



Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
April – May 2021



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PERSON in NEWS

Persons on Important Posts: RAJASTHAN

Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (May 2021)
Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Indrajit Mahanty (37th)
<u>Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)</u>	M. D. Kaurani	D B Gupta
RPSC Chairman	Sir Dr. S K GHOSH	Dr. Bhupendra Singh Yadav
<u>Advocate General of Rajasthan</u>	G.C. Kasliwal	Mahendra Singh Singhvi
<u>Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission</u>	<u>Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar</u>	Gopal Krishan Vyas
<u>Lokayukta of Rajasthan</u>	ID Dua (1973)	Pratap Krishna Lohra
<u>Chief Secretary</u> Rajasthan	K. Radhakrishnan	Niranjan Kumar Arya
Pro-Term Speaker	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
Leader of Opposition	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
<u>Governor of Rajasthan</u>	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Gurumukh Nihal Singh (Reorganised State 1956)	Kalraj Mishra
Rajasthan Financial Commission Chairman		Pradhyuman Singh
Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan (CEO)		Praveen Gupta
State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan (SEC)		Prem Singh Mehra
Chairperson <u>State Commission for Women</u>		-
DGP Rajasthan Police		M L Lather
Deputy Chairman - <u>Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council</u>		Arvind Mayaram

Persons on Important Posts: NATIONAL

Post (India)	First	Current (May 2021)
Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	V. Narahari Rao	Girish Chandra Murmu
Chief Justice of India	H. J. Kania	N. V. Ramana
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Sukumar Sen	Sushil Chandra
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Wajahat Habibullah	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Nittoor Srinivasa Rau	Sanjay Kothari
UPSC Chairman	Sir Ross Barker	Pradeep Kumar Joshi
RBI Governor	Osborne Smith	Shaktikanta Das
Lokpal of India	Pinaki Chandra Ghose	Pinaki Chandra Ghose
Financial Commission Chairman	K. C. Neogy	Nand Kishor Singh (15th) (2020-2025)
Speaker Lok Sabha	G. V. Mavalankar	Om Birla
Cabinet Secretary	N. R. Pillai, ICS	Rajiv Gauba

Post (India)	Current (May 2021)
Law Commission Chairman	Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
National Commission for SC	Vijay Sampla
National Commission for ST	Harsh Chouhan
Chairman - National Commission for Minorities	Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi
Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson	Arun Kumar Misra

Chairperson, National Commission for Women	Rekha Sharma
National Security Adviser	Ajit Kumar Doval
Attorney General of India	K.K Venugopal
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission	Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
Chairman, ISRO	Kailasavadivoo Sivan
Principal Scientific Adviser	K. VijayRaghavan
Chairman, University Grants Commission	D.P.Singh
Chairman, Central Water Commission of India	S K Haldar
Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI)	Ajay Tyagi
Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Chairman, 7th Pay Commission	Ashok Kumar Mathur
Chairman, SIDBI	Sivasubramanian Ramann
Chairman, NABARD	Govinda Rajulu Chintala
Chairperson, State Bank of India	Dinesh Kumar Khara
Chairman, IDBI	M R Kumar
Chief Economic Advisor	Krishnamurthy Subramanian
Chief of Army Staff	Manoj Mukund Naravane
Chief of Air Staff	Rakesh Kumar Bhaduria
Chief of Naval Staff	Karambir Singh
Chief of Integrated Defence Staff	R Hari Kumar
Chief of Defence Staff	Bipin Rawat

Pradyuman Singh

Governor Kalraj Mishra appointed former finance minister Pradyuman Singh as chairman of the Sixth state finance commission while Laxman Singh Rawat and Ashok Lahoti as members. According to the notification, the chairman and other members of the commission will hold office for a period of one and a half years from the date of notification.

Banna Lal

In May 2021, Governor Kalraj Mishra has appointed retired IAS officer Banna Lal to the post of officer on special duty in the Sixth State Finance Commission.

Akhil Arora

In view of the surge in Covid cases in the state during April 2021, the state government gave additional charge of medical, health and family welfare to Akhil Arora, who is principal secretary in-charge of finance, excise and taxation department.

Meanwhile, **Siddharth Mahajan** will continue as secretary in-charge of medical, health and family welfare.

Jagannath Pahadia

[Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan](#) and ex-governor of Haryana and Bihar, Jagannath Pahadia (89), passed away due to [Covid-19](#).

