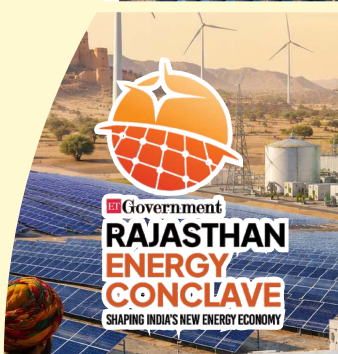


MONTHLY MAGAZINE | JUNE 2026

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(Biotechnology + Flagship Scheme Special Issue)

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

===== JUNE : 2026 =====

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Editorial

!! Humble salutations to Maa Sharada!!

“You” only you are responsible for your own success.

Whenever we think about how success is achieved, the thought that comes to our mind is that for success it is necessary to have adequate resources, excellent conditions, favorable environment, quality study material and right guidance. Undoubtedly all these factors play an important role in success, but the factor that plays the most important and indispensable role is “you” yourself. You yourself are responsible for success as well as failure.

The dream is yours, the idea is yours, the vision is yours, the need is yours, the ambition is yours, the prestige is yours, the honor is yours, the dishonor is yours, the success is yours and the failure is yours... the responsibility of success will also be yours. Also think about why anyone else would take this responsibility.

When Vivekananda inspires the youth and proclaims, “Get up, wake up and do not stop until you achieve your goal”, he wants to make you aware and resolve to take the responsibility of achieving your goal.

When you accept that the responsibility of achieving success is your own, then you will need to adopt some basic preparation and special qualities and implement them, some of them are as follows:-

1. Clear Vision:- In which field do you want to achieve success? What are your objectives? What is desire? Based on all these questions, make clear goals in a practical and positive direction. There should be no doubt regarding the goal. It is said, “An envelope without an address never reaches anywhere.” Therefore, after completing your homework, brainstorm and set clear goals based on your capabilities, circumstances and needs.

2. Self-Discipline:- It is the foundation on which the structure of responsibility is built. It means staying committed to your goals, no matter how hard, or difficult they may be. It involves focusing your energy, resources and time towards the goal while following a regular routine, study and practice schedule. When you move towards success, there will be a lot of distractions, there will be a lot of deviations, at that time self-discipline will prove to be the greatest power.

3. Continuous Learning and Adaptation:- It is extremely important to continue the learning process towards the goal and the ability to adapt along with it. Keep learning continuously and adopt it in life.

4. Problem solving Attitude:- Many difficulties arise in the direction of the goal, many challenges have to be faced, and many failures also occur. In these situations, it is your personal responsibility to face them, turn disaster into opportunity, find ways to solve the problems while remaining positive, and remain firm on the belief in your mind that there is definitely some solution to every problem.

5. Self-Belief & Perseverance:- Swami Vivekananda says that “All powers are within you, you are a bundle of unlimited powers and infinite energy.” Maintaining faith in this, move forward firmly towards your goal. When you have decided to succeed, take responsibility for it and move forward with full confidence, dedication, hard work and dedication. Consider responsibility as your duty. Performing one’s duty is Dharma - “Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah” (Dharma protects those who protect it).

Editor

Monthly Summary

- When did the United Arab Emirates' announced exit from OPEC and the wider OPEC+ alliance become effective? - **1 May 2026**
- Which country is currently the only country participating in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve programme? - **United Arab Emirates**
- Who recently released the World Migration Report 2026? - **The International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
- With which country will India establish the innovation centre named "INNOVIT India"? - **Italy**
- How many countries have been included in the Priority Watch List in the "Special 301 Report" by the Office of the United States Trade Representative? - **Six countries: India, China, Russia, Indonesia, Chile and Venezuela**
- The Indian personalities who featured in the TIME100 Philanthropy 2026 list are - **Shiv Nadar, Sudhir Mehta and Samir Mehta**
- Which country will become the 26th member of the International Big Cat Alliance? - **Saudi Arabia**
- Which country's stock market has recently become the fifth-largest stock market in the world? - **Taiwan**
- Who has become the first Sikh marine engineer to work with a full beard in British Columbia's ferry service, BC Ferries? - **Karambir Singh Kang**
- Which humanoid robot was presented for the first time as a Buddhist monk at Jogyesa Temple in South Korea? - **Gabi robot**
- Recently, general elections to Legislative Assemblies were held in how many states of India? - **Five: Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal**
- Which political party won the highest number of seats in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly general elections? - **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam**
- Who recently set the record for the biggest victory in Assembly elections in the country? - **Sunetra Ajit Pawar (Baramati seat)**
- On 1 May 2026, how many new standards did the Bureau of Indian Standards publish for assistive products for persons with disabilities and elderly persons? - **Six standards**
- Which two distinct textile styles are combined in the Padma Dori initiative? - **Eri silk and Chanderi weaving**
- At which toll plaza has India's first multi-lane free-flow (MLFF), barrier-less tolling system been launched? - **Choryasi Toll Plaza, Gujarat**
- On which date did Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launch the Cell Broadcast System (CBS)? - **2 May 2026**
- By how many judges does the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 propose to increase the strength of the Supreme Court? - **Four judges**
- Where has the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved the construction of a state-of-the-art ship repair centre? - **Vadinar, Gujarat**
- Who recently released the report on "School Education System in India"? - **NITI Aayog**
- From where did Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently launch the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Vikas Yojana? - **Bherunda, Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh**
- On which date was the Somnath Amrit Mahotsav organised to mark 75 years of the restoration of Somnath Temple? - **11 May 2026**
- Where was India's first integrated Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility recently inaugurated? - **IIT Bombay**
- With whose partnership has the Launch Health Mission been recently launched by the Government of India? - **ICAR and ICMR**

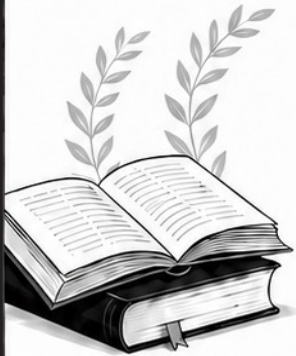
- Which phase of Yuva Sangam has the Union Ministry of Education launched to promote national unity, cultural harmony and emotional integration among the youth of the country? - **The sixth phase**
- For which period has the Government of India started the “Country Strategic Opportunities Programme” with the International Fund for Agricultural Development? - **For the period 2026-2033**
- What amount will the Central Government allocate for the incentive scheme for coal/lignite gasification projects? - **Rs 37,500 crore**
- Which state of the country has been declared the first “paperless state judiciary”? - **Sikkim**
- Who has recently been made the chairman of the reconstituted Estimates Committee? - **Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP)**
- Under whose chairmanship has the Government of India recently constituted the High-Level Committee on Demographic Change? - **Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)**
- Recently, under which Article did the Supreme Court include the right to move freely in public places without fear of physical assault or dog bites as part of the right to a dignified life? - **Article 21**
- Which state government recently made it mandatory for all government departments to purchase electric vehicles (EVs) from 1 June 2026? - **The Government of Odisha**
- Where will India’s first geothermal energy project be established? - **Puga Valley, Ladakh**
- On which route has Indian Railways approved the operation of the country’s first hydrogen train? - **Jind-Sonipat route, Haryana**
- Which state has recently been declared a fully literate state? - **Sikkim**
- Which states have, for the first time in the country, created separate ministerial portfolios for AI? - **Kerala and Tamil Nadu**
- The recently discussed book “Apnapan” has been written by whom? - **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**
- Which state has recently launched the country’s first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers? - **Karnataka**
- On which date did the Union Cabinet approve the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0? - **5 May 2026**
- What amount has the Union Cabinet approved for the Cotton Productivity Mission? - **Rs 5,659.22 crore**
- Which ministry recently launched the USD 1.5 billion domestic insurance pool “Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool” (BMIP) on 12 May 2026? - **Ministry of Finance**
- Where did DRDO recently successfully test the UAV-launched Precision Guided Missile-V3 (ULPGM-V3), capable of air-to-surface and air-to-air strikes? - **DRDO Test Range, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh**
- Which institute has developed the drone named Vajranetra under the Make in India initiative? - **IIT Jammu**
- The intercontinental ballistic missile “Sarmat” belongs to which country? - **Russia**
- Which state has decided to allot 600 acres of land free of cost to DRDO for India’s indigenous fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme? - **Andhra Pradesh**
- Which Indian space start-up recently successfully launched its first satellite, “Mission Drishti”? - **GalaxEye**
- What will be the name of the permanent base to be built by NASA at the Moon’s South Pole? - **Lunar Outpost**
- Which mission was recently awarded the Goddard Astronautics Award, the highest honour in the field of space science and astronautics, by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics? - **Chandrayaan-3 Mission**
- Where did the start-up Red Balloon Aerospace recently conduct a successful trial of the country’s first super-pressure balloon? - **Vijayawada**
- Which company has recently become the country’s first space-tech unicorn? - **Skyroot Aerospace**
- On which date did the World Health Organization (WHO) declare the Ebola disease situation a public health emergency under the International Health Regulations 2005? - **17 May 2026**

- On which cruise ship has an outbreak of hantavirus recently been observed? - **MV Hondius cruise ship**
- In which tiger reserve has a survey been started to conserve the Peacock Tarantula? - **Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve**
- At which airport was India's first Skycast system inaugurated? - **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**
- By what name has the CBI launched an AI-based chatbot? - **Abhay chatbot**
- Where has IIT Madras opened its first international centre? - **California, USA**
- Which state or Union Territory will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026? - **Delhi**
- Who has recently been appointed as the head coach of the Indian junior hockey team? - **Frederic Soyez**
- Which Indian sprinter has set a national record by completing the 100-metre race in 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup? - **Gurindervir Singh**
- Who has recently been honoured with the Whitley Award? - **Indian conservationists Barkha Subba and Parveen Shaikh**
- Who has recently been selected as the Asia winner of The Earth Prize 2026? - **Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal and Avyana Mehta**
- Which author has recently been awarded the International Booker Prize 2026? - **Yang Shuang-zi, for "Taiwan Travelogue"**
- Who has recently been selected for the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award? - **Major Abhilasha Barak**
- Which country recently honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the "Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree: Commander Grand Cross"? - **Sweden**
- Who has recently been honoured with the prestigious Agricola Medal 2026 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)? - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Prasar Bharati by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? - **Prasoon Joshi**
- Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) by the Government of India? - **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**
- Who has currently been appointed as the Chief of the Naval Staff? - **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**
- Whom has the Government of India appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff? - **Lieutenant General N. S. Raja Subramani**
- Yoweri Museveni was recently elected President for the seventh consecutive time of which country? - **Uganda**
- Randhir Singh, who recently passed away, was - **an Indian shooter and the first Asian Games gold medallist**
- In which city is the 61st International Art Exhibition (La Biennale di Venezia) 2026 being held? - **Venice, Italy**
- Where was the Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026 held? - **Mumbai, India**
- Where was the CINBAX-II 2026 bilateral military exercise held? - **Cambodia**
- Operation RAGEPILL was conducted by whom? - **The Narcotics Control Bureau**
- What was the theme of International Workers' Day 2026? - **"Ensuring a healthy psychosocial work environment."**
- On which date is World Press Freedom Day 2026 observed? - **Every year on 3 May**
- What was the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2026? - **"Acting locally for global impact"**
- On which date is Godawan Day observed? - **Every year on 21 May**
- On the completion of 75 years of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, how many entry gates of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly have been named? - **13 gates**

