



Rajasthan Current Affairs  
*of*  
August 2021



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## PERSON in NEWS

### Persons on Important Posts: RAJASTHAN

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

## Persons on Important Posts: NATIONAL

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

Post (India)	Current (July 2021)
<b>Law Commission Chairman</b>	Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
<b>National Commission for SC</b>	Vijay Sampla
<b>National Commission for ST</b>	Harsh Chouhan
<b>Chairman - National Commission for Minorities</b>	
<b>Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes</b>	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
<b>National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson</b>	Arun Kumar Misra

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

## Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Important Committees &amp; their Chairman (2021-22)

S.No.	Financial Committee's Name	Chairman
1.	Committee on Public Accounts	Gulab Chand Kataria
2.	Committee on Public Undertaking	Hemaram Choudhary
3.	Committee on Estimates "A"	Rajendra Pareekh
4.	Committee on Estimates "B"	Dayaram Parmar

S.No.	Committee's Name	Chairman
1.	Business Advisory Committee	C. P Joshi (Speaker)
2.	General Purpose Committee	C. P Joshi (Speaker)
3.	Rules Committee / Sub-Rules Committee	C. P Joshi (Speaker)
4.	Committee on Local Bodies and PRI's	Dr. Rajkumar Sharma
5.	Committee on Environment	Manju Devi
6.	Committee on Ethics	Deependra Singh
7.	Committee on Government Assurances	Bhanwar Lal Sharma
8.	Committee on Petitions	Arjun Lal Jingar
9.	Committee on Privileges	Shakuntala Rawat
10.	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Narendra Budania
11.	Committee on Library	Ram Narayan Meena
12.	Committee on Questions & References	Brijendra Singh Olan
13.	Committee on Welfare of Schedule Tribes	Mahendra Singh Malviya

14.	Committee on Welfare of Schedule Caste	Ashok Bairwa
15.	Committee on Welfare of Minorities	Ameen Khan
16.	Committee on Welfare of OBC	Jitendra Singh
17.	Committee on Welfare of Women & Children	Anita Bhadel

### Nina Singh

- 1989-batch IPS officer Nina Singh became the first woman officer in Rajasthan to earn director general (DG) rank.

### Deepak Johi & Jai Singh

- Deepak Joshi from [Bikaner](#) and Jai Singh from [Jhunjhunu](#), the two government teachers from Rajasthan have been selected for **National Teachers Award** announced by the ministry of education in August 2021.
- Forty-four teachers across India have been selected for the award. The two teachers will be awarded on September 5 (Teachers' Day) in New Delhi by the Hon'ble President Ram Nath Kovind.

### Prakhar Aswa

The State government has appointed National Golf Player Prakhar Asawa in the Forest Department under sports quota.

### Tokyo Paralympics 2020

#### Avani Lekhara

The 19-year-old shooter won the **gold medal** in the women's 10m air rifle standing (SH1), defeating reigning champion Zhang Cuiping of China and Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik, who won silver and bronze, respectively. She is the first Indian woman to win a gold at Paralympics.



Later on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, she won **Bronze medal** in Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1 event.

Rajasthan state government has appointed Avani Lekhara as the brand ambassador for *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign* in Rajasthan.

Also in NEWS, Abhinav Bindra's autobiography '**A Shot At History**' – as Avani credited that it inspired her.

### Devendra Jhajharia

Devendra Jhajharia bagged the **silver** with a personal best of 64.35 metres in the javelin F-46 category, bringing home the third medal in three consecutive Paralympics.

### Sundar Singh Gurjar

Sundar Singh Gurjar, who hails from Karauli district, won the **bronze** in the same F-46 javelin category, giving the state a third medal at the Tokyo event.

### Other Medals

1. Javelin thrower Sumit Antil won **gold** in F-46 category for the country with a world record throw of 68.55 metres, breaking the previous world records five times in the process.
2. High-jumper **Praveen Kumar** claimed a **silver medal** in the Men's High Jump T64 Final with a new Asian Record of 2.07m.
3. Discus thrower **Yogesh Kathuniya** won **silver medal** in the F-56 category.
4. **Mariyappan Thangavelu** won **silver** in high jump (T63).
5. **Nishad Kumar** claimed **silver medal** in the men's high jump T47 category with a new Asian record of 2.06m.
6. **Bhavinaben Patel** had opened India's account in Tokyo with her **silver medal** in table tennis women's singles (Class 4)
7. **Sharad Kumar** brought home the **bronze** in men's high jump (T63).
8. Shooter **Singhraj Adana** fetched a **bronze** in the men's 10m air pistol SH1 event.