Rajasthan Udyog Ratna Awards

- Best Micro Industrial Sector (Turnover Increase) – Handicraft Villa (Jaipur)
- Best Small Industrial Sector (Turnover Increase) - S. S. Blowchem (Hanumangarh)
- Best Business Practices – Somi Conveyor Beltings (Jodhpur)
- Best Women Industrial Initiative – Khandelwall Minerals (Alwar)

- Rajasthan Bunkar Ratna Award – Ganga Singh Gautam (Dausa)
- Rajasthan Handicraft Ratna Award – Babulal Marotiya (Jaipur)

Krishna Nagar

Krishna Nagar, para-badminton player from Rajasthan along with Odisha's Promod Bhagat and Haryana's Tarun Dhillon qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics. This is the first time, Badminton has been included in the Paralympic Games.

Places in NEWS

Banasthali, Vidyapith

Ujore Nature, a student startup from Banasthali Vidyapith, working on the idea of a special fish feed to combat disease outbreak in aquaculture and fishery industry has won the regional finale to make it to the global competition of TiE. The startup will now compete with 30 teams from across the globe in the Global Pitch Competition to be held in May 2021.

Bojunda Stromatolite Fossil Park

In may 2021, Bojunda Stromatolite Fossil Park near [Chittorgarh](#) has been in [NEWS](#) as Department of Mines and Geology in joint association with the [Chittorgarh](#) district administration has proposed for development of a geopark of about 12-hectare at this site. The Bojunda geopark has great potential to become a popular destination for tourists in the **Mewar Circuit**, but it needs to be promoted suitably by the state and Union ministries of tourism.

Village Bhaloji, Jaipur

On April 1, 2021, under PM Kusum Component-A scheme run by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation, the country's first solar power plant has started power generation in Bhaloji village of Kotputli tehsil of Jaipur district.

Jodhpur & Jaisalmer

The Defense Minister of Kazakhstan, General Nurlan Yerembayev, along with his delegation, visited Jodhpur and Jaisalmer on 07 April 2021 as part of his visit to India to enhance bilateral defense cooperation.

SMS, Hospital Jaipur

Air ambulance landing facility is going to start on the roof of ultra modern IPD block to be built in SMS Hospital, Jaipur.

Barmer

The country's first Millet (Bajra) Research Institute will be set up in Barmer by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. At present, the All India Integrated Millet Research Project funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is working in Jodhpur, under which 13 centers are functioning across the country.

Bajra is sown in a total area of 9.5 million hectares in the country. Its production is about 9.4 million tonnes. Of this, Rajasthan alone produces 3.75 million tonnes, which is about 42 percent of the country's share. In Rajasthan, bajra is sown in about 56 percent area of the entire country.

The opening of millet research institute will lead to improvement in the bio-diversity of millet, high quality, reasonable price, availability of certified seed, organic certification institutes and agro-based cottage industry will be developed. This will not only benefit the farmers of Rajasthan but also the farmers of Haryana, UP and MP.

Bhiwadi & Alwar

To combat air pollution, in line with Delhi, two cities of the state Bhiwadi and Alwar, have been selected for installation of anti-smog guns in the first phase. In the second phase, this gun will be installed in Jaipur, Kota, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

In terms of pollution, Bhiwadi is the most polluted city in the state, where the air quality index has been coming from around 220 to 275.

Bhaloji Village

Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned the country's first farm-based solar power project under the PM Kusum scheme (Component A) in Village Bhaloji in Kotputli having 1 megawatt capacity spread over on 3.5 acre semi-barren land.

Gadsisar, Churu

Later, the second Solar Porject under PM Kusum scheme (Component A) was launched in Gadsisar village of Sardarshehar, Churu.

Environment

Melanistic Little Egret

A single Melanistic Little Egret, a species of egrets and herons group of birds, having scientific name *egretta garzetta*, has been sighted after many years in India at the Oran (sacred forest) of Shree Degrai Temple, near Rasla of Fatehgarh tehsil in [Jaisalmer district](#) during April 2021.

It is to be noted that melanism is generally defined as an increase of dark pigment in the plumage, resulting in a blackish appearance. Also, many different mutations in many different genes promote melanism in birds.

Install Bird Diverters: Supreme Court

In April 2021, the Supreme Court ordered to install bird diverters until the conversion of the overhead cables into underground power lines and to put the overhead cables into underground power lines wherever feasible, within a period of one year in [Rajasthan](#) and Gujarat.

The apex court gave this decision on the PIL filed by retired IAS MK Ranjit Singh to protect two species of birds namely the [Great Indian Bustard](#) and Lesser Florican, which are on the verge of extinction. These birds collide with the high-tension electric wires passing through their habitat and get killed. The bench of Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice V Ramasubramanian gave this decision hearing the PIL.