- Under the “8th Poshan Pakhwada” organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, what rank did Rajasthan secure in the country for conducting the maximum number of activities? - **First rank**
- In which district of the state were classes for the country’s first Panchagavya medical course started at Gau Samvardhan Ashram, Moklawas? - **Jodhpur district**
- On which date did the state government announce the establishment of the Brahmagupta Award and Innovation Centre? - **11 May 2026 (National Technology Day)**
- What rank does the state hold in the country in the effective implementation of the “World’s Largest Grain Storage Scheme in the Cooperative Sector”? - **First rank**
- In which district will fruit-bearing and shade-giving plants be grown using the zigzag method for the first time? - **Ajmer district**
- Where was the state’s first semiconductor cluster inaugurated? - **Bhiwadi**
- How many personalities from Rajasthan were recently honoured by President Droupadi Murmu with the Padma Shri, the country’s fourth-highest civilian award? - **Three personalities**
- Which person from the state has been given a special invitation by the World Book of Records to the 10th Award Summit to be held at the Palace of Westminster, British Parliament? - **Dr. Manju Baghmar, Minister of State for Women and Child Development**
- Where did India’s External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar recently inaugurate the Jaipur Foot Permanent Prosthetic Limb Centre? - **Port of Spain**
- In which district has the launch of the state’s first “Goat Bank” campaign been announced? - **Jaisalmer**
- Where in the state will a plant for making soap and shampoo from goat milk be set up? - **Sojat, Pali**
- What was the name of the night-time special cleanliness campaign launched by Jaipur Municipal Corporation? — **Operation Clean Sweep.**
- Which meeting of the Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund Board was recently held? - **26th meeting**
- From where did the Chief Minister recently launch the “Vande Ganga Water Conservation Public Campaign” on 25 May 2026 (Ganga Dashami)? - **Bisalpur Dam**
- Who edited the book “Natyashastra: Pancham Veda Par Ekagra” published by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala? - **Dr. Rajesh Kumar Vyas**
- Who is conducting the month-long statewide special campaign “Umang-VII” against child labour, child bonded labour and human trafficking (child trafficking) in Rajasthan? - **Rajasthan Police**
- Which player from the state has recently been selected by the BCCI Senior Selection Committee for the Indian Test team for the upcoming Test series against Afghanistan? - **Manav Suthar**
- Who has recently been appointed by the BCCI Centre of Excellence as the head coach of the upcoming Under-19 Elite Boys Camp? - **Anshu Jain**
- Neelam Meena, a resident of Koyla Gram Panchayat in Bamanwas subdivision (Gangapur City), Rajasthan, has been appointed Chief Electoral Officer of which state? - **West Bengal**
- In which district of the state has the launch of India’s first cooperative-model taxi service, “Bharat Taxi”, been announced? - **Jaipur**
- Which district secured first place in the state in the self-enumeration campaign under Census Operations 2026? - **Jaipur district**
- Where has the establishment of a Mati Kala Centre of Excellence in the state been announced? - **Bichoon Industrial Area, Jaipur**
- Which month will be observed as Anti-Malaria Month in the state to ensure public awareness, community participation, strong surveillance, and timely testing and treatment for malaria elimination? - **June**
- Inspired by the saga of bravery of ‘Operation Sindoor’, the newly constituted revenue village in which district has been named ‘Sindoor Nagar’? — **Balotra**
- How much will the United Arab Emirates (UAE) invest in the green energy sector in Rajasthan? - **Approximately Rs 3 lakh crore**

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Essay Competition



Topic of the Essay-

“ Linguistic Diversity: A Formula for India’s Unity or a Struggle for Regional Identity? ”



“ Folk Deities and Devotional Traditions of Rajasthan: Guardians of Social Harmony and Cultural Fabric ”



Necessary Conditions and Instructions for the Essay Competition-

- Essay writing should be completely original; copied or AI-generated content will not be accepted.
- Follow the prescribed word limit — 600 words approximately.
- Pay attention to the correctness of grammar, spelling, and punctuation marks in the essay.
- Use only verified and accurate data or historical facts in the essay.
- Submit the essay before the prescribed last date and time. (30 June, 2023)
- Essays can be sent only through the following mediums-
 - ✉ Mail- samyakcurrentaffairs@samyakias.com
 - 📍 Local Address- An Institute For Civil Services, Near Riddhi-Siddhi, Jaipur
- Along with the essay, the participant must send his/her passport-size photograph, official name, and address.



Awards-

- The photographs of the participants securing the first three positions in the competition will be given space in the next month’s current affairs magazine and the issue of the concerned month will be sent to their prescribed address.



“Eco-tourism in Rajasthan – A Bridge Between Cultural Heritage Conservation and Economic Upliftment.”

(Translated from English to Hindi)

Name: Lokesh Vyas

Address: Kheda Brahman, Deeg-Bharatpur (Rajasthan)

Introduction: The true spirit of Rajasthan resides in the Vedic proclamation “Mata Bhumi Putro Aham Prithivyah” (The Earth is my mother, and I am her son) and in Jambhoji’s timeless philosophy—“Even if one has to sacrifice one’s life to save a tree, the sacrifice is worthwhile.” Here, nature and culture have walked hand in hand. For decades, tourism in Rajasthan was confined to the historical allure of grand forts and royal palaces. However, in the current context, ‘eco-tourism’ has emerged as a powerful alternative that not only preserves the state’s rich cultural heritage but also acts as a bridge to strengthen the rural economy.

Historical and Cultural Perspective: The core principle of eco-tourism is “traveling close to nature, for nature, and with the local community.” This concept is highly relevant to Rajasthan, as the state’s biodiversity is deeply intertwined with its folk culture. When a tourist visits Tal Chhappar (Churu) or Khejarli village, they do not merely observe wildlife; they come to understand the Bishnoi community’s historic philosophy of compassion for all living beings—a philosophy that has safeguarded the environment for centuries. Similarly, when tourists opt for ‘homestays’ in the forest regions of Ranthambore, Sariska, or Kumbhalgarh, they directly connect with tribal cuisine, folk arts (such as Mandana and Kavadi), and eco-friendly values. This provides a global platform for our vanishing indigenous culture.

Social and Economic Impact: From an economic standpoint, eco-tourism serves as an excellent model of ‘inclusive growth.’ Most of the economic benefits of traditional tourism remain confined to large hotel chains or urban tour operators. In contrast, the direct economic gains of eco-tourism reach the pockets of Gram Panchayats and marginalized local residents. Youth in rural areas find dignified employment as ‘nature guides.’

Furthermore, handicrafts produced by women’s self-help groups (such as Molela terracotta, Mojri footwear, and blue pottery) are sold directly, and organic farming receives a boost. This not only curbs the migration of people from rural areas to cities but also fosters local economic self-reliance.

Administrative and Political Aspects: As a welfare state, the government has deeply understood this strategic significance. The ‘Rajasthan Eco-Tourism Policy 2021’ has been implemented with this objective in mind. The policy aims to link local communities with employment opportunities by developing tourism infrastructure around forest areas. Initiatives such as the creation of ‘Luv-Kush Vatikas’ in every district, the implementation of the ‘Rural Tourism Scheme 2022,’ and the empowerment of Village Forest Protection Committees (VFCCs) represent visionary policy measures that are highly commendable and practical from an administrator’s perspective.

Problems and Challenges: Although this path is full of potential, it also presents serious challenges. If eco-tourism becomes unregulated and purely commercial, it risks destroying the very ecology and culture it seeks to preserve. Human interference in wildlife habitats, illegal construction in Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), and plastic waste generated by tourists constitute the major administrative hurdles facing this initiative.

Closing Remarks: As a future administrator/an ideal citizen, addressing these challenges is extremely essential. Our foremost priority should be the strict assessment and regulation of the carrying capacity of tourist destinations. Mandatory measures should include declaring eco-tourism sites as plastic-free zones, reducing the carbon footprint, and allocating a fixed portion of the revenue generated back into the conservation of the same area.

Conclusion: Eco-tourism in Rajasthan is not merely an economic activity; rather, it is a humble attempt to reconnect with our roots. If managed with public participation and administrative sensitivity, it will undoubtedly prove to be a strong bridge to Rajasthan’s golden future, where our cultural roots will remain protected and the true essence of “Padharo Mhare Desh” will continue to flourish and thrive.

1. Rajasthan Current Affairs

Major Current Affairs

Release of the Emblem of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly



- Recently, Governor Shri Haribhau Bagade released the newly designed emblem of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on 18 May 2026, on the occasion of the Assembly completing 75 years.
- On this occasion, the Governor also named 13 different gates of the Assembly complex.
- The emblem was prepared on the initiative of Assembly Speaker Shri Vasudev Devnani. It was designed by Shri Sher Singh.
- The emblem represents the collective thought and public spirit of Rajasthan.

Components of the emblem:

- Ashoka Pillar - placed at the top; symbolises Indian Rajadharma, truth, justice and commitment to duty.
- Rohida - represents the cultural and natural identity of Rajasthan.
- Khejri - represents the tradition of sacrifice, patience and public welfare.
- Camel and Godawan - represent the resilience, struggle and spirit of continuous progress of the desert land (Marudhara).
- The phrase "Rashtraya Dharmanishtha Vidhayika" - represents the Assembly's self-guiding motto of public service and constitutional dignity.
- **Naming of the 13 gates:** By dedicating the outer gates of the Legislative Assembly building to various regions of Rajasthan, the state's cultural diversity, heritage, and folk traditions have been linked with democratic institutions.
 1. Gate No. 1 - Brij Gate
 2. Gate No. 2 - Shekhawati Gate

3. Gate No. 3 - Vagad Gate
4. Gate No. 4 - Mewar Gate
5. Gate No. 5 - Marwar Gate
6. Gate No. 6 - Hadoti Gate
7. Gate No. 7 - Merwara Gate
8. Gate No. 8 - Dhundhad Gate
9. Kartavya Dwar - for use by the Governor, Speaker, Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition; formerly the North Gate.
10. Shakti Dwar - for public entry (formerly the South Gate)
11. Sushasan Dwar - for legislators (formerly the West Gate)
12. Sankalp Dwar - for officials (formerly the East Gate)
13. Shaurya Dwar - for distinguished guests.

Rajasthan Again Secures First Place in the 8th Poshan Pakhwada

- Rajasthan once again secured first place in the country by organising the highest number of activities under the 8th Poshan Pakhwada, organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.
- The state achieved the first rank with 112.33 percent.
- Under this campaign, 45,37,229 activities were conducted across 62,139 Anganwadi centres in 41 districts of Rajasthan.

8th Poshan Pakhwada:

- The campaign was launched on 9 April by Union Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Annapurna Devi and was conducted from 9 April to 23 April 2026.
- The main theme for this year was "Maximising Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life".

