
Rajasthan

Current Affairs

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Person in NEWS

Persons on Important Posts: Rajasthan

S.No	Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (2018 Nov)
1	Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Indrajit Mahanty
2	Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan		Anand Kumar
3	State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan		Prem Singh Mehra
4	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)		Suresh Chaudhary
5	RPSC Chairman	Sir DR. S K GHOSH	Deepak Upreti
6	Financial Commission Chairman		Dr. Jyoti Kiran (5th)
7	Advocate General of Rajasthan	G.C. Kasliwal	MAHENDRA SINGH SINGHVI
8	Lokayukta of Rajasthan	ID Dua (1973)	---
9	Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission	Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar	Mahesh Chandra Sharma
10	Chief Secretary Rajasthan		D B Gupta
11	Pro-Term Speaker	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
12	Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
13	Leader of Opposition	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
14	Governor of Rajasthan	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Reorganised 1956 - Gurumukh Nihal Singh	Kalraj Mishra
15	Deputy Chairman - Chief Ministers Advisory Council		
16	Chairperson State Commission for Women		---
17	DGP Rajasthan Police		Bhupendra Singh

Suman Rao:

After winning the titles of Miss World 2nd runner-up 2019 and Miss World Asia 2019 in London, Suman reached her hometown Aaidana, village in the Rajasamand district of Rajasthan.

Kalraj Mishra

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kalraj Mishra was transferred and appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan by President Ram Nath Kovind. Kalraj Mishra has replaced Kalyan Singh as the Rajasthan governor. Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Shripathi Ravindra Bhat (currently Supreme Court Judge) administered the oath of office to Mishra.

Former Union minister Bandaru Dattatreya has been appointed the new governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Jagdeep Dhankhar

Jagdeep Dhankar from Jhunjhunu, a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, member of Lok Sabha from 1989 to 1991 and a former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Kishangarh, Rajasthan has been made 28th Governor of West Bengal.

Tarun Chaudhri

Wing commander Tarun Chaudhri became the first pilot of Indian Armed Forces (IAF) to do a wingsuit jump.

Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

Chief Justice Ravindra Bhat was elevated to the Supreme Court.

Justice Indrajit Mahanty

Justice Indrajit Mahanty of Bombay High Court has become chief justice of Rajasthan High Court. He is the 37th Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.

Brajesh Yadav

Brajesh Yadav from Rajasthan Police won Silver medal in Thailand Open Boxing Championship.

Payal Jangid

Payal Jangid from Alwar district became the first Indian to receive the 'Changemaker Award' at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in New York for her contribution in abolishing the practice of child marriage in her native Hinsla and other neighbouring villages. She is also the sarpanch (president) of the Bal Panchayat (children's parliament) in Hinsla, which is a Bal Mitra Gram (child-friendly village) — a concept founded by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

Diya Kumari

Rajsamand BJP MP Diya Kumari of Rajasthan has been made a member of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on behalf of Union Ministry of Forest and Environment.

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India. Tiger Protection Program, popularly known as Project Tiger was started in 1973, by the Government of India in co-operation with WWF.

Hina Joshi

Hina Joshi from Pali, represented India in the International Championship held at Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and won two gold medals.

Shyam Sunder Swami

Shyam Sunder Swami from Bikaner has secured Quota in Paralympics 2020, Tokyo after coming at 9th rank in World Para Archery Championship held in Netherlands.

Om Prakash Bhatia

Omprakash Bhatia has received Acharya Laxmi Kant Joshi Award for his collection "Burj, Chand Aur Dhuan".

Justice Mohammad Rafiq

- Justice Mohammad Rafiq, senior judge of Rajasthan High Court will now be the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
- Justice Rafiq would be the third high court judge from Rajasthan to become a chief justice. As at present,
 - Justice Govind Mathur is Chief Justice at Allahabad High Court,
 - Justice RS Chauhan is Chief Justice at Telangana High Court,

Mahendra Goyal and Farzand Ali

The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi recommended appointment of two advocates as judges of the Rajasthan High Court. The advocates are Mahendra Goyal and Farzand Ali.

Bhupendra Singh

The Rajasthan government appointed DG ATS and SOG Dr Bhupendra Singh as the new DGP of Rajasthan Police. Mr. Singh replaces Kapil Garg, who retired on 30th June. An IPS officer of the 1986-batch, Singh is a recipient of the President's police medal (2016) and police medal (2002) for distinguished services.

Dr. Mahesh Joshi

Dr. Mahesh Joshi has been nominated as Government Chief Whip in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

Maharana Mewar Foundation Awards

37th Annual Awards – list of awardees – 2019

- Colonel James Tod Award: **Dr. Paul T. Craddock**
- Haldighati Award: **Ms. Swati Chaturvedi**
- Hakim Khan Sur Award: **Mr. Suresh Wadkar**
- Maharana Udai Singh Awards: **Ms. Geeta Seshamani & Mr. Kartick Satyanarayan**
- Panna Dhai Awards: **Mr. Swapan Debbarma & Ms. Suma Debbarma**
- Maharishi Harit Rashi Awards: **Dr. Narottam Pujari & Dr. Hemant Krishan Mishra**
- Maharana Mewar Award: **Ms. Malini Awasthi**
- Maharana Kumbha Awards: **Dr. Jitendra Kumar Singh 'Sanjay' & Dr. Girish Nath Mathur**
- Maharana Sajjan Singh Award: **Mr. Jamna Lal Kumhar**
- Dagar Gharana Award: **Ustad Mohi Bahauddin Dagar**
- Rana Punja Award: **Mr. Jhalem Chand Angari**
- Aravali Award: **Mr. Sandeep Singh Maan**
- Maharana Mewar Special Award: **Best Police Station of Rajasthan Makbara, Kota**

About Maharana Mewar Foundation Awards

The Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation has been established in the year 1969 by the king late highness Maharana Bhagwat Singh Mewar to conserve the old heritage traditions. These Annual Awards were instituted in 1980 – 1981 to recognize college and school students, in Udaipur, for their academic and sporting achievements. The scope and spectrum of the awards have been steadily widening since 1981, now the Annual Awards Ceremony not only applauds students but also honors international and national scholars for their work of permanent value to society.

N C Goel

The state government appointed former Chief secretary NC Goel as the chairman of Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) of Rajasthan. Goel's tenure will be five years.

Mahendra Singh Singhvi

- Mahendra Singh Singhvi has been appointed as the new Advocate General of Rajasthan.

Subhash Chandra Garg

Subhash Chandra Garg, a 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre has been appointed as the Economic Affairs Secretary and Finance Secretary of India.

Ruma Devi

Ruma Devi of Mangla ki Beri village in Barmer was selected for the prestigious Nari Shakti Puruskar 2018 by the Union government for engaging, training and providing livelihood to rural women through her self-help groups in last one decade. She received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind on the International Women's Day on March 8. She also got a certificate and Rs 1 lakh as award.

Ruma Devi has been recognized as a force behind the financial independence of 22,000 women living across 75 villages of Barmer, Bikaner and Jaisalmer.

Abhijeet Gupta

Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta from Bhilwara, won the Cannes International chess title by defeating Italian GM Pier Luigi Basso.

Qatar Open Shotgun Championship

Rising Indian shooters Vivaan Kapoor and Manavaditya Rathore clinched gold and silver medals respectively at the junior trap event in Doha.

Two Farmers from State awarded Padam Shri

Hukumchand Patidar from Manpura, Jhalawar and **Jagdish Chand Pareek** from Ajitgarh, Sikar have been awarded with Padma Shri for using and promoting organic farming. Both these farmers never used a drop of chemical fertilizer and have now become examples for other farmers in the state.

C.P. Joshi:

C.P Joshi was appointed Speaker of Vidhan Sabha

Gulab Chand Kataria

- Gulab Chand Kataria will be appointed as the new *Leader of Opposition* of Rajasthan [Vidhan Sabha](#).
- Additionally, he has also been appointed as the *Pro-term speaker* for 15th Vidhan Sabha.
- **Important:** Governor Administers Oath to Pro-Term Speaker in Vidhan Sabha and then he/she administers oath to new members of Vidhan Sabha.

Aarti Dogra

Aarti Dogra, district election officer of Ajmer was felicitated by President Kovind for encourage the differently able people of the district to cast votes and take part in the democratic exercise to elect the representatives to the State Assembly.

Priya Sharma

Priya Sharma from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan became the seventh female fighter pilot after passing out of Indian Air Force Academy, Dundigul. She is the third fighter pilot from state after Mohana Singh and Pratibha.

Nitesh Poonia

Churu's Nitesh Poonia broke the under-18 boys hammer throw National record by a massive six metres, taking it from 75.45m to 81.47m, in the 34th National junior athletics championships in Ranchi.

Priya Punia

22-year-old cricketer from Churu in Rajasthan Priya Punia has been selected for the women Indian cricket T-20 team.

Tejraj Singh

Rajasthan State Sports Council's (RSSC) public relation officer Tejraj Singh was appointed state commissioner of Rajasthan State Bharat Scouts and Guides (ITC and Sports).

Justice Ajay Rastogi

- Justice Ajay Rastogi was appointed as Judge of Supreme Court of India on 2 November 2018.
- He practiced as advocate in Rajasthan High Court and was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court. Subsequently, he was appointed as Chief Justice of the of the Tripura High Court.

Asian Paralympics, Jakarta Indonesia

- Sundar Singh Gurjar won Silver medal in javelin throw and bronze medal in discus throw in Asian Para Games 2018.
- Sandeep Maan Singh from hanumangarh, won bronze medal in In the T45/46/47 classification for men's 400m

Places in NEWS

Baran

Baran has become the first district in the state where e-signed copies of revenue courts' decisions are made available online and applicants can obtain these at any time. The e-signed copies of the decisions of all revenue courts will now be available on the RCMS portal and the applicant can access the copy at any time.

Mount Abu

The horticulture department is set to develop an agro-eco-tourism and international flower research centre at Mount Abu. As per [TOI NEWS](#), the horticulture department had identified about 20 bighas of land near the sunset point for the project. The Rs10-crore project is funded under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (National Agriculture Development Programme).

Mount Abu

Sirohi district administration and forest department have decided to ban all the articles of plastic in Mount Abu from August 15.

Rajasthan has already been declared as a plastic bag free zone from 2010 but Sirohi administration's ban covers plastic carry bags, boxes, thermocol cups, plates and other disposable plastic items.

Jaisalmer

[Jaisalmer](#) District achieved First Rank in the Financial Inclusion and Skill Development Report released by Niti Aayog. As a result, [Jaisalmer](#) will now receive an additional grant of INR 3 crore from Center.

Banswara

A three-day mango festival was held in [Banswara](#). The event was organised as a joint venture of the district administration and agriculture research and Banswara tourism development committee. Some

46 varieties of unique, hybrid and special desi mangoes that are found and grown in Banswara region were displayed.

Dausa

To make the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) campaign more effective so that each gram panchayat could develop an annual plan of their own and also generate respective sources of revenue, the state's panchayati raj department has adopted Dausa district as a pilot project. Women issues will also be given importance in this project by organising mahila sabhas at the panchayat level. This is a World Bank funded project.

Amber Fort

Amber Fort, which stands on the rocky hill of Cheel ka Teela (Hill of Eagles) & situated next to Maota lake, is among the **17 iconic tourist sites** across the country which will be developed into a world-class destination. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech had announced that some iconic tourist sites would be given a major facelift to attract more international and domestic tourists.

Durgapura, Jaipur

For the first time in the state, a 'weed museum' will be inaugurated at Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute (RARI), Durgapura, Jaipur. Weeds are a perennial problem for the farmers in the state. These are additional plants that are omnipresent and reduce yield and quality of crops substantially. Farmers spend a lot of resources to reduce their impact, at times unsuccessfully. The major hindrance for the farmers in weed management is the identification of weeds.

Diyatara village, Kolayat, Bikaner

Diyatara village in Kolayat, Bikaner was declared 'girl child friendly', with the gram panchayat vowing not to allow even a single child marriage and to put an end to this social evil. The panchayat of the village passed a resolution that also pledged to end discrimination against girls, treat them as an equal gender, ensure they complete Class XII and facilitate their higher education.

Kekri, Ajmer

Ajmer's Kekri block has secured first place among all the blocks in the state, for best implementation of national and state health programmes and for improved health indicators.

Ramgarh, Baran

Since the 19th century, Ramgarh Crater has evoked the interest of geologists and in 2018, a team of scientists visited Ramgarh to solve the mystery of its origin and believed they had evidence to prove it was caused by meteorite impact. With a diameter of 3.2 kilometre and elevation of more than 200 metre above the surrounding terrain, it was first discovered by the Geological Survey of India in 1869. Nearly a century later in 1960, it was recognised as a 'Crater' by the Geological Society of London.

Now as per NEWS in Rajasthan Patrika in 2019, Allahabad University National Center for Experimental Mineralogy and Petroleum Director Prof. Jayant Kumar told in a special conversation with the magazine that when the meteorite collided with Ramgarh, it has given it a treasure of uranium.

Jaipur

Jaipur city was awarded with the certificate of Open Defecation Free ++ (ODF ++) status. There are around 20 criteria for ODF ++ status that includes clean toilets, monitoring, citizens feedbacks, google tracking system, mirrors, ramp, disabled friendly and others. As per the data provided by the JMC authorities, there are more than 700 toilets and more than 500 urinals in the city.

Jaipur ranked 44th in the Swachh Survekshan 2019 in the category of the cities. The ranking of Jaipur has come down by 5 points as compared to the cleanliness report of 2018. The city secured 39th position in Swachh Survekshan 2018 and was awarded for 'fastest mover state capital' in the country.

Dungarpur

Dungarpur was ranked the cleanest city among the 4261 civic bodies across the country based on the reports of Citizen Feedback, ODF, Solid and Wet Waste Disposal and Public Transport. But it did not perform well in Swachh Survekshan 2019 and ranked the seventh cleanest city in the country in its category.

Jaipur, Jodhpur, Pali

Gurugram in the National Capital Region was the most polluted city in the world in 2018, according to a new study by Swiss-based company IQAir AirVisual and non-profit organisation Greenpeace. The report measured the levels of PM2.5 – fine particulate matter of a diameter of 2.5 micrometres in the air – in 2018. In the same report, Jodhpur ranked 12th, Pali ranked 24th and Jaipur ranked 37th.

Paldi Kheechiyaan, Jodhpur

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the newly constructed training center of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Paldi Kheechiyaan, Jodhpur

Ramganj Mandi, Kota

Union Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the second Spice Park of State at Ramganj mandi, Kota through video conferencing. This park has been established for the export promotion of coriander. According to the horticulture department figures, around 1.54 lakh metric tons of coriander is produced in around 1.01 lakh hectares in Kota division, which is 90% coriander production of Rajasthan and around 70% of India.

The first spice park of state is located at Rampura Bhatiyani village in Mathania near Jodhpur. This spice park has common infrastructure and processing facilities for seed spices, especially for cumin and coriander, which are widely grown in the state.

Titanwala Museum

The 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru, Rajasthan was inaugurated to preserve the art of traditional Bagru block printing.

About Bagru Block printing

- It is a traditional technique of printing with natural colour done by the Chippa community in Bagru village of Rajasthan.
- Traditionally, motifs printed at Bagru are large with bold lines.
- The motifs include wild flowers, buds, leaves and printed geometrical patterns.
- The main colors used in Bagru are Red and Black.

Some other important traditional block printing techniques in India

- Gujarat: Ajrakh Print
- Rajasthan: Sanganeri, Ajrakh, Dabu
- Madhya Pradesh: Bagh Print, Bherogarh Print (Batik)
- Andhra Pradesh: Kalamkari

Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MMFR), Bikaner

- The 12-day long joint exercise between the Special Forces of of the Sapta Shakti Command and troops of the US Pacific Command Special Forces known as **Vajra Prahar**, took place at Mahajan Field Range, Bikaner.

Phulera, Jaipur

The railways conducted trials of its new trains and technology on a 40-km exclusive testing track between Phulera & Jaipur in Rajasthan, which has now been given the status of a 'special railway project' by the Centre.

Mandawar, Rajsamand

- Mandawar Panchayat in [Rajsamand](#) district became Rajasthan's third alcohol free gram panchayat.
- Kaachbali ([Rajsamand](#)) was the first & Rojda ([Jaipur](#)) was the 2nd Panchayat to become alcohol free.

Durga Energy, Dungarpur

- Dungarpur Renewable Energy Technologies Private. Limited ([Durga Energy](#)) located at Dungarpur, Rajasthan is India's first [Solar](#) Module manufacturing plant that is fully owned and operated by local tribal women.
- The company is jointly owned by four Cluster Level Federations of women self-help groups from [Dungarpur](#).

- The project is a joint initiative of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IITB) and Rajasthan Grameen Ajeevika Vikas Parishad (RAJEEVIKA).

Olives in Rajasthan

- Olive oil refinery: Lunkaransar, Bikaner
- Olive Green Tea production: Bassi, Jaipur

Current Affairs

5 percent MBC and 10 percent EWS Reservation for Baran District

The Council of Ministers in its meeting held on 11th December took various important decisions including clearing proposal to give 5 percent reservation to MBC and implementation of 10 percent reservation for EWS category in [Baran district](#).

The Council of Ministers has given approval to the proposal regarding increasing MBC reservation from one percent to 5 percent and implementation of 10 percent EWS reservation in [Baran district](#).

Current State of Reservation in Baran District

In [Baran district](#) 25% reservation is for Saharia Tribe, 8% for SC, 6% for ST and 10% reservation is for BC. Now after increase of MBC reservation from 1% to 5% and implementation of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections, the total reservation in appointments in [Baran district](#) will be 64%.

Scientists find evidence of Saraswati's existence

There has been a strong belief that the Harappan civilization depended on monsoons. But now there is ample evidence that a large number of Harappan settlements had mushroomed and flourished along the ancient course of the modern seasonal stream, [Ghaggar](#), in northwestern India. And this ancient course was that of the mythical river Saraswati.

A new research — led by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, in collaboration with IIT-Bombay — has reported “unequivocal evidence” that there existed a perennial river on the plains of northwestern India. The river, according to the researchers, flowed roughly along the course of the modern Ghaggar. Researchers say that this river was the Saraswati mentioned in the Rig Veda.

Later epics such as the Mahabharata describe the Saraswati’s diminishing flow till it disappeared completely. The research has been published in the latest issue of the journal “Scientific Report” of Nature Publishers and is in the public domain.