The SC has also ordered to hang bird diverters till that time from the existing power lines. A 3-member committee has also been constituted to assess the feasibility of laying the overhead high-tension electricity wires underground.

Economy

Board of Investment gives nod to INR 1.67 lac crore projects

Recently constituted [Board of Investment](#) chaired by chief minister Ashok Gehlot in April 2021 gave final approvals to investment projects worth Rs 1.67 lakh crore, majority of which are in the [renewable energy](#) sector.

Cumulatively, projects of these four renewable energy firms account for investments of nearly Rs 1.64 lakh crore, while other projects approved came from sectors like electronics, technical textile, engineering, healthcare, ceramics, etc.

Rajasthan Mineral Exploration Trust to Undertake 5 Projects

The recently constituted Mineral Exploration Trust will undertake five projects for exploring limestone, garnet and iron ore. The money collected for the trust will be utilised for the exploration which in the first phase will be undertaken in districts like [Kota](#), [Baran](#), [Jodhpur](#), [Bhilwara](#), [Jhunjhunu](#), [Udaipur](#) and [Ajmer](#).

Under the rules of the trust, all the mining and quarry lease holders are required to pay 2% of the royalty they pay to the state government. The corpus will be used by the trust to carry out its activities. The trust is modelled after the National Mineral Exploration Trust which also gets a contribution from the major mineral lease holders to undertake exploration work in the country.

Governance

Isarda-Dausa Water Project

In April 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced that the state government will fund **Isarda-Dausa** water project's loanable component in a cabinet meeting. The move came after the delay in procuring a loan of Rs 1,333 crore from the financial agency is delaying the entire project.

About: Isarda-Dausa water project

- The project was announced in the 2019 state budget to provide drinking water in six towns in [Sawai Madhopur](#) and [Dausa](#).
- The project will cover 1,256 villages.
- The project is to be funded by a central fund (Jal Jeevan Misson) of Rs 1,368 crores, state fund (Rural and urban department) of Rs 1,356 crore loanable fund from Agence Francaise De Development (AFD).

It was decided that due to the delay in allocation of fund from AFD, the state will finance the treasury fund in order to expedite the project.

Expert Committee for new State Road Policy

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in the [budget 2021](#) that a **New State Road Policy-2021** will be introduced in Rajasthan. Consequently, the state's Public Works Department (PWD) has formed a four-member expert committee of chief engineers who will visit various states across the country to study their road policies. Inputs gathered by the experts will be used for drafting the new state road policy.

616 get Property e-Cards in Jaisalmer

On 24th April 2021, PM Modi distributed e-property cards to 4.09 lakh families in 5,002 villages spread in eight states including [Rajasthan](#) to mark Panchayati Raj Divas. Under the programme, 616 persons

have been awarded letters in 51 revenue villages in Fatehgarh tehsil of Jaisalmer. This marks the rolling out of the SVAMITVA scheme for implementation across the country.

During the programme, several panchayats were awarded for delivering excellence in services. Under Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Empowerment Award:

- Kota Municipal Corporation has been given the cash award of Rs 50 lakh,
- Panchayat samiti Kotra (Udaipur) and panchayat samiti Chidawa (Jhunjhunu) given Rs 25 lakh each,
- Gram panchayat Thur (Udaipur), gram panchayat Nidharia Kala (Dholpur) and gram panchayat Bar (Pali) was given Rs 10 lakh each.

Committee on Recruitment Constituted

The state government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of M L Kumawat, former chairman of Rajasthan Public Service Commission, for timely and smooth execution of the state recruitments, strengthening the entire recruitment process including interviews.

This committee will submit its report in a month after studying various aspects of the recruitment process, including various service rules. Retired IAS Khemraj, Inspector General, Registration and Stamp, Mahavir Prasad, RPSC secretary Shubham Chaudhary, retired RAS Badrinarayan, currently advisor to Rajasthan Staff Selection Board will be the members.

State Government to create Online Register of Students in Kota

The [Rajasthan government](#) will create an online register of students from other states, who are preparing for competitive examinations in [Kota](#) city. There are about 50 small and 10 big coaching institutes in [Kota](#) city, home to about 2 lakh students preparing for entry into engineering and medical colleges. The proposal for the ₹68 lakh project was cleared by chief minister Ashok Gehlot in April 2021.