## Places in NEWS

### Khichan Bird Sactuary

The Khichan bird sanctuary, located at Khichan village in Phalodi tehsil (Jodhpur) is facing a shortage of water, which is crucial to sustain this aquatic habitat where demoiselle cranes come in thousands every year.

In 2017, a division bench issued directives to the state government for necessary arrangements for the migratory birds in Khichan village. Earlier, the high court had also asked the government to shift high tension lines passing over feeding places for these birds.

### Udaipur

**Birth, Death certificates to be digitised in Udaipur** | Under this, a firm has been entrusted with the task of digitising all the birth, death certificates issued in Udaipur from 2011 to 2013. About 2.5 lakh certificates will be computerised in three months. The old records related to birth-death registration of rural and urban areas in Udaipur will be made available in digital form on the Rajasthan Government's Civil Registration Portal Identity.

### Pushkar & Jaisalmer

On August 18, 2021, Energy Minister Dr. BD Kalla said that Pushkar and Jaisalmer city will be developed as Solar Cit and all the electricity related needs of both the cities will be met through renewable energy.

## Environment

### **Kumbhalgarh TR: Survey for Tiger Reserve Status in September 2021**

A survey to carry out a feasibility assessment of [Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary](#) as a potential tiger reserve will begin in September 2021. Earlier, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had fixed August 26 to start the assessment, but after a committee member was replaced, the date has been postponed.

In 2019, Rajasthan Forest Department had [initiated proposal](#) for upgrading [Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary](#) to **Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve**.

As per recent news ([1](#)), one of the original committee member - **Dr Kaushik Banerjee**, research scientist, Tiger Cell, WII, will not be able to come for the assessment. He will be replaced by senior biologist Ayan Sadhu. Now, the committee will visit for an assessment in September 2021. Dates have not been decided yet.

### **Kumbhalgarh Tiger Reserve Survey 2021 Committee**

The four member committee comprises two retired IFS officers, RN Mehrotra and NK Vasu, Sadhu and Hemant Kamdi, AIG, NTCA, who has been appointed as member convenor.

The committee will undertake assessment of current status of human habitation, habitat, boundary delineation, landscape connectivity, encroachment, prey base vis-a-vis the site's potential for a tiger reserve. As per office memorandum, it will submit a report in 30 days.

Fateh Singh Rathore, DCF (wildlife) Rajsamand said, "With good prey base and less human interference, Kumbhalgarh is an ideal tiger habitat. Hopefully, we will be able to witness these majestic cats here in coming years."

Rituraj Singh (advocate and conservationist) said, "Once upon a time, tigers used to be the apex predators of Aravalis. With nod from the expert team, big cats will soon reclaim their old turf as situation is favourable."

### **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary**

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife sanctuary is spread over 1,280 square kms, which is bigger than [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#).

The proposed reserve lies in the districts of [Pali](#), [Rajsamand](#), [Udaipur](#) and [Ajmer](#) and is located in the oldest range of Aravallis spreading over the tract starting from Khulbrahora (Gujarat) and culminating

on Delhi ridge. If declared, **Kumbhalgarh sanctuary will be the fifth tiger reserve in the state of Rajasthan.**

In [July 2021](#), MoEFCC has approved [Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve](#) (RVTR) as the fourth [Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan](#) after - [Sariska](#), [Ranthambore](#) & [Mukundhara Tiger Reserve](#).

### Expert Committee for conservation of Tigers

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot has decided to prepare a long-term plan for conservation of tigers and approved the formation of an expert committee. The committee members will be officials of wildlife organisations with **chief wildlife warden as the convener.**

### Rainfall deficit in 2021

The average rainfall of the state is 8.8% less compared to what it was received till 02 September 2020. In the year 2020 the average rainfall till September 2 was 449.50 mm but this year so far it has been 409.83 mm.

Sriganganagar district has received a rainfall of 74 mm so far in this season which is very low while Baran received rainfall of 1074.90 mm which is highest in the state.

### BSF to start pilot project to deal with Shifting Sand Dunes

The Border Security Force (BSF) will start a pilot project to deal with the shifting sand dunes on the international border adjoining Jaisalmer. Under the pilot project, local saplings and stubble grass will be planted in one square kilometre area.

According to BSF, due to the strong dust storms and winds coming from across the border, the large gorges of sand keep changing their places. Strong winds also damage the border fence. This creates a threat of infiltration along the borders.

