aiming to utilise the money for relief and aid work related to the pandemic.

Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020

In [September 2020](#), Rajasthan Government introduced released **Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020** to reposition Rajasthan as a preferred [tourism](#) destination for both domestic as well as international tourists by offering tourists a high quality experience.

Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020: Vision

The vision of Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020 is to:

- Reposition Rajasthan as a preferred tourism destination for both domestic as well as international tourists by offering tourists a high quality experience.

- Through responsible and sustainable policies ensuring conservation of natural, historical and cultural heritage of the State while simultaneously accelerating socio-economic development by improving livelihood opportunities for the local population.

Period

The Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020 shall remain in operation for a period of 5 years from the date of its notification or for a period as may be determined by the Government or until substitution by another policy, whichever is earlier.

Objectives:

The objectives of Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020 include:

1. Promote Rajasthan as a leading tourism brand in national and international markets.
2. Strengthen and diversify existing tourism products.
3. Provide innovative tourism products and services with focus on lesser known destinations especially in rural areas.
4. Improve the connectivity of tourist destinations through road, rail and air.
5. Expand tourist accommodation infrastructure.
6. Broad based promotion and marketing of tourism products.
7. Facilitate tourism specific skill development to create gainful self-employment.
8. Create suitable mechanisms to promote effective interdepartmental coordination.
9. Take steps to encourage private sector investment in the State.
10. To provide a safe and secure environment for tourists and in particular women travellers and also improve tourist grievance redressal systems.
11. To empower the department with suitable administrative structure for extending approvals for establishment of tourism units.
12. Market research and developing statistics grid development framework for better policy making and forecasting.

Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020: Salient Features

- The tourism department of Rajasthan will work to enhance existing tourism products and also offer new **experimental tourism** products like Desert Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Wild life and [Eco-Tourism](#), Tribal Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Crafts & Cuisine Tourism, MICE Tourism, Weekend Getaway Tourism, Religious Tourism, Wedding Tourism, Wellness Tourism, Roots Tourism, Rural Tourism, Film Tourism etc.
- Special tourism zones will be declared.
- Steps will be taken to strengthen tourism infrastructure across state including preparing area based / circuit based tourism master plan, improving cleanliness and hygiene at tourist destinations, improving accessibility for specially abled persons and improving the drainage system of tourist destinations.
- The department will also take steps to improve accommodation facilities in the state. A 'Guest House' scheme will be launched to promote establishments offering 5 to 20 rooms. Home Stays will be encouraged and a scheme for their promotion, grading and listing will be formulated.
- Department of Tourism would work towards spreading awareness about employment opportunities in tourism sector and will start an online portal for youth, trainers and industry to interact and exchange information.
- Suitable amendments will be made in the Rajasthan Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, 2010 and Rules thereof so as to give more functional powers/ Police Act powers to Tourist Assistance Force in order to make it more effective.
- To implement this Tourism Policy, a robust administrative mechanism will be set up in Department of Tourism. A dedicated Policy Implementation Unit (PIU) will be set-up with a nodal team responsible for implementation of this policy.

S&T

Nobel Prize Winners 2020

Every year, committees in Sweden and Norway name laureates in a variety of Nobel prizes in the sciences, literature and economics, as well as peace work.

About the Nobel Prize

The [Nobel Prize](#) is an international award administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and based on the fortune of Alfred Nobel, Swedish inventor and entrepreneur. In 1968, Sveriges Riksbank established The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize. Each prize consists of a medal, a personal diploma, and a cash award.

Category	Winners	Work
Nobel Prize in Medicine 2020	Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice	The discovery of Hepatitis C virus
Nobel Prize in Physics 2020	Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel & Andrea Ghez	The discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity
Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020	Emmanuelle Charpentier & Jennifer A. Doudna	The development of a method for genome editing
Nobel Prize in Literature 2020	Louise Glück	“for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”
Nobel Prize in Peace 2020	World Food Program (WFP)	For its efforts to combat hunger, bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
Nobel Prize in Economics 2020	Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson	For improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.

Param Sidhi AI Super Computer

On October 5, 2020, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) commissioned the largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence Supercomputer – Param Sidhi AI.

Fugaku of Japan is the world fastest supercomputer. The operating speed of Fugaku is 415 petaFlops. Peta is 10^{15} (a thousand million million).

RAISE 2020

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog organized a Mega Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020,'** from **October 5-9, 2020.**

China to launch world's first asteroid mining robot

China is set to launch the first asteroid mining robot in the world by November 2020. The main objective of the mission is to assess capabilities of robots in asteroid mining. The robot will identify and extract valuable resources.

Feluda: Gene-based COVID-19 test

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently approved the gene-based COVID-19 test called Feluda. FELUDA is the acronym of FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection. It is a paper strip test. The test uses CRISPR gene editing technology to detect the COVID-19 virus. The test was developed by scientists based in Council of scientific and Industrial Research Institute of genomics and integrative Biology CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group.

SKA to have Indian IT control systems

The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world's largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India. The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) operating under Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the leading manager of the project. The telescope is to be

built over a square kilometre and hence the name square kilometre array. The telescope is to be built in in South Africa.

IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV'

IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks. The mechanism utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask. Ozone is a strong oxidizing agent that destroys viruses by diffusing through the protein coat, resulting in damage to the viral RNA.

Asteroid 465824 2010 FR

NASA has been tracking asteroid 465824 2010 FR, which is twice as big as the Pyramid of Giza and is expected to cross the Earth's orbit on September 6. It is classified as a Near-Earth Object (NEO) and a potentially hazardous asteroid (PHA). Asteroid 465824 2010 FR was discovered on March 18, 2010 by the Catalina Sky Survey (CSS).

What is an asteroid?

Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called minor planets. As per NASA, 994,383 is the count for known asteroids, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.

LIGO-Bot

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced a chatbot service 'LiGo' on 'Google Assistant' for its policyholders. This will help ICICI policyholders to have their queries answered by simple voice commands.

Hubble Maps Giant Halo Around Andromeda Galaxy

NASA's Hubble telescope has captured a giant halo of gas around Andromeda galaxy, which is the nearest from the Milky Way which extends 1.3 million light-years.

Halo: Halo is a huge scattering of gas which is usually found surrounding the celestial bodies.

Andromeda galaxy: Also known as M31, is a majestic spiral of around 1 trillion stars and comparable in size to our Milky Way galaxy.

Ethereum 2.0

Ethereum 2.0, also known as Eth2 or "Serenity", is an upgrade to the Ethereum blockchain. Ethereum is the second-largest cryptocurrency by market capitalization after Bitcoin. The upgrade aims to enhance the speed, efficiency, and scalability of the Ethereum network so that it can process more transactions and ease bottlenecks.

NASA launches Sentinel satellite to track Earth's sea level rise

On November 21, 2020, NASA launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite to monitor height of oceans. The satellite was launched in SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

China launches experimental 6G Satellite

China recently launched the first 6G experimental satellite. The satellite will test the technology of Terahertz waves in space.

Important Days

26 November – National Constitution Day

Every year Constitution Day is celebrated on November 26. It is also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day. On 26 November 1949 the Constituent Assembly had adopted the Constitution of India.

The Constitution Day was declared in 2015. It was done to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, which was in 2015.

25 November – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:

2020 Theme: “Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”. On November 25, 1960 three Mirabal sisters were assassinated upon orders from the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. In 1981, activists from Caribbean Feminist Encuentros and Latin America marked November 25 as day to raise awareness of violence against women.

24 November – Lachit Divas

The Lachit Divas was celebrated on November 24 that marks the birth anniversary of Lachit Borphuran, a commander in Ahom kingdom (located in present day Assam). He is known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat, where he away the Mughal forces under the command of Ram Singh to take over the kingdom.

Ram Singh was the elder son of Mirza Raja Jai Singh, the ruler of Amber. He was commissioned to invade the Ahom kingdom by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1667.

17 November 2020 - National Epilepsy Day

National Epilepsy Day is celebrated on November 17 to create awareness about epilepsy.

16 November - International Day for Tolerance

The UNESCO and several other international organizations celebrate International Day for Tolerance on November 16. According to the 1995 Declaration of Principles of Tolerance by UNESCO, tolerance is acceptance, respect and appreciation of world cultures and ways of being Human. This is the basic theme of 2020 International Day for Tolerance as well.

16 November – National Press Day

The National Press Day is celebrated on November 16 as the Press Council of India was established on November 16, 1966.

15 November – Birsa Munda Jayanti | Jharkhand Statehood Day

The birth anniversary of Birsa Munda is observed on November 15. Further, the state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary.

14 November - World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day is celebrated on November 14. This year the World Diabetes Day is celebrated under the theme: **Nurses make the difference for Diabetes.**

13 November - National Ayurveda Day 2020

On 13th November, India observed National Ayurveda Day 2020. This is the 5th National Ayurveda day. Since 2016, the Ministry of AYUSH has been observing 'Ayurveda Day' every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras). As this year, Dhanteras 2020 has fallen on November 13, so that's why Ayurveda Day 2020 was celebrated on November 13th.

07 November – National Cancer Awareness Day

The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on 07th November, coinciding with the birth anniversary of scientist Marie Curie.

31 October - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

The *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas* or the National Unity Day is celebrated on October 31 in India. The day is the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. During the time of India's independence, Sardar Patel played a key role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.

24 October - United Nations Day

October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. The United Nations officially came into being after the signatory documents which includes the five permanent members of the Security Council.

17 October - International Poverty Eradication Day

October 17 is marked as the International Poverty Eradication Day. According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, one of the keys to ending child poverty is addressing poverty in the household, from which it often stems. Access to quality social services must be a priority.

16 October - World Food Day

World Food Day is annually celebrated on October 16 commemorate the founding of the United Nations' (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

15 October - Global Handwashing Day

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day. The day is dedicated to increasing awareness about hygiene. The day is to make people understand the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

15 October – First Revenue Day

On 15th October 2020, Rajasthan celebrated its first Revenue Day. The announcement to celebrate October 15 as Revenue Day in the state was announced by Revenue Minister Mr. Harish Chaudhary during his speech in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on February 28, 2020 on the budget grant demands of the Revenue Department. Remarkably, the Rajasthan Tenancy Act came into force on 15 October 1955, which made tenancy rights possible to tenants, so the day of 15 October is also special for the Revenue Department.