RajComp Info Services Limited (RISL) has been assigned the job to create the database that will make it easier to manage these migrants in situations such as [Covid-19](#).

Alternatives to Single Use Plastics

In May 2021, Rajasthan [Chief secretary Niranjan Arya](#) advised officials initiate discussion with affected groups over Centre's proposal to ban the [single-use plastic](#). As per the [draft notification](#) of the Union government, [Single Use Plastics](#) are proposed to be banned from January 1, 2022.

In the [draft notification](#) issued on 11 March, the Union government has proposed a ban on single-use plastics in three phases. From January 2022 some plastic items like plastic flags, balloons and candy sticks and then from July 2022 a ban on plates, cups, glasses, cutlery items like forks, spoons, wrapping, packing films, invitation cards, cigarette packets is proposed.

Additionally, the manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale and use of all single-use plastic items will be prohibited under the draft regulations.

[Rajasthan](#) has also taken some steps to move away from use of plastics. The state has banned several plastic products. Its use has been strictly prohibited in government offices since 2019. In September 2019, the [Rajasthan High Court banned used of Single Use Plastic in its Premises](#).

SC Quashes Rajasthan HC Order on School Fees

Quashing the [Rajasthan](#) High Court order on school fees issued on October 28 last year, the Supreme Court in May 2021, directed the private unaided schools to charge 85% the annual school fees of 2019-20 for the 2020-21 academic year.

Hence, the Court ordered reduction of 15% fees in lieu of un-utilised facilities by students. However, schools could individually give more concessions based on specific requests by parents. The apex court also upheld the Rajasthan Schools (Regulation) Act 2016.

As per the interim order, Parents could deposit the fees in six instalments before 05 August 2021. The order also said that **No one should be debarred from online classes**. The school management should not debar any student from attending either online classes or physical classes on account of nonpayment of fees, arrears/ outstanding fees, including instalments, referred to above, and should not withhold the results of examinations of any student on that account.

Policy Change: Companies can now take land on Lease for Hydrocarbon Exploration

To boost hydrocarbon exploration in the [state of Rajasthan](#), the revenue department has now allowed land owners to lease their plot for 15 years without having to go for land conversion. They will have to only inform the tehsildar.

Earlier, companies in the hydrocarbon sector had to acquire the land from the owners. The policy change will fast-track exploration of hydrocarbon resources in the state.

UNFPA praises 3 Govt Hospitals

In a case study, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has praised the mother and child services of three government hospitals in Rajasthan. These include:

- Jawahar Hospital in [Jaisalmer district](#),
- Government Hospital in [Karauli district](#)
- Oda PHC of [Rajsamand district](#)

Genome Sequencing Facility in SMS Hospital

The state government has decided to have its own genome sequencing facility to study various strains of viruses. The genome sequencing centre will come up at SMS Medical College, Jaipur.

Rajasthan comes 2nd in Smart City Mission Rankings

Rajasthan came 2nd in the latest rankings published by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on [Smart City Mission](#) in May 2021. Jharkhand has taken the top position and Andhra Pradesh came at third spot.

The ranking is based on different parameters, including completion of Smart City Mission projects, the cumulative value of tenders issued, work completed and utilisation of funds, among others. The overall score of the state is 35.61 points.

Smart City	Ranking 2021	Ranking 2020
Udaipur	8	27
Kota	11	12
Ajmer	29	18
Jaipur	36	42

There are only 4 cities from the state in the 100 Smart Cities. In the current ranking while [Jaipur](#) has come at the lowest rank in the State, overall [Ajmer's](#) ranking has decreased to 29 from 18.

48 New Courts in State

In May 2021, [Chief minister](#) Ashok Gehlot has given approval for setting up 48 new courts in the state and the creation of 550 posts of various cadres for them. The commercial courts will be setup in Bikaner, Alwar, Bhilwara and Jodhpur, courts of additional district judge in Jalore, Sirohi, Wair, Dungargarh, Nainwan, Sardarshahar, Nasirabad, Kathumar, Sadulshahar, Begun, Anupgarh, Neem Ka Thana and Gangapur City.

Additionally, he also gave approval for opening of various other courts in other districts. The chief minister has also sanctioned 550 posts of presiding officer, stenographer, reader, clerk, class-4 employees for these courts.

Unemployment Rate in State at 28% for April 2021

According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Unemployment rate in Rajasthan shot up to 28% during April 2021. The rate is the second highest among the states after Haryana. After a dip in [March 2021](#) to 19.7% from 25% in [February 2021](#) this year, the [April 2021](#) figures reflect a trend of high unemployment witnessed in the state over the past two years.