## Economy

### 315 million tonne of Limestone Reserves in Jaisalmer

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found 315 million tonne cement grade limestone reserves in four blocks of [Jaisalmer](#) spread over 13 sq km. In August 2021, GSI submitted the report to the state government.

### Manganese Deposits in Banswara

The State mines department is expediting the exploration of manganese in [Banswara](#) after preliminary studies by Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) indicate that the reserves could be over 100 million tonne.

As per initial findings, the mineral reserves in Banswara are spread over a length 25km with a width of 40 metre and depth of 50 metre. Manganese ore with 20 to 34% metal content in Kalakhunta and Tambesra-Rupakhedi is considered to be high. As per the mine plan of the lease area, a minable resource of 2.12 lakh of manganese has been established.

Since the start of operations, private company is already mining the mineral on a lease over 18 hectares and a total of 98,879 tonnes of manganese ore has been produced.

Potash has been another mineral that can bring rich dividends to the state. It is available only in Rajasthan in [Nagaur-Sri Ganganagar](#) basin having estimates reserves of 2400 million tonne. Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd is already doing commercial feasibility studies for the mineral.

### Tourism Promotion Council

A Tourism Promotion Council will be formed shortly in Rajasthan to make the State a preferred tourist destination and formulate a cohesive strategy to resolve the issues concerning the sector. The council will have representatives from the State government as well as the tourism and hospitality sectors.

The initiative is being taken by the **Federation of Hospitality and Tourism in Rajasthan** (FHTR), which has decided to focus on the activities such as offline promotion, digital marketing and cooperation through a hub-and-spoke model, offering a full array of services through an anchor and

several secondary establishments. The council would represent the problems concerning the tourism trade to the appropriate authorities in the government and other agencies and redress grievances.

### Rajasthan HC issues notice to State Government on Declining Camel Population

The Rajasthan high court has served a notice to the state government over the sharp decline in camel population and plight of breeders in the aftermath of the passing of the **Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 2015**.

According to the Livestock Census of 2019, the population of camels witnessed a sharp drop of 34% from 3.5 lakh in 2015 to 2.13 lakh in 2019.

The division bench of chief justice Indrajit Mahanty and Satish Kumar Sharma issued the notice to the chief secretary and principal secretary animal husbandry **on a suo motu petition** based on media reports.

The Act had made it mandatory for every individual, who was willing to move camels out of the state, to obtain permission from district collectors and ensure the state animal was not harmed. According to the Act, *"No person shall export and cause to be exported any camel himself or through his agent, servant or other person acting in his behalf from any place within the state to any place outside the state for the purposes of slaughter or with the knowledge that it may be or is likely to be slaughtered"*.

*Similarly, if any person residing in any famine and scarcity affected area and desiring migration of camel should apply to the competent authority stating the circumstances necessitating the proposed migration together with the number of camel and name of the state or states to which migration is proposed and the period for which the permit is required.*

According to the camel breeders, the Act is too bureaucratic and stringent due to which there were few takers for the camel at fairs due to the hassles of transportation drastically reducing their prices. Thus camel breeding is no longer sustainable.

### Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity development Project

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity development Project is being planned by the Rajasthan state forest department with support of French development agency Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD).

The project aims to combat climate change with conservation of forests and biodiversity and will cover 13 districts in eastern Rajasthan in its eight-year duration. Other objectives of Project include:

- A biodiversity park in Bharatpur,

- Five new ecotourism sites
- Afforestation in over 33000 hectares of forest

The project will reach 600 villages in the forest areas of the selected districts and initiate activities for developing more income opportunities for 1200 self help groups. The French agency is supporting sustainable development goals in more than 115 countries.

## Governance

### MOE classifies 30 Rajasthan Districts as Educationally Backward Districts EBD

The Ministry of Education has classified 30 [Districts of Rajasthan](#) under the educationally backward districts (EBD). Only 3 districts - [Jaipur](#), [Kota](#) and [Pratapgarh](#) did not feature in the list of the EBD. Rajasthan is the only state whose 90% of districts have appeared in the 'grey' list of education.

This was disclosed by Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in Lok Sabha in answer to a starred question. As per the [reply](#), an Expert Committee constituted by the **University Grants Commission** (UGC) had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) based on various educational parameters including Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), College population Ratio and average enrolment per college.

[Rajasthan's](#) GER was 24.1%, while the national average was 27.1%. The GER is defined as the percentage of the population in the age group of 18-23 enrolled in any of the higher education institutes.

The report is contrary to the fact that the state has the highest number of 89 universities and the fourth-highest number of 3,380 colleges in the country. The figure of 37 colleges per lakh is also better than the national average but still, 90% of the districts have failed the match the national average.