The researchers provide evidence that the [Saraswati](#) was perennial and had flowed from the Higher Himalayas between 7,000 BC and 2,500 BC, and that the Harappans had built their early settlements along this powerful river between 3,800 BC and 1,900 BC. The research posits that the decline of the Saraswati had led to the collapse of the Harappan civilization. The demise of the river and the

civilization approximately coincide with the beginning of the Meghalayan Stage — the current dry phase in the global climate that began about 4,200 years ago.

Gram Panchayat Elections in January

- In December 2019, the state election commission (SEC) has announced the dates for the elections to 9,171 gram panchayats and 90,400 ward panch and will be held in three phases - January 17, 22 and 29 (2020).
- As per Rajasthan High Court order, the elections are being held for those gram panchayats that have not affected by the state government's delimitation notifications issued after November 15-16.
- However, the state election commission (SEC) has not announced the dates for Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections.
- The counting of the votes will be conducted on the day of elections, i.e., January 17, 22 and 29.
- The model of conduct (MCC) comes into force with the announcement of the election dates.
- After the HC's order, there are currently **343 panchayat samitis and 11,142 gram panchayats in all the 33 districts of the state**, as per the delimitation notification issued on November 15-16.

Desert Festival 2020

- The Desert Festival 2020 will be organized from February 7-9 at Jaisalmer.
- Some of the major attractions of the festival will be Ghoomar dance, turban tying competition, moomal-mahendra, miss moomal, moustache competition, mister desert etc.
- Camel decoration, shaan-e- marudhara, panihari matka race, camel polo match, camel tattoo show will also be organised.

Rajasthan tops in free medicine scheme in country

- According to the rankings issued by the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW), Rajasthan has ranked first in 16 states of the country in implementation of the free medicine scheme.

- The state had launched the free medicine scheme on October 2, 2011. Recently, the health department has included medicines for free distribution for treatment of cancer, kidney and heart disorders.

District Special Teams to fight organised crime

- The [State Police Department](#) will set up District Special Teams (DST) across the state to fight organised crime.
- The DSTs will operate under the supervision of SP and will coordinate with Special Operations Group (SOG) to collect information about criminal syndicates and mafias.
- A team will consist of 12 to 14 cops and will also include special cyber experts for technical help.
- DGP Bhupendra Singh have given an 11-point instructions to DSTs. These include collection of organised crime data from all police stations, hunting of fugitives and acting on special information.
- The DST's mandate will also include sharing information with SOG headquarters about gangs operation in their areas, preparing dossiers on criminals and helping modus operandi bureau to keep a tab on criminals.

State floats panel to study impact of liquor ban in Bihar

In December 2019, the state [government of Rajasthan](#) has formed a committee of senior officials, mostly from the finance department, to visit Bihar and study the impact of liquor ban in the state. The move is considered to be a prelude to prohibition of liquor in Rajasthan.

Liquor ban in other states:

- In August 2014, Kerala had banned liquor and it neither issued new licences nor renewed existing ones. However in May 2016, the state government relaxed the policy and conducted 'Tourism Trends, Trade Survey' in July 2016. The survey found that liquor ban was one of the main reasons behind the decline in foreign tourist arrivals to Kerala. Once the ban was eased, foreign tourist arrival growth bounced back to 10.9% and hotel occupancy, which had dropped to 64% between 2014 and 2016, returned to its earlier trend, at 77.6%.
- Bihar, which imposed prohibition in 2016, has seen a 25-30% decline in its F&B sector, including hotels and restaurants, the survey had said.

- Gujarat, the oldest dry state in the country had to amend its prohibition policy to attract tourists. Between 2012 and 2016, 23 hotels were given liquor licences, and in 2013, on-arrival permits for alcohol were made available to tourists at airports and hotels. Today, tourists can apply online for a one-month permit.

Update 28th December:

- The panel has returned to the state. The team led by additional excise commissioner CR Dewasi, will submit its report to the government in a few days.
- The government was in favour of prohibition, it was not possible without the support of people. Chief Minister called for a people's movement in support of prohibition while addressing a function.
- The team claimed that though liquor prohibition in Bihar was total, the circumstances of the two states were different. There is also a wide gap in the revenue earning from excise in the two states.
- Before prohibition, Bihar had a revenue of Rs 300-400 crore from excise, while in Rajasthan it is around Rs 11,000 crore. Rajasthan is also a tourist destination, which is the mainstay of the state economy.
- The excise department gives thousands of crores of rupees to the state exchequer and its target increases by 20 per cent every year. If the government decides to go for prohibition, then the income of Rs 11,000 crore will stop directly

Rajasthan high court to go paperless

Rajasthan High Court has taken a stride towards a paperless regime. Beginning next year, all documents will be converted into the digital format and 6 months later, court work will be switched to online system.

Jaipur Union Football Club

- The club was recently in NEWS for laying down its conditions before handing over its ground at Ranniwas Bagh to the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) for the construction of underground parking.

- Important to take note that, **Jaipur Union Football Club** is as old as Mohan Bagan FC both established in 1889.

3 villages in State to be developed under Gandhi model scheme

In December 2019, the rural development and panchayati raj department has announced that it will develop one village in each of the 33 districts of the state under the Mahatma Gandhi Model Village Scheme. This was mooted on the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji.

Salient features of Mahatma Gandhi Model Village Scheme:

- No liquor or tobacco will be sold in the model villages.
- The village will have all facilities, including health, education and sanitation.
- The nutrition of women, particularly pregnant and lactating mothers, and children will be taken care of.
- These villages will also target total immunization of pregnant women and children.
- The villages which will strive for full enrolment of children in schools will focus on skill development among children.
- It will also endeavour to be a society without discrimination on caste and gender.
- Focus would be on conservation natural water sources, conservation of environment and preservation of heritage.
- Permanent houses with toilets are also proposed at the model villages.

20th Livestock Census of Rajasthan

The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying attributes critical importance to livestock and to the collection and availability of up-to-date and accurate data related to [livestock](#), as they are the vital component of rural economy. 20th Livestock Census of Rajasthan was conducted as part of 20th Livestock Census of India. This post lists summary as per the provisional data released by the department.

Animal Husbandry is a major economic activity of the rural peoples, specially in the arid and semi-arid regions of the Rajasthan. Development of livestock sector has a significant beneficial impact in generating employment and reducing poverty in rural areas.

What is Livestock Census ?

The Livestock Census is the main source of such data in the country. The livestock census is conducted across the country periodically since 1919. The census usually covers all domesticated animals and head counts of these animals are taken. So far, 19 Livestock Censuses were conducted in participation with State Governments and UT Administrations. The last Livestock Census was conducted in 2012 as 19th Livestock Census - [Statistics](#)

The 20th Livestock Census was launched during the month of October 2018. The enumeration was done in both rural and urban areas. Various species of animals (cattle, buffalo, mithun, yak, sheep, goat, pig, horse, pony, mule, donkey, camel, dog, rabbit and elephant)/poultry birds (fowl, duck and other poultry birds) possessed by the households, household enterprises/ non-household enterprises were counted at that site. Another important feature of 20th Livestock Census is it has been designed to capture Breed-wise number of animals and poultry birds.

Summary of Livestock Population in Rajasthan

S.NO	Variety	State Rank in India	Population (In Millions) 2019
1	Livestock	2	56.8
2	Poultry	17	14.6
3	Cattle	6	13.9
4	Buffalo	2	13.7
5	Sheep	4	7.9
6	Goat	1	20.84
7	Pig		
8	Camel	1	0.213
9	Horses & Ponies	3	0.034

10	Mules		0.001
11	Donkeys	1	0.23
12	Mihtun	-	0
13	Yak	-	0

Declining Camel Population in Rajasthan

About 85 per cent of India's [camel](#) population survives in Rajasthan. The other major states with a sizeable camel population include Gujarat, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Given the current scenario, the camel (*Camelus dromedaries*), the State Animal of Rajasthan, may soon figure in the IUCN Red List as a critically endangered species.

Decline in Camel Population

In the 20th Livestock Census, the [camel](#) population in the state has dipped by 71 per cent since the 1990s. The latest census indicates 213,000 camels in Rajasthan, down from 746,000 in 1992. Overall, the camel population in India dipped by almost 37 per cent since 2011 and 75 per cent since 1992.

Reasons for decline of Camel Population:

- Mechanisation:
 - The camel was an important draught animal in the state, but slowly, mechanisation overtook it.
- Smuggling:
 - Camel trading is common in Bengal, Bihar and UP. Animals taken from Rajasthan are sold in the markets of Itahar, Chanchal, Harishchandrapur, Ratua in West Bengal and some other areas.
 - There is a huge demand for camel meat in Bangladesh as well.
- Proliferation of diseases
 - The most commonly found disease in camels, trypanosomiasis, which leads to still birth and dystokia.

- Other reasons for the dwindling camel population are rampant morbidity and mortality.
- Distorted male-female ratio of camels.
- Ecosystem disruptions along with climate change - decrease in grazing and pasture land.
- Lack of pastures and grazing land for these animals.
- Policy failure:
 - The State enacted the Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act. This act banned selling or transporting of these camels outside the state. This has left the animal without a market outside the state.

Steps taken by Rajasthan government to improve camel population:

- Declaration of Camel as *State animal of Rajasthan*.
- The *Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 2015* to prevent illegal smuggling & trading of camels. As per the act, illegal transportation of camels, without the permission from a competent authority, is a punishable crime with rigorous imprisonment of between six months and three years and attracts a fine of Rs 5,000 to 25,000.
- A dedicated *National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC)*, has been started in Jorbeer, Bikaner.
- On 2 October 2016, the Rajasthan state government announced *Ushtra Vikas Yojana*, an innovative new Camel Development Scheme. Government of Rajasthan will support camel breeders with a subsidy of INR 10,000 (payable over a period of eighteen months) for each camel calf born, along with other measures which include training centres, improved access to veterinary treatment and research on camel products.
- On 2 December 2016, the Indian government made the long-awaited announcement of *FSSAI standards for camel milk*, resolving an issue which has held back camel dairy development in India for years.

Rajasthan may get fourth reserve for big cats

Rajasthan is poised to get its fourth tiger reserve with the forest department deliberating on upgrading the **Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary**. The total area of 1017 sqkm that has been identified as the

reserve area comprising two forest blocks of Bhilwara, territorial forest block of Bundi and Indargarh, which falls under buffer zone of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR). Currently Rajasthan has 3 reserves for big cats including:

- Ranthambore NP
- Sariska NP
- Mukundura Hills (Darrah) NP

The state government has been advised to send proposal for declaring Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The notification will be issued after NTCA gives its final approval.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

- In 1982, a part of the forest in Bundi was declared as Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 5 of the Rajasthan Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act, 1951.
- The core area of the Ramgarh Vishdhari has eight villages. The sanctuary currently has leopards, sambhars, chitals, wild boars, smaller cats, caracals, chinkaras and nilgai.

Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve proposal gathers Momentum

Rajasthan forest department has initiated the process to upgrade Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajsamand district into another tiger reserve.

A final proposal has been submitted to chief wildlife warden for the same. Following the state government's direction, assessment report on the potential for relocation of the big cats at the sanctuary was prepared by the department. Divisional forest officer Fateh Singh said, "We have submitted the final proposal. The proposed Kumbhalgarh tiger reserve has habitat, prey base and potential for breeding of tigers."

According to the draft, the name of the area is proposed to be Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve which will constitute Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forest areas. The area of the proposed reserve is 1280.49 square km, out of which 355.25 square km will be the

core area and 925 square km as buffer area in phase I. The highlight of the proposed tiger reserve is that there are no revenue village in the core area.

Five tigers, including two males and three females, might be brought to the reserve and they could possibly breed because of which population of 20 tigers can be achieved in a period of 10 years. Once, tigers used to roam in the natural forests of Kumbhalgarh and Raoli-Todgarh. The habitat of both the sanctuaries is suitable to tigers, other predators and its prey base. Also, a corridor connects both the sanctuaries.

Wildlife lover Rituraj Singh said, "Tiger must be reintroduced at Kumbhalgarh which was its natural habitat till 1970. With good prey base and not much human interference, tiger reintroduction at KTR should not be delayed any further."

The proposed reserve lies in the districts of [Pali](#), [Rajsamand](#), [Udaipur](#) and [Ajmer](#) of Rajasthan state and is located in the oldest range of Aravallis spreading over the tract starting from Khulbrahora (Gujrat) and culminating on Delhi ridge. The forested areas provides the habitat to support large carnivores like tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wolf, hyena, wild dog and their prey species such as sambar, chital, four-horned antelope, chinkara, blackbuck, nilgai and wild boar. Another wildlife lover Anil Rojer said, "Re-introduction of tigers will support to grow and flourish last remaining thick forest of Mewar and Marwar belt."

The draft says to implement this project will require total financial outlay of 6552.5 lakh for the period of 5 years. Apart from developing soft release enclosure at release site of reintroduced tiger, various habitat development works will be carried out to develop grassland for herbivores. However, these two sanctuaries have sufficient buildings, including forest chowkies, for effective management along with check-post and barriers at required places.

Raj bans unregulated ponzi schemes

Rajasthan has become the first state to implement the central government's Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, providing a major relief to the account holders whose money has been trapped in ponzi schemes. The Act was passed in the Lok Sabha in July 2019 to plug gaps in the existing laws to counter illicit depositing activities.

The law is applicable with a retrospective effect. It has come as a ray of hope for thousands of depositors whose money is trapped in fraud credit societies like Navjeevan, Adarsh, Sanjivini and

Arbuda Credit Cooperative Society, which were recently exposed by the state police. State has 1,159 registered societies and registration on new societies has been banned due to a rise in the cases of defaulter societies.

The Act empowers the competent authority to collect the real time data on the activities of the societies. The Act also empowers the competent authority to seize and attach properties and accounts of the defaulter societies. The state has written to the Chief Justice to open designated courts at all the divisional headquarters under the Act, which is one of the three conditions required to implement the Act.

Rajasthan has low consumption of Iodised Salt

A countrywide study "India Iodine Survey 2018-19" has been released recently that estimates the iodine status of the population and assess the extent to which households have access to adequately iodised salt. The findings show that the coverage of adequately iodised salt at the household level is 65.5% in Rajasthan against the national average of 76.3%.

Rajasthan is one of the three states with the lowest consumption of iodine. Tamil Nadu (61.9%) and Andhra Pradesh (63.9%) are the other two states behind Rajasthan.

Iodine is a vital micronutrient needed regularly in small quantities for optimal mental and physical development.

7 Rajasthan railway stations among India's 10 cleanest

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal recently released the **Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019 survey** or Cleanliness assessment of Non-suburban and Suburban Stations 2019 Survey Report. The cleanliness survey is carried out by QCI – Quality Council of India. The council tool 720 Non – Suburban stations and Suburban Stations for the survey. Highlights of the report are:

- 7 Railway Stations from Rajasthan made it to Top 10.
 - Rank 1 – Jaipur with a cleanliness score of 931.75 out of 1000.
 - Rank 2 – Jodhpur
 - Rank 3 - Durgapura, Jaipur
 - Rank 4 – Jammu Tawi

- Rank 5 – Gandhinagar, Jaipur
 - Rank 6 - Suratgarh
 - Rank 7 - Vijayawada
 - Rank 8 - Udaipur
 - Rank 9 – Ajmer
 - Rank 10 – Haridwar
- In the suburban group of stations, Maharashtra’s Andheri station has topped the list.
 - North Western Railway Zone followed by South East Central Railway Zone and East Central Railway Zone are the top three railway zones.

Recent steps taken by Railways to improve cleanliness:

- Indian Railways has also banned single use plastic across its premises 2nd October 2019 onwards.
- Installation of bio toilets in all passenger coaches.
- Installation of plastic bottle crushing machines at 128 stations to handle plastic waste.
- Outsourcing of cleanliness & deployment of mechanized cleaning equipment at major stations.
- Improving flooring of platforms to enable mechanized cleaning
- Providing separate dustbins for different types of wastes.
- Employing CCTVs to monitor cleaning practices.
- Development of a "Customer Complaint" Web Portal and Mobile Application to collect continuous Citizen Feedback.
- Introducing Pay-and-Use toilets at various stations;(8) Enforcement of Indian Railways (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012.
- Information, education & communication to create awareness among people through cleanliness drives. These include drives against plastic waste, Swachhta hi-seva, swachhta pakhwara and special cleanliness drives held in first week of September 2019.

Rajasthan bans certain categories of pan masala

On Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the Rajasthan government announced a ban on pan masala containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, mineral oil and flavoured betel nut. According to the order, production, storage and distribution of these products are prohibited in the state. All such products will now be banned in the State under the Food Safety Act. The state government had previously banned the distribution of 'gutka' in 2012. And earlier in 2019, [the state government had banned hookah bars and e-cigarettes](#).

With this, Rajasthan has become the third State after Maharashtra and Bihar to announce such a move.

According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2017, 13.2% of the population in Rajasthan consume tobacco in the form of cigarettes, with men accounting for 22% and women 3.7%. The figure for chewing tobacco is 14.1%, with men again at 22% and women 5.8%. Currently, there are 77,000 people in the state who suffer from diseases due to smoking or chewing tobacco.

The ban is the correct step to reduce patients who suffer from ailments due to consumption of such harmful products and the decision has been taken to prevent addiction amongst youngsters.

Raj Police Academy to be plastic-free

The Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA) has announced the 'no plastic policy' under which single-use plastic has been banned on its premises. Besides, the academy is also a tobacco-free area since 2008. Additional inspector general and director, RPA, Hemant Priyadarshi, said all employees, trainees, trainers and visitors were prohibited from using polythene bags, disposable plastic bottles, glasses, cups, plates, etc.

All-women canteen launched

Churu district collector Sandesh Nayak has launched an all-women canteen called "Kasturba Canteen" at the district collectorate. In first-of-its kind canteen, from cooking to serving food, all work here is done by women.

Deficit Rainfall districts in 2019 in Rajasthan

Despite 42% excess rainfall in which floods were witnessed at many districts, four districts including

- Sriganganagar,
- Hanumangarh,
- Karauli
- Alwar

have received deficit rainfall.

Peace & non-violence cell launched

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the peace and non-violence cell at the Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board (which will also serve as its office) on October 2.

- Retired IAS officer S S Bissa will be the cell's coordinator.
- There will be 5-6 members in the cell.
- The posts that will be created shall be at the level of joint secretaries, deputy secretaries and assistant secretary / section officer.

The role of the cell will largely be of an advisory group to suggest the government about various activities to be undertaken and to give a roadmap for the formation of a department. The cell will also monitor and conduct the one-year long celebrations of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It will also work with school and college children and involve them in various activities related to Gandhi's life, teachings and philosophy.

Gandhian Rajagopal PV, had suggested to Rajasthan CM that a non-violence department should be created by the Rajasthan government.