Rajasthan Govt. declared Black fungus as epidemic in the State

The [Rajasthan Government](#) declared **Black Fungus** as an epidemic in the State. After the declaration it will be mandatory for each doctor in the state to report such cases immediately to health authorities.

What is Mucormycosis or Black Fungus ?

Mucormycosis is a very rare infection. It is caused by exposure to mucor moulds called 'Mucormycetes'. Mucormycetes live throughout the environment and is ubiquitous in nature, commonly found in soil, plants, manure, and decaying fruits and vegetables.

It affects the sinuses, the brain and the lungs and can be life-threatening in diabetic or severely immunocompromised individuals, such as cancer patients or people with HIV / AIDS.

According to experts, people with diabetes are more prone to getting the black fungus infection.

Panchayat Awards 2021: Rajasthan

On the occasion of National [Panchayati Raj](#) Day 2021, Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awarded the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. This post details the various awards in reference to Rajasthan State.

Brief About National Panchayati Raj Day

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

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

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

National Panchayati Raj Day 2021

This year, it was proposed to organize a national event Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and Hon'ble Prime Minister had accorded his kind consent to inaugurate the national event and address all the Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country. But, owing to unprecedented situation that emerged due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, it was been decided to commemorate the National Panchayati Raj Day digitally on 24th April, 2021.

Panchayat Awards 2021

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

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

Panchayat Awards 2021: Rajasthan

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

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP):

- Kota Zila Parishad
- Kotra Panchayat Samiti (Udaipur)
- Chidawa Panchayat Samiti (Jhunjhunu)
- Tyonda village in Jhunjhunu
- 4NN Chanana vilage in Ganganagar
- Thoor village in Udaipur
- Nidhaira Kalan in Dholpur

- Bar Village in Pali

Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP),

- Bhojasar in Jhunjhunu

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award

- Arawar gram panchayat in Mundwa Panchayat Samiti in Nagaur

Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA),

- Minda gram panchayat in Nawa Panchayat Samiti in Nagaur

Ayurveda Colleges to come up in 6 districts

The Rajasthan government on Wednesday gave the approval to establish ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy colleges in six districts. The integrated colleges would be established in

- Jaipur,
- Kota,
- Sikar,
- Bikaner
- Bharatpur
- Udaipur

Additionally, approval has been given for the establishment of Government College of Yoga and Naturopathy in Udaipur.

New Schemes & Policy

Rajasthan Women Policy 2021

In April 2021, Rajasthan State Cabinet approved **Rajasthan Women Policy 2021** to include the substantial change in situation, since the **first state women policy was published in the year 2000**. Additionally, the new policy also takes into account the UN [sustainable development goals 2030](#).

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced a new policy for women in the [State Budget 2020-21](#). The new policy also amalgamates the girls policy of 2013.

The policy noted that the Rajasthan initiative of 'one stop centre', Aprajita, set up in Jaipur in 2013 to attend to the grievances of women was adopted nationally as Sakhi, one stop centre, under the Nirbhaya fund. Now, such centres are functioning in all the districts. In such centres services of consultation, legal aid, police help, and protection to victims of violence and abuse.

Highlights:

- The policy aims at creating gender equality, create congenial and violence free environment for women.
- Aims to ensure health, education & security for women.
- Policy aims to create gender sensitisation in institutions and government.
- The policy promotes participation of women in all sectors with opportunities for employment & self-employment.
- Promote gender responsive budget.
- In the new policy, women have been not only broadly categorised in various groups on the basis of their caste and social status like SC, ST, primitive tribe, nomadic, minority, and economically weaker sections but also of their occupation pattern. Women working in the unorganised sector, migrant workers, silicosis victims, single, destitutes etc.

Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Scheme

The State forest department is planning to implement its '**Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Scheme**,' to promote medicinal herb with multiple health benefits. Under the scheme, the department targets to distribute medicinal plants including Kalmegh, Tulsi, Giloy and Ashwagandha for next five years.

The forest department plans to benefit 1 crore 26 lakh (as per 2011 Census) and has sanctioned Rs 210 crore for the Scheme. In the financial year 2021-2022, Rs 31.40 crore will be allocated. As per a recent NEWS in [TOI](#), for three years, including 2021-2022, the department will provide eight saplings of medicinal plants in its nurseries free of cost.

Goradhyay Group Foster Care Scheme

In May 2021, the state government issued guidelines for implementation of the '**Goradhyay group foster care scheme**' under which children up to 18 years of age, who are in need of family care and protection, will be benefited.