State	Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs)
<a href="#">Rajasthan</a>	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Baran, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittaurgharh, Churu, Dausa, Dhaulpur, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jalor, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunun, Jodhpur, Karauli, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, SawaiMadhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur
	<b>Total Number - 30</b>

As per ToI news report, "the assessment based on three parameters is unfair for the biggest state like Rajasthan. Here the population is scattered and sparsely distributed making it difficult for the transition from schools to colleges. The enrolment of women in the state has traditionally been poor leading to the overall decline in the GER and lastly, the high rate of migration among the families especially youths make it obvious to lower down the GER,"



### Panel to look into demands of employees

In August 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot appointed a high-level committee to examine the demands of employees and officers' organisations.

- Retired IAS officer Khemraj Choudhary was appointed as the chairman of the committee while another retired IAS officer Vinod Pandya will be the member of the committee.
- Joint secretary, finance (rules) will be the member secretary.

### New Tribal University

In August 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot laid the foundation stone for **Jai Meenish Tribal University** in [Kota](#). He also inaugurated **Tribal Girls University** in [Jaipur](#) to mark the World Tribal Day. The World tribal day is observed on 09 August.

Additionally, **Kalibai Bhil Meritorious Girls Scooty Scheme** has already been implemented for the meritorious girl students to promote education among the girls.

### Budget Session & Monsoon Session gets clubbed in Rajasthan

For the first time in the state, the monsoon session of the assembly is being convened as a continuation of the budget session after five-and-a-half months. The government did not send the file to the governor for prorogation of the budget session of the assembly.

This is the first time in the parliamentary history of the state when the budget session of the Assembly was not prorogued for more than five months. In its continuation, the next session of the assembly meeting has been convened.

The proceedings of budget session of Vidhan Sabha were adjourned sine die on 18 March 2021. It is mandatory to convene a meeting of the legislative assembly once in six months. The monsoon session of the assembly is now being called from September 9. Till now, every session of the legislative assembly, including the budget session, was prorogued within two months of the conclusion of the proceedings.

### State government employees can now apply for withdrawal of GPF money online

The State Insurance and Provident Fund Department has eased the provisions to withdraw money from GPF. The employees can now apply online for withdrawal of money from GPF, which will be transferred directly into their bank accounts.

### Child Commission to inspect shelters for Children

The Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights will soon start inspection of shelters for children across Rajasthan. The exercise to compile the list of the shelters was started after two dozen boys were rescued from the non-registered shelter which was being run in Chomu. According to the list prepared by the commission, there are 172 children shelters currently operational in Rajasthan.

The inspections will be done through '**monitoring app for seamless inspections – (MASI) child care institutions (CCIs)**'. The app shall be GIS enabled and will allow the official to conduct the inspection only on arriving at the CCI. The app shall ensure that random inspections are conducted by randomly selecting CCIs for inspections for child welfare committee member, district inspection committee and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights member. The app is unique as it shall include features for uploading of focus group discussion with children and photos and videos of CCIs.

### Raj Kisan Saathi portal

In August 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the Raj Kisan Saathi portal as part of 'ease of doing farming.' The portal has been created as a single window to provide information about all the schemes being run for the farmers.

This portal is developed by the department of information technology and communication and Rajcomp Info System Limited and has a total of 144 modules of agriculture and allied departments of which 46 have been prepared in 2020-21 and 50 are being made in 2021-22.

A farmer can apply at his own level through Janadhaar or SSO ID in addition to e-Mitra. The application process has been simplified. Earlier the application form was big, in which about 40 types of information had to be filled and 7 types of documents had to be uploaded. Then all these documents had to be submitted to the department's office.

### **Eight postal stamps on art, craft, culture of Rajasthan released**

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Governor Shri Kalraj Mishra released eight special postal stamps prepared by the Department of Posts on the art and culture of Rajasthan. These are based on the geographical indications of different regions of Rajasthan including

- Molela Clay Work & Pokaran Pottery
- Kota Doria
- Pratapgarh Theva Jewellery Artifact
- Sanganeeri and Bagru hand block print
- bikaneri bhujia
- Makrana Marble
- Blue Pottery of Jaipur
- The puppets of Rajasthan

### **Rajasthan CM announces prizes for medal winners at Tokyo Olympics**

- Shooter Avani Lekhara, who has won a gold medal at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, will be given a cash reward of Rs 3 crore,
- Javelin throwers Devendra Jhajharia and Sundar Singh Gurjar will get Rs 2 crore and Rs 1 crore respectively for winning silver and bronze medals.
- All the three players from Rajasthan have already been appointed to the post of assistant conservator of forest in the state forest department.