Objectives:

- To eliminate malnutrition from the country and achieve the goal of a "Suposhit Bharat".
- To transform nutrition from a government scheme into a social movement with active public participation.
- To improve the health and diet of pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children below six years of age.
- To strengthen Anganwadi centres for the delivery and monitoring of nutrition services.

Partial Amendment to the RIICO Land Disposal Rules, 1979

- RIICO has simplified Rule 3(G) of the RIICO Land Disposal Rules, 1979, with the aim of providing better facilities to entrepreneurs and workers operating in industrial areas.
- RIICO has now decided to provide land free of cost in industrial areas for police posts, ESI dispensaries, primary and community health centres, child-care centres (creches) and government schools.
- Under the new provisions, a maximum of one acre of land will be allotted free of cost for a police post. Only a one-time economic rent of Rs. 10 will be charged and no service charge will be payable. Similarly, land in service areas will also be provided free of cost for government schools.
- Land will also be provided free of cost for setting up creches over an area of 250 square metres or more through the Women and Child Development Department or a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Only a one-time rent of Rs. 10 will be charged and the service charge will be waived.
- Up to 500 square metres of land will be provided free of cost to the Government of Rajasthan for a calibration tower, and up to 350 and 660 square metres respectively to the Consumer Affairs Department for setting up working and secondary standard laboratories.
- These provisions of RIICO are expected to expand health, education, security and child-care facilities in industrial areas, thereby promoting industry while providing a better environment for workers and local citizens.

Creation of Nakshatra Vatika and Herbal Vatika in the Rajasthan Assembly Complex

- Recently, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr. Vasudev Devnani inaugurated the Nakshatra Vatika and Herbal Vatika in the Assembly complex on 5 May 2023.
- These gardens are a living representation of the coordination between Indian spiritual tradition, ancient astrological knowledge, Ayurvedic medicine and environmental conservation.
- The Nakshatra Vatika contains plants associated with the 27 nakshatras. Its concept is based on the 27 nakshatras of Indian astrology, while the Herbal Vatika contains 38 medicinal plants.

Launch of India's First Panchgavya Therapy Course

- Recently, Animal Husbandry Minister Shri Joraram Kumawat formally launched classes for India's first Panchgavya therapy course on 4 May 2026 at the Gau Samvardhan Ashram in Mokalawas, Jodhpur district.
- The course will be run jointly by Dr. Sarvepalli

Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurveda University, Jodhpur, and Lakshya Paryavaran Evam Jan Kalyan Sanstha, a recognised centre of the university.

- The course will provide practical training in the principles of Panchgavya, medicine preparation, treatment of different diseases, Panchakarma procedures, human health and lifestyle, cattle health, gaushala management and cow-product-based self-employment.
- This initiative will strengthen traditional medicine and establish new dimensions in education, environmental protection and health.

First Chapter of the Jaipur Women Festival Begins on Mother's Day

- On the occasion of Mother's Day (10 May), the first chapter of the Jaipur Women Festival was organised in Jaipur by the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Institute (IGPRS) in association with a private foundation.
- The objective of the event was to provide women with a platform for awareness, dialogue and inspiration.

Chief Minister Announces Brahmagupta Award and Innovation Centre

- On the occasion of National Technology Day (11 May), the Chief Minister announced the institution of the Brahmagupta Award in Rajasthan in the name of the great mathematician and astronomer Brahmagupta.
- The award will be given to talented individuals, scientists and students for outstanding contributions in science, mathematics, innovation and research.
- Note: Brahmagupta was born in Bhinmal, Jalore, in the 7th century.

Rajasthan Leads the Country in Providing Integrated Education from Classes 1 to 12

- Recently, NITI Aayog released a report titled "School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement".

Key findings of the report:

- Rajasthan is the only state in the country where the maximum number of students are able to access primary, upper-primary, secondary and senior-secondary education at one place.
- In 2024-25, every third school in India offering integrated education from Classes 1 to 12 was located in Rajasthan.
- A total of 27,889 schools in the state are providing education at the primary, upper-primary, secondary and senior-secondary levels.
- Compared with other states, Rajasthan has developed a strong network of integrated schools from Classes 1 to 12, which has contributed to expected improvement in educational indicators.

In the News: Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme

- Launch: January 2026.
- Effective till: March 2029.
- Background: The scheme was launched to provide new employment opportunities to local resident youth of Rajasthan through interest-free loans, margin money support and reimbursement of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for micro and small enterprises through financial institutions.
- Objective: To provide self-employment to one lakh youth through the establishment of micro enterprises.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Youth aged 18 to 45 years
 - At least Class 8 passed
- **Provisions:** Under the scheme, 100 percent interest subsidy is provided by financial institutions to resident youth of Rajasthan for setting up new enterprises and for expansion, diversification and modernisation.
- For applicants who have passed Class 8 to Class 12:
 - maximum loan limit of Rs. 3.5 lakh for service and trade sector,
 - Rs. 7.5 lakh for manufacturing sector
 - On the above loan, margin money assistance of 10 percent of the loan amount, up to a maximum of Rs. 35,000, will be provided.
- For graduates, ITI certificate holders and applicants with higher qualifications:
 - Maximum loan limit of Rs. 5 lakh for service and trade sector,
 - Rs. 10 lakh for manufacturing sector.
 - On the above loan, margin money assistance of 10 percent of the loan amount, up to a maximum of Rs. 50,000, will be provided.

Deeg District Gets Irrigation Projects

- Recently, Water Resources Minister Shri Suresh Singh Rawat and Minister of State for Home Shri Jawahar Singh Bedham inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of development works at Parmadara village in Deeg district on 11 May 2026.
- Irrigation projects costing approximately Rs. 24 crore were inaugurated. These include the renovation of Kakra Channel (RD 0 to 8500 metres) and the restoration of the Tail Distributary and Minors under the Gurgaon Canal Project.
- Under the budget announcement, the foundation stone was laid for restoration work of Didawali, Parmadara and Deeg sub-minors of Deeg Distributary at a cost of Rs. 9.72 crore.
- These works will prevent water leakage and provide sufficient irrigation water to 4,350 hectares of agricultural land across 21 villages.

Rajasthan Ranks First in Effective Implementation of the World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme in the Cooperative Sector

- Under the "Sahakar Se Samridhhi" campaign, Rajasthan ranked first in the country in the effective implementation of the World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme in the Cooperative Sector.
- The warehouses in the state are being constructed through the concerned cooperative societies.
- All warehouses are being constructed as per the norms and standards prescribed by WDRA.
- The state government provides a subsidy of Rs. 25 lakh for each warehouse. Rajasthan is the only state in the country providing 100 percent subsidy for warehouse construction.
- The state has set a target to construct 250 warehouses with a capacity of 500 metric tonnes each. The targets are 100 warehouses in 2024-25, 100 in 2025-26 and 50 in 2026-27. This will create an additional storage capacity of 1.25 lakh metric tonnes in the state.

About the World's Largest Grain Storage Scheme in the Cooperative Sector:

- Approval date: 31 May 2023.
- Objective: To address the shortage of grain storage capacity in the country.
- The scheme includes the creation of various agricultural infrastructure facilities at the level of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), including warehouses, custom hiring centres, processing units and fair price shops.
- The scheme is being implemented through convergence of existing Government of India schemes such as the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation and the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.

25 Years of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Rajasthan

- Under this scheme, Rajasthan has secured the second position in the country in the category of completing the maximum road length (a total of 75,868 km).
- Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu jointly secured second place for excellent performance in the quality system.
- So far, 75,868 km of road network has been created in Rajasthan through 18,131 works.

Third phase of the scheme:

- Under this phase, 912 strengthened roads with a total length of 8,584 km were built in Rajasthan.
- The Central Government has extended the duration of the scheme until March 2028.

Fourth phase of the scheme (2024-25 to 2028-29):

- The main focus of this phase is to connect habitations that have remained unconnected to all-weather roads, based on the 2011 Census.
- Special focus areas include tribal areas under the Fifth Schedule, aspirational districts/blocks and desert areas.
- In this phase, 1,216 roads have been approved for Rajasthan. A provision of more than Rs 2,000 crore has been made for this.

Debt Burden of State Power Distribution Companies Reduced by Rs. 1,352 Crore in FY 2025-26

- According to recent state government financial figures, the debt burden of Rajasthan Discoms declined by about Rs. 1,352 crore in the financial year 2025-26.
- The total debt burden of the state distribution companies was Rs. 97,970 crore in FY 2024-25, which declined to Rs. 96,618 crore in FY 2025-26.
- This reduction was achieved due to strict implementation of financial norms, expenditure as per budget provisions and reduction in unnecessary expenses by Rajasthan Discoms.
- Ajmer Discom's debt declined from Rs. 26,059 crore in FY 2024-25 to Rs. 25,124 crore in 2025-26. Jaipur Discom's debt declined from Rs. 35,118 crore to Rs. 34,474 crore during the same period. However, Jodhpur Vidut Vitran Nigam's debt increased from Rs. 36,792 crore to Rs. 37,019 crore.

- In FY 2025-26, for the first time, all three Discoms - Ajmer, Jaipur and Jodhpur - achieved 100 percent revenue collection.
- Jaipur Discom achieved 102 percent, its highest in 26 years; Ajmer achieved 100.23 percent and Jodhpur achieved 100.96 percent.
- Total revenue collection of the three corporations exceeded Rs. 77,492 crore, which was Rs. 740 crore more than the billing amount of Rs. 76,752 crore, meaning that old consumer dues of Rs. 740 crore were also recovered.

Lakhwar Dam Project

- Recently, Rajasthan Water Resources Minister Shri Suresh Singh Rawat inspected the under-construction Lakhwar Dam Project in Uttarakhand and reviewed the Yamuna water agreement.
- The Lakhwar Dam Project is located on the Yamuna River upstream of the Tajewala Headworks in Uttarakhand and is a project of national importance.
- The total water storage capacity of the project is 331 million cubic metres. Rajasthan will receive approximately 30.91 million cubic metres of water as per its share.
- The water received from this project will mainly be supplied to the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan - Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Neem ka Thana.

- The state government has made a budgetary provision of Rs. 32,000 crore to bring this Yamuna water to Shekhawati.
- The Central Government is providing 90 percent assistance for the water component of this project. Rajasthan's total share for the dam construction component is about Rs. 107 crore.

Central Government Gives In-Principle Approval to Dairy Expansion Projects in the State

- Recently, the Central Government gave in-principle approval for financial assistance to expand the dairy sector in Rajasthan and take RCDF's Saras brand to the national level.
- The Central Government has given in-principle approval to provide assistance of Rs. 1,500 crore to RCDF.
- Approval has been given for Rs. 1,000 crore under the JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) project and Rs. 500 crore under the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD).
- With this amount, RCDF's milk collection, processing and marketing capacity will be expanded, and its present collection of 45 lakh litres per day will be increased to 65 lakh litres per day.

Important facts:

- Rajasthan currently ranks second in the country in milk production and per capita milk availability.
- Approximately 10 crore kilograms of milk is produced daily in the state.