13th October - World Calamity Control Day (UN) or UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is globally observed on October 13. The United Nations' (UN) International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is marked to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction.

13th October: National Philately Day

On 13th October 2020, the National Philately Day 2020 was celebrated throughout the country. The day also marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products.

Philately is the study of postage stamps and postal history. It also refers to the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products.

India Post has commenced celebration of the **National Postal Week** from 9th October to 15th October 2020. In a bid to create awareness about the role and importance of postal sector in socio-economic development and the impact 'post' leaves on the lives of people, India Post has decided to launch the '**Know Your Beat Postman**' initiative.

As part of National Philately Day 2020 celebrations, **India Post (Mumbai)** launched a 'Stamped Mask' 13th October. These are the masks, with images of postage stamps imprinted on them.

11 October - International Day of the Girl Child

October 11 has been marked as the International Day of the Girl Child. The day highlight and address the women empowerment and the needs and challenges that girl face including the fulfilment of their rights.

10 October - World Mental Health Day (Second Saturday of October)

October 10 is the second Saturday of 2020 and will be celebrated as the World Mental Health Day. The objective of this day is to spread awareness about mental health issues and taking efforts in supporting those. It also emphasizes on what more needs to be done to make sure that talking mental health does not remain a taboo in society.

27th September World Tourism Day

World Tourism Day helps in highlighting the importance of tourism to generate employment and build a future for millions of people around the world.

Last Sunday of September: World Rivers Day

World Rivers Day is celebrated every year on last Sunday of September. In 2020, it comes on September 27. This day marks the importance of rivers and encourages people to improve and save water, rivers around the world.

21st September International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace (UN) is amongst the most special days in September which is observed around the world since September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution 55/282, which established September 21 as International Day of Peace of non-violence and cease-fire.

21st September: World Alzheimer's Day

World Alzheimer's Day helps in raising awareness among people about the challenges faced by the due to dementia. In 2012, World Alzheimer's Month was launched.

16th September: World Ozone Day

On September 16, 1987, the United Nations together with 45 other countries signed the **Montreal Protocol**, on substances that deplete the Ozone layer. Every year this day is celebrated as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer or World Ozone Day. The theme for the

World Ozone Day 2020 is **Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection**. It marks 35 years of the Vienna Convention.

15th September: Engineer's Day

The entire nation celebrated Engineer's Day on 15th September to mark the Birth Anniversary of the renowned Indian engineer [Bharat Ratna](#) Mokshagundam Visveswaraya. Across the world, countries celebrate Engineer's Day on different dates, honouring stalwarts of their own nations in the field.

14th September: Hindi Divas

On this day, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script in 1949 as the official language of the Republic of India.

11th September: National Forest Martyrs Day:

On 11th September 2020, the National Forest martyrs Day was observed throughout the country to commemorate the personnel of Department of Forest and Wildlife who laid down their lives to protect natural resources. According to [indiatimes](#), about 1,400 forest officials have been martyred while protecting the country's forest wealth and wildlife.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest, [Government of India](#) made the declaration in 2013 and since then, people across India observe National Forest Martyrs Day every year on September 11th to pay tributes to the valour and sacrifice made the forest personnel to protect the forests and wildlife of India.

The National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on 11th September every year to commemorate the Khejarli massacre, which took place on Tuesday, the 10th day of the bright fortnight of the month Bhaadrapad (as per Indian lunar calendar) or September 11, in 1730.

10th September - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)

World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is conducted every year to raise awareness and prevent more suicides from happening. This day is established by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and co-sponsored by WHO.

8th September - International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day came into existence to make people aware of the importance of literacy which is amongst the basic human rights.

07th September: International Day of Clean Air For Blue Skies

The world celebrated the first **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies**, on September 7th, 2020. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the [resolution](#) to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on December 19, 2019, during its 74th session. The Day aims to:

1. Raise public awareness at all levels—individual, community, corporate and government—that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
2. Demonstrate the close link of air quality to other environmental/developmental challenges such as – most and foremost – [climate change](#) and the global [Sustainable Development Goals](#).
3. Promote and facilitate solutions that improve air quality by sharing actionable knowledge best practices, innovations, and success stories.
4. Bring together diverse international actors working on this topic to form a strategic alliance to gain momentum for concerted national, regional and international approaches for effective air quality management.

05th September 2020: National Teacher's Day

Teachers Day in India celebrates the birth anniversary of India's second President Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. On this occasion, students appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of teachers in shaping their future.

02nd September: World Coconut Day

World Coconut Day helps to create awareness for the importance of this fruit in poverty reduction. This day also honors the formation day of the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).

01-07th September 2020: National Nutrition Week

National Nutrition Week is conducted every year from September 1 to September 7 to provide knowledge among people about the importance of nutrition for better health.