UNESCO ties with Rajasthan Government

Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) joined hands with Rajasthan government to conserve and revive the dying traditions of music, art and craft forms, and other intangible cultural heritage of the western Rajasthan. The programme seeks to create 10 art and craft hubs in Barmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer.

Unicode of Rajasthani languages

The [Rajasthan State government](#) is developing a unified unicode of [Rajasthani](#) languages for international recognition. The initiative will also help in the claim to get it included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Rajasthani language, which is a composite form of 10 languages, doesn't have an official unicode, thereby restricting its access and spread among the millennial populace.

What is Unicode of Language ?

A Unicode is a computing translation of alphabets recognised by software. This encoding standard provides the basis for processing, storage and interchange of text data in any language in all modern software and information technology protocols.

The Unicode Character Standard primarily encodes scripts rather than languages. That is, where more than one language shares a set of symbols that have a historically related derivation, the union of the set of symbols of each such language is unified into a single collection identified as a single script. These collections of symbols (i.e., scripts) then serve as inventories of symbols which are drawn upon to write particular languages. In many cases, a single script may serve to write tens or even hundreds of languages.

Unicode of Rajasthani Languages ?

The project has been conceived and handled by Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner (RSAB). The software is being developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, a subsidiary of the ministry of communications and information.

The project aims to translate the erstwhile princely state languages in Hindi and discover the untold facets of their jurisprudence. The project will change the course of Rajasthan's history by adding new elements in culture, food, dress, medicine, science, governance and innovation

Rajasthani Language in Eight Schedule ?

In 2003 the State Assembly had passed a resolution for including the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule. Recently, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Gehlot, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to give due recognition to the state language.

Important Decisions taken in State Cabinet Meeting

Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot chaired the meeting of State Cabinet at CM Office on October 14th. Several important decisions were taken therein, including:

Indirect election of the mayors or chairpersons

- Indirect election of the mayors or chairpersons of the municipal corporations and other municipalities. This decision was taken in favour of the public representatives' repeated demand and broader public interest.

Withdrawal of Pension for MISA pensioners

- The Cabinet further decided to withdraw the pension, medical facility and other allowances of the MISA, DIR and CrPC prisoners in the state.
- Previous government had decided in favour of offering these facilities to such prisoners as per Rajasthan Loktantra Senani Samman Nidhi Niyam, 2008, which the Cabinet annulled.
- This decision would save about Rs. 40 crore annually.

Extension of TSP Benefits for Women

- The State Cabinet also decided to give reservation benefits of the TSP region to the women of non-TSP area, who were residing in the TSP area after getting married. For this, the Department of Personnel would issue a fresh notification overriding the notification dated July 4, 2016.

Other Important Decisions

Other important decisions of the Cabinet include,

- Amendments in various clerical staff services rules to give relaxation from having computer skills to the widow Class IV employees' for promotion as clerk
- 7th Pay Commission salary benefits to the semi-skilled and unskilled mechanics of the Civil Aviation department;
- Change of cadre of the Psychological Counselors from Rajasthan Medical & Health Subordinate Services to the State Service;

- Amendment in Rajasthan Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 to ensure better salary payments to the Assistant Statistical Officer (Agriculture) and the Statistical Assistant of Agriculture department;
- Amendment in Rajasthan Assembly Secretariat (Recruitment & Service Conditions) Rules, 1992 for relaxation in experience from 3 years to 2 years for promotion.

Four New Tehsils, Two Sub Tehsil Formed

Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal of forming new tehsils in four districts and sub tehsils in two districts of Rajasthan. CM had announced for establishing these new revenue units during the Budget Session of the State Assembly.

As per the proposal,

- **Sikari** sub tehsil in [Bharatpur](#),
- **Sidhmukh** in [Churu](#),
- **Mania** in [Dholpur](#)
- **Delwara** in [Rajasmand district](#)

will be upgraded as tehsils.

Also,

- **Halena** gram panchayat in [Bharatpur](#)
- **Bhandarej** panchayat in [Dausa district](#)

would be given sub tehsil status.

This decision would result in easy access of revenue administration to the locals for raising and disposal of their revenue related matters.

Bal Sabha initiative in Rajasthan

Recently, the [state government of Rajasthan](#) has introduced Bal Sabha initiative, as an attempt to bring out and sharpen talent among young students in government schools and to provide them with a platform to perform and a weekly occasion to their parents, villagers and local representatives to interact with the school teachers, to know about the working of the school.

The sabhas have now become an awaited event every week for the students, parents, locals as well as teachers.

Earlier, the sabhas were restricted only to school premises and were meant for only primary and middle-level students. Bal Sabha now have expanded to the local community, proving itself as a platform for students to perform and for parents and locals to appreciate them as well as to get feedback on the working of school.

Additionally, the students are also showing an inclination to learn the arts on the verge of extinction and the Bal Sabha is coming up as a platform for the students in government schools to perform.

Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council REPCC Notified

The [Rajasthan state government](#) has notified the **Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council (REPCC)** to provide guidance to the exporters and coordinate between different industrial organizations, exporters or various state government departments to remove difficulties in export of various goods and services. Additionally, the government has also notified, setting-up of yet another council, named **Rajasthan Export Promotion Council** to develop, promote and support export-oriented industries along with allied activities in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council (REPCC)

Chief Secretary will chair the 19-member Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council and the Additional Chief Secretary Industries will be the Deputy Chair. Additional Chief Secretaries of Transport, Mines & Minerals, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Finance departments along with Principal Secretaries of MSME, Tourism, Forest & Environment, Energy and Labour & Employment departments will be the members of this body. Commissioners of Commercial Taxes (GST) and the Bureau of Investment Promotion and Managing Director of Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd will also be the members, while Commissioner Industries will be the Member Secretary.

For managing day-to-day affairs of the Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council, a four-member Management Committee would be constituted under the chairmanship of Commissioner Industries. Additional Director (Export) of the Industries department will be the Member Secretary of this committee .

Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council (REPCC) will also have two members of the Rajasthan Export Promotion Council as its members. The state government will further nominate the representatives and experts from the industry to the Coordination Council from time to time.

Major Functions of REPCC:

The Council will support in developing basic infrastructural facilities required for expansion of export from Rajasthan and coordinate with various departments and enterprises of the Government of India for promotion of exports. It will also play important role in organizing international, national or state-level fairs & exhibitions, workshops, conventions, business meets or seminars etc for expansion of export business.

The Coordination Council will constitute sector-wise committees or special panels for development of businesses in handicraft, textiles, agriculture, gems-jewelry sectors or region-wise committees for Mewar, Marwar, Hadauti and Shekhawati regions.

Rajasthan Export Promotion Council

The Chief Minister has approved for setting-up of the Rajasthan Export Promotion Council under the Companies Act, 2013.

Major Responsibilities:

Major responsibility of the Rajasthan Export Promotion Council will be to provide technical guidance and sharing of information and expert advice in regard to the demand of exports for various products, formalities required to be completed, coordination, counseling or financial support along with arrangements of conventions, business meetings and seminars, publication and distribution of promotional literature and providing international or national platforms to the exporters and other businessmen for promotion of their trades.

Rajasthan State Wetland Authority

On 10th April 2018, [Rajasthan Government](#) had issued notification for State Wetland Authority to be setup under the Central Government Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2019. However, there has been no information on working of the authority.

In November 2019, after the [recent deaths of more than 18000 birds in Sambhar Lake](#) in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot ordered the authority to be made operational at the earliest.

Rajasthan has a number of both [fresh & saline lakes](#) supporting unique ecosystems, including [Sambhar & keoladeo Ghana that have the prestigious Ramsar Convention Wetland status](#). However, still the successive state governments have neglected the protection of natural ecosystem of lakes.

State Wetland Authority

- Will be headed by state environment minister.
- Would comprise chief secretary, additional chief secretary (ACS), urban development and housing (UDH), ACS (revenue) and principal secretary (tourism), principal secretary (local self-government) and senior officials and experts from 12 departments.
- Will also include one expert each in the field of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics to be nominated by the state government.

Once functional, the authority will develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence, recommend additional prohibited activities for specific wetlands, define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands, and undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.

Avian botulism behind death of migratory birds at Sambhar Lake: Report

The mass death of migratory birds at the Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan occurred due to **avian botulism**, a disease caused by a bacteria that affects nerves, a report of Bareilly's Indian Veterinary Research Institute confirmed.

Digital museum at State assembly

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the project for the digital museum in the state assembly. The museum will depict the history of the state from freedom movement and contribution of eminent political leaders from the state.

Rare Great Bittern sighted in Bundi wetland

Great Bittern or Eurasian Bittern — has been sighted in the Ramnagar wetland in Bundi district. Bird experts claim that the unusual bird is slow moving and shy and has made its way for the first time to the arid land of Rajasthan, after having made its appearance in and around Delhi and once in Dehradun in 2002 and 2016.

Usually, having its habitat in wetlands of middle Europe and North Africa, Great Bittern is likely to have travelled around 4,400 miles to reach the wetlands in Bundi district, the bird experts believe.

Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India (WASCA) project

Jodhpur and Dungarpur have been identified as pilot districts for the Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India (WASCA) project. The agreement was signed between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Ministry of External Affairs, India. The bilateral project between government of India and GIZ, Germany, will have ministry of rural development and Jal Shakti ministry as the executing agencies.

State government declares 1,388 villages drought affected

The state government has issued notification declaring 1,388 villages under 13 tehsils of [Barmer](#), [Jaisalmer](#), [Jodhpur](#) and [Hanumangarh](#) as drought affected. Under the notification:

- 131 villages of Barmer district have been declared as 'severe drought' affected and 92 villages are 'moderately drought' affected.
- In Jaisalmer, 632 villages have been declared as 'severe' and 40 villages are 'moderately' drought affected.

- In Jodhpur, 13 villages have been declared as 'severe' and 297 villages as 'moderately drought-prone'.
- In Hanumangarh, 182 villages have been declared as severely drought affected and 1 village as moderately drought affected.

Rajasthan Government establishes Jawahar Lal Nehru Bal Sahitya Academy

To mark the 130th birth anniversary of first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru, the Rajasthan Chief Minister announced that the government will establish JawaharLal Nehru Bal Sahitya Academy to promote a sense of service towards nation and society among our children. It will also distribute children's literature to the them.

Rajasthan Government notifies CSR authority

In November 2019, the [State Government](#) has notified Rajasthan CSR Authority to guide, monitor, and partner companies for achieving scale and improving efficiency in implementing social welfare projects. The authority will create a mechanism for the government and the companies to come together to take up welfare projects jointly for achieving scale and impact.

The three-tier authority will be represented by the chief minister, chief secretary, additional chief secretary of industries, and commissioner of industries besides senior officials from various departments.

Family courts to come up in six districts

In November 2019, the Rajasthan government has issued a notification to establish family courts in six districts of the state. The courts will be setup in Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur Ajmer and Alwar. These courts will hear cases referred by the Rajasthan High Court.

According to another notification, the state government has also notified to establish senior civil judge and additional chief judicial magistrate courts in Barmer and Jhalawar. Both the courts will have powers to hear civil cases of the districts.

6-member advisory panel for peace cell set-up

In November 2019, the state government has set up a six-member advisory committee for the peace and non-violence cell, which was formally launched at the Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board on October 2 to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The members of the committee include four experts:

- Former chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) D R Mehta,
- Former advocate general (AG) of Rajasthan G S Bafna,
- Health activist Dharamveer Katewa &
- Gandhian Manish Sharma.

Retired IAS officer S S Bissa is the cell's coordinator and Lalit Bhagat has been appointed deputy secretary of the peace and non-violence cell.

Toll tax on private vehicles reinstalled

In November 2019, the public works department (PWD) issued a notification reintroducing toll tax on private four-wheelers on the state highways. The previous state government had exempted 55 state highways from collecting toll from April 1, 2018, which had resulted in a loss of nearly Rs 172 crore.

Prior to the exemption, the state highways were collecting Rs 851 crore yearly, which was utilised in the maintenance and construction work of roads. The revenue earned from the toll tax would help strengthen the roads network and also contribute towards the upkeep of the state highways. ([TOI](#))

Shakti-2019

Shakti 2019 was conducted from October 31 till November 13 at the Mahajan Field Firing Range. Shakti is a biennial exercise, conducted alternately in India and France by Armies of both countries.

Rajasthan Monsoon 2019: Report (September NEWS)

- The state has received 34.7% more rainfall this year.
- Average Rainfall - 675.96 mm (2018 - 493.47 mm).
- Pratapgarh district received 1136.88mm rainfall, the highest in the state this year.
- Sriganganagar with 112.99mm was at the lowest position.
- Katli river that passes through Sikar and Jhunjhunu got water after almost 25 years.
- District-wise Rainfall Distribution:
 - **Abnormal Rainfall:** Ajmer, Bundi, Rajsamand.
 - **Excess Rainfall:** Baran, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Chury, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pall, Pratapgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Tonk and Udaipur
 - **Normal Rainfall:** Banswara, Barmer, Bikaner, Dausa, Dholpur, Jaisalmer, Jalore and Sirohi
 - **Deficient Rainfall:** Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Alwar, Bharatpur and Karauli.

International Army Scouts Master Competition

The Indian Army team has topped in all the three stages of the International Army Scouts Master Competition held in Jaisalmer Military Station. Russia and China bagged the second and third position, respectively. Teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Uzbekistan, Russia, Sudan, Kazakhstan are participating in the fifth edition of Army International ScoutMasters competition being held for the first time in India from 5 to 16 August.

Operation Alert

[BSF](#) started Operation Alert in the entire western border including Rajasthan following inputs from intelligence department about the possibility of armed terrorists entering India on Independence Day coupled with the current situation in Kashmir valley and LOC. It will continue till August 21.

Films based on Raj get National Award

Two films based on the state have won National Award.

- In Best Environmental Film category 'Machli' - the world's famous tiger was declared as a winner.
- Another movie 'Turtle' based on the water crisis in Rajasthan won award.

Agri Centres of Excellence in NEWS

Recently, the Agricultural Centers of Excellence opened by last government have been news for questions pertaining their misplacement. For RAS Examination, it is important to note the locations-

- Centre for Citrus Fruits | [Kota](#)
- Centre for Pomegranate | Bassi, [Jaipur](#)
- Centre for Dates | [Jaisalmer](#)
- Centre for Guavas | [Tonk](#)
- Centre for Oranges | [Jhalawar](#)
- Centre for Mangoes | [Dholpur](#)
- Centre for Vegetables | [Bundi](#)
- Centre for Custard Apple | [Chittorgarh](#)
- Centre for Flowers | [Sawai Madhopur](#)

These centers were established after an agreement between the government of Israel and that of Rajasthan, the former decided to help the latter establish nine Centres of Excellence in the desert state. These centres were meant for agricultural produce — fruits and vegetables — and money was invested for research, development and cold storage. The centres were meant to be opened in places where the particular crop is grown on priority, to help the farmers excel.

Rajasthan High Court bans Single Use Plastic in its Premises

Rajasthan High Court bans Single Use Plastic in its Premises: On 28th September, Rajasthan High Court has decided not to use banned single-use plastic and thermocol products on the premises of all courts and in its canteens across the state.

A circular published on the High Court website, takes note of the ill-effects of plastics on human life & environment and acknowledges the ineffectivity (on ground) of ban imposed on use of plastic carry bags across the State in the year 2010 by the [Government of Rajasthan](#). Further, it endorsed the ban on single-use plastic by the Centre across the Nation from 2nd October, 2019 and recognized that without public awareness and commitment, this step may also result in futility.

As per the circular, the the Full Court has unanimously resolved not to use the banned single use plastic/thermocool products as a mark of respect to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary and in the interest of the institution and public at large.

This implies that the ban will extend to all courts in the state, High Court Guest House at Jaipur and Jodhpur, canteens and restaurants operating inside the premises of Courts as well as official functions, conferences and any other occasion.

Banned Items

The circular has also listed banned single use plastic & other products.

1. Less than 200 ml. drinking water PET/PETE bottles having liquid holding capacity.
2. Plastic Mineral Water Pouch
3. Plastic Bags (With Handle / Without Handle)
4. One time use / single use disposable items made up of Thermocol (Polystyrene) or Plastic e.g. dish, spoon, cups, plates, glasses, fork, bowl, container.
5. Disposable dish / bowl used for packaging foods in hotels and Straw
6. Any Compostable Plastic Bags except for Plant nursery horticulture, agriculture & handling of solid waste.
7. Use of Plastic & Thermocol for decoration purpose
8. Any other article banned from time to time by the competent authorities.

Before this, the Full Court of Calcutta High Court had also banned single-use plastic in its premises w.e.f. 01.10.2019 by way of a resolution passed on September 23, 2019. The ban will extend to the Circuit Benches of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri and at Port Blair.

Two projects from Rajasthan get water mission awards

Rajasthan's Narmada Canal Project and Indira Gandhi Nahar Project phase II at Tejpur have been awarded first and second prize at National Water Mission awards in the category of the water conservation, efficient water use and sustainable water management practices by the ministry of Jal Shakti. The ministry also took the note of changing crop pattern like cultivation of pomegranate becomes which is financially more viable. These awards are given to projects running in states which have introduced technological changes to bring prosperity in their respective regions.

E-buses to ply on Jaipur-Delhi route from November

From November, passengers can ride in electric buses (e-buses) to be operated by the Rajasthan State Roadways Transport Corporation (RSRTC). Also, these buses would start from Bikaner House, Delhi to Central Bus stand, Jaipur. It may be recalled that in June the central government had sought proposals from state transport departments for the deployment of 5,000 electric buses, to be supported under the Fame II scheme. The selected cities will be offered a subsidy of 40% on cost, or up to Rs 55 lakh per a standard bus of 10-12 metres.

Jaipur gets fresh Nirbhaya squad

The Jaipur police inducted a fresh batch of 20 bike-borne women constables as part the "Nirbhaya" squad. One bike will have two constables. They are highly trained to chase accused, use weapons and administrate first aid. Chief minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off the fresh batch of bikes which help cops keep a strong vigil outside girl's schools, colleges, bus stands etc. In addition to provide safety to women and girls near park and cinema halls, these cops dark blue uniforms will also do patrolling at tourist spots.

Pali district launches e-magazine to provide crop info to farmers

Pali administration launched a magazine on PDF format to provide information to farmers on monthly crops, diseases relating to crops and vegetables and animal husbandry. The PDF would be shared in various social networking groups by senior officers of medical and health, revenue, agriculture, animal husbandry and other government departments in the district.

Rajasthan ranks 1st in free medicine scheme implementation

Rajasthan's flagship free medicine scheme secured First position in the country in the ranking issued by the National Health Mission (NHM). The scheme was launched on October 2, 2011 in the State.