Under the Scheme:

- For the district child protection unit, Rs 4,000 per month will be given per child for their clothing, teaching, training and other daily needs.
- Rs 20,000 per month will be paid to the caretakers and Rs 10,000 per month for other expenses related to operation.
- A Group Foster Care facility will be valid for 3 years from date of issue of the order.

S&T

Mayflower 400

Mayflower 400 is the world's first Artificial Intelligence ship and navigates with complete autonomy.

AmbiTAG

Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT Ropar) in Punjab has developed a first-of-its-kind IoT device – AmbiTag that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.

The device has been developed under Technology Innovation Hub – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) and its Startup ScratchNest. AWaDH is a Govt of India project

Vajra Kavach

Mumbai-based startup Indra Water has developed “Vajra Kavach Disinfection System” which removes scourge of viral particles from equipment used by Corona warriors front line workers. The equipment removes any possible traces of the disease-causing SARS-Cov-2 virus from Personal Protective Equipment, N95 masks, coats, gloves and gowns.

It thus enables reuse of PPEs and other materials used by healthcare workers. It thus protects not only them, but our environment too, by helping reduce biomedical waste generation. It is also making personal protective equipment more available, affordable, and accessible.

The system is being manufactured at Indra Water's factory at Bhiwandi in Mumbai, from where it is delivered to hospitals.

SUTRA model

SUTRA is Susceptible, Undetected, Tested (positive) and Removed Approach. SUTRA is used to chart the trajectory of COVID-19. It is used to predict the future of COVID-19 infections, susceptibility,

undetected and positive persons in the country. This SUTRA Model is backed by Government of India and was developed by professors from IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad.

Cause of Recent Earthquakes in Assam

According to Geological Survey of India (GSI), the earthquakes in the region are frequent due to the following reasons:

- East-West Trending Atherkhet Fault
- Northwest-Southeast Trending Kopili Fault
- North-south trending Lineament.

NGC 691

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope captured image of spiral galaxy called "NGC 691". NGC-691 is an unbarred spiral galaxy located about 125 million light-years away in Aries constellation.

NGC is an astronomical catalogue comprising of deep-sky objects. It was compiled by John Louis Emil Dreyer in 1888. NGC comprises of 7,840 objects, such as star clusters, galaxies, emission & absorption nebulae.

Hubble space telescope was launched into low Earth orbit in 1990.

Kaleidoscope Effect

Recently, people of Bangalore observed a bright rainbow ring around sun for a few seconds. This is a rare optical and atmospheric phenomenon known as Kaleidoscopic Effect, which is also known as 22-degree circular halo.

22-degree circular halo is observed around sun and occasionally around Moon. So, it is also called a moon ring or winter halo. This phenomenon occurs when rays from sun or moon get refracted through hexagonal ice crystals present in cirrus clouds.

Starlink Satellites

Recently, SpaceX launched 60 Starlink Broadband Satellites with Falcon 9 first stage booster into the orbit. The mission was launched from Space Launch Complex 40 in Florida.

Starlinks are satellite internet constellation, constructed by SpaceX, providing satellite Internet access. Constellation comprise of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO).

New Earth System Observatory

NASA has set up a new Earth System Observatory, which will help in mitigating climate change, forest fires and hurricanes. It will also support real-time agriculture.

Internet Explorer to retire in June 2022

Microsoft has announced that Internet Explorer 11 desktop browser will be retired on June 15, 2022, for some versions of Windows 10. However, Internet Explorer-based websites and applications will continue to work on new Microsoft Edge (Internet Browser) mode till 2029.

Kyasanur Forest Disease

Researchers found a new point-of-care test to be highly sensitive for rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) which is emerging as a new public health problem & challenge in India. KFD also called as monkey fever, usually occurs in remote areas which lacks in well-equipped sample handling and laboratory testing facilities. The point-of-care tests has been developed by ICMR-National Institute of Virology.

India's first 3D printed house

The Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman inaugurated the first 3D printed house at IIT Madras. The House was constructed using indigenous 3D printing technology in just 5 days. TVASTA Manufacturing solutions build the house.

Sauropod dinosaurs

The researchers in the Geological Survey of India recently found fossil bone fragments of Sauropod dinosaurs. They were 100 million years old. These dinosaur bones were found in West Khasi hills in the district of Meghalaya.