### **Rajiv 2021**

In August 2021, virtual event of the Rajasthan Innovation Vision (Rajiv-2021) program was organised on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. CM Gehlot launched the I-Start Virtual Incubation Program on the theme of “IT for Good Governance”.

### **Rajasthan Divyangjan Rights Act implemented in Rajasthan**

On August 13, 2021, the state government issued a circular and implemented the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to provide equal opportunities to the differently-abled in the state.

Important Provisions:

- This act makes provision for the state government to provide equal opportunities to persons with disabilities, to utilize the potential of persons with disabilities by providing a suitable environment, not to discriminate against persons with disabilities on the basis of disability, etc. Similarly, the provision that they should not be deprived of their personal liberty on the basis of disability is also included in the Act.
- The State Government has taken necessary steps to ensure the availability of proper accommodation to persons with disabilities, measures and provisions have been made to protect persons with disabilities from torture, inhuman, degrading treatment.
- According to the provisions of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act**, all the departments, corporations, boards, and commissions will ensure its compliance. If the Act is not followed by the department, corporation, board, and commission, then there is a provision to take necessary action against the concerned body as per rules.

### Change in Name of Industry Department

The name of the 'Industry Department' of the State Government will be changed to 'Industry and Commerce Department'. Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal in this regard. Along with this, the designations of the officers of this department will also be changed according to the new name of the department.

## New Schemes & Policy

### **Indira Gandhi Sahari (Urban) Credit Card Scheme**

As per a notification by finance department, the government has rolled out Indira Gandhi Sahari (Urban) Credit Card Scheme to support self-employed youths in unorganised sector who suffered financially due to the lockdown. Under this scheme, vendors serving fast food, selling flowers, fruits, handicrafts, plants, ice-cream and chaat among other self-employed youths will be entitled to interest-free loans up to Rs 50,000.

The list of eligible youths also include plumbers, house painters, barbers, potters, shoe makers, tailors, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, sweing workers, agarbatti makers, match makers, hawkers, rag pickers etc. The age group of 18-40 will be eligible for the loans.

The scheme will be run by the local self-governments. For the benefit of SCs, STs, and people in the other backward classes, the scheme will be implemented by the respective councils, and corporations. The Indira Gandhi Sahari (Urban) Credit Card Scheme will support 5 lakh beneficiaries.

### **Kalibai Bhil Meritorious Student Scooty Scheme**

Rajasthan Government has launched Kalibai Bhil Meritorious Student Scooty Scheme to promote girl child education in the state. In the year 2021, a total target of 10,050 scooty distribution has been set, on which about 60 crore rupees will be spent.

All the beneficiaries will also be provided with vehicle registration of the name of the girl student, insurance of five years, two liters Petrol and helmet.

### **Kalibai Bhil**

Guruji Nanabhai and Kalibai refused to obey the government order to close their school and sacrificed their lives in the struggle against British oppression.

## S&T

### e-Source

IIT Madras is in process of developing an online platform called e-Source that will be used to tackle electronic wastes (e-waste). The initiative will act as an exchange platform to serve as an online marketplace for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

### App to Predict Natural Disaster

In a joint venture, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and IIT Roorkee has developed an app, that can predict natural disasters. App will alert about possible natural calamities in advance.

Earlier in August 2021 itself, IIT Roorkee had launched an earthquake early warning (EEW) Mobile App for Uttarakhand. The mobile app project was sponsored by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA).

The early warning system works on the basis of speed of the seismic waves, that propagate after release of stress from faults movement.

### West Nile Virus Warning

In August 2021, Russia has issued a warning about the possibility of rise in cases of West Nile Virus infections this autumn because mild temperatures and heavy precipitation are the favourable circumstances for mosquitos carrying the virus.

According to the reports, human cases of the mosquito-borne West Nile virus were increasing in North Dakota region of Russia.

#### **What is West Nile virus?**

It is a single-stranded RNA virus causing West Nile fever. Virus is the member of family Flaviviridae, which also comprises the Zika virus, dengue virus, as well as yellow fever virus. This virus is primarily transmitted through mosquitoes, mostly by species of Culex.

Primary hosts of the virus are birds. Genetically, the virus is related to the Japanese encephalitis family. Humans and horses both exhibit disease symptoms from this virus. First human case of the disease was reported in 1937 in Uganda and now it spread to Europe, Asia, and North America. Virus is mostly transmitted by mosquito bites, causing a deadly neurological condition in humans. West Nile virus is a leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in continental United States.