Key Points:

- Performance of the states was assessed on the basis of 10 parameters like the effective implementation of Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS), stock of essential drugs, value of drugs about to expire along with other such parameters.
- NHM free drug service initiative has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) under which states & Union territories are being supported under NHM to provide free drugs to patients coming to public health facilities.

Rajasthan launches new higher education model

A new higher education model has been launched in Rajasthan for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalise the availability of resources. Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati launched the model titled **Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence (RACE)**.

RACE will give autonomy to small colleges and help them find solutions to their problems at the local level. It would effectively decentralise the decision-making power of colleges and encourage them to share physical and human resources within the district.

Jan Soochna Portal 2019 Launched

The [Rajasthan government](#) has launched a Jan Soochna Portal that will provide information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform. The portal has been developed by the information and technology department in which initially 23-24 types of information will be made available from 13 departments. Later, information relating to all the departments will be made available on the portal. The portal has been launched under the Rajasthan Innovation Vision (RAJIV) campaign.

The information will also be available through self-service kiosks (e-Mitra Plus) in rural and urban areas.

The Portal which is the first public portal of its kind in the country and is aimed to disclose information in the public domain suo-moto as per Section 4(2) of the [RTI Act](#). As per the section - "It shall be a constant endeavour of every public authority to take steps in accordance with the Act to provide as much information suo-moto to the public at regular intervals through various means of communication, including the internet, so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information".

Departments on Jan Sookhna Portal:

1. Social Justice and Empowerment Department,
2. Tribal Regional Development Department,
3. Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department,
4. Department of Elementary Education and Secondary Education,
5. Labor and Employment Department,
6. Mines and Geology Department,
7. Revenue Department,
8. Medical Health and Family Welfare Department,
9. Food and Civil Supply Department,
10. Cooperatives Department,
11. Energy Department,
12. Planning, Information Technology and Communications
13. Department of Administrative Reforms

How to Use the portal

Any person seeking information has to go to the public information portal jansookhna.rajasthan.gov.in and click. On clicking, he/she will see the options of various schemes/services available (23 as of now). The person can select the scheme/service of interest and click on it. On which the person can get detailed information.

Beggar-free Jaipur

The state government will ensure making Jaipur a 'beggar-free capital' by introducing a scheme, which will involve complete facilitation and rehabilitation package for the beggars. This will ensure skill development and alternative job opportunities for them. The Rajasthan Rehabilitation of Beggars or Indigents Act was passed in 2012 and the Act came into effect in September 2014.

Earlier, it was not there in the form of a scheme. As per the Act, just a rule was notified. But, now a scheme will be introduced and it will involve a complete facilitation and rehabilitation package for the city beggars. It will be backed by a financial outlay.

New Mini-Secretariat to come up at Alwar

The state government has sanctioned an interest free loan of Rs 10 crore for the construction of a mini-secretariat at Alwar. The mini secretariat at Alwar was announced in the 2010-11 budget but has been delayed due to shortage of money.

Raj Cooperatives to offer e-mitra services

At present 1,851 village cooperative societies are providing services of e-mitra centres. Now by October 2nd, all the 6,500 village cooperative societies would be offering e-mitra services. On October 2, on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a special general body meeting of village cooperative societies will be held at all 6,500 village service committees in the state.

NCERT books to be part of State curriculum

To arrest the trend of school curriculum being tweaked whenever there is a change in the government, the state government has decided to introduce the NCERT system in government schools in a phased manner from the next academic session. Hindi and English medium books of the NCERT would be introduced in classes IX and XI from the next academic year.

But in classes X and XII, the present curriculum will continue for the next academic session (2020-21) and the NCERT curriculum will be introduced only from the academic year 2021-2022.

New SOG office to be setup

The Rajasthan police have decided to set up a dedicated office of the Special Operations Group (SOG) on the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway 8 to keep a check on gangs operating on the border of New Delhi and Haryana.

Former Chief Ministers to vacate official residences

A division bench of Rajasthan High Court struck down the Rajasthan Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Act 2017 which provided "extra facilities" to former chief ministers including lifelong government accommodation. The judgment, on the petition filed by senior journalists Milap Chand Dandiya and Vijay Bhandari, was pronounced by the bench headed by Chief Justice S Ravindra Bhat.

As per the provisions of The Rajasthan Ministers Salaries (amendment) Act, 2017, chief ministers of the state, who serve a full tenure, were eligible for a government accommodation in Jaipur or any of the district headquarters, even after they vacate office. They were also eligible for a car and a driver, a telephone and a staff of 10. In case facility is not availed by ex-CM, government was to reimburse a fixed monthly amount.

The court held that above clauses are "arbitrary" and "contrary to Article 14" (the right to equality) of the Constitution. Accordingly, the provisions of the impugned law is "unconstitutional", the bench ruled.

Rajasthan first state in India to provide E-sign services

The Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) of the Centre has declared RajComp Info Services Limited (RISL) under the Rajasthan government as the certification authority (CA) for providing E-sign services/facilities to other states of the country and its citizens.

Through E-sign facility, public can avail government services/schemes by signing the applications, documents or certificates online, instead of signing the papers manually by taking a print out. E-sign facility was earlier used in the state at the government's department-to-department level.

This will also help in promoting paperless system in state departments, ensuring transparency and saving time and state government's money. Currently 3 to 5 lakh documents are e-signed in the state daily. Now, this number is estimated to increase to about 10 lakh.

Walled city of Jaipur gets UNESCO World Heritage Tag

On 6th July 2019, the Walled City of [Jaipur](#), known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, made its entry into the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. The announcement was made after the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC), underway at Baku (Azerbaijan) from June 30 to July 10, examined the nomination of the Walled City of Jaipur for inclusion in the World Heritage list.

About Jaipur

Jaipur was founded in 1727 CE under [Sawai Jai Singh II](#). Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture. The streets feature continuous colonnaded businesses that intersect in the centre, creating large public squares called *chaupars*. Markets, stalls, residences and temples built along the main streets have uniform facades. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and modern Mughal as well as Western cultures. The grid plan is a model that prevails in the West, while the organization of the different districts refers to traditional Hindu concepts. Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.

UNESCO World Heritage

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

The World Heritage Committee is composed of representatives of 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention who meet annually. The Committee is in charge of implementing the Convention. To date, 1,092 sites in 167 countries have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

UNESCO World Heritage sites: Rajasthan

Cultural (3)

- Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013)
- The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)
- Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019)

Natural (0)

Mixed (0)

Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Live on Social Media

The [Rajasthan Assembly](#) has become the first [state assembly](#) of the country to share the proceeding of Vidhan Sabha live on social-media. State Assembly Secretary, Mr. Pramil Kumar Mathur, said that for the first time in the second session of the 15th Vidhan Sabha, the entire proceedings of the assembly on the You-Tube have been started from 28th June.

Since the beginning of this channel, the general public will see the proceedings of the assembly uninterrupted. This is a new initiative in terms of transparency in the work of government. From live broadcast, the public will be able to see the problems, speeches and speeches of the people raised by the public representative in the house, which will also assess the role of the representatives.

CM inaugurates two units of Chhabra Power Plant

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the 5th and 6th units of Chhabra super critical Thermal Power Plant in Chhabra block, Baran. With the commencement of two units, the [power generation capacity](#) in Chhabra Thermal Power Plant has increased to 2,320. The 5th and 6th units of Chhabra thermal power plant is the first project in the state based on super critical technique.

25th Bhamashah Awards ceremony

- Chief minister Ashok Gehlot awarded Bhamashah Shiksha Vibhushan to Surendra Tatarwal and Suresh Ola, two government servants who took out time from their busy schedule to develop 101 educational mobile applications.

- Highest amount in the field of education was donated by Hindustan Zinc Limited's Chanderiya Lead-Zinc Smelter, Chittorgarh. They donated Rs 12.2 crore.
- A total of 121 people were felicitated at Bhamashah Awards ceremony.

6 Great Indian Bustard eggs found

After many years, the Wildlife Institute of India and the desert national park teams have found six eggs of godawan at Jaisalmer's DNP and Ramdeora closure. These eggs have been taken for incubation at the artificial hatching centre set up temporarily in Sam area.

It is worth mentioning that for the first time in the world, an egg collection and artificial hatching centre has been set up in Ramdeora, with the help of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun.

SMS Jaipur to be ready for heart transplant

Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, Jaipur is all set to become the first government-run hospital to develop heart transplant facility in Rajasthan.

Government schools to plant trees equal to number of enrolments

To raise awareness about the environment and encourage afforestation, Rajasthan education minister Govind Singh Dotasra announced a new initiative, called as 'Vraksha Mitra Abhiyan'. Under this campaign trees, equal to the number of enrolments in each school, will be planted by government schools in this session.

Niti Aayog's report on health indicators

Niti Aayog's recent report 'Healthy States, Progressive India' ranked Rajasthan at second place following Haryana (ranked at the top) in incremental performance (from 2015-16 to 2017-18) on

improving health indicators. This is a jump of six positions from eighth position in among 21 states in previous report.

Right to Health

State government is planning to bring Right to Health Act. The right to health will ensure that even the most underprivileged person in the state gets treatment.

Rajasthan HC Judges Strength

The number of sanctioned posts of judges at the Rajasthan High Court was increased from 40 to 50 four years ago, but at present the combined strength (including chief justice) at its principal seat in Jodhpur and the bench in Jaipur is 24. This is less than 50% of the sanctioned posts. As a result of this shortfall, the number of pending cases have increased up to 4 lakh till April 2019.

Seventh Economic census

A state-level coordination committee has been constituted to conduct the seventh economic census 2019. This committee will work towards ensuring and streamlining the process of acquiring and recording information in a systematic way and within scheduled time. The process collating data will be done by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the state.

Status of Tiger in India Report 2018 - Rajasthan

Prime Minister Modi released the results of the fourth cycle of **All India Tiger Estimation - 2018** on the occasion of **Global Tiger Day-2019**.

- Out of the five landscapes, Rajasthan has been categorised under the Central India Landscape and Eastern-Ghats covering eight states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan).
- **With 69 tigers**, [Rajasthan](#) stands 9th position in the predatory feline population across the country.
- In Central India Landscape and Eastern-Ghats (among 8 states)– Rajasthan stands 3rd in tiger population.

4th Cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves in India 2018

The Prime Minister also released report of the 4th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEETR) on the 29th of July. The report assesses the tiger conservation efforts through globally accepted management effectiveness framework. As per report,

- Rajasthan has three tiger reserves - Ranthambore, Sariska & Mukundara Hills.

Individual Scores:

Protected Area	MEE Score	Rating
Ranthambore	59.38%	Fair
Sariska	58.59%	Fair
Mukundara Hills	49.22%	Fair
Overall Rajasthan	55.73%	Fair

Illegal Mining in Aravali's

The Aravali Hills are believed to date back 350 million years, making them even older than the Himalayas. They stretch for some 800 kilometers (430 miles) from Delhi across the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana.

Aravali's Help in Environment

- They act as a barrier to the spread of the Thar Desert, play an important role in the recharge of groundwater and are home to a vast array of biodiversity including many forests and 20 wildlife sanctuaries.
- The Aravalis have lots of cracks and fissures, and these cracks and fissures serve as a groundwater recharge area.
- The hills are also as a barrier to increased pollution in Delhi.

- The Aravalis are home to a vast array of biodiversity including many forests and 20 wildlife sanctuaries.

However, in recent times, they are under threat.

A 2018 report by the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to determine the current state of the Aravalis, found that 31 out of the 128 hills located in Rajasthan have vanished in last 50 years due to illegal quarrying.

A 2017 report published by Indian Audits and Accounts Department detected 7,959 cases of silicosis — a lung disease caused by inhaling crystalline silica dust — in Rajasthan between January 2015 and February 2017, with 449 deaths across five districts in the state. The report additionally noted 2,548 mining sites where workers were prone to develop silicosis.

Expansion of Thar Desert

On June 17, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) shared a report to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification.

- The report reveals that the spurt in economic activities in the desert districts has shattered the fragile landscape, impacting its residents directly.
- The report made the astonishing claim that 14.88-million-hectare land in 12 western Rajasthan districts suffered from different kinds of land degradation contributing to desertification.
- The report has studied the features of desertification: wind erosion / deposition, water erosion, salinity / alkalinity, waterlogging and vegetation degradation to conclude that the situation may take decades to reverse the damage.
- The biggest reason contributing to desertification turned out to be water erosion.
- What made the situation worse is human-induced activities like fast urbanization, deforestation, mining, indiscriminate use of groundwater, rise in livestock population and the hot summers leading to evaporation. This has accelerated desertification.
- The destruction of vegetative cover due to overgrazing, felling of trees, etc. have accelerated the removal of sediments from the catchment areas of waterbodies as well as loosening of farm soil, which has speed up desertification.

Project Misaal: District Hospital Rankings

According to the June month's ranking issued by the health department. The rankings are issued under the project Misaal, which is health department's initiative to instil sense of competitiveness into the officials.

- In ranking of districts is concerned, [Sikar](#) has secured top place for the 13th time in monthly rankings issued by health department.
- The BKD hospital in Jhunjhunu is the best district hospital.
- The district hospital in Dungarpur has placed at the last place in the list, which is 27.

World Nature Conservation Day

World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on July 28. Rajasthan's 10 Conservation Reserves (CR) meant to protect wildlife and trees.

Conservation Reserves in Rajasthan

S.NO	Conservation Reserve	Area (Sq.KM)	Districts
1	Bisalpur Conservation Reserve	48.31	Tonk
2	Jodbeed Gadhwala Bikaner CR	56.4	Bikaner
3	Sundhamata Conservation Reserve	117.4	Jalore, Sirohi
4	Gudha Vishnoiyan CR	2.31	Jodhpur
5	Shakambari Conservation Reserve	131	Sikar, Jhunjunu
6	Gogelav Conservation Reserve	3.58	Nagaur
7	Beed Jhunjunu Conservation Reserve	10.4	Jhunjunu

8	Rotu Conservation Reserve	0.72	Nagaur
9	Jawai Bandh	19.78	Pali
10	Ummed Ganj Conservation Reserve	2.78	Kota
11	Khetri-Bansyal Conservation Reserve	70.18	Jhunjunu

Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in Rajasthan

- Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign was launched in Rajasthan from July 22, 2019.
- The health department is planning to vaccinate 2.25 crore children in the state in five to six weeks.
- MR vaccine was included in routine immunisation in Rajasthan from January 2019 and has been launched as a campaign to eradicate MR with more than 95% coverage.

Why Measles Rubella Vaccination necessary

As per [Dr SK Garg from state health department](#), Measles results in pneumonia and diarrhoea, which is the major contributor in under-5 mortality. Similarly, if pregnant woman is affected with Rubella then it can result in abortion, still birth and even if she delivers, the baby could be blind, deaf or suffer from some disability.

Makrana Marble gets Heritage Stone Tag

International Union of Geological Science has listed Makrana marble as Global Heritage Stone Resource. The designation signifies international recognition of those natural stone resources that have achieved widespread utilisation in human culture.

What makes Makrana Marble Unique

Makrana marble holds a unique place owing to its visual appeal and homogenous monomineralic attributes. Its crystalline, compact and interlocking texture renders it less porous and enhances its durability. Makrana Marble is perhaps the best available marble in the world having 95-98% calcium carbonate with almost negligible amount of iron content. These qualities have made the Makrana marble an ideal material for monuments and buildings.

Reason behind name Makrana

Taj Mahal was probably the first monument in which marble from Makrana was used. It is believed that for construction of Taj Mahal, artisans came from the Mekran city of Iran and thus the place derived its name as Makrana.

Monuments made from Makrana Marble

- Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial of Kolkata, Red Fort (both Delhi and Agra), Humayun's Tomb, Akbar's Tomb in India.
- Monuments outside the country like Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi and Moti Masjid, Lahore.

Tourism in Rajasthan: Numbers

Tourist arrivals in Rajasthan surged by 21% in last three years, making it a favoured destination for both domestic and international visitors. Over 5.19 crore domestic and international tourists visited the state with a royal essence in 2018, an increase of nearly 90,000 visitors from 2016.

The number of international tourists increased by 15.9% between 2016 and 2018. The number of domestic visitors too rose by 21.06% during the period.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is still among the four states with highest TFR in the category of large states (a group of 21 states) as TFR remains the same from 2016-17 to 2017-18. The report by Niti Aayog, shows that the TFR in 2015-16 was 2.7 which remained the same in 2017-18.

TFR represents the number of children that would be born to a woman if she experiences the current fertility rate throughout her reproductive age of 15 to 49 years. The desired or replacement level TFR is 2.1

Rajasthani languages on the verge of extinction

A study by Bhasha Centre of Excellence, Baroda, under the Union ministry of tribal affairs, has listed 11 languages under the endangered ones, including the three from Rajasthan. These languages are— Dhatti, Thali and Dharvadi.

Reasons identified for their crisis:

The apathy of the state, urbanization and migration has left these languages ‘unpopular’ among the next generation of native speakers, causing irreversible damage to their culture, customs and rituals.

Dhatti

- Dhatti language is traditionally spoken by Maheswaris, Meghwals and Sodha Rajput communities in the undivided Thar desert, comprising Sindh in Pakistan and Barmer in Jaisalmer.

Thali

- Thali is spoken in village Dhabla in Jaisalmer.
- It is part of Marwari language and has the influence of Dhatti and Marwari.

Dhavadi

- Dhavadi is spoken in villages in Udaipur.
- It is a hybrid of the Mewari and Vagadi languages.

Why loss of any language is crucial

The loss of language translated to a loss of civilization. With the loss of language, customs, phrases, folksongs, rituals that are associated with it will be lost. We will not be able to revive it after a while. It will disappear from day-to-day life as the usage of it in various forms—to denote weights and

measures, lullabies, folksongs and passed through generations to depict history and mythology—disappears. This makes it even more important to preserve this language when we still have time.

Illegal sand mining in Rajasthan

Despite Supreme Court ban, illegal sand mining continues unabated in Rajasthan. Rajasthan stands second in the country in terms of illegal sand mining cases registered in 2018-19. In response to a question in Lok Sabha, Union mines minister Prahlad Joshi said that 17,118 cases were registered in Rajasthan, while Uttar Pradesh tops the chart with 24,445 cases.

The state police has only lodged 2,620 FIRs between 2016 and 2019. Where in state like Tamil Nadu, 22,956 FIRs have been lodged. A close examination of Rajasthan police's mining cases reveals the probe is confined only to the seizure of the vehicle under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act. As per the data, the state government also seized 29,3846 vehicles for illegally ferrying bajri.