Best-Ever Performance of Suratgarh Power Station's 2x660 MW Units

- The two supercritical units of Rajasthan Vidut Utpadan Nigam's Suratgarh Thermal Power Station, with a combined capacity of 1,320 MW, recorded their best-ever performance in the final quarter of FY 2025-26.
- During the fourth quarter of FY 2025-26, the two supercritical units achieved 95.46 percent availability.
- Commercial production from Units 7 and 8 of the Suratgarh Thermal Power Station, each of 660 MW and based on supercritical technology, began on 1 December 2020 and 7 October 2021 respectively.
- Although the units faced technical defects in the initial period, continuous corrective efforts enabled them to deliver their best-ever performance during the final quarter of FY 2025-26, from January to March 2026.

Projects Approved for Five Districts under the One District One Product Policy

- On 13 May 2026, the State-Level Committee associated with the Panch Gaurav programme, chaired by the Chief Secretary, approved projects worth a total of Rs. 18.19 crore in five districts of the state.

- The projects were approved to improve the quality of ODOP products and make them suitable for the international market.

District-wise products and provisions:

- Dausa - A Technology Facilitation Centre will be set up at a cost of Rs. 3.30 crore to improve stone-based products, including modern cutting, design and finishing.
- Churu - A Common BIS Testing Lab and seasoning facility will be established at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crore for testing and seasoning wood-based products, improving the quality of handicraft products for international markets.
- Didwana-Kuchaman - A CNC Machine Technology Centre will be set up at a cost of Rs. 5.05 crore for stone processing.
- Phalodi - A common climate-controlled warehousing facility will be created at a cost of Rs. 2.35 crore for Sonamukhi, helping preserve it for a longer period.
- Balotra - A Textile Digital Printing Common Facility Centre will be established at a cost of about Rs. 5 crore for modern design-related work in textile products.

State-of-the-Art HDR Brachytherapy Facility Launched in Bikaner

- Union Law Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated a state-of-the-art High-Dose Rate Brachytherapy facility on 14 May 2026 at the Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Treatment and Research Centre, PBM Hospital, Bikaner.
- This advanced machine has been installed under the Tertiary Cancer Care Centre Scheme at a cost of about Rs. 4 crore.
- The HDR Brachytherapy unit will primarily be used for gynaecological cancers, where it is considered the “gold standard” for the treatment of cervical cancer. It will also be useful in treating obstruction-related problems caused by other types of cancers.

Career Counselling Van Launched in Bikaner

- Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launched a Career Counselling Van in Bikaner district on 14 May 2026.
- The van will be operated by Nirvikalp Foundation in collaboration with Bikaji.
- It will provide career counselling to youth seeking employment.
- The van, operated with the support of Bikaji, has been dedicated to Shri Shiv Ratan Agarwal, also known as Fanna Babu.
- Note: Shri Shiv Ratan Agarwal (Fanna Babu), CMD of Bikaji, recently passed away in Chennai.

More Than 2 Lakh Installations in Rajasthan under PM Surya Ghar Scheme

- Rajasthan has installed more than 2 lakh rooftop solar power plants under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- A total capacity of 771 MW has been installed in the state, with the number of installed solar plants reaching 2,00,416.
- In April, 22,822 rooftop solar plants were installed in the state, the highest number installed in any single month so far.
- Under the scheme, Jaipur district has the highest number of installations at 41,296, followed by Sri Ganganagar with 19,135, Sikar with 12,104, Hanumangarh with 11,530 and Jhunjhunu with 10,185 rooftop solar installations.
- With 2,00,419 installations, Rajasthan ranks fifth in the country after Gujarat (6.61 lakh), Maharashtra (5.69 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (5.25 lakh) and Kerala (2.39 lakh).

PM Surya Ghar Scheme:

- Launch: February 2024.
- Objective: To provide free electricity by installing solar panels on the rooftops of 1 crore households in the country.
- Target: To establish 1 crore solar installations by March 2027.
- Subsidy and assistance: 0 to 150 units average monthly consumption - 1 to 2 kW rooftop solar plant - Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 60,000 assistance; 150 to 300 units - 2 to 3 kW - Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 78,000 assistance; above 300 units - above 3 kW - maximum Rs. 78,000 assistance.
- The scheme provides for the development of one Model Solar Village in every district to make rural communities self-reliant in energy.
- Long-term benefits include
 - Household savings, additional income,
 - Increased solar capacity,
 - Environmental benefits,
 - Additional employment generation.

Fruit-Bearing and Shade-Providing Plants to be Grown by Zigzag Method for the First Time in Ajmer

- Assembly Speaker Shri Vasudev Devnani launched an innovative plantation drive at the Government Polytechnic College in Ajmer district on 14 May 2026.
- Around 500 fruit-bearing and shade-providing plants will be grown through the zigzag method on a strip of land approximately 250 feet long and 6 feet wide within the college campus.

Zigzag method:

- It is a modern and scientific technique of planting in horticulture and agriculture.

- Instead of planting saplings in straight rows facing each other, the plant in the second row is placed opposite the empty space between two plants in the first row.
- This method allows about 15 percent more plants to be planted, thereby increasing yield per hectare.

Advanced Robotic Surgery Facility to Start at JLN Hospital, Ajmer

- A state-of-the-art robotic surgery facility has been announced at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Ajmer, as part of efforts to modernise medical facilities.
- The robotic surgery facility at the hospital will be developed as a Centre of Excellence.
- Robotic equipment worth about Rs. 9 crore will be provided for this Centre of Excellence under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- Considering the requirements of robotic surgery, a state-of-the-art modular operation theatre has already been constructed at a cost of about Rs. 1.25 crore.
- Brief: Rajasthan Energy Conclave was organised in Jaipur on 15 May 2026 with the objective of making Rajasthan a major hub of India's clean and green energy future.

Rajasthan Honoured for Exceptional DigiLocker Integration Initiatives

- Rajasthan, along with four other states, was honoured for exceptional DigiLocker integration initiatives during the National Consultation Workshop on Strengthening Cyber Security Frameworks for State Data held on 11 May 2026.
- The other four states honoured at the workshop were Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Nagaland.
- Rajasthan has integrated the family register "Jan Aadhaar" with DigiLocker, benefiting more than 7.5 crore citizens.

State's First Semiconductor Cluster Inaugurated in Bhiwadi

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma virtually inaugurated the state's first semiconductor cluster on 15 May 2026.
- The semiconductor cluster has been established at the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, Salarpur, Khushkhera, Bhiwadi.
- The cluster has been developed on 50.3 acres of land at a project cost of Rs. 46.09 crore.
- The Government of India has provided direct assistance of Rs. 20.24 crore under the EMC scheme.
- It is a greenfield electronics manufacturing cluster developed by M/s ELCINA Electronics Manufacturing Cluster Private Limited (SPV) and 20 companies. It is also the country's first SME semiconductor facility.
- Memory chips, micro SD cards, flash storage devices, e-SIMs, RFID products and LED driver ICs will be manufactured and packaged here.
- Investment proposals worth more than Rs. 1,200

crore have been received so far in this greenfield electronics manufacturing cluster, while 11 companies have already started production with an investment of about Rs. 900 crore.

- Its current annual packaging capacity is about 6 crore semiconductor units, which is planned to be increased to 40-60 crore units over the next 2-3 years.
- The cluster is expected to provide employment to about 2,700 people in the state.

Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy 2026:

- The policy will help give the state a global identity in the semiconductor sector.
- It covers all stages of semiconductor research, design, production, testing and packaging.
- The policy provides 100 percent exemption from electricity duty for seven years, 75 percent exemption from stamp duty and land conversion charges, and 25 percent reimbursement.
- It provides a 60 percent grant of the capital subsidy approved under the India Semiconductor Mission, and a 5 percent interest subsidy on term loans to promote capital investment.

State to Receive Interest-Free Assistance of up to Rs. 11,000 Crore under Central Government's SASCI Initiative

- Rajasthan will receive interest-free assistance of Rs. 11,000 crore under the Central Government's Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2026-27.
- This assistance can be used for capital projects and infrastructure development works costing Rs. 5 crore or more in the state.
- It will help expand infrastructure creation, economic activities and future productive capacity in the state.

Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment:

- The initiative was launched by the Central Government in FY 2020-21 during the Covid-19 pandemic to support state economies and promote capital expenditure.
- Under this initiative, states are provided 50-year interest-free loan assistance for capital investment projects.
- The objective is to increase capital expenditure in states, accelerate economic growth and strengthen infrastructure.

Common Effluent Treatment Plant to be Established at Kahrani, Bhiwadi

- A Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) will be established at Kahrani in Bhiwadi with the support of the Rajasthan Government.
- The State-Level Approval Committee chaired by the

Chief Secretary has approved a grant of Rs. 75 crore for setting up this plant.

- The 6 MLD capacity plant will be established by the Kahrani Green Treaters Association and will benefit more than 400 member units located in the Kahrani, Bandapur, Pathredi and Chopanki industrial areas.
- The plant will treat wastewater discharged by member units as per scientific and environmental standards, helping address water pollution problems in nearby industrial units.

Subsidised Seeds of Pulses and Oilseed Crops for Farmers in the State

- Recently, an amount of Rs. 135 crore was sanctioned under the National Mission on Edible Oil - Oilseeds and Pulses.
- Under this, 70,000 crop demonstrations will be organised in the state, and subsidised and certified seeds of pulses and oilseed crops will be provided free of cost or at subsidised rates to 2.60 lakh farmers.

Two Educational Initiatives of the State Identified as Good State Practices in NITI Aayog Report

- NITI Aayog recently released the report "School Education System in India - Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement".
- The report identified two educational initiatives of Rajasthan as "Good State Practices".

The two initiatives are:

- Shala Swasthya Parikshan Abhiyan - NITI Aayog appreciated Rajasthan's technology-based model for student health screening, nutrition, fitness and health monitoring. According to the report, more than 75 lakh students in the state were screened on over 70 health parameters.
- AI-based evaluation system under the Chief Minister Shikshita Rajasthan Abhiyan - NITI Aayog appreciated the OCR technology and AI-based evaluation system. According to the report, this evaluation system helped more than 4 lakh students move out of learning poverty and recorded an 8-10 percent annual improvement in learning levels.

56,000 Senior Citizens to Benefit under Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme 2026

- Under the Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme, 50,000 senior citizens will be provided free pilgrimage by train and 6,000 senior citizens by air in 2026.

Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme:

- Start- by rail from year 2013 and by rail and air travel from year 2016

- **Objective of the scheme-** To provide government facilities and assistance to the senior citizens native of Rajasthan to facilitate their travel to pilgrimage places located in the country or outside the country.