### NISAR

The ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, which aims to measure changes in the earth's surface globally using advanced radar images, has been scheduled to launch in early 2023.

NISAR will conduct global observation, including the polar cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region. The main scientific goal of this mission is to improve understanding of the effects of climate change on the planet's changing ecosystems, terrestrial and coastal processes, land deformation, and the cryosphere.

NASA is developing L-band SAR and related systems, while ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, launch vehicle, and related launch services.

### NeoBolt

Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) has developed India's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle called NeoBolt. NeoBolt can be used on roads as well as on uneven terrains. It has a maximum speed of 25 kmph and it can travel up to 25 km per charge. It has been developed to empower wheelchair users a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor mobility as compared to cars, auto rickshaws and modified scooters.

### Faceless Transportation Service

Delhi government launched faceless transport services on August 11, 2021. It will bring all the driving licences, registration and services related to permit online.

### Cleancity App

In August 2021, North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) launched "Cleancity app" to help residents to register complaints for picking up garbage in their area.

### Yukdhara

Government of India has launched a new geospatial planning portal called 'Yuktdhara' under Bhuvan. This new portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets with the help of remote sensing as well as geographic information system-based data.

Portal will also serve as a repository of geotags that have been created under several national rural development programmes such as MGNREGA, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop etc. along with field photographs.

### QSim Toolkit

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the India's first 'Quantum Computer Simulator (QSim) Toolkit'. It is the first-of-its-kind toolkit, indigenously developed in India and is meant to be a vital tool of learning and understanding the practical aspects of programming with the help of Quantum Computers.

This toolkit has been developed jointly by scientists of IIT Roorkee, C-DAC and IISc Bangalore.

### Y-Break App

In August 2021, Sarbanand Sonowal, Union Minister of Ayush, launched the 'Y-Break' mobile application, which consists of Asanas, Pranayam and Dhyana. The app has a five-minute Yoga protocol, especially designed for working professionals to de-stress, refresh and re-focus at their workplace to increase their productivity.

### Arogya Dhara 2.0

Arogya Dhara 2.0 was launched by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on August 18, 2021 in order to increase the reach of Ayushman Bharat – Jan Arogya Yojana.

### Havana Syndrome

In August 2021, 'Havana Syndrome' has left several US diplomats plagued with severe headaches, nausea, and possible brain damage. This syndrome is a series of unexplained medical symptoms that were first experienced by U.S. State Department personnel who were based in Cuba in 2016. State department also reported such cases in 2018 in China.



In December 2020, CIA announced a focused investigation on the phenomenon, led by senior officers within the agency and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

### Covid-19 Related

#### 6th Corona Vaccine in India

India got its sixth Covid-19 vaccine soon as drug firm Zydus Cadila's needle-free Covid-19 vaccine called '**ZyCoV-D**' as the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) approved the vaccine for Emergency Use Authorization (EAU).

Currently, Government of India has authorised five vaccines for Covid-19 namely, Covaxin, Covishield, Sputnik V, Moderna's vaccine, and J&J's single-dose vaccine.

#### ZyCoV-D

According to Ministry of Science and Technology, ZyCoV-D vaccine is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA-based vaccine for COVID-19. It will be administered to humans including children and adults aged 12 years and more. It is a three-dose, DNA plasmid-based COVID-19 vaccine. When it is injected into body, it produces spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and evoke an immune response.

Zydus Cadila has developed this vaccine in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under Mission COVID Suraksha. It will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

#### Nasal Vaccine

India's first nasal vaccine against COVID-19 has received the nod to conduct phase 2 and 3 clinical trials by the Department of Biotechnology. Bharat Biotech has developed this nasal Covid Vaccine called BBV154. The vaccine has successfully completed Phase 1 clinical trial in age groups of 18 to 60 years.

#### HGCO19

In August 2021, the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) gave nod for Phase-2 and Phase-3 trails of India's first mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, **HGCO19**. The vaccine is being developed by a Pune-based biotechnology company, Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd.

m-RNA Vaccines work by training the body in order to recognise and respond to the proteins that are produced by disease-causing organisms like virus or bacteria. mRNA vaccines trick the body to produce viral proteins itself. They work by using messenger RNA (m-RNA) which is the molecule that puts DNA instructions into action. mRNA is used as a template to build protein inside a cell.