7th Commission scale for five agricultural universities

Rajasthan government, announced pay scale in line with Seventh Pay Commission for teachers, librarians and physical education directors of five agricultural universities and a veterinary science university in Rajasthan. The proposal for the new pay scale, will be payable with effect from January 1, 2017.

Vedic Sanskar and Shikshan Board (VSSB)

Rajasthan State Government has decided to form a Vedic Sanskar and Shikshan Board (VSSB) to revive the ancient practices related to education, philosophy and healthcare. The government formed a committee to define its aim, objective and functioning. Once the committee will submit its report, the department will constitute the board and appoint its members.

The task of the board will be to create awareness in schools on Vedic sciences. The state has Vedic schools but their curriculum is restricted to chanting of verses only. "These Vedic schools will run in the format of Guru-Shishya parampara with residential facilities. It will deal with meditation, yoga along with subjects like science, mathematics, and Sanskrit for research," said Garg. Besides, budding writers and scholars will be provided with an opportunity to publish their books, articles and engage in discourse with other scholars.

Other than spreading scientific temperament, the board will also aim to revive the old value system or sanskar. The committee members are expected to create a mechanism for spreading the values prevalent in the Vedic period like 16 sanskars-- Garbadhan, Punsavan to Antim sanskar.

Mental Healthcare Authority

State government has decided to constitute a State Mental Health Authority (SMHA) under the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 to look after the system of mental health services in Rajasthan. After the formation of SMHA, no person or organisation will be able to establish or run a mental health establishment unless it has been registered with the authority under the provisions of the Act. Additionally, the minimum quality standards of mental health services will be as specified by regulations made by the state authority. SMHA will work with an objective to provide mental healthcare and services for persons with mental disorders and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services.

Income Criteria under RTE raised

The state education department has raised the income criteria from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh to help poor families admit their wards in private schools under the Right to Education Act. The RTE Act mandates that every private school has to allocate up to 25% seats for economically weaker sections and marginalised groups.

The rule comes into effect from the next academic session. The state has close to 2.25 lakh RTE seats in 33,500 private schools. The state government pays around Rs 12,500 per student in such cradles.

Alwar to be divided into 2 Police districts.

CM Ashok Gehlot reiterated during the budget session that Alwar will be divided into two police districts. There will be a separate superintendent of police (SP) for the newly formed Bhiwadi police district, which is presently a part of the Alwar district police.

Budget for English Medium Schools

Rajasthan government released the budget for the newly opened Mahatma Gandhi Rajkiya Vidyalaya, Rajasthan's first English-medium government school. The Bikaner directorate of education had issued orders on June 14, 2019, to open one English-medium school till Class VIII in every district

headquarter, which will operate in existing government school buildings across the state. About 33 schools have been opened in every district headquarter in the state and Rs 1.25 lakh per school have been allotted.

Rajiv Gandhi Career Portal

Rajasthan School Education Minister Govind Singh Dotasara launched 'Rajiv Gandhi Career Portal' for students from classes 9 to 12. The portal aims to provide career guidance with information on entrance examinations, scholarships and employment-oriented courses. The first-of-its-kind in the country, portal is developed with support from UNICEF.

The portal will provide information to students on over 200 vocational, 237 professional courses besides online information on over 455 employment areas, 10,000 colleges in the country, 960 scholarship schemes and over 955 entrance examinations.

HC Stays incentive for doctors working in rural areas

Giving a relief to nearly 2,500 doctors serving in rural areas, a division bench of Rajasthan High Court ordered to continue the 10% incentive marks for the purposes of determining their merit at the NEET PG 2019 examination for admissions into PG medical courses to these doctors. The bench thus quashed the earlier order of March 15, which mentioned, "Bonus marks as incentive based on service in rural areas for admission to PG medical courses cannot therefore be granted."

HC notice to Centre over sale of GM food article

Rajasthan High Court has issued notice to the Union cabinet secretary, Union food and environment ministries over the sale of food article using genetically modified (GM) agriculture produce. The division bench of Justice M Rafiq and NS Dhaddha issued notice on a PIL. The petitioner asserted that Food Safety and Standard Act 2006 bans the production, sale and distribution of food items using genetically modified agriculture produce. But on February 9 last year, the Union ministry of health and family welfare in a reply in Parliament said so far, no rules have been made for the prevention of the sale of food items made out genetically modified agriculture produce. The petitioner said, GM food article are sold and imported in large quantity to the country taking advantage of the loop holes in the system.

A survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi found that GM products are rampantly used in in the country causing serious health hazards to the citizens.

Rajasthan Day 2019

Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on March 30 to commemorate the day on which the state of Rajasthan came into existence. Rajasthan Day commemorates the valour, strong willpower and sacrifice of the people of Rajasthan. Rajasthan earlier known as Rajputana came into existence on March 30, 1949.

Rajasthan, currently, the largest state of India in terms of the area, before Independence comprised of around 21 small and big princely states.

Summary of Stages of Formation of Rajasthan:

S.	Name of Group	States	Date of Integration
1	Matsya Union	Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli	17-03-1948
2	Rajasthan Union	Banswara, Bundi, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Kishangarh, Kota(Capital), Pratapgarh, Shahpura, Tonk.	25-03-1948
3	United State of Rajasthan	Udaipur also joined with the other Union of Rajasthan.	18-04-1948
4	Greater Rajasthan	Bikaner, Jaipur, Jaisalmer & Jodhpur also joined with the United State of Rajasthan.	30-03-1949
5	United State of Greater Rajasthan	Matsya Union also merged in Greater Rajasthan	15-05-1949
6	United Rajasthan	18 States of United Rajasthan merged with Princely State Sirohi except Abu and Delwara.	26-01-1950

7	Re-organized Rajasthan	Under the State Re-organisation Act, 1956 the erstwhile part 'C' State of Ajmer, Abu Road Taluka, former part of princely State Sirohi which was merged in former Bombay, State and Sunel Tappa region of the former Madhya Bharat merged with Rajasthan and Sironj subdistrict of Jhalawar district was transferred to Madhya Pradesh.	11/01/56
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Kaam Maango Abhiyaan generates record person days in Rajasthan

With the introduction of 'Kaam Mango Abhiyaan' under the **MGNREGA scheme** by the state's rural development department on January 5, 2019, the state has generated record persondays of almost 30 crore in 2018-19.

Person Days Generated

- 2011-12 - 21.20cr
- 2012-13 - 22.03cr
- 2013-14 - 18.38cr
- 2014-15 - 16.86cr
- 2015-16 - 23.41cr
- 2016-17 - 25.96cr
- 2017-18 - 23.97cr
- **2018-19 - 29.42cr**

After introduction of Kaam Mango Abhiyaan

- 2019
 - Jan-Feb - 4.2cr
 - Feb-March - 13.2cr

UNIDO to spend 1.6 million dollar in Jaipur

In order to enhance sustainable development in Jaipur city, a team of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) while visiting the Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) office announced to spend 1.6 million dollar for the Pink City.

This is a nationwide project in which five cities — Jaipur, Mysore, Guntur, Bhopal and Vijiyawada — have been chosen, where UNIDO will provide financial help for developing infrastructure sustainably. The World Bank, UNIDO and Global Environment Facility, are financing it, to give Indian cities an integrated approach to sustainable development.

Rajasthan Police Day

Rajasthan Police Diwas was celebrated on May 27 at Rajasthan Police Academy. A ceremonial parade at parade ground led by IPS officer Dr Amrita kickstarted the celebrations.

District ranking in performance in Rural Schemes revealed

Recently, the ranking of 33 districts of state in overall performance with respect to all the schemes under rural development and panchayati raj department, was released. The ranking is an evaluation of their performance with respect to various schemes like MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), rural development and panchayati raj schemes, Swachh Bharat Mission - Rural and Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) for the year 2018-19.

- Ajmer topped the list among 33 districts, with 56.51 points, having scored 16 out of 40 under MGNREGA, 12.5 out of 18 under PMAY-G and scoring 15 out of 15 under Rajeevika scheme.
- Jhunjhunu dropped a place to finish second.
- Bhilwara jumped 10 places to become third on the list.
- Jaipur ranked 16th, a jump of four places compared to previous ranking.

**Released 19th May – Latest

SRS Bulletin May 2019

The Sample Registration System (SRS) is a large-scale demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of Infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility & mortality indicators at the national and subnational levels.

Infant mortality rate

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which is widely accepted as a crude indicator of the overall health scenario of a country or a region, is defined as the infant deaths (less than one year) per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region. The present level of IMR (33 infant deaths per thousand live births, for the year 2017) is about one-fourth as compared to 1971 (129 infant deaths per thousand live births).

For Rajasthan, the newly issued report of SRS bulletin 2019 shows that it has gone down to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births from 41 deaths in 2017.

Birth rate

Birth Rate is a crude measure of fertility of a population and is a crucial determinant of population growth. The Birth Rate at all India level has declined drastically over the last four decades from 36.9 in 1971 to 20.2 in 2017.

For Rajasthan, the birth rate stands at 24.1

Death Rate

Rajasthan has achieved slow progress in bringing down mortality rate in comparison to national average. Recently released Centre's Sample Registration System (SRS) shows the mortality rate in the state is recorded at six deaths per 1,000 people in 2017, which was seven in 2005.

While for men it is 6.6, for women it stands at 5.3. Mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths per 1,000 population in a given region and time period. Despite of the slow progress, the state is still faring better than the country.

As per SRS May 2019, Death rate is one of the simplest measures of mortality and is defined as the number of deaths per thousand population in a given region and time period. The death rate of India has witnessed a significant decline over the last four decades from 14.9 in 1971 to 6.3 in 2017.

India/States/ Union Territories	Birth rate			Death rate			Natural growth rate			Infant mortality rate		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
India	20.2	21.8	16.8	6.3	6.9	5.3	13.9	15.0	11.6	33	37	23
16. Rajasthan	24.1	25.0	21.5	6.0	6.3	5.1	18.1	18.7	16.3	38	42	28

New medical college to come up in Barmer

The Medical Council of India (MCI) has approved a medical college in Barmer. This will be the 14th government medical college in Rajasthan. The MCI has issued its letter of permission for introducing MBBS course in Barmer with 100 seats from the upcoming academic session 2019-20. Out of 100 seats, 15 seats will be reserved for All India quota, 15 for NRIs, 35 will be payment seats and 35 are free seats. Admissions will be done on merit basis. The free structure for free seat is Rs 50,000 per year, for payment seat it is Rs 7.5 lakh per annum, for NRI seat it is \$1 lakh for full course.

The Centre had approved the medical college in Barmer in 2015. The construction work of the medical college was started in 2016. It required three years for the medical college to get the nod of MCI. Recently, an MCI team had inspected the medical college recently and on the basis of the inspection, the MCI issued the letter of permission to Barmer Medical College.

In Rajasthan, there are eight existing medical colleges in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jhalawar along with RUHS Medical College in Jaipur. Besides, five new medical colleges became operation from 2018-19 academic sessions in Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Churu, Dungarpur & Pali.

Ban on e-cigarettes

The Rajasthan government has put a ban on production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarette in the state.

What are e-cigarettes?

Electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, e-vaporizers, or electronic nicotine delivery systems, are battery-operated devices that people use to inhale an aerosol, which typically contains nicotine (though not always), flavorings, and other chemicals.

Key Highlights

Background:

Six states—Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram and Maharashtra—had already banned e-cigarettes under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Food Safety & Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011. However, in Rajasthan, e-cigarettes can not only be ordered online but also be bought from some selected shops. The congress government in state had promised in its election manifesto during assembly elections 2019 that it will take steps to curb use of tobacco among youths.

About:

The government has banned both online and offline sale, storage, production, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes in Rajasthan. The decision was announced on occasion of the World No Tobacco Day which is observed on 31 May 2019.

Committee:

The State government had constituted a committee to do a detailed study on rising use of e-cigarettes which highlighted that youths are being misled by advertisements of e-cigarettes as a better alternative to tobacco cigarettes.

Significance:

Researchers have found that initially many youngsters start smoking e-cigarettes and gradually shift to tobacco cigarettes later in life. Thus the ban will be an important step to curb e-cigarette addiction among youths and will prove effective to discourage them from consumption.

Criticism:

The e-cigarettes ban is a surprise move in a state where sale of tobacco products and cigarettes is allowed. Since smoking tobacco has been found to be more dangerous than e-cigarette this raises questions whether ban is placed to safeguard interests of tobacco lobby. Also, on one hand public smoking of cigarettes is banned in state but no steps have been taken to ban chewing of tobacco.

Native Tree Species Bank

- India's first seed bank of native trees species for Thar desert will be set up in [Jodhpur](#) under project Maruvan (dessert forest).
- The seed bank will be created of all these native trees species which are fast vanishing to preserve them for future. This will be done by procuring seeds with the help of tribal communities and villagers who have been protecting sacred grooves or mini forests where the last remnants of these tree species are still intact.
- The native tree species play a crucial role as front frontier in containing further expansion of desertification and the related damaging impact of climate impact in the Thar desert.
- The introduction and massive plantation of invasive species, Vilayati Keekar (*Prosopis Juliflora*), for firewood in 1970 has replaced native species and expanded like wildfire but now with people resorting to other fuel resources, this has become a menace. The project aims for revival of native species and preservation of healthy gene pool of seeds, the healthy forests can be recreated in the Thar desert.

20 Districts of Rajasthan to get Piped Natural Gas

- 20 Districts have been granted authorization for the development of city gas distribution (CGD) system.
- Union Ministry of Natural Gas auctioned the work in two rounds (13 districts in 9th CGD round and 7 districts in 10th round).
- Till Oct 2018, Kota was the only city in the state authorised for retail gas activities (CNG & PNG) which was developed as a model city by introducing various innovative measures by Rajasthan government's agency, Rajasthan State Gas Limited (RSGL)

Districts	Authorized Company
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barmer, • Jaisalmer • Jodhpur 	Consortium of LNG Marketing Pvt Ltd & Atlantic Gulf & Pacific (AG&P)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alwar (other than Bhiwadi), Jaipur, Kota (except area already authorized), Baran Chittorgarh (only Rawatbhata block) 	Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhilwara Bundi Chittorgarh (other than Rawatbhata) Udaipur 	Adani Gas Limited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dholpur 	Essel Gas Company Limited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banswara Dungarpur Jalore Sirohi 	Gujarat Gas Limited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajmer Pali Rajsamand 	IGL

Barmer Ranks top in Per Capita Income in State

- Once considered the 'Kala Pani' of Rajasthan, [Barmer](#) has ranked 1 in the highest per capita income in the state.
- The per capita income of Barmer district touched Rs 1.28 lakh (at constant prices), which is 36% higher than the national average of Rs 82,226 in 2016-17.
- Contribution to State GDP:** [Jaipur](#) occupies first position, followed by [Barmer](#) and then [Alwar](#). Barmer has replaced the industrialized Alwar to claim second position.

Parameter	Per Capita Income 2016-17 (in INR)
Jaipur	89,731
Barmer	1,28,226

Rajasthan	69,730
India	82,229

Reasons for Barmer's rise:

- The rise of district's income can be majorly attributed to the discovery and production of crude oil.
- The share of industry sector in Barmer's economy has shot up as high as 72.55% followed by the service and agriculture sectors contributing 19.33% and 8.12%, respectively.
- Cairn India is producing 24% of India's crude from the district.
- The government, which is receiving about Rs 10 crore as oil royalty daily has also started spending on social infrastructure.

NGT puts 20 crore fine on Rajasthan government for inaction on Bandi river pollution

- The National Green Tribunal gave the Rajasthan government a fine of Rs 20 crore for failing to control pollution in the Bandi river by local textile industries.
- The bench directed the Rajasthan chief secretary to deposit the money as an interim amount within one month towards environment compensation to the Central Pollution Control Board, which may be recovered from the polluters.
- Additionally, the bench directed agriculture secretary to get an assessment done on loss of agriculture to the farmers due to the damage caused to agriculture land by use of contaminated water of the Bandi river, suggesting compensation to the farmers.
- The tribunal asked the state pollution control board to ensure that no industrial and sewage effluent is discharged into the river (even treated) and instead, it should be utilised by the industries.
- A study of surface and groundwater in Pali, conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment in 2008, had found almost 80 percent of the sample water unfit for drinking. The samples showed high alkaline and chemical oxygen demand levels, indicating dangerous levels

of organic pollutants. The quantity of total dissolved solids was four times higher than the standard.

- The case was transferred to the NGT from the Jodhpur High Court in 2012.

About Bandi River

- The Rivers Khari and Mithai meet at pickup weir of Bombadra. This confluence gives rise to the Bandi River.
- After flowing for about 45 km, it joins the Luni near the Lakhar village.
- The Hemawas dam is located near Hemawas on this river.
- The district headquarters [Pali](#) is located on the bank of Bandi.

Schemes in NEWS

IM Shakti - Indira Mahila Shakti fund

On 18th December 2019, [Chief minister](#) Ashok Gehlot launched the Indira Mahila Shakti (IM Shakti) fund, for which Rs 1,000 Crore has been allocated. This fund would help in giving loans up to Rs 1 crore to women self-help groups (SHGs) or self-dependent women to start their own businesses or set up enterprises and make them “self-reliant”.

The objective of IM Shakti fund is to strengthen women self-help groups and make women self-reliant and financially empowered.

Salient features

- The government has made a provision of granting Rs. 200 crore per year for this and during five years, a total of Rs. 1000 crore will be provided.

Different Schemes under IM Shakti Fund

Five different [schemes](#) started through the IM Shakti Fund include:

1. **Indira Mahila Shakti Udhyan Prohatsahan Yojana:**
 - Individual women or women SHGs could get loans up to Rs. 1 crore.
2. **Indira Mahila Shakti Prashikshan evum Kaushal Sanvardhan Yojana:**
 - 75,000 women or girls would be given free computer training
3. **Indira Mahila Shakti Lekha Prashikshan Yojana**
 - 5,000 women will be trained in accounting
4. **Indira Mahila Shakti Shiksha Setu Yojana**
 - Dropout girls and women deprived of education could be reimbursed the fees for studying through Rajasthan State Open School.
 - This would benefit 50,000 girls and women.
5. **Indira Mahila Shakti Kaushal Samarth Yojana**

- 10,000 women would be imparted skill training.

The CM said the [state government](#) will take all possible steps for empowering the women through this fund and it could be increased further, if needed.

Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar Card

On 11th December 2019, the State cabinet decided to replace [Bhamashah card](#) with Jan Aadhaar card from April 1, 2020. Consequently, the new Jan Aadhaar Card was inaugurated on 18th December 2019.