Departmental limit of beneficiaries in the scheme-

- By rail – 50000 senior citizens
- By air route – 6000 senior citizens
- List of pilgrimage places-
- By Rail (15 places)- Haridwar-Rishikesh-Ayodhya-Varanasi-Sarnath, Sammedshikhar-Pawapuri-Varanasi-Sarnath, Mathura-Vrindavan-Barsana-Agra-Ayodhya, Dwarkapuri-Nageshwar-Somnath, Tirupati-Padmavati, Kamakhya-Guwahati, Gangasagar-Kolkata, Jagannathpuri-Konark, Rameshwaram-Madurai, Vaishnodevi-Amritsar-Wadha Border, Temples and other places of Goa, Churches etc., Mahakaleshwar, Ujjain-Omkareshwar-Triambakeshwar-Ghrishneshwar-Ellora, Bihar-Sharif, Patna Sahib, Patna, Bihar, Sri Hazur Sahib Nanded, Maharashtra,
- By Air – Pashupatinath (Kathmandu), Nepal

Eligibility-

- The beneficiary should be a native of Rajasthan.
- The beneficiary should be above 60 years of age.
- The applicant himself and his spouse should not be income tax payers.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism Module

- Recently, Rajasthan Police provided information regarding GRM module to provide relief to the general public from unknowingly freezing of bank accounts due to cyber fraud.

GRM (Grievance Redressal Mechanism)-

- It has been developed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C).
- Through this, online relief will be provided to innocent people whose bank accounts get frozen, lien or held due to suspicious transactions during cyber investigation.

Steps of GRM process-

- The account holder will go to his bank branch and submit an application to unfreeze the account.
- The bank will register the complaint on the GRM portal after verifying the KYC and transaction.
- A grievance ID will be generated and the matter will be sent to the concerned police station.
- The concerned investigating officer can provide relief in respect of accounts after examining the transaction trail and fraud.
- Accountability- For transparency in this, three level officers have been appointed in both police and banks-

Level	Police Department	Bank Management
State level	DIG	National Nodal Officer / State Grievance Officer
District level	Additional Superintendent of Police / DSP	-
Police station / branch level	Investigating Officer	Branch Grievance Officer

Events to be Organised on 75 Years of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

- Recently, a plan has been presented to organize four big programs in the 75th year of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- The celebrations to be held as part of the year-long Amrit Mahotsav, marking the 75th year of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, will be dedicated to the legislature.

Programmes -

- First programme- In the month of July, there will be a conference of former and present members of the 1st to 16th Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan.
- Second programme- In the month of October, there will be a conference of women MLAs from across the country.
- Third Programme-** In the month of January, there will be a conference to give information to the youth about parliamentary etiquette.
- Fourth programme- This will be in the form of a closing ceremony in which legislative leadership from across the country will participate.

Rajasthan Receives Global First Prize for Tobacco Control Programme

- The World Health Organization awarded the Rajasthan Medical and Health Department the global-level World No Tobacco Day Award 2026 for outstanding work in tobacco control.
- Rajasthan received this prestigious honour from WHO on the basis of remarkable work done in the field of tobacco control in the South-East Asia Region during 2025-26.
- More than 500 tobacco cessation treatment and counselling centres are currently operating in the state up to block level.
- WHO gives this award across six regions globally: African Region, Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean Region, European Region, South-East Asia Region and Western Pacific Region.

State-Level Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee Approves New Houses under PMAY (Urban) 2.0

- On 20 May 2026, a meeting of the State-Level Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee for Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas.

- The meeting granted administrative approval for construction of 5,024 new houses in various urban local bodies of the state.
- Under PMAY (Urban), each beneficiary in the state will receive a grant of Rs. 2.50 lakh for constructing a permanent house.
- Of this grant, Rs. 1.50 lakh is provided by the Central Government and Rs. 1 lakh by the State Government.

Amendments to One District One Product Policy

- Recently, the state government has made two important amendments in One District One Product Policy (ODOP)-2024 to promote local products of the state.

Amendments -

- Margin money in the form of grant to the enterprises related to ODOP product even on expansion-
- With this amendment, margin money grant of up to Rs 20 lakh will be given to expanding micro units and up to Rs 15 lakh to small scale units.
- An additional budget provision of Rs 15 crore has also been made for this.
- Earlier only new units used to get this benefit.
- Technical upgradation through private institutions-
- With this amendment, technical upgradation will also be done through private institutions and a grant of up to Rs 5 lakh will be given for this.
- Earlier, this benefit was given only on technology upgradation through government institutions.

Approval to Increase Honorarium of Senior Accredited Journalists

- The state government approved a proposal on 21 May 2026 to increase the monthly honorarium for full-time senior accredited journalists from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000.

According to the Rajasthan Senior Accredited Journalist Honorarium Scheme (Amendment) Rules, 2026, the following are eligible:

- The person must be a full-time accredited journalist.
- The person must have worked for at least 20 years in daily, weekly or fortnightly newspapers, as an independent journalist, or in electronic media or news agencies.
- The person must be 60 years of age or above.
- Such journalists will be eligible for a monthly honorarium of Rs. 18,000.
- As per another state government notification, the honorarium for the wife of a deceased beneficiary journalist under the scheme has also been increased from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 9,000.
- Note: In the state budget for FY 2026-27, the government had announced an increase in the honorarium of accredited journalists from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000.

Vibrant Villages Programme-II

- On 21 May 2026, a meeting of the State-Level Screening Committee for Vibrant Villages was held at the Government Secretariat under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.
- Under Vibrant Villages Programme-II, 184 strategically important villages in five border districts - Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar and Phalodi - will be covered across 10 thematic areas.
- These villages will be fully saturated with all-weather roads, 4G telecom connectivity, television connectivity and on-grid electrification.

Vibrant Village Scheme:

- This is the second major Central Government scheme for the integrated development of international border areas after the Border Area Development Programme.

Chief Minister Thar Border Area Development Programme:

- This programme was started by the state government as per the 2025-26 budget announcement.
- Under it, the state government has made a provision of Rs. 150 crore per year for the integrated development of 1,206 villages in five border districts of the state.

Three Rajya Sabha Representatives to be Elected from Rajasthan

- The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha.
- According to the Election Commission, three Rajya Sabha members will be elected from Rajasthan this time.
- The terms of three current Rajya Sabha members from the state - Shri Neeraj Dangi, Shri Rajendra Gehlot and Shri Ravneet Singh - will end on 21 June 2026.

Election schedule issued by the Election Commission:

- Notification issued - 1 June 2026
- Last date for nomination - 8 June 2026
- Scrutiny of nominations - 9 June 2026
- Last date for withdrawal of candidature - 11 June 2026
- Date of polling - 18 June 2026
- Polling time - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Counting of votes - 18 June 2026, from 5:00 p.m.
- Completion of election process - 20 June 2026

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy Approved

- The Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy was approved in the Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on 22 May 2026.
- The objective of the approved policy is to make the state a global industrial hub in line with the

Developed Rajasthan@2047 vision.

- Target: To take the state economy to USD 350 billion by 2028-29.
- Strategic pillars: The policy is based on 4G - Green, Governance, Growth and Globalisation.

Targeted areas:

- Development of node-based industrial parks in the DMIC corridor.
- Promotion of environment-friendly industrial production, renewable energy and circular economy.
- Special focus on research and development and technology transfer.
- Establishment of CETPs in RIICO and non-RIICO areas, and creation of new Integrated Resource Recovery Parks.
- Promotion of emerging technologies such as semiconductors, data centres, GCCs and defence manufacturing, along with traditional sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, tourism, agro-processing and dairy.

Record of Unloading Coal Rakes without Demurrage at Suratgarh and Chhabra Thermal Power Stations

- Suratgarh Super Thermal Project (1,500 MW capacity) and Chhabra Super Thermal Project (1,000 MW capacity) have set a record by continuously unloading coal rakes without demurrage.
- At Suratgarh Thermal Power Station, more than 750 coal rakes were unloaded without demurrage from 4 September 2025 to 23 May 2026.
- At Chhabra Thermal Power Station, 521 coal rakes were unloaded without demurrage from 2 November 2025 to 23 May 2026.
- This record was made possible due to better maintenance and operation of coal handling system machinery at the power stations.
- Zero demurrage charges help keep the cost of coal lower, thereby supporting cheaper electricity availability for consumers.

Siwana Ring Complex

- Recently, a joint meeting of the Technical-cum-Cost Committees of the Union Ministry of Mines highlighted reserves of rare minerals in the Siwana Ring Complex.
- Large reserves of Rare Earth Elements (REE), Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE) and critical rare metals have been found in three parts of the complex.
- At present, work has been allotted to three companies for technical evaluation of the complex.

Efforts by the Rajasthan Government:

- A nodal officer will be appointed in the state for effective and speedy implementation of work related to the Siwana Ring Complex.
- The state government is setting up a special centre for research, innovation and strategic development of rare minerals.

- The Rajasthan Government is working with the Geological Survey of India, Atomic Minerals Directorate, IIT Hyderabad and IIT Dhanbad to accelerate research and exploration.

About the Siwana Ring Complex:

- It is an ancient volcanic crater spread over 750 square kilometres in Balotra.
- It contains large reserves of Rare Earth Elements, Heavy Rare Earth Elements and critical rare metals.
- Extremely rare elements such as niobium, zirconium and hafnium have been found here.
- These rare elements will be used in rocket and missile technology, superalloy materials for aerospace engines, and raw material supply for nuclear power plants.

Amendment to Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024

- The state government has issued a notification amending the Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024.
- According to the revised policy, the maximum grant for technical upgradation has been increased from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore.
- The increase in grant for technical upgradation will enable industries in the state to adopt modern technology in line with global competition, thereby improving both production capacity and quality.

Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024:

- Policy launched by the Chief Minister on 4 December 2024.
- Policy notified on 8 December 2024.
- Objective: To promote sustainable and inclusive export growth, with focus on SMEs, local handicrafts and diversification of export products.

Major provisions of Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024-

- Assistance for export documentation, quality and management certification – Under this component, 50 percent of the annual cost per unit, up to a maximum of ₹ 5 lakh, is provided for export processes and documentation.
- Marketing Assistance- Under this component, 75 percent reimbursement of expenses and assistance for travel up to a maximum of ₹ 3 lakh (once in two years) is provided to eligible enterprises participating in approved international trade fairs organized abroad.
- Product Testing Incentive – Under this component, 75 percent reimbursement of the expenditure incurred for product related certification, subject to a maximum of ₹ 20,000 per shipment and up to ₹ 3 lakh per year, is provided to the export units.
- Technology Upgradation Assistance – Under this

component, 75 percent reimbursement of the expenditure incurred for acquisition and upgradation of modern technology, up to a maximum of ₹ 50 lakh, is provided to export units.

- (Note- According to the revised policy, the maximum grant given for technical upgradation has been increased from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore.)
- E-commerce assistance – Under this component, reimbursement of 75 percent of the total fee payable, up to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh, is provided to encourage the use of e-commerce to increase exports.
- Export Credit Insurance – Under this component, export units are provided reimbursement of 50 percent of the premium paid to the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), up to a maximum of ₹ 2 lakh per unit per year.
- Under this policy, first-time exporting units are provided a subsidy of 25 percent on freight cost (up to a maximum of ₹ 25 lakh per unit) under RIPS-2024.