### **Graphite based Covid Diagnostic Test**

Researchers from University of Pennsylvania in US have developed a new cheaper, faster and more accurate Covid diagnostic test that uses electrodes made from graphite to test the SARS CoV-2 Virus. It is the material found in pencil lead.

### **Delta Variant Infection in India**

A genome sequencing government consortium of Laboratories in India, INSACOG, stressed that breakthrough infections of coronavirus cases in India comprise a high proportion of Delta variant. According to INSACOG update, even though 60 percent of the population is fully vaccinated in Israel, Delta variant cases have increased.

In India, most widely prevalent variant of concern is being dubbed as sub-lineage AY.12 of SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant.

## Important Days

### 1 August: Muslim Women Rights Day

Muslim Women Rights Day is observed on August 1 in the backdrop of Triple talaq bill that was approved in Parliament on 01 August, 2019. The Triple Talaq law has made 'triple talaq' a criminal offence and the law provides for imprisonment of 3 years imprisonment along with a fine.

Egypt was the first country to ban triple talaq in 1929. Egypt is followed by Sudan, Pakistan (in 1956), Malaysia (in 1969), Bangladesh (in 1972), Iraq (in 1959) and Syria (in 1953). In the recent years, UAE, Morocco, Iran, Cyprus, Qatar, Jordan, Brunei, Algeria as well as India, have banned this practice.

### 1-7 August: World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week is being observed from August 1 to August 7, 2021. This is an annual celebration which is held every year in over 120 countries. This year, week is being observed under the **theme 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility.'**

### 7 August: National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day is observed every year on August 7 in India to honour the handloom weaving community for their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. The day is also observed to create awareness about the rich heritage of the Indian handloom industry amongst the public.

The first National Handloom Day was celebrated in 2015 as PM Modi launched the same in Chennai. The Government of India has designated 7th August as the National Handloom Day because the date has great significance in India's journey to freedom. It is on this day in the year 1905 when **Swadeshi Movement** was launched in the country. Swadeshi Movement ignited the spirit of Swadeshi, which included handloom weavers as well.

### 9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9 August each year to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

**10 August: World Lion Day**

World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 every year in a bid to raise awareness on lions. The day also seeks to mobilise support for protection and conservation of Lion.

**10 August: World Biofuel Day**

**World Biofuel Day** is observed on August 10 to raise awareness of the importance of non-fossil fuels as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels. This year, under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Oil and Gas companies celebrated **World Biofuel Day 2021** with the theme '*Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income*'.

World Biofuel day is observed in honour of Sir Rudolf Diesel. He was the inventor of the diesel engine and was the first to predict the possibility of vegetable oil replacing fossil fuels.

**12 August: World Elephant Day**

World Elephant Day was observed on August 12, across the world. The day is observed with the objective of spreading awareness regarding the plight of elephants. It also seeks to recognize the importance of elephants in our ecosystem.

**12 August: International Youth Day**

The International Youth Day is observed on August 12, every year. On the occasion, governments and citizens from across the globe come together in order to recognise and bring attention towards problems faced by the youth.

In 1999, United Nations announced to commemorate International Youth Day every year on August 12 on the basis of recommendation made by "World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth" to the UN General Assembly in Lisbon.

This year, the day was observed under the theme "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health".

**14 August: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day**

PM Modi announced on August 14, 2021 that, August 14 would now be observed as “Partition Horrors Remembrance Day”. The day would be observed every year to commemorate the “struggles and sacrifices” of millions of people who were displaced and lost their lives during Partition.

**19 August World Humanitarian Day**

World Humanitarian Day was observed on August 19, 2021. Theme of the day for year 2021 is “The Human Race”. This day focuses on boosting up the global action in order to combat climate change and stand in solidarity with the vulnerable populations.

**20 August: World Mosquito Day**

World Mosquito Day 2021 was observed on 20 August to raise awareness and alertness regarding the diseases caused by mosquitoes. The day also remembers Sir Ronald Ross who discovered a link between female mosquitoes and malaria.

**Sharavan Poornima: World Sanskrit Day**

Every year, World Sanskrit day is celebrated on Shraavana Poornima (coincides with Raksha Bandhan), the full moon day of the Shraavana month in Hindu calendar. This day is also known as Vishva-sanskrita-dinam. In the year 2021, the day was marked on 22 August. Further, week from 19 to 25 August was celebrated as Sanskrit Week.

Ministry of Education of Government issued notifications to celebrate Sanskrit Day in 1969. Since then, the day is celebrated across India. Sanskrit is the official language in Uttarakhand.