'One Number, One Card and One Identity - *Jan Aadhaar Card* - Tagline

Salient Features of Jan Aadhaar Card:

- 10 digit number
- All resident families in the [State of Rajasthan](#), will be eligible to have the Jan Aadhaar Card
- The card will replace all other cards like aayushman card, ration card etc.
- Similar to Bhamashah card, would identify family, with Woman as head of family.
- Woman above the age of 18 years of the family will be considered as the head of the family. If there is no woman above 18 years of age in the family, in such a case, a man of 21 years or more will be made the head.
- In a family, if there is no female above 18 years of age and no man above 21 years of age, then any member of the family, having maximum age will be considered as the head of the family.
- Will provide benefits/services related to government/ welfare schemes.
- Will be valid as proof of identity (PoI) and proof of address (PoA).
- Will be accessible through mobile and enable description of all available benefits.

Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar Authority

The [state government](#) has also published an ordinance namely **Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar Authority Ordinance 2019** for the statutory & implementation of Jan Aadhaar. Among other things, it prescribes a Jan Aadhaar Authority with following features:

- The headquarters of the Authority shall be at Jaipur.
- Shall consist of a Chairperson and such number of official and non-official members, as the State Government may appoint.
- [Chief Secretary, GoR](#), as ex-officio Chairman
- Director General of the Authority
 - An officer not below the rank of the Secretary to the Government .
 - DG to supervise and control all officers and servants of the Authority.
- Official Members -
 - Not less than 5 and not more than 8.
- Non Official Members -
 - Not exceeding 2.
 - To be nominated by state government.
 - To hold office as per pleasure of state government, with maximum of 3 years.
- Additionally, the State Government shall also constitute an Executive Committee of the Authority to exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to it by the Authority from time to time.

The Ordinance also has the provision of **Social audit** of the delivery of public welfare benefits at such intervals and in such manner, as may be prescribed in the Gram Sabhas in rural areas and the Ward Committees in urban areas or any other forum specified by the State Government by notification.

The Authority shall also create and maintain a database of identity information and photograph of all the Jan-Aadhaar card holders as the **Jan-Aadhaar Resident Data Repository**. The ordinance holds authority accountable for security and confidentiality of the data in Jan-Aadhaar Resident Data Repository and prohibits with anyone, for any reason whatsoever, except in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2019 | RIPS 2019

The [State Government of Rajasthan](#), has recently issued “The Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2019” | (RIPS-2019) to provide benefits to eligible manufacturing and services sector enterprises. Additionally, the scheme also aims to generate employment opportunities and promote rapid, sustainable and balanced economic growth in Rajasthan.

The Scheme Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2019 (RIPS 2019) has come into effect from 17 December 2019 and shall remain in force up to 31st March 2026.

Salient Features of Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2019” | (RIPS-2019)

Industry 4.0

RIPS 2019 defines Industry 4.0 as the enterprises engaged in big data & analytics, artificial intelligence, nano technology, quantum computing, fifth-generation wireless technologies, simulations, horizontal & vertical system integration, cyber security, cloud, additive manufacturing and augmented reality across the business value chain.

Investment not eligible for benefits of subsidies/ exemptions under RIPS 2019

1. Investment for manufacturing tobacco, tobacco products and pan masala.
2. Investment made in cow beef processing units.
3. Investment made in retail / trading activities.
4. Any activity which is prohibited by Central/State laws.

Screening Committees:

- **State Level Screening Committee (SLSC)**
 - SLSC shall be formed with ACS/Principal Secretary, Industries as Chairman
 - SLSC shall have jurisdiction over large enterprises and enterprise(s) making investment in more than one district including service enterprises.
- **District Level Screening Committee (DLSC)**
 - DLSC shall be formed with District Collector as Chairman

- DLSC shall have jurisdiction over all manufacturing sector Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) rendering services of Tourism Sector & Start-ups.
- State Level Screening Committee shall be empowered to hear and decide appeals against the orders of the District Level Screening Committee

Nodal Office:

- The Industries Department is the Nodal Office of this scheme.
- The Industries Department will maintain database and requisite information about the progress of RIPS to enhance transparency, improve efficiency and to create data for evidence base Policy Making

Jal Jeevan Mission – Rajasthan

The Public Health Engineering Department ([PHED](#)) in Rajasthan has initiated action to implement the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission by getting water from different sources, including rainwater harvesting, and bring piped water to households.

What is Jal Jeevan Mission

During the Independence Day 2019 speech PM Modi announced that the government will launch *Jal Jeevan Mission* to bring piped water supply to every house. The mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

Objectives:

- To provide piped water supply (**हर घर जल**) to all rural households by 2024.
- The mission envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household by 2024.
- Also aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture.

Benefits

- Household pipeline water supply
- Clean and drinkable water
- Recharge of ground water level
- Better local infrastructure
- Less water-borne diseases
- Less water wastage

Budget

- The government will spend more than Rs. 3.5 Lakh crore in coming years.

Nodal Department:

- Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan

A “**mission mode**” has been adopted in [Rajasthan](#) for providing piped water supply connections to about 98 lakh households stipulated in the flagship Central scheme. Only 12% of the households in the State were currently getting piped water supply, a huge task lay ahead to meet the target.

Jal Jeevan Mission would be implemented under the State Water and Sanitation Mission, which was already functional. Water and Sanitation Committee and Water Committee would be set up in each of the districts.

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti is holding discussions with all the States in five phases for their action plans under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The [PHED](#) officers from Rajasthan held deliberations at a workshop in Odisha's Puri town last month.

Additionally, emphasis is being laid on generating public awareness for conservation of water.

Points to Note:

- Jal JeevanMission is announced by PM on - **15th Aug, 2019**
- The targeted year of Jal JeevanMission is - **2024**

Unemployment Allowance extended to Transgenders

The state government has extended the unemployment allowance to transgenders who would now get Rs 3,500 per month as given to women under the scheme. The allowance would be provided under the [Mukhyamantri Jan Sambal Yojana](#).

Ayushman Bharat Launched in Rajasthan as AB-MGRSBY

The [State Government](#) launched the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in [Rajasthan](#) on September 1, 2019 by combining the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY) of the Center and the state's Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana (BSBY). After its integration with the state's Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme, the new scheme has been named the Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme (AB-MGRSBY).

Salient Features of Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme (AB-MGRSBY)

- With the merger of AB-JAY and BSBY, the number of families getting benefits will be increased from 1crore to 1.1 crore.
- The AB-MGJAY will be implemented by the state health Assurance agency (SHAA), Jaipur.
- Cashless treatment facilities at empanelled private and government-run hospitals
- 40 percent of the expenditure on the treatment of these families will be borne by the state government and 60 percent by the central government.
- The amount of coverage is Rs 3 lakh per year in AB-MGRSBY despite of merger with Centre's AB-PMJAY, which provides coverage of Rs 5 lakh per annum.

Identification of Beneficiaries AB-MGRSBY

There are 60 lakh families who are listed in Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 in the state. Besides, there are 1 crore families covered under NFSA. But, 80% of 60 lakh families listed in SECC 2011 are also covered under NFSA and they were already getting BSBY benefits.

Now, the remaining 20% of the families listed in SECC, which is around 10 lakh, who were not getting benefits of BSBY earlier, will now start getting the cashless insurance scheme (AB-MGRSBY). Hence, total number of families getting benefits will be increased from 1crore to 1.1 crore.

One Nation, One Ration Card scheme

The Centre has launched an inter-state portability ration card on 9th August 2019 in two clusters of adjoining States of **Andhra Pradesh & Telangana** and **Gujarat & Maharashtra**. This will enable beneficiaries from either States' cluster to avail the benefits accruing to them under the National Food Security Act from any of the two States.

11 States/UT of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, **Rajasthan**, Telangana and Tripura have implemented the **intra-State portability** of ration card holders to lift the entitled food grains from any Fair Price Shop within their State. Further, it is envisaged that the inter-State portability shall be introduced in the 11 States having already implemented intra-State portability by 1st January 2020.

The Department of Food & Public Distribution, is targeting implementation of nation-wide portability in distribution of subsidised food grains to the beneficiaries without the need of obtaining a new ration card under 'One Nation One Ration Card' System.

Update - On October 1, 2019 - The Centre launched 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme between **Rajasthan and Haryana**.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

For the third consecutive time, Rajasthan will be felicitated for its best practices, innovations, awareness generation, community engagement and improvement in *sex ratio at birth*, under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP). Recognising state's performance on BBBP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched pan-India expansion of BBBP in March 2018 from Jhunjhunu.

The latest reports of Health Management Information System (HMIS) of ministry of health & family welfare (MoHFW) for the time period between 2015-16 and 2018-19, reveal that SRB has shown improving trends from 923 to 931, which include urban as well as rural areas of the country. However, in the state, the SRB has increased significantly from 929 in 2015-16 to 948 in 2018-19.

Rajasthan Government issues Guidelines for CM Yuva Sambal Yojana

[Rajasthan government](#) has issued detailed guidelines for the [Mukhyamantri](#) Yuva Sambal Yojana or Berojgari Bhatta Yojana under which, the unemployed graduates will be given an allowance of Rs 3,500 for girls and Rs 3,000 for boys per month. The maximum age limit is 30 years for general and 35

for reserved categories. In a year, 1.6 lakh eligible youth would be given this benefit for a maximum period of two years. In case of more than 1.6 lakh applicants in a year, preference would be given to the oldest of the lot. Those who are continuing their studies after graduation are not eligible for the scheme, said the guideline issued by the labour and planning department.

Guidelines of CM Yuva Sambal Yojana

- The scheme is applicable only those members of the family whose family annual income is less than Rs 2 lakh.
- Maximum of two members of a family can avail the benefit of this scheme.
- Beneficiaries need to be bonafide residents of the state. Woman graduates from other states married to a bonafide resident of Rajasthan is also eligible.
- Beneficiaries should be graduates or its equivalent from any recognized college established in the State.
- Beneficiaries should have an online registration with the respective employment exchange at the time of filing application

State Government to implement Ayushman Bharat scheme in Rajasthan

The state government has decided to implement Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The state government will implement the Ayushman Bharat by merging it with Bhamashah Swasthya Bima Yojana (BSBY). It will come as a major boost for patients as they were getting only Rs 3 lakh health insurance cover under the state government’s BSBY. Now, as the state government has agreed to merge this scheme with Ayushman Bharat scheme in the state, the health insurance cover will be increased to Rs 5 lakh.

MGNREGA scheme goes paperless

State's rural development department’s MGNREGA section has introduced a ‘SECURE software’ application for creating estimates and sanctioning of various works under the scheme online. SECURE (Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural rates for Employment) - is a web-based application developed by NIC Kerala with the help of state MGNREGA mission, government of Kerala, for creating estimates for MGNREGA works.

Recruitment of Gram Rakshaks

- The State Government of Rajasthan is planning to recruit 40,000 youths as 'gram rakshaks' who will facilitate the villagers on the welfare schemes run by the state government for them.
- As per [NEWS by TOI](#), The state government is planning to pay a remuneration of Rs 4,000 per month to those getting appointment as Gram Sewaks.
- The appointment of these gram rakshaks would be for two years.

29 Lac applications for PM-Kisan Initiative

- 29 lakh farmers in Rajasthan have already applied for Union Govt.'s Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- **PM-KISAN** is an initiative by the government of India under which small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares of landholding will get up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support. The amount will be paid to each eligible farmer in three instalments (Rs. 2000 each) and will be deposited directly to their bank accounts.
- Additionally, over 21 lakh names have been already uploaded on the farm loan waiver portal, which was announced by the recently elected state government.

Anemia-Mukt Rajasthan

Anemia Mukt Rajasthan Campaign has been launched to improve the quantity of hemoglobin in children, adolescents and pregnant women in the state. Under this, children from 6 months to 49 years of age will get medicines to meet the shortage of hemoglobin in the blood.

State Chief Minister Mr. Gehlot launched the Campaign on 30th January from Jodhpur.

State of Anemia in Rajasthan:

According to doctors, the amount of hemoglobin in men should be 12 to 16 per-cent and in women 11 to 14 per-cent.

Percentage of Anemic Cases found:

Category	NFHS-3	NFHS-4
6 to 59 months of age	69.7 percent	60.3 percent
Teens and Girls from 15 to 19 Years	53.9 percent	49.1 percent
15 to 49 year old woman	53.1 percent	46.8 percent
15 to 49 years old pregnant	61.7 percent	46.6 percent

Old-Age pension Scheme

The State government has decided to provide Rs 1,000 monthly pension (was 750 earlier) to small and marginalized farmers above 75 years of age. The government will also provide Rs 750 monthly pension (was 500 earlier) to small and marginalised women farmers above 55 years of age and male farmers above 58 years respectively without any regular source of income.

Rajasthan Government: New Policies

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy 2019

Industries play vital role in economic development of the state. The industrial contribution (27.8%) to States economy is growing continuously. The Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, 2019 has been prepared with a view to promoting inclusive, balanced, sustainable and eco-friendly industrial development, creating infrastructure and employment opportunities, promoting balanced regional industrial development to emerge Rajasthan as the most preferred investment destination in India with a robust eco-system.

Commencement:

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, 2019 substitutes the Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy-2010 and shall come into force from 1 July, 2019.

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, 2019 - Vision

To make Rajasthan as the most preferred investment destination in India with the most conducive eco-system for inclusive, balanced and [sustainable](#) industrial development.

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, 2019 - Mission

- To develop and maintain industrial infrastructure
- To offer competitive fiscal incentives
- Maximize potential of human capital of the State
- Most efficient utilization of natural resources
- Special focus on 'Backward' and 'Most Backward' areas
- To foster entrepreneurship & innovation
- To promote industrial symbiosis and environmentally sustainable industrial development
- To support technological up gradation of Industry
- To usher in the new era of **Industry 4.0**
- To rationalize regulations and inspections

- To instil pro-industry outlook
- To strengthen the following thrust sectors of the State
 - Textile & Apparel
 - Agro Food Processing
 - Electronic System Design manufacturing (ESDM)
 - Auto & Auto-Components
 - Leather & Footwear
 - Mines & Minerals
 - Gems & Jewellery
 - Handicraft / Handloom / Khadi Industries
 - Chemicals including Petrochemicals
 - Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices
 - Service Sector

Salient Features:

- **Nodal Department:**
 - The Department of Industries shall be the administrative Department for the implementation of policy.
 - It shall oversee functioning of all important sections/ agencies involved in policy implementation.
 - It shall formulate detailed guidelines regarding policy provisions in consultation with concerned State Government departments.
- **Industry 4.0**
 - Incentives for technology acquisition, skill development and R&D.
 - R&D centres for bringing together researchers, industry and academia.
 - Promote "**smart factory**" concept, special fiscal and infrastructure support to units using automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies.
 - Support to State incubators for upgrading facilities with new age technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), FinTech, Clean Energy, Climate Engineering, Clean

Transportation, Social Media, Mobility, Analytics, Cloud Computing, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence as well as in Pharmaceutical and Healthcare sectors.

Rajasthan Industrial Policy Monitoring Committee

Rajasthan Industrial Policy Monitoring Committee shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Government of Rajasthan to periodically review (at least once in every quarter) implementation and assess impact of the industrial policy. The Committee will be empowered to take all necessary decisions for the smooth implementation of policy such as:

- To monitor progress of all institutions involved in the process
- To assign roles and targets to institutions involved and monitoring of work being performed
- To interpret and/or relax any provision of the Policy
- To frame and/or amend any guidelines or schemes under the Policy
- To review various measures for favourable business environment in the State for industry

Dispute Resolution Mechanism

For the resolution of issues related to the various departments in respect of functioning of the enterprises, the State Government shall constitute at least Two Tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism (District Level Grievances Committee, State Level Grievances Committee)

The enterprises shall register and submit their grievance on One Stop Shop" portal which shall be processed and resolved by the District Level Grievance Committee headed by the District Collector within prescribed timelines

State level grievance shall be addressed by the State Level Grievance Committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary Industries, Government of Rajasthan.

Export Promotion Council

An autonomous body of exporters, Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC), shall be constituted to create mechanism of facilitation across all sectors for providing policy & regulatory inputs, issues & challenges in exports and probable solutions.

Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy 2019

Rajasthan's solar generation potential has been assessed at 142 GW. The [State Government](#) plans to systematically harness this potential and has set for itself an ambitious target of 30 GW capacity by 2024-25 which will transform the energyscape of the state and the country.

To meet the global commitment Government of India, has fixed a national target of 175 GW Renewable Energy, which includes 100 GW from Solar Energy by the year 2022.

In order to revitalize the renewable energy sector, the state government has brought in several innovative features in the 'Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy 2019'.

Vision & Objectives of Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy 2019:

1. To develop solar power sector in the State with "Stakeholder-Driven" policy.
2. To be a major contributing State for achieving the national target of 100 GW capacity of solar energy as a part of global commitment.
3. To achieve "optimal energy mix" of conventional and renewable power ensuring energy security of the State, efficient grid management and protecting interests of stakeholders.
4. To promote new technologies in solar energy generation and storage to make solar energy more cost competitive and reliable source of energy for consumers.
5. To facilitate development of infrastructure in generation, transmission, distribution and manufacturing sector of renewable energy.
6. Create better atmosphere to innovate and invest for micro, small and medium enterprises for harnessing solar energy.
7. Human Resource Development with particular reference to renewable energy and generation of employment opportunities.
8. To facilitate and support Research & Development activities in the field of RE. Nurturing better products, processes and systems to promote growth of Renewable Energy
9. To deploy ancillary services for making the grid flexible for RE Power integration by various modes like Demand Side Management, Time of Day Tariff, Scheduling & Forecasting, Storage Systems, Reactive Power Management, Grid Reserve/Balancing Capacity etc.

Target of Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy 2019:-

The Policy aims to achieve a target of 30,000 MW Solar Power Projects up to 2024-25 in the State as under:-

S. NO.	Particulars	Target Capacity
1	Utility / Grid Scale Solar Parks	24,000 MW
2	Distributed Generation	4,000 MW
3	Solar Rooftop	1,000 MW
4	Solar Pumps	1,000 MW

Nodal Agency

- Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RRECL) will act as nodal agency for renewable energy projects in [Rajasthan](#).

Salient Features of Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy 2019

- Adoption of electric vehicles has been made part of policy priority. Rajasthan Government will provide land at 50% concessional rate of DLC for first 500 renewable energy-based EV charging stations. These projects will get 100% exemption in normal transmission and wheeling charges for a period of 10 years and 100% electricity duty waiver for 7 years.
- The solar policy aims to develop 33 district headquarters as 'Green Energy Cities' in next five year by installing 300 MW of solar rooftop systems.
- RREC will fund solarisation of the **Stand Alone Mini Drinking Water Supply Schemes** in rural areas by energizing the pumps from solar energy. The project will be taken up on pilot basis for 200 schemes considering the availability of ground water in the area. The project while ensuring the supply of drinking water will also address the issue of non-availability of funds with the Gram Panchayats for payment of electricity bills.
- RREC to undertake studies in Renewable Energy for further policy interventions.
- Policy incentives related to manufacturing of solar energy equipments in Rajasthan.