Agreement between Agriculture Department and Wadhvani AI to Promote Technology in Agriculture

- The Rajasthan Agriculture Department signed a non-financial agreement with the reputed not-for-profit organisation Lord’s Education and Health Society (LEHS - Wadhvani AI Foundation).
- The objective of the agreement is to connect Rajasthan’s agriculture sector with the latest technology, increase farmers’ income and make the entire agricultural delivery system transparent.
- In line with the budget announcement, Wadhvani AI will work as the state government’s technical partner for the next three years for establishing AI-based models and Centres of Excellence in the state.
- This technology will strengthen the information system at the field level, enabling agricultural services to reach even the last-mile farmer effectively.
- Four special AI tools will be implemented under this agreement for improvement in the agriculture sector -

AI Solution	Working Method and Benefit to Farmers
Agrivani	It is a multilingual chatbot model. Farmers will be able to interact in their local language through voice or text and receive immediate technical solutions to their problems.
Cropus	It is a computer-vision-based pest and disease monitoring system. Farmers will be able to take crop photos from the field, accurately identify diseases and receive expert-certified immediate treatment recommendations.

Soybean Grain Analyser	It is a smartphone-based app. Farmers will be able to assess the quality, grading and protein content of their soybean crop in real time before going to the mandi, enabling them to get the right price for their produce.
Agri AI Collect and News Monitoring	This tool will maintain a digital record of farmers' field activities and continuously monitor agriculture-related news to support quick decision-making at the administrative level.

Initiative to Start Certificate Courses in Foreign Languages in the State

- The state government has taken an initiative to start certificate courses in seven foreign languages in government colleges at all district headquarters.
- For this, the Rajasthan Government signed MoUs with the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and the National Skill Development Corporation.
- The initiative will offer courses in seven foreign languages: French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Korean and Japanese.
- In the first phase, 1,000 youth will be trained in foreign languages.

Governor Formally Launches 'Census 2027' Process

- The Census 2027 process in Rajasthan was formally launched on 1 May 2026 by Governor Shri Haribhau Bagade through self-enumeration at Lok Bhavan.
- With this formal launch, the first phase of census activities began across the state.

Census 2027:

- The first phase of India's Census 2027 officially began on 1 April 2026.
- It will be India's first fully digital census, with data collected through digital devices.
- Citizens have been provided the facility of self-enumeration through a secure web-based system.

Miscellaneous details regarding Census 2027:

- To ensure the comprehensive and systematic compilation of data on a nationwide scale, Census 2027 will be conducted under a planned two-phase framework.
- Phase I: Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) – This is scheduled between April and September 2026. During this phase, detailed information regarding the condition of houses, available amenities, and assets possessed by households will be collected; it will also lay the necessary groundwork for the

subsequent phase.

- Phase II: Population Enumeration (PE) – This is scheduled for February 2027, with the primary focus being the collection of detailed demographic, socio-economic, cultural, migration, and fertility-related information regarding all individuals within households. A caste enumeration will also be conducted during this second phase of the census. For the snow-bound, non-synchronous areas of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the second phase will be conducted during September 2026.

Key features:

- Caste enumeration: Caste enumeration will be a major feature of Census 2027, following the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on 30 April 2025.
- First digital census: Census 2027 will be India's first digital census.
- Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) Portal: A dedicated portal has been developed for real-time management and monitoring of the entire census process.
- Houselisting and Housing Census mobile application: A secure offline app for enumerators to collect and upload houselisting data. Only persons registered on the CMMS portal will be able to use it. The app will provide field-to-server data transfer, eliminating paperwork. It will be available on Android and iOS platforms in 16 regional languages.
- Houselisting Block Creator web mapping application: Another innovation for Census 2027, to be used by charge officers. It will enable digital creation of Houselisting Blocks using satellite imagery and ensure accurate geographical coverage of the entire country without duplication or omission.
- Self-enumeration portal: An optional 15-day self-enumeration period will be provided before door-to-door field visits. The secure web-based portal will allow eligible respondents in households to submit their family information online before field operations begin.

Historical background of the Indian Census:

- India's first population count was conducted between 1865 and 1872, followed by the first nationwide synchronous census in 1881. Since then, the Indian Census has been conducted every ten years.
- Census 2027 is India's 16th Census and the 8th Census after independence.

President honours three personalities from Rajasthan with Padma Shri

- Recently, at an investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu honoured three personalities from Rajasthan with Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian award.

Honoured persons:

- Shri Taga Ram Bhil - for playing the algoza.
- Shri Swami Brahmadev Ji Maharaj - for distinguished contribution in the field of social service and public welfare.
- Shri Gafrooddin Mewati Jogi - for giving global recognition to the folk musical instrument bhapang in the field of art.

Dr. Manju Baghmar receives International Honour from World Book of Records, London

- Recently, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Dr. Manju Baghmar was given a special invitation by the World Book of Records to the 10th Award Summit to be held at the Palace of Westminster, British Parliament.
- Dr. Manju Baghmar's multi-dimensional work in education, social service, women's empowerment and public welfare has been appreciated.
- Earlier, the same international honour had been conferred on Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

RIDCO's new land allotment and pricing policy approved

- Recently, the Land Allotment and Land Pricing Policy of Rajasthan Industrial Corridors Development Corporation Limited (RIDCO) was approved on 31 May 2026.

Provisions in the new policy:

- Provision for an online application process, direct allotment scheme, e-auction and a special allotment process for FDI projects and other large investments for the allotment of plots.
- Provision for allotment of plots on a 99-year lease.
- Provision for lease-period options ranging from 33 to 66 years for special sectors such as flatted factories, plug-and-play, warehousing and logistics.
- Provision to give concessions to early investors on advance payment.
- A deferred payment facility through 11 quarterly interest-bearing installments has also been provided.

RIDCO:

- It is a joint venture of the Government of India's National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust and the Rajasthan Government's RIICO.
- Its objective is to develop integrated industrial townships and infrastructure.

RIICO invites applications for developing parks under Models "A" and "D" of the Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026

- Recently, on 29 May 2026, RIICO invited applications for developing parks under Models "A" and "D" of the Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026.
- Under Models "A" and "D" of this policy, new parks will be developed on 645 hectares of land at 9 locations in the state.
- Development models under RIICO's Industrial Park Promotion Policy-2026:

Model	Nature of Development
Model-A	Development will be carried out entirely by a private developer on land allotted by RIICO.
Model-B	80% of the land will be provided by the developer and the remaining 20% will be made available by RIICO at prescribed rates.
Model-C	The entire land arrangement will be made by the developer itself.
Model-D	This will be based completely on the public-private partnership model.

Jaipur Foot centre established in Trinidad and Tobago

- Recently, India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated the Jaipur Foot permanent prosthetic limb centre in Port of Spain.
- This centre has been started through the joint efforts of Jaipur Foot USA, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti and the local government there.

Jaipur Foot:

- It is a low-cost prosthetic leg.
- It uses advanced joint designs found in other prosthetic limbs.
- It is waterproof and can be used with or without shoes.

Integrated Infrastructure Development Model

- Recently, the State Government has, for the first time, started working on the Integrated Infrastructure Development Model.
- Work under this model has begun from the Jhotwara area of Jaipur, on which more than Rs. 580 crore will be spent.

- Integrated Infrastructure Development Model:
- This development model is a modern model that ends the approach of different departments carrying out work separately and develops transport, energy, digital networks and social infrastructure together under one plan.

“Goat Bank” Campaign

- Recently, it was announced that the state’s first “Goat Bank” campaign will be started in Jaisalmer.
- Its objective is to reduce the growing conflict between humans and wildlife and to provide protection to the rare wild animal caracal (Siyahgosh).
- This campaign is a joint initiative of the Forest Department and the Wildlife Trust of India.
- Under this campaign, if a caracal hunts a goat belonging to a pastoralist, the affected family will immediately be provided a new goat.

New site related to Ahar culture found in Nagaur

- Recently, archaeologists discovered a new site related to the Ahar culture in the border area of Nagaur.
- The remains of this site were first found here in the year 2022.
- This site also reflects the expansion of the Ahar culture and the trade and cultural relations between the Indus Valley (Harappan) and Ahar cultures.
- According to archaeologists, this new site will help in understanding the links among Rajasthan’s three major cultures.

Jaipur International Airport receives “Green Airport” honour

- Recently, Jaipur International Airport was awarded Silver recognition in the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Green Airports Recognition 2026.
- This honour was given for climate adaptation, energy efficiency and environmentally responsible operations.

High-protein paneer made from camel milk in the state

- Recently, scientists at the National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC), Bikaner, developed a paneer product rich in protein and minerals using a mixture of camel milk and cow milk.

- For its preparation, 30% cow milk was mixed with camel milk to increase the coagulation capacity of camel milk.
- It can be safely stored for five to seven days and has health-promoting and medicinal properties.

Soap and shampoo to be made from goat milk in the state

- A plant for making soap and shampoo from goat milk will be set up in Sojat, Pali.
- This plant is being set up by the Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) under the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee District Upliftment Programme.
- About Rs. 15 lakh will be spent on the construction of this plant, and about 1,000 rural families will be linked to this unit.
- Its objective is to make women self-reliant and to promote industries based on local resources.

Four districts of Rajasthan among the country’s largest cyber-fraud districts

- According to recent data from the Central Government’s ‘Pratibimb’ portal, four districts in Rajasthan have featured among the country’s top 20 cyber fraud hotspots.
- Related districts:
 1. Alwar - fourth in the country
 2. Khairthal-Tijara - tenth in the country
 3. Deeg - eleventh in the country
 4. Jaipur - sixteenth in the country

Rajasthan’s PM SHRI School-Raholi receives national award

- Recently, the state’s PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School, Raholi, was honoured with the “School Challenge TOFEI National Award”.
- This school is the only government school in the state to receive this honour.
- This award was given to the school for successful implementation of the drug-free school campaign, creating social awareness among students, building a positive school environment, fulfilling social responsibility and effectively conducting innovative activities.



Festivals / Conferences / Campaigns / Operations**Special Preventive Drive**

- As per the directions of the Excise Commissioner, a special preventive campaign was conducted in the state to curb illegal manufacture, storage, transport and sale of liquor.
- The campaign was conducted from 1 to 15 May 2026.
- Effective action was taken through barricading, patrolling and raids under the campaign.

Special Campaign for Wildlife Census through the Water Hole Method

- As every year, the annual assessment of wildlife population in the state was carried out on 1-2 May 2026 through the water hole method.
- A total of 2,685 water holes across different divisions of the state were covered, including 421 in Jaipur, 236 in Ajmer, 191 in Bharatpur, 744 in Udaipur, 262 in Bikaner, 345 in Kota and 482 in Jodhpur.
- In each protected area, wildlife was identified and counted using camera traps at at least 10 locations with high wildlife movement.

Cooperative Department Launches "Swachh Sahakar, Samridhd Sahakar" Special Campaign

- The Rajasthan State Cooperative Department launched the special campaign "Swachh Sahakar, Samridhd Sahakar" on 4 May 2026, which was conducted in phases until 29 May 2026.
- The objective of the campaign was to strengthen work culture, make offices clean and systematic, and improve administrative efficiency.
- Another objective was to implement the 5S methodology in all offices and institutions for efficient management, cleanliness, work efficiency and quality service delivery.
- The 5S methodology includes Seiri (sorting), Seiton (systematic arrangement), Seiso (cleanliness), Seiketsu (standardisation) and Shitsuke (discipline).
- Under the campaign, cleaning of offices and disposal of identified records and scrap were undertaken.