Dinosaurs in India existed from the late Triassic period till the Cretaceous period. The Rajasaurus dinosaur originated in India. Of all the dinosaurs found in India, Barapasaurus was the biggest and Tyrannosaurus rex was the fiercest.

Driverless Cars

The United Kingdom has become the first country to announce regulation for the use of self-driving vehicles at low speeds.

NASA-Axiom

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently signed an agreement with Axiom Space. Under the agreement, Axiom is to send its astronauts to International Space Station. This is the first private astronaut mission to the space station. The mission has been named as Ax-1.

2-DG drugs

On May 17, 2021, the DRDO released the first batch of 2-DG drugs. The 2-DG was developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation for Emergency Use. 2-DG is 2-Deoxy – D – Glucose. It is to be provided as a supplementary. Around 10,000 doses are to be launched first. It was developed in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

Dipcovan

Dipcovan is a Covid-19 antibody detection kit announced by DRDO on May 21, 2021. Dipcovan or DIPAS-VDx COVID 19 IgG Antibody Microwell ELISA is an antibody detection-based kit that be used for sero-surveillance for detecting the presence of Covid antibodies amongst the population.

VIPER Rover

Recently, US space agency NASA has announced to send its first mobile robot to the Moon in 2023. Mobile robot will search ice and other resources on and below the surface of moon.

SBRIS Satellite

On May 19, 2021, the United Launch Alliance launched the Atlas V Rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida. The Atlas V rocket carried SBRIS Geo-5 Missile Warning Satellite. The satellite will provide key capabilities in missile warning, battle space, missile defense.

Zhurong

China has named its first Mars rover as Zhurong after a traditional fire god. The name signifies igniting the flame of Planetary Explorations of China.

Project Nimbus

The Government of Israel has chosen Google and Amazon Web Services to provide cloud services for its military and Public Sector Units. The project is to be implemented in four phases with an estimated cost 1 billion and has been named the “Nimbus” project.

Gaganyaan

The Indian Space Research Organisation recently signed an agreement with the French Space Agency CNES. According to the agreement, CNES is going to help India in its first Human Space Mission called the Gaganyaan.

Important Days

07 April World Health Day

Every year the World Health Organization celebrates the World Health Day on 07th April. This year, the World Health Day is celebrated under the following theme: **Building a fairer, healthier World for everyone.**

21 April: National Civil Service Day

Every year India celebrates National Civil Services Day on 21st April. On this day in 1947, the then Home Minister Shri Sardar Vallabhai Patel addressed the first batch of Administrative Services Officers.

20 April Earth Day

Every year, the Earth Day is celebrated on 22nd April. The first World Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. In 1969, the Peace Activist John McConnell proposed to celebrate World Earth Day to honour the earth.

24 April National Panchayati Raj Day

Every year, the National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on 24th April. The first National Panchayati Raj day was declared by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on April 24, 2010. It is celebrated on April 24 as the Panchayati Raj System of India came into effect on April 24, 1993.

30 April Ayushman Bharat Diwas

Every year, the Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated on 30th April in India. The Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated to promote health and wellness to the poor and also to provide insurance benefits to them. The Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2018.

01 May: May Day or Labour Day

1st May is celebrated as May Day and is also called International Workers' Day or Labour Day. In 1889, May Day was chosen as the date for International Workers' Day by the socialists and communists of the Second International, as well as anarchists, labor activists, and leftists in general around the world, to commemorate the Haymarket affair in Chicago and the struggle for an eight-hour working day.

The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party in Madras in 1923. It was initiated from the Labour Union Movement.

08 May: World Migratory Bird Day

Every year, the World Migratory Day is celebrated on second Saturday of May and October. This year, it is celebrated on May 8th. The previous World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated on October 10th. The main objective of celebrating the World Migratory Day is to increase awareness of migratory birds and their importance in international cooperation to conserve them. It also creates awareness for conserving the habitats of the migratory birds, especially the wetlands. **Theme: Sing, fly, Soar – Like a Bird**

09 May: Maharana Pratap Jayanti

The 481st jayanti of Maharana Pratap was celebrated across India on 09th May but [Rajasthan](#), the land of Maharana Pratap also celebrated the anniversary on 13th June 2021.

Why Rajasthan celebrated Maharana Pratap Jayanti on 13 June also?

The rest of India celebrates Pratap Jayanti based on English (Gregorian) Calendar, according to which his birthday falls on **9 May**. But [Rajasthan](#), as per tradition, celebrates his birthday based Vikram Samvat calendar, according to which Maharana Pratap's birthday falls on the *third day of the Jyeshtha Shukla*.