- Benefits of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Policy to eligible manufacturers.
- Land allotment at 50% concessional rate in industrial area /any other area.
- Exemption of 100% Stamp duty.
- Full exemption in Electricity Duty for 10 years.
- Investment subsidy on SGST to solar energy equipment manufacturers- 90% of SGST due and deposited for 7 years.
- Employment Subsidy as per RIPS -Reimbursement of 90% paid for employees for 7 years.
- Interest subsidy as per RIPS, treating solar energy equipment manufacturing as thrust sector.
- Other benefits of Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS).
- Setting up of **Rajasthan Renewable Energy Development Fund (RREDF)** for up-gradation of transmission and distribution infrastructure of the power utilities.

Rajasthan Agro Processing, Agribusiness and Agri Export Promotion Policy 2019

On 17th December 2019, [Rajasthan Chief Minister](#), Ashok Gehlot, launched the Rajasthan Agro Processing, Agribusiness and Agri Export Promotion Policy 2019 to encourage agro-processing and agricultural exports and increase farmers' income in the state. The policy endeavours to make Rajasthan as production and supply hub of processed agricultural products and a destination of choice for investors, processors and exporters.

Objectives:

1. To promote cluster based approach in production and agro-processing.
2. To augment farm gate infrastructure
3. To promote backward-forward linkage for a sustainable system for farming and industrial sector
4. To minimizing the post harvest losses by strengthening the supply chain.
5. To accelerate capital investments in value and supply chain of agriculture and allied sector.

6. To augment the capacity of agro-processing sector to upscale the operations through capital infusion, technology transfer and hand holding support.
7. To promote market outreach of fresh fruits & Vegetables, ethnic food items, organic produce and value added agri-products of state in domestic and international market and to build a strong State brand.
8. To support the agro-industry for greater compliance and adoption of the standard of food safety and hygiene in order to meet the norms set up by FSSAI and importing countries.
9. Capacity building and skill upgradation through institutional training to ensure sustainable employment opportunities to the people and also to reduce the gap in requirement and availability of skilled manpower in the food processing sector
10. To develop state as logistic hub by creating support infrastructures near NCR and in DMIC catchment area.
11. To initiate suitable policy measures for developing a fast and vibrant agri business sector.

Scope & Coverage

- The Policy will be applicable to new agro processing and agro business enterprises set up in the State and also to existing agro-processing and agro-business enterprises undergoing modernization, expansion or diversification.

Duration

- The Policy will be operative till 31st March, 2024 and be reviewed in year 2021.

Eligible Sectors

Rajasthan Agro-processing, Agri-business and Agri-export Promotion Policy, 2019 will cover the following sectors:

- Fruits & Vegetables processing
- Spices processing
- Cereal/other consumer food products

- Oilseeds products
- Rice & flour milling
- Pulse processing
- Herbal, medicinal, flower and aromatic products
- Minor forest produce processing
- Honey processing
- Milk processing
- Meat (other than beef), Poultry, Fishery processing
- Cattle feed, poultry feed, fish meal products
- Non edible agriculture produce processing
- Other such Agricultural and horticultural product processing activities for preparing food flavours and colours, oleoresins and mushrooms products
- Agri Waste Processing Units
- Infrastructure Projects: Collection/Aggregation Centre, Warehouses, Cold Storages,
- Food Irradiation Processing Plants, Cold Chain, Pack houses, agro-processing clusters or parks declared by State Government, Reefer Vans etc.

Ineligible Sectors

Following sectors will not be eligible under Rajasthan Agro-processing, Agri-business & Agri-export Promotion Policy, 2019:

- Investment for manufacturing Tobacco products, Pan Masala containing tobacco, Gutka other intoxicated products
- Investment in stand-alone bottling or packaging plants including bottling/packaging plants for potable liquor, beer, or aerated drinks
- Beef Meat Processing units
- Manufacturing of soft drinks, production of mineral waters and otherbottled/pouched waters

- Manufacturing or sizing of wood, manufacture of furniture and products made from wood and cork
- Production of firewood and charcoal
- Processing units discharging toxic effluent without having effluent treatment plant.

Other Salient Features of the Policy

- State Level Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (SLSC) shall be competent to include/exclude any sector/sub-sector from the ambit of Policy to ensure all-inclusive growth of Agriculture and allied sector in the State.

Draft Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019 released

[Rajasthan](#) announced its startup policy in 2015. Later in 2017, the state government launched its flagship initiative iStart Rajasthan to provide further impetus to entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state. The iStart ecosystem now has over 1500 registered startups. [Rajasthan Government](#) now aims to launch the **Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019** to build upon the momentum and to provide a newer, collaborative and expansive ecosystem.

Objectives of Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019

- To promote an ecosystem through collaborative efforts to foster entrepreneurship in the state.

Period of the Policy

- The Policy shall remain in operation for a period of **5 years** from the date of its notification or until substituted by another policy, whichever is earlier.

The Key Targets of Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019

- Bring different stakeholders of the ecosystem on-board iStart. iStart to be the one- stop platform for startups and innovation in the state of Rajasthan;

- The district level offices of DoIT&C will be strengthened to work for the purpose of development of the startup ecosystem;
- Operationalize at least 5 sector specific Center of Excellences ('CoE') specifically in the areas of agriculture, energy, artificial intelligence, niche technologies, Internet of Things ('IoT'), healthcare, tribal entrepreneurship, rural entrepreneurship, etc.;
- Run at least 10 accelerator programs;
- Issuance of at least 10 work orders every year under the Challenge for Change program;
- Operationalize government owned and managed 10 incubators/ incubator like organizations in the state;
- Facilitate the growth of 2,000 startups in the state;
- Connecting 75 institutes with iStart;
- Create 1 lakh employment through startups; and
- Facilitate the mobilization of INR 100 crores of angel and venture capital for investment in the state by both managing its own fund as well as partnering with already existing funds.

Mission Agendas of Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019

1. Institutional Setup
2. Simplified Regulations
3. Incubation
4. Financial Support to Startups
5. Fostering student Entrepreneurship
6. Outreach & Awareness
7. Policy Implementation & Execution

Other Salient features of the Policy:

The Rajasthan Startup & Innovation Policy 2019 also includes certain relevant features such as:

- A 15 member **Startup Council** under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to play an advisory role and act as a think-tank for strengthening the startup ecosystem in the state.
- Constitution of the State Level Implementation Committee for recommendation of budgetary financial assistance and other ancillary activities for the program.
- Financial assistance in the form equity of up to INR 5 lakhs as **Seed funding** to assist startups in the prototype stage in product development, testing and trials, test marketing etc.
- A revolving fund of INR 500 crores – '*Rajasthan Innovation Vision Fund ('RAJIV Fund')*' will be established.
- In general, the state government will provide incentives and exemptions over and above those extended by the Government of India.
- The Policy defines startup as any entity defined as a startup by Government of India's regulations and notifications.

A **startup** defined as an entity that is headquartered in **India**, which was opened less than 10 years ago, and has an annual turnover less than ₹100 crore (US\$14 million) - *Definition of Startup, GOI*

Draft Rajasthan IPR Policy 2019 Released

The department of Science & Technology (DST) of [State Government of Rajasthan](#) has released draft **University IPR Policy - 2019** & draft **Rajasthan IPR Policy 2019 -24** to transform the State into a globally recognized IP hub. This policy not only harness creation and protection of Intellectual Property, but also attract foreign investors and entrepreneurs in the State of Rajasthan.

Framing laws regarding protection and laying down the enforcement mechanisms of IPR, falls in the domain of the Central Government. However, the enforcement is through the agencies of the State. Government of India has declared 2010-2020 as the 'Decade of Innovation'. Similarly, the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy 2016, has laid down a vision for a "Creative India, Innovative India". The State Government of Rajasthan intends to consolidate the strategies and achievements made so far, by providing adequate infrastructural support coupled with improved facilitation mechanism.

What Is Intellectual Property?

Intellectual Property (“IP”) refers to any tangible or intangible property or asset, which is a product of the human intellect that has commercial value and includes any; literary and artistic works; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. Like any other property right, Intellectual Property Rights (“IPR”) allow creators, or owners of such IP to benefit from their own work or investment in a creation.

Read About: [Intellectual Property Rights in India in Detail](#)

Salient Features of Rajasthan IPR Policy 2019

VISION

- To make Rajasthan a hub of Innovation and Creativity, which will facilitate, both Economic and Social Growth, nurture Entrepreneurship and Start-up Ecosystem, promote Science and Technology and further boost both Manufacturing and Service Sectors.

MISSION

- To foster Creativity and Innovation, promote Entrepreneurship and enhance Socio-economic Growth coupled with cultural development.
- To create a strong IP Ecosystem by creating awareness among existing and prosperous entrepreneurs, Startups.
- Nurture IP System by facilitating more IP Awareness and Creation, IP Commercialization, IP Enforcement in the State of Rajasthan.

OBJECTIVES:

- To create public awareness regarding IPRs.
- Generation of IPRs by formulating targeted programs.
- Protection of IPRs by meeting the standards set by international treaties and conventions and is aligned with National IPR Policy.
- Provide incentive for innovation (IPR).

- To encourage partnership between industry and academia/ other research institutes.
- Commercialization of IPRs.
- Encourage Foreign Investment.
- Legal Protection & Legal Framework of IPR Laws among different sections of the society, entrepreneurs, investors, star-ups to create a balance between interests of Rights of the owners and the Public Interest at large.
- Development of Human Resources.
- To utilize available IP instruments for sustainable use of Rajasthan's Biological / Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge (TK).

POLICY MEASURES:

- Constitution of **State Level Monitoring Committee** under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary & Principal Secretary S&T as Co-Chairman.
- Establishment of **Rajasthan State Intellectual Property Council (RSIPC)** in Jaipur, constituted under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary S&T, GoR. RSIPC shall consist of 15 members selected from different sections of Society like Government, Industry, Academia, Research Institutions, Technical, Agriculture and Management Institutions etc.
- Development of an **online IP Portal & Helpline** to assist and facilitate IP Awareness, IP registration, IP protection and IP commercialization of intellectual assets generated in the State.
- **Establishing IP Cells and Technology Transfer Offices (TTO)** at Educational Institutions and Universities.
- Setting up of regional IP Promotion and facilitation hubs for SMEs, MSMEs and Start-up companies.
- Rajasthan Council of S&T (RAJCOST) shall be the **Nodal Agency** for conducting Capacity Building Programs and implementing all schemes under this policy.
- Introducing IP schemes and provide infrastructural assistance. Proposed schemes include:
 - Patent/Invention Protection Scheme
 - Patent Commercialization Scheme

- GI Protection Scheme
- Efforts will also be made for providing benefits under the existing schemes of GoI such as "Scheme for facilitating Start-ups Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP Scheme) " and others as applicable from time to time.
- Organising Annual IP Commercialization and Showcase Event.
- Taking effective measures to ensure strengthening of the enforcement of IPRs.
- Facilitation of Registration of IP.

Rajasthan government launches silicosis policy for mining workers

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the **Rajasthan Silicosis Policy-2019** under which those suffering from silicosis, a lung disease, will be treated at par with differently abled persons and will get a monthly pension of up to Rs 1,250. Additionally, in the event of a silicosis patient dying, his widow will get all the social security benefits from the state government, including a monthly pension of up to Rs 1500.

The policy will also focus on prevention and control of the disease. The government said that people living within a two-km radius of a stone crusher will also be covered under the scheme.

As per official data, over 1,600 people have died of silicosis in Rajasthan since 2011 when the government started identifying patients afflicted with the dreaded disease. The total number of silicosis patients in the state is estimated at 11,000. Mining and mineral processing industry is a major employer in 19 out of 33 districts in Rajasthan. However, mining workers run the risk of getting afflicted by silicosis by breathing in dust containing silica.

Rajasthan bans certain categories of pan masala

On Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the Rajasthan government announced a ban on pan masala containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, mineral oil and flavoured betel nut. According to the order, production, storage and distribution of these products are prohibited in the state. All such products will now be banned in the State under the Food Safety Act. The state government had previously banned the distribution of 'gutka' in 2012.

With this, Rajasthan has become the third State after Maharashtra and Bihar to announce such a move.

According to Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2017, 13.2% of the population in Rajasthan consume tobacco in the form of cigarettes, with men accounting for 22% and women 3.7%. The figure for chewing tobacco is 14.1%, with men again at 22% and women 5.8%. Currently, there are 77,000 people in the state who suffer from diseases due to smoking or chewing tobacco.

The ban is the correct step to reduce patients who suffer from ailments due to consumption of such harmful products and the decision has been taken to prevent addiction amongst youngsters.

Ban on Hookah Bars in Rajasthan

The state assembly passed an amendment to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 banning Hookah Bars across the state. The bill states that “No person shall, either on his own or on behalf of any other person, open or run any hookah bar in any place, including the eating place.”

It defined “hookah bar” as an establishment where people gather to smoke tobacco from a communal hookah or narghile which is provided individually.”

The bill subscribes punishment for running hookah bars as “Whoever contravenes the provisions be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years but which shall not be less than one year and with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees but which shall not be less than Rs 50,000,”.

Rajasthan assembly passes Anti-lynching bill

The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 was passed by the Vidhan Sabha. The bill provides for life imprisonment and a maximum fine of Rs 5 lakh to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to the victim's death. After 2014, 86 per cent of mob lynching cases reported in the country happened in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan passes honour killing bill

The Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019 punishment of death penalty or life imprisonment for murdering couples in the name of family honour. Opposition members termed the bill a blow to the culture and social fabric.

Biofuel Rules 2019

With an aim to usher in a bio-fuel revolution, the state government has come out with the Biofuel Rules 2019 incorporating the best practices in the world. Rajasthan is first in the country to bring out this policy after the notification of the Government of India on April 30.

Currently, 1250 crore liters of fossil fuel is being used in the state, if only 5 percent of it is replaced by biofuel, 62 crore liters of biofuel will have to be produced in the state. This is a big opportunity for the people of the state.

New Minimum Labor Wages Declared

Rajasthan Government declared the new minimum labor wages rate to be effective from 1 May 2019.

Class of Employment	Total Per Day	Total Per Month
Unskilled	225.00	5850.00
Semi-skilled	237.00	6162.00
Skilled	249.00	6474.00
Highly Skilled	299.00	7774.00

NEW Bills & Acts

Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-lokayuktas (amendment) Bill 2019

The State assembly passed the Rajasthan Lokayukta and Up-lokayuktas (amendment) Bill 2019 reducing the term of the office of Lokayukta to **five years**. The previous State government had extended the term of the Lokayukta from five to eight years.

1% increase in quota for disabled persons

- The draft for increase in reservation for disabled persons from present 3% to 4% has been sent to new State Cabinet for consideration.
- The categories that fall under persons with disabilities include: blindness and low vision, deaf and hard of hearing; locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy; autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness.

New Bill: Introduced to Scrap educational qualifications in Panchayats

- Deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot introduced a bill to scrap minimum education qualification for contesting panchayat elections in Rajasthan in the state assembly.
- In 2015, the previous government had introduced education condition, which required a candidate to pass Class X for contesting zila parishad or panchayat samiti elections. For contesting elections for Sarpanch of a panchayat in scheduled and other than scheduled areas, it was mandatory to pass Class V and VIII respectively.
- The State Cabinet, Rajasthan approved Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 considering that the provisions of educational qualification create unreasonable restriction on the right of people to contest election at the grassroots level.

Rajasthan Apartment Ownership Bill 2015

President Ram Nath Kovind approved the long-pending Rajasthan Apartment Ownership Bill 2015, which is now set to be implemented in the state. As per the Bill, every person to whom any apartment is allotted, sold or otherwise transferred by the promoter will be entitled to exclusive ownership and possession of the property.

It will be mandatory for the developer to show the title deed of the land on which the apartments are proposed, the approved building plans, details of common areas and limited common areas to the buyers. The developers will have to specify in the agreement the details of the built-up area on the basis of which price of the apartment shall be calculated.

Ban on Hookah Bars

Rajasthan State Assembly passed an amendment to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 to prohibit the opening and running of hookah bars in the state.

According to the provisions of the bill, those who open and run hookah bars in the state shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of one to three years along with a fine of Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh

Bill to protect from Mob lynching

State parliamentary affairs minister Shanti Dhariwal on 30th July introduced the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019. The bill proposes setting up fast track courts, providing relief and rehabilitation measures, including free-of-cost treatment for victims, compensation, and establishment of relief camps. The bill also proposes the same level of punishment for conspiracy, abetment, aides or attempts to lynch. The bill proposes a punishment of 7-10 years in case the victim is hurt and fine of ₹1-3 lakh.

Bill against Honor Killing

State parliamentary affairs minister Shanti Dhariwal on 30th July introduced the Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019. The bill proposes "Whoever causes death of a couple or either of them on the basis that marriage of such couple has dishonoured, or brought disrepute to, the caste, community or family shall be

punished with death, or with imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of that person's natural life, and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees". It also proposed a jail term of not less than 10 years in case of death, which may extend to imprisonment for life.

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20: Analysis by RajRAS

Receipt				Expenditure	
(2,33,000 Cr) (with Uday Scheme)				2,33,000 Cr (with Uday Scheme)	
Revenue		Capital		Revenue	Capital
1,64,000 Crore		69,000 Crore		1,91,000 Core	42,000 Crore
State Tax Revenue	73000 Cr	Recovery of Loan	16000 Cr		
Central tax Share	44000 Cr	Public A/c	52000 Cr		
Non-Tax Revenue	19000 Cr				
Union Grant	26000 Cr				

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20: Key Parameters

S. No	Parameter	Formula & Value
1	Revenue Deficit	Revenue Expenditure - Revenue Receipt
		1,91,000 - 1,64,000 Crore
		27,000 Crore
2	Budgetary Surplus	Revenue A/c Deficit + Capital A/C Deficit
		(Revenue Receipt- Revenue Expenditure) + (Capital Receipt - Capital Expenditure)
		(-27,000) +(+27,000) Crore
		Exact= +62 Crore (Budget is Surplus)
3	Fiscal Deficit	Non Debt Receipt - Total expenditure

		32,000 Crore
4	Primary Deficit	Fiscal Deficit - Interest Payment
		-9,500 Crore

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20: Government Income

In Revenue Receipts:

- State Own Tax Revenue > Share in Central Tax Revenue > Union Grant > Non-Tax Revenue

In State Own Tax Revenue:

- State Goods and Service Tax (SGST) > Sales Tax > State Excise Duty > Taxes on Vehicles > Stamps & Registration > Taxes on Electricity > Land Revenue

In Share in Central Taxes:

- Corporation Tax > Goods and Service Tax (GST) > Income Tax > Custom Duty > Union Excise Duty

In Non-Tax Revenue:

- Interest Receipts is the major source.