The campaign was carried out in three phases:

- First phase - Identification of unusable records and materials.
- Second phase - Extensive cleaning and improvement of arrangements.
- Third phase - Disposal of identified materials as per rules.

State-Level Workshop for Public Prosecutors on New Criminal and Cyber Laws

- The Department of Law and Legal Affairs organised a one-day state-level workshop for public prosecutors

and special public prosecutors in Jaipur on 9 May 2026.

- The main objective of the workshop was to develop a deeper understanding of the new criminal laws implemented in the country, increasing cybercrimes and laws related especially to persons with disabilities.

In the News: Swayamsiddha Ashram Scheme

- The Rajasthan Government has launched the Swayamsiddha Ashram Scheme as a sensitive initiative for weaker and neglected sections of society.
- The scheme has emerged as a source of hope for elderly and helpless citizens who seek support and a dignified life in the final stage of life.
- The state government announced in the 2024-25 budget the establishment of ashrams with a capacity of 50 each at the divisional level. This was expanded to 10 new districts in the 2025-26 budget.
- Currently, Swayamsiddha Ashrams are being successfully operated through voluntary organisations in 17 districts of Rajasthan, where elderly people are provided a family-like environment.

Eligibility:

- Senior citizens from any state and helpless/ destitute persons are eligible.
- Men must be 58 years or above and women 55 years or above.
- Helpless/ destitute persons include those deprived of shelter, support or assistance; childless; or facing harassment by their own families.
- Under the scheme, a mess allowance of Rs. 3,250 per resident per month is provided. In addition, a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 10,000 is provided every five years.
- At present, more than 483 elderly and helpless citizens are benefiting from this scheme.

Jaipur Municipal Corporation Conducts Night-Time Special Cleanliness Campaign "Operation Clean Sweep"

- Jaipur Municipal Corporation conducted a night-time special cleanliness campaign called "Operation Clean Sweep" on 9 May 2026 from 12 midnight to 5 a.m. to take city cleanliness and beautification to a new level.
- The campaign was conducted to make Jaipur city clean, beautiful and well-organised.
- The corporation administration formed 36 beats for successful implementation of the campaign.

17th Meeting of the State Broadband Committee Held

- The 17th meeting of the State Broadband Committee was held on 13 May 2026 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas.
- The meeting was held to strengthen telecom infrastructure, expand digital connectivity and ensure effective implementation of telecom projects in the state.
- The Chief Secretary instructed that applications received under the Telecommunication Right of Way Rules 2024 be disposed of within the prescribed timeline.
- The objective of the Telecommunication Right of Way Rules 2024 is to make the approval process for laying telecom towers and cables transparent, digital and time-bound for expansion of 5G rollout, fibre connectivity and digital infrastructure in the country.

26th Meeting of Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund Board Held

- The 26th meeting of the Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund Board was held on 13 May 2026 in the Police Headquarters auditorium under the chairmanship of Rajiv Kumar Sharma.
- The meeting was organised to further strengthen welfare, security and social support for the Rajasthan Police family.

Decisions taken in the meeting:

- Relief will be provided for expenses related to childbirth operation cases.
- The income-expenditure statement of the Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund for FY 2025-26 was approved.
- It was decided to invite proposals for opening CPC canteens in newly created districts and units.
- Police canteens and libraries operating in police lines will be upgraded and modernised.
- Financial assistance will be provided to retired police personnel for treatment of serious and chronic diseases.
- All districts, units and training institutions will be asked to submit proposals with estimates for welfare works under the Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund Rules, 1986.

Joint Commanders' Conference Held in Jaipur

- The second edition of the Joint Commanders' Conference was held in Jaipur on 7-8 May 2026 on the theme "Military Capability in New Domains".
- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan participated in the conference.

Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM 2026) Postponed

- After Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed for restraint in fuel consumption, the state government decided on 15 May 2026 to postpone GRAM 2026.
- Earlier, GRAM 2026 was proposed to be organised from 23 to 25 May 2026 at JECC, Jaipur.

Fifth Meeting of Raj Unnati Chaired by the Chief Minister

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma chaired the fifth meeting of Raj Unnati on 15 May 2026 at the Chief Minister's Office.
- The Chief Minister issued directions regarding the progress of various projects worth about Rs. 33,039 crore across seven departments.

Major decisions and instructions:

- The state government will operate e-buses, which will reduce pollution in cities and save petrol and diesel.
- Weekly meetings of departments related to water and electricity will be held in districts.
- Under the automation project of Gang Canal Phase I, a modern water distribution system will be developed over 3.14 lakh hectares.
- Small dilapidated bus stands will be strengthened in the month of May.

Gram Rath Campaign Concludes

- Start: 27 April 2026.
- Closing ceremony: 16 May 2026.
- Objective: To take information about the state government's public welfare schemes to rural areas, especially farmers and livestock rearers.
- The Chief Minister addressed the statewide Gram Rath closing ceremony through video calling from Thikaria village in Bagru.
- Through the Gram Rath Campaign, information about public welfare schemes was disseminated in 183 Assembly constituencies.

"Build with AI" Workshop Organised

- A "Build with AI" workshop was organised at the Rajasthan Centre of Advanced Technology (R-CAT) on 21 May 2026 in collaboration with Google India.
- The initiative focused on preparing the next generation of AI developers, innovators and technology talent. More than 100 startup founders, developers, students, innovators, corporate leaders and government officials participated in the intensive and practical workshop.

Chief Minister Viksit Gram-Shehari Ward Abhiyan Concludes

- The Chief Minister Developed Village-Urban Ward Campaign concluded on 15 May 2026.

- The campaign began on 19 March 2026, on Rajasthan Day.
- It was conducted from 19 March to 15 May 2026 across 14,403 gram panchayats of 457 panchayat samitis and 10,245 wards of 309 urban local bodies.
- During the campaign, the needs and aspirations of common citizens, women, youth, farmers, artisans and persons with disabilities were heard, and draft master plans were prepared on the basis of suggestions and baseline data.
- In the Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on 22 May 2026, it was decided that remaining Gram Sabhas would be held across the state on 26 May to approve these master plans.

Viksit Bharat Young Professionals Round Table 2026 Organised

- The Viksit Bharat Young Professionals Roundtable 2026 was organised at Subodh College, Jaipur, on 25 May 2026.
- It was organised under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports by My Bharat, Jaipur, in collaboration with Akhil Bharatiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad and Jain International Trade Organization, under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue initiative.
- The objective of the event was to inspire youth for active participation in nation-building, promote innovation-based thinking and provide guidance in the fields of startups and entrepreneurship.

131st Board Meeting of RSRDC

- The 131st board meeting of Rajasthan State Road Development and Construction Corporation (RSRDC) was held on 24 May 2026 under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari.

Decisions:

- Approval was given to a loan proposal of Rs. 4,938 crore for land acquisition in the Kotputli-Kishangarh and Beawar-Bharatpur expressway projects.
- Approval was given to a loan proposal of Rs. 460 crore for upgradation of Nasirabad-Sarwar-Kekri-Deoli Road (SH-26), construction of Kekri bypass and widening of the road from two lanes to four lanes.
- Approval was given to increase the loan amount for repair of Gotan-Bilara-Pundal road from Rs. 17 crore to Rs. 27.87 crore.

Vande Ganga Water Conservation Jan Abhiyan Launched

- The Chief Minister launched the Vande Ganga Water Conservation Jan Abhiyan at Bisalpur Dam in Tonk on 25 May 2026 (Ganga Dashmi).
- The campaign will be conducted across the state from 25 May to 5 June 2026, World Environment Day.
- Under the campaign, awareness activities such as cleaning of wells, stepwells and ponds, shramdaan,

water chaupal, morning rallies and plantations will be carried out in villages.

- Members of Parliament, legislators and local public representatives across the state will actively participate in water conservation works in their respective areas.

Governor Appoints Vice-Chancellors of State Universities

- Governor and Chancellor Shri Haribhau Bagade issued orders on 13 May 2026 appointing Vice-Chancellors of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, and Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur.
- Prof. Kailash Daga (Vice-Chancellor) - Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.
- Prof. Madan Singh Rathore (Vice-Chancellor) - Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, Bharatpur.
- The appointments are for three years from the date of assuming charge or until attainment of 70 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Miss and Mrs India The Crown 2026

- The beauty pageant 'Miss and Mrs India The Crown 2026' was organised recently at Mansarovar, Jaipur.
- In the Miss category, Ruby Chaudhary from Haryana won the Miss India The Crown 2026 title, while Siddhi Rathore won the Miss India Rajasthan title.
- In the Mrs category, Garima Chauhan won the Mrs India title.
- Jaya Sharma was chosen as Mrs India Rajasthan in the competition.

Release of the Book "Pancham Ved - Focused on Natyashastra"

- Governor Shri Haribhau Bagade released the book "Natyashastra: Pancham Ved Par Ekagra", published by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, on 22 May 2026.
- The book has been edited by Dr. Rajesh Kumar Vyas.
- It contains writings on various dimensions of Natyashastra in the light of the Indian knowledge tradition.

Natyashastra:

- It is called the fifth Veda.
- It has 37 chapters.
- It contains important narratives and principles related to rasa, music, dance and other arts.
- It is believed to have been composed by drawing text from the Rigveda, music from the Samaveda, drama from the Yajurveda and rasa from the Atharvaveda.
- Natyashastra was included in UNESCO's prestigious Memory of the World Register in April 2025.

Rajasthan Police's major campaign against child labour and child trafficking

- A state-wide one-month special campaign "Umang-VII" will be conducted in Rajasthan against child labour, child bonded labour and human trafficking (child trafficking).
- As per the directions of Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar Sharma, this campaign will be conducted across the state from 1 June to 30 June 2026.
- The objective of this campaign is to establish effective control over serious social evils such as child labour and child trafficking and to ensure rehabilitation of victim children.

Fourth meeting of Tiger Foundation held under the chairmanship of the Forest Minister

- Recently, the fourth meeting of the Governing Body of the Rajasthan Tiger Conservation Foundation was held at Aranya Bhawan on 26 May 2026 under the chairmanship of Sanjay Sharma, Minister of State for the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department.
- In this meeting, an annual work plan of Rs. 6,493 lakh was approved for various works to be undertaken in tiger reserve areas during the year 2026-27.

Sports

State-Level Sub-Junior Boys and Girls Boxing Championship

- The 5th Rajasthan State-Level Sub-Junior Boys and Girls Boxing Championship was held from 22 to 24 May 2026 at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Bharatpur-Alwar.

Winners:

- Girls team - Alwar winner (Kota runner-up)
- Boys team - Bharatpur winner (Alwar runner-up)
- Best Boxer (boys category) - Yash Kumar, Bharatpur.
- Best Boxer (girls category) - Arika Singh (Kota).
- Best Challenger Boxer (boys category) - Veer Mrityunjay (Jaipur).
- Best Challenger Boxer (girls category) - Priyanshi (Hanumangarh).
- Best Promising Boxer (boys category) - Yuvraj Kumawat, Alwar.
- Best Promising Boxer (girls category) - Taslima, Alwar.