**23 August International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23, every year. This day is observed with the aim of memorialising millions of people who were the victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

This on this day, in 1791, **Santo Domingo** witnessed an uprising setting in motion a chain of events that opened ways for the abolition of trans-Atlantic slave trade. The day has been proclaimed by **UNESCO** as International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

### 29 August: International Day against Nuclear Tests

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established and adopted the International Day against Nuclear Tests in December 2, 2009 in its 64th session. This resolution was initiated by Kazakhstan to mark the 18th anniversary of the closing of USSR-controlled Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site in 1991 at Kazakhstan.

### 30 August: National Small Scale Industry Day

National Small Scale Industry Day is observed every year on 30 August to recognize the value of small businesses existing in India.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2000, Ministry of Small-Scale Industries (SSI) had launched a comprehensive policy package for SSI Sector. This policy provides significant support to small firms in India. Ministry subsequently agreed to designate August 30 as “SSI Day”.

### 31 August: International Day for People of African Descent

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, the United Nations marked the first-ever International Day for People of African Descent to celebrate the enormous contributions of African diaspora in field of human endeavor. UN General Assembly had adopted the resolution to establish the International Day for people of African Descent in December 2020.

Resolution also recalled two similar UN initiatives namely, 2001 “World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance” that was held in Durban, South Africa as well as the “declaration of International Decade for People of African Descent” which will run till 2024.

### Focus: Kigali Agreement

In August 2021, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM Modi, has given its approval for **ratification of the Kigali Amendment** to the [Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#) for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by India, adopted by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on October, 2016 at 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held at Kigali, Rwanda.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, is an international environmental treaty for protection of the Ozone Layer by phasing out the production and consumption of man-made chemicals referred to as ozone depleting substances (ODS). The stratospheric ozone layer protects humans and the environment from harmful levels of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

India became a Party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 19 June 1992 and since then has ratified the amendments to the Montreal Protocol. Additionally, [India](#) has successfully met the phase out targets of all the Ozone Depleting Substances as per the Montreal Protocol Schedule

After the present approval of the Cabinet, [India](#) will be ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol for phase down of HFC's.

#### **What are HFC ?**

HFC or Hydrofluorocarbons are a type of gas, used widely for refrigeration. Three main HFCs used are HFC-23, HFC-134a and HFC152a.

#### **What is the issue with HFC ?**

Initially HFC were not used for refrigeration, instead another gas **CFC or Chlorofluorocarbons** were used. But the problem with CFC was that it was causing depletion of ozone layer. Hence, use of CFC was banned and use new gas HFC was proposed.

Now, HFC was used as refrigeration gas, this gas did not cause depletion of ozone layer but it had another problem, it contributed to Global Warming. Hence the problem with HFC is, it is a powerful greenhouse gas with long atmospheric lifetimes (14 years).

Recognizing the growth in use of HFCs, especially in Refrigeration and Air-conditioning sector the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, reached agreement at their 28th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) held in

October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda to add HFCs to the list of controlled substances and approved a timeline for their gradual reduction by 80-85 per cent by the late 2040s.

### **India's HFC Phase-down Strategy**

India will complete its phase down of HFCs in 4 steps from 2032 onwards with cumulative reduction of 10% in 2032, 20% in 2037, 30% in 2042 and 80% in 2047. Further, a national strategy for phase down of Hydrofluorocarbons as per the applicable phase down schedule for India will be developed after required consultation with all the industry stakeholders by 2023.

Additionally, amendments to the existing legislation framework, the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules to allow appropriate control of the production and consumption of Hydrofluorocarbons to ensure compliance with the Kigali Amendment will be done by mid-2024.

### **Benefits of HFC Phasedown**

HFC phasedown is expected to prevent the greenhouse gas emissions, helping prevent climate change and would benefit the people. The industry producing and consuming Hydrofluorocarbons will be phasing out Hydrofluorocarbons as per the agreed schedule under and transition to non-HFC and low global warming potential technologies.

Hydrofluorocarbons. phasedown is expected to prevent the emission of up to 105 million tonne of carbondioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global temperature rise by 2100, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

Implementation of HFC phase down under the Kigali Amendment through the adoption of low-global warming potential and energy-efficient technologies will achieve energy efficiency gains^ and carbon dioxide emissions reduction - a "climate co-benefit".

There would be scope for domestic manufacturing of equipment as well as alternative non-HFC and low-global warming potential chemicals to enable the industry to transition to the low global warming potential alternatives as per the agreed HFC phase down schedule. In addition, there would be opportunities to promote domestic innovation for new generation alternative refrigerants and related technologies.