Hence, Just as the dates of Ramnavami and other Hindu festivals change every year, the day of Maharana Pratap's birth anniversary also changes every year w.r.t gregorian calendar and this year it was celebrated on 13th June. Additionally, his birth anniversary is a public holiday in [Rajasthan](#).

11 May: National Technology Day

Every year, India celebrates National Technology Day on 11th May. This year, the National Technology Day is being celebrated under the theme: Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future.

12 May: International Nurses Day

The birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale is celebrated every year as the International Nurses Day.

15 May World Family Day

Every year the International Family Day (also called as World Family Day) is celebrated on 15th May. This year, the day is celebrated under the following theme: Families and New Technologies History. The World Family Day was introduced in the United Nations in 1993.

20 May: World Bee Day

World Bee Day is observed annually by the United Nations on 20th May. This day is observed to create awareness about the importance of bees for this planet and nature.

World Bee Day is observed on 20th May to commemorate Anton Janša. She is a considered pioneer of modern day beekeeping techniques.

21 May International Tea Day

Every year, on May 21, the United Nations observes International Tea Day. The resolution to celebrate International Tea Day was adopted in 2019 by the United Nations food and Agriculture Organization. History

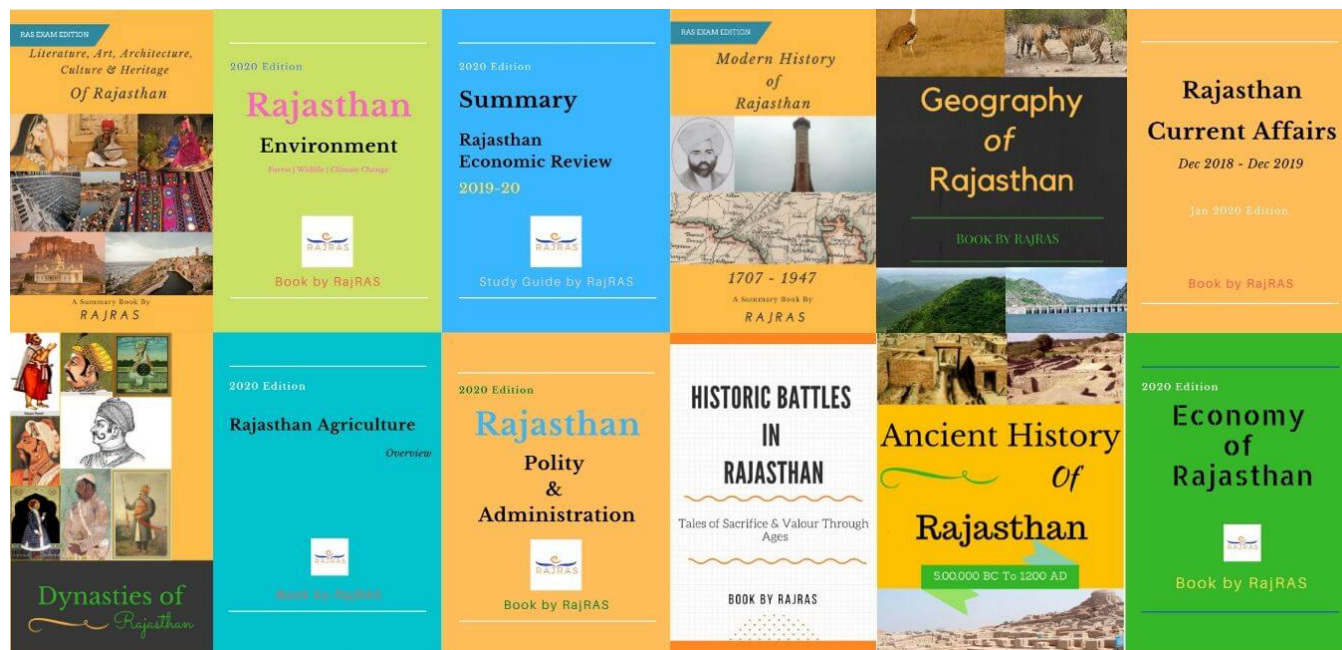
24 May: World Turtle Day

World Turtle Day was celebrated on May 23, 2021. It is observed to raise awareness among people about turtle & tortoise and their habitats.

31 May: World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day was observed on May 31, 2021 under the theme “Commit to Quit”. The day is observed since 1987 after member states of World Health Organisation created “World No Tobacco Day” to bring global attention towards tobacco epidemic and associated preventable death.

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