Highlights of Schemes/Projects Outlay 2019-20

1,16,735.96 crore are proposed as Schemes in Modified Outlay 2019-20 which is 8.22 % more than the BE 2018-19. The major head-wise break-up of the Scheme-wise outlay is as under:-

(₹ in crore)			
S. No.	Head of Development /Sectors	Proposed Outlay	% to Total
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services	8057.51	6.90
2.	Rural Development	12873.74	11.03
3.	Special Area Programme	149.33	0.13
4.	Irrigation & Flood Control	2939.45	2.52
5.	Power	30144.22	25.82
6.	Industry & Minerals	679.08	0.58
7.	Transport	5829.09	4.99
8.	Scientific Services	21.98	0.02
9.	Social & Community Services	50779.57	43.50
10.	Economic Services	1512.46	1.30
11.	General Services	3749.53	3.21
Total		116735.96	100.00

** Please note that, the above is Author's personal understanding of budget figures with huge approximations to make it simple. Please confirm with [government](#) document (listed below) to quote or reproduce anywhere.

Modified Rajasthan Budget 2019-20 Highlights

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20 Highlights Fiscal Indicators

- Estimated total expenditure ₹ 2 lac 32 thousand 994 crore 1 lac
- Estimated revenue receipts ₹ 1 lac 64 thousand 4 crore 64 lac
- Estimated revenue expenditure ₹ 1 lac 91 thousand 19 crore 61 lac
- Estimated revenue deficit ₹ 27 thousand 14 crore 97 lac
- Estimated fiscal deficit ₹ 32 thousand 678 crore 34 lac which is 3.19% of GSDP.
- Total loan and other liabilities as percentage of GSDP is 33.13%

Agriculture:

- Krishak Kalyan Kosh of ₹ 1000 crore for Ease of Doing Farming

- Zero Budget Natural Farming will be taken up in 36 Gram Panchayat of Banswara, Tonk and Sirohi at the cost of `10 crore, benefiting 20 thousand farmer
- Advance storage of 1 lac MT DAP and 2 lac MT Urea
- Krishi gyan Karyakram to sensitise farmers regarding better techniques, provision of `2 crore
- New policy for promoting agriculture processing, trade and export

Cooperative:

- Kisan Sewa Portal started since Feb., 2019, 50 lac farmers benefited
- Benefit of short term agriculture loan waiver by paying `6000 crore
- Short term agriculture loan of `9513 crore outstanding upto 30-11-2018 is waived, 20.46 lac farmers benefited, 1.10 lac beegha land de-mortgaged
- Target of `16000 crore short term agriculture loan waiver through Kendriya Sahkari Banks. Provision of `150 crore for grant
- Godown construction in 100 GSS and 20 KSS

Animal Husbandry

- Total 1478 new sub-centers in five years, this year 400 new sub centers
- New Veterinary College at Jodhpur
- Nandi-shala at each Gram Panchayat

PWD:

- Expenditure of `35000 crore in next five years, provision of `6037 crore for this year
- Connecting 1009 villages by Damar Roads in next 4 years with expenditure of `1000 crore
- Development of 435 km. of 6 state highways with expenditure of `927 crore in Jaipur, Churu, Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Nagaur, Sikar, Bikaner and Bhilwara
- Construction of 2 ROB and 32 RUBs

- Renewal of 2394 km. roads with expenditure of `250 crore under PMGSY
- Improvement and renewal of 2200 km. roads with expenditure of `337 crore in tribal and desert rural areas and 2568 km. roads with `463 crore in remaining other rural areas under NABARD scheme
- Vikas Path at each gram panchayat, total 10000 km.
- DPR of elevated road in Jodhpur

Energy:

- 6000 MW additional power generation by traditional sources in next 7 years
- New solar energy policy and new wind energy policy
- Establishment of 1426 MW wind energy and 4885 solar energy projects in 5 years
- Establishment of 600 MW solar plants on unusable land of farmers
- 765 KV sub station in Jodhpur and phase wise establishment of three 220 KV, thirteen 132 KV sub station with expenditure of `2338 crore
- one lac new agriculture connection in 2019-20
- Solar pump sets to farmers under Kusum scheme
- `5200 crore for establishment of feeders for agriculture connections in next four years
- 600 new transfers on 33 KV sub stations in 3 years, `500 crore
- Smart meters in city areas on 80000 distribution transfers

Water Resources and Command Area Development:

- MoU for Rajasthan feeder and Sarhind feeder, total provision of `1976.75 crore. Expenditure of `220.37 crore in this year.
- Provision of `207 crore for Rajasthan Rajasthan Jal Shetra Punarsanrachna Program
- Renovation works of `262.40 crore for 29 sub projects in 13 districts under Rajasthan Jal Shetra Ajeevika Sudhar Program

- Proposal of Punarvas and Sudhar Program for renovation of 211 large dams, total provision of `965 crore
- 55 works of `517 crore in 21 districts for development of irrigation facilities
- Maintenance of 368 km. long canals in Sahid Birbal Branch System
- Maintenance of 480 km. long canals in IGNP's Datore, Nachna, Awai System
- Irrigation facility for remaining 20000 hectare under Choudhary Kumbha Ram Lift Canal

PHED:

- Provision of `8445 for PHED
- Phase wise solar DFU for 1250 villages / dhanies
- ` 200 crore for solar tank with tube wells
- 390 villages will be connected by pipe lines in 4 years, commencing 25 works, total expenditure `950 crore
- 5 projects in coming years in Barmer and Jhunjhunu districts with cost of 2918 crore
- New project for 5 towns and 2104 villages of Jodhpur, Barmer, Pali under Rajiv Gandhi Lift Canal-III, total cost `1454 crore
- Drinking water project for 14 towns and 3072 villages of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur under Chambal-Alwar drinking water project, cost `4718 crore
- Drinking water project from Isarda Dam for 5 towns and 124 villages of Dausa and Sawaimadhopur districts, cost `3159 crore
- Project for Ladnu, Kuchaman, Degana, Merta, Riya, Khinwsar, Mundwa and Nagaur panchayat samities from Nagaur Lift Project, 3.15 lac population of 1926 dhanies will be benefited
- New project for drinking water of Bikaner City and nearby 32 villages
- Project for Hindoli with cost of `650 crore, `15.50 crore for DPR
- 10 Gram Panchayats of Sojat Tehsil of Pali will be connected with Dantiwara IGNP water distribution tank of Jodhpur

Industries:

- New industry area in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Barmer, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Rajasmand, Sawai Madhopur, Dausa and Sirohi districts
- Establishment new CETPs and upgradation of existing ones

MSME:

- Interest subvention on loans upto `10 crore in Mukhyamantri Laghu Udhyyog Protsahan Yojana `50 crore for this year, `250 crore for five years
- Amount of revolving fund to Khadi Institutions increased to `10 crore and tenure to 10 years

Petroleum and Mines:

- Refinery to be completed by October 2022
- Development of integrated industrial zones for industries based on refinery products
- Rajasthan M-Sand Policy will be issued
- Rules for minor minerals will be simplified

Transport:

- New electric vehicle policy
- Providing equipments and establishment of trauma center, stabilisation unit, skill lab from road safety fund

LSG/UDH:

- Highest rebate upto 50% by RHB
- Metro will start soon in wall city Jaipur. Revised DPR to be prepared for Metro phase-II, expenditure of `13000 crore
- Upgradation of STP and new 70 MLD plant at Delawas Jaipur, cost `150 crore

- Work of Chambal River Front in Kota with cost of `400 crore, DPR will be prepared with cost of `5 crore
- High level bridge over Kothari River in Bhilwara, cost `40 crore
- ROB in Bhilwara, cost `50 crore
- Provision of `50 crore for resolving traffic problem in Udaipur
- DPRs for elevated road and ROB for Jodhpur city

Medical and Health:

- Opening of Janta Clinics in the state
- Addition of 104 new medicines in Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dawa Yojana
- Number of free test increased from 70 to 90 in medical college hospitals
- To improve health facilities- 200 new sub centers, 5 new trauma centers, 15 new PHCs - 10 sub centers will be upgraded to PHCs - 10 PHCs will be upgraded to CHCs - Existing hospital of Gangapur City will be upgraded
- Indira Priyadarshini Baby Kit to new born babies

Medical Education:

- Linear accelerator machine in Jodhpur cost `31 crore
- Phase wise Construction of multi storey ICU ward in Mathura Das Mathur Hospital, Jodhpur
- New unit for providing painless delivery facility in Bikaner medical college hospital
- Work of medical college to commence in Sriganganagar

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

- Creation of Mahatma Gandhi Sansthan in Jaipur including Gandhi Darshan museum with a provision of 50 cr.
- Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchya Scheme for water conservation

- Master Plan for Rural Areas
- Ambedkar Bhawan at all block headquarter except all municipalities/ municipal council headquarters

Social Justice & Empowerment

- 8,790 cr. Annual resource allocation for the Department
- Residential hostel announced for Palanhaar Scheme Beneficiaries
- Sign Language Interpreter Training Centre at Jamdoli, Jaipur to facilitate training personnel to assist differently abled people
- Two half way home at Jaipur and Jodhpur to accommodate 50 patients each, with mental disability
- New [Silicosis](#) Policy to address health and security concerns of Mining Labour
- [Jaipur](#) to become Beggar free Capital
- Mukhaymantri Kanyadaan Yojana to provide financial assistance of `21000 to SC/ST/Minority BPL educated and adult female

Minority:

- Starting female hostel for Minority Students at Alwar
- Starting scheme for Modernization of Madarsa

Schedule Tribe Development

- Two center of excellence for tribal sub plan area
- A carrier counseling centre at Jaipur for ST students with a provision of Rs. 10 crore
- DPR preparation for high level bridge at Beneshwar Dham

Women and Child Development

- Mahila Shakti Nidhi for Women Empowerment with a provision of Rs. 1000 crore
- Physical Self Defense Training mandatory at schools since 6th class onwards
- Increase in Honorarium of Anganbadi Workers, Mini Anganbadi Workers and Anganbadi Helpers

Education

- Rs.1581 crore provision for Infrastructure Development of Schools
- New education policy will be announced
- 50 new primary schools to be opened
- 660 schools to be upgraded at various levels

Higher and Technical Education

- Mukhyamantri Higher Education Scholarships Schemes for specially abled students
- College building construction of 18 government colleges
- 8 denotified colleges to be restarted

Science and Technology

- Policy for the intellectual property rights to be announced

Skill and Employment

- Mukhyamantri Youth Employment Scheme with a target of 1 lac youths to be provided loan upto 1 lac in 5 years
- 75 thousand placements to fill up government vacancies at various level

Youth and Sports

- Rs. 2 crore provision for Ummed Stadium, Jodhpur
- Youth motivation programmed to be initiated
- A new pension scheme for players who won medals at the National and International levels
- One entrepreneur- one sports scheme
- Initiation of State games

Information Technology & Communication

- One number, one card, one identification- concept to be actualized through Rajasthan Jan Aadhar Yojna
- 6 thousand new E-mitra centres to be opened

Forest and Environment

- Announcement for establishing a Environment and climate change directorate
- A new climate change policy to be announced

Tourism, Art & Culture

- Developing a vehicle free zone to promote heritage walk in the walled city area of Jaipur
- Light and sound show at Lohagarh, Bharatpur with a provision of Rs.2.5 crore
- Establishing Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Bal Sahitya Academy
- Establishing Rajasthan heritage Museum at Sawai Man Singh town hall, Jaipur
- A provision of Rs.22 crore for conservation of heritage
- Announcement for organizing Rajasthani Literature Festival in Jaipur with a provision of Rs.2 crore

Devasthan

- Digitization of old record of temple property
- Adding Kathmandu, Nepal as a new destination in existing pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens

Home Affairs

- A new reception at each thana for facilitation of free and fair environment for victims
- Emergency response support system to be developed in the State
- A High Power Committee to recommend welfare measures for improvement in Jails

Revenue and Sainik Kalyan

- Revenue record of remaining 207 tehsils to be made online
- Simplification and consolidation of various revenue laws related to conversion
- Announcement to equate current arrangements to honour dependents of a martyr with shaurya padak vijeta
- Creation of a innovation fund of Rs.1 crore at the disposal of District Collector

Relief and Civil Defense

- Provision of Rs.15 crore to establish a State level State emergency operation centre
- Provision of Rs.26 crore to procure 100 fire brigade vehicles

GAD and Administrative Reforms

- Upgradation of existing air strips at Churu, Banswara, Jhunjhunu, Sirohi and Bhiwadi
- Announcement to bring an Accountability Act for public servants

Press

- Restarting pension scheme for press reporters
- Rs. 2 crore grant for Revolving Fund created for Patrakar, Sahityakar and Kalakar
- Land allotment scheme for press reporters, writers and authors

Employee Welfare

- Necessary action on recommendations of Pay Anomaly Removal Committee
- Delegation of disposal of cases under 17 CCA against the officials and employees
- Modernization of waiting room etc. at Secretariat
- Constitution of Economic Transformation Council

Rajasthan Budget 2019-20 Highlights: Tax Proposals**Registration & Stamps**

- Stamp duty and registration fees shall be exempted on the registration of residential plot/flat allotted by State Government or by private person in favour of dependents of the Martyr of the State.
- Stamp Duty shall be exempted completely on the instruments of settlement and partition of ancestral property.
- Stamp Duty shall be exempted on the loan documents upto Rs. 10 lac for establishment of start-up.
- Amnesty Scheme regarding exemption of interest and penalty payable on outstanding Stamp Duty shall be introduced.
- Maximum limit of Stamp Duty chargeable on Amalgamation / Demerger shall be removed.
- Rate of Stamp Duty shall be increased from 0.15% to 0.25% and maximum limit of Stamp Duty shall be increased from Rs. 5 lac to 25 lac on the loan documents where possession of the property has not been given.

- Maximum limit of Stamp Duty payable on works contract shall be removed currently it is Rs. 15000.

Commercial Taxes Department

- To give relief to dealers in pending demands, following new provisions are added through amendments in Rajasthan GST Act:
 - Amnesty Scheme will be launched to waive Interest, Penalty and Late fee.
 - Provision will be made for issuance of TDS deduction certificate Form VAT-41 by Awarders, so that contractors may avail adjustment of TDS.
 - Facility of VAT 69 for opting Lump-sum payment by Builders and Developers will be provided.
- The process of ITC Match and Mismatch will be simplified and campaign of ITC verification will be launched to reduce demands.
- To promote solar energy, exemption in electricity duty will be extended from 01st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2020.
- Recommendation will be made to the Union Government to establish benches of GST Appellate Tribunal at Jaipur and Jodhpur.
- Electricity duty on Captive Power Plants will be increased to Rs. 1.00.
- VAT on Natural Gas will be increased to 10 per cent.
- "Vyavahari Aivam Sewa-Pradata Samman Yojana" will be launched to recognise contribution of dealers and service providers.

Industry Department

- To develop Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar Industrial Area as second Node of Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor Plan. It will be declared as Special Investment Region and Regional Development Authority will be established.
- Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2019(RIPS-2019) will be launched. In this scheme, Due and Deposited State GST will be reimbursed upto 100 per cent for 7 years for Investment and

employment in the State. Also, exemption in Electricity Duty, Stamp Duty, and Mandi fee will be provided.

Transport Department

- For the purpose of simplification and computerisation of Motor vehicle tax, provision will be made for: Gross Vehicle Weight based Motor vehicle tax for Loading Vehicles, Seating Capacity based Motor vehicle tax for stage carriage Buses, and Seating Capacity cum daily operation based Motor vehicle tax for Stage Carriage Buses.
- Motor Vehicle Tax will be instituted by unification of Road Tax and Special Road Tax for Transport Vehicles.
- One Time Tax and Lump Sum tax are of similar nature and therefore to simplify, both are subsumed as One Time Tax.
- For Two-wheelers, One Time Tax will be as follows :
 - 8 % - Upto 200CC engine capacity and average price Rs. 50,000 ,
 - 13% - From 200CC to 500CC engine capacity and average price Rs. 1.5 Lakhs, and
 - 15% - More than 500CC engine capacity and average price Rs. 5 Lakh to Rs. 15 Lakh.
- For Non-Transport Four Wheelers of 10 Seating Capacity, one Time Tax will be increased by 2%.
- Green Tax on Heavy Commercial Vehicles will be charged for two years instead of one year at the time of issuance of fitness certificate.
- Exemption of One Time Tax has been increased to 50% on LPG/CNG operated non-transport and transport category of vehicles.

Excise Department

- To bring families involved in illicit liquor trade in the mainstream and for their development, an additional Rs. 10 crore will be provided for augmenting Navjeevan Yojana .

Local Bodies/Urban Development And Housing Department

- On the occasion of 150th anniversary of the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, registered non-profit making charitable institutions engaged in socio- religious works, will be given complete exemption in Premium rates, Land-use, Conversion Charges for agriculture to non-agriculture use and Building plan Permission Charges for development of public utilities like Health Services, Educational Facilities, Old age homes, Orphanage, Nari Niketan, Leprosy Homes, Dharmashala, Centre for Specially Abled Persons, De-addiction Centres, Girls Homes, Children Homes etc. in urban and rural areas of the state.
- Complete rebate on Interest will be given if outstanding Lease Money of Urban Local Bodies and Housing Board is deposited lump sum upto 31st December, 2019.
- 100 % rebate on Interest and Penalty will be given on outstanding instalment from 01.01.2001 of EWS/LIG houses allottees of Urban Local Bodies and Housing Board if it is deposited lump sum upto 31st December, 2019.

Water Resources Department

- Farmers will be provided complete rebate on interest on irrigation tax pending upto 31st March, 2019, if it is deposited lump sum by 31st December, 2019.

Rajasthan Agriculture Marketing Department

- There will be complete exemption of user charges on the sale/ purchase of fruits and vegetables in the Krishi Upaj Mandi.
- This will benefits lakhs farmers in the State.

Mining Department

- An Amnesty Scheme will be introduced to give relief the lessee for the outstanding dues of Dead Rent, Royalty, Penalty, Royalty collection contracts, Illegal mining/ transportation/ storage, Short-term permit and Contractors of Works Department.

- Transport Department's software "Vaahan" and Mines and Geology Department's software "e-Ravanna" will be integrated to bring transparency, prevent revenue loss and reduce accidents by preventing overloading of vehicles.