Rajasthan Royals Franchise

- The Rajasthan Royals franchise of the Indian Premier League has recently been purchased by Lakshmi Niwas Mittal and Aditya Mittal for Rs. 15,660 crore.
- The final approval for this purchase will be given in September 2026.

Shareholding:

- Mittal family - 75 percent.
- Adar Poonawalla - 18 percent.

- Manoj Badale - 7 percent.
- Lakshmi Mittal and Aditya Mittal will also get ownership rights of two other teams associated with the franchise - Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals.

Lakshmi Niwas Mittal:

- He belongs to Rajgarh, Churu.
- He was born on 15 June 1950.
- He is India's 12th and the world's 91st richest person.
- His total net worth is Rs. 2.26 lakh crore.

Rishabh Daga

- He is an 18-year-old resident of Jaipur.
- Recently, by completing the prestigious IRONMAN Vietnam competition held in Da Nang, Vietnam, he earned the distinction of becoming Rajasthan's youngest Ironman.
- Rishabh Daga completed 3.8 km swimming, 180 km cycling and a 42.2 km marathon in 13 hours and 46 minutes.

Inaya Khan

- She is a 14-year-old resident of Jaipur.
- She secured first place in the Junior Building Bridge category at the Robofest World Championship-2026 and earned the distinction of becoming a world champion.
- This championship was held at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan, USA.
- Inaya represented Ghana on the international stage and made her team champion.
- Inaya Khan is also the brand ambassador of the Rajasthan Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Shaurya Maheshwari

- He is a resident of Jaipur.
- Recently, he won a gold medal in the All India Open Roller Skating Championship held in Shimla.
- This competition was organised by the Amateur Roller Skating Federation of India.

Ashish Badgoti

- He is a resident of Jaipur and is an endurance athlete.
- Recently, he successfully completed the prestigious IRONMAN 70.3 competition held in Shanghai, China.
- **IRONMAN 70.3:** It is considered one of the world's toughest fitness challenges, in which participants must complete 1.9 km swimming, 90 km cycling and a 21.1 km half marathon.

Manav Suthar

- He is an all-rounder cricketer from Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan.
- Recently, the BCCI Senior Selection Committee selected him in the Indian Test team for the Test series against Afghanistan.

- The first match of the India-Afghanistan Test series was played from 6 June 2026 at Mullanpur.

Arundhati Choudhary

- She is a resident of Kota, Rajasthan.
- She has been selected in the Indian team for the boxing competition of the Commonwealth Games-2026 to be held in Glasgow, England.
- Arundhati Choudhary was selected in the Indian team on the basis of winning the gold medal in the Asian Championship on 9 April. Arundhati will represent the country in the 70 kg weight category.
- Earlier, Arundhati Choudhary had won a gold medal in the World Cup held in 2025.

Shyam Sundar Swami

- He is a para-archer from Rajasthan.
- He has secured a place in the Indian team for the Para Asian Games to be held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 24 October 2026.
- He secured second place in the selection trials held in Sonapat, Haryana.

Divyanshi Jain

- She is a squash player from Jaipur city.
- Recently, she won a bronze medal in the 33rd Li-Ning Asian Junior Squash Championship held in China.
- In this championship, the Indian team won a total of eight medals, including one gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Monika Jakhar

- She is a shooting player from Rajasthan.
- Recently, she won a bronze medal in the 24th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Competition held at the Shooting Range in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, under the aegis of the National Rifle Association of India.

Notable Persons / Places / Others

Babulal Bairwa

- He was a former member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and recently passed away.
- He was the senior-most leader of the Kathumar Assembly constituency. He contested elections nine times and won four times.
- He first won as an independent candidate in 1980.

Anshu Jain

- The BCCI Centre of Excellence has appointed Anshu Jain as head coach for the upcoming Under-19 Elite Boys Camp.
- Anshu Jain is a resident of Jaipur district and is currently the head coach of the Rajasthan Ranji team. He will also look after the batting unit at the camp.
- The BCCI camp will be held from 11 May to 9 June at Rangpo, Sikkim.

Rajat Kumar Saini

- He is a resident of Jaipur.
- He recently hosted India at the IKF Beach Korfball World Cup held in Thailand.

Bhawani Singh

- He is a resident of Jakhal, Nawalgarh, Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan.
- He recently won the silver medal in the nation category in petanque doubles at the Petanque Transplant Asian Open Championship 2026 held in Bangkok.
- Bhawani Singh has won 18 medals in international competitions, and this was his 19th medal.
- He is the player who has won the highest number of international medals for India in transplant sports.

Yuvraj Singh

- He was a resident of Beawar district, Rajasthan.
- Recently, he was martyred in an encounter with terrorists near the Akhnoor sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rajendra Mohan Sharma

- He is a senior litterateur from Jaipur.
- Recently, Mati Ke Manas Sansthan, Dharwad (Karnataka), selected his story "Bhima" for first place as the best story.

Ranjit Singh Rathore

- He is a resident of Dhundhla village in Pali district.
- He won the councillor election in Hillingdon Council, London.
- He was declared elected from the Northwood Hills ward as the Conservative Party candidate after securing 1,902 votes.

Kalyan Singh Kothari

- He was a senior journalist from Rajasthan who recently passed away at the age of 83.
- He was honoured with the Manak Alankaran Award in 2011 for investigative and creative journalism.
- He had served as President of the Public Relations Society of India, Jaipur Chapter.

Dr. S.R. Mehta

- He was a former Principal of SMS Medical College and a recipient of the Padma Shri and B.C. Roy Award, who recently passed away at the age of 95.
- The Women's Hospital at Sanganeri Gate is the result of his vision and efforts.

Neelam Meena

- She is a resident of Koyla Gram Panchayat in the Bamanwas subdivision (Gangapur City) area of Rajasthan.
- Recently, she was appointed Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal.
- She is a 1998-batch IAS officer.

Miscellaneous

- Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr. Vasudev Devnani honoured journalist Shri Lakhbir Singh in electronic media, Shri Ram Gopal Jat in digital media and Shri Madan Kalal in print media with the Narad Award on 2 May 2026.
- A modern spiritual, yoga and meditation centre is being developed at Vivekananda Park located in the foothills of the Aravalli range in Ajmer district.
- The state government has announced the development of sandalwood forests at Jhantaliya in Banswara, Banki in Udaipur and Janapur in Sirohi. More than 10,000 sandalwood saplings will be planted in each sandalwood forest.
- Recently, the largest-ever contingent of 47 players from six Rajasthan teams participated in the 47th All India Electricity Competition.
- The 21st Executive Committee meeting of Rajasthan Gramin Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) was held at the Government Secretariat on 6 May 2026 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri V. Srinivas.
- The state government has announced evening OPD in high patient-load departments at Sawai Man Singh Hospital to facilitate treatment and improve crowd management. The first phase will begin with the Medicine Department.
- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy approved an incentive amount of more than Rs. 60 crore to Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam for adding grid-connected rooftop solar capacity during FY 2024-25.
- The state-level function on National Technology Day was organised on 11 May 2026 at the auditorium of Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Jaipur.
- A roadmap has been prepared for the integrated development of Ajmer city's third major lake, Chaurasiyawas Talab.
- Somnath Swabhiman Parv was organised at state and district level on 11 May 2026 under the joint aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture, the Department of Art, Literature, Culture and Archaeology, and the Devasthan Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- At the workshop for public prosecutors organised by the Department of Law and Legal Affairs on 9 May 2026, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of cyber police stations in all districts by 2030.
- The 62nd meeting of the High-Level Committee and State-Level Task Force was held on 11 May 2026 at NABARD's Regional Office, Jaipur.
- A one-day training programme was organised on 11 May 2026 to provide information on purchasing through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal in cooperative societies of the state.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs recently launched the WhatsApp-based "TELL 14C Chatbot" platform to effectively control cybercrimes and create awareness about digital safety among the public.
- According to information issued by the state government, more than 16.66 lakh manuscripts have been surveyed in Rajasthan under the Gyan Bharatam Mission, the highest in the country.
- Kota New Medical College Hospital was recently in the news in connection with cases of deaths and deterioration of health among pregnant women.
- Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) provided interactive panels and dual desks to 40 government schools in Bikaner district under CSR.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the statue of Shri Rao Duda Ji in Merta, Nagaur district, on 14 May 2026.
- The State-Level Clearance Committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, approved more than 75 proposals involving grants of over Rs. 4,000 crore.
- Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium Scheme has been started on the lines of the Central Government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme. Its objective is to identify and prepare talented sportspersons from Rajasthan so that they can win medals at the 2028 Olympics.
- The state announced that the entire process from complaint to resolution in cases of bank accounts frozen during cyber fraud investigations will be made online through the GRM module developed by I4C.
- Awareness and benefit saturation camps were organised from 18 May to 25 May 2026 under the campaign "Jan Bhagidari Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle".
- Under the PM e-Bus Scheme and state-approved schemes, 500 e-buses will be provided for public transport in Rajasthan by August 2026.
- The golden jubilee celebration of the Bhakra Beas Management Board foundation day was held at Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula, on 15 May 2026. The board was established on 15 May 1976.
- The next phase of Census 2027 in the state is being conducted from 16 May to 14 June.
- On National Dengue Day (16 May), the Medical and Health Department organised awareness activities across the state on the theme "Jan Bhagidari Se Dengue Par Prahar" for dengue prevention and control.

- The Public Health Engineering Department recently organised the fourth state-level special campaign across the state to strengthen, streamline and make rural drinking water systems reliable.
- An initiative has started to develop a new premium fabric by combining Rajasthan's Kota Doria with the famous Eri silk of Northeast India.
- Under the PM e-Bus Scheme and state-approved schemes, 500 e-buses will be made available for public transport in the state by August 2026.
- The Rajasthan Government has launched the Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium Scheme on the lines of the Central Government's scheme and announced the establishment of a Rajasthan Centre of Excellence in Jaipur.
- After an agreement between the Rajasthan and Haryana governments, Rajasthan will be connected to the Nammo Bharat network and the Nammo Bharat train will operate between Delhi and Alwar.
- India's first cooperative-model taxi service, Bharat Taxi, has been announced to be launched in Jaipur.
- The Minister of State for Cooperatives (Independent Charge) launched the Parinda Bandho Abhiyan by tying a bird water pot at the Rajasthan State Cooperative Bank (Apex Bank) premises on 20 May 2026.
- Jaipur district secured first place in the state in the self-enumeration campaign under Census Operations 2026. More than 3.25 lakh self-enumerations have been recorded by Jaipur district, about 22 percent of the state's total self-enumeration achievement.
- The 9th meeting of the State Cooperative Development Committee (SCDC) was held on 21 May 2026 under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.
- Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Shri Vasudev Devnani inaugurated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Study Chair at Govind Guru Tribal University, Banswara, on 24 May 2026.
- The historic and spiritual tradition of Marwar, Bhogishail Parikrama 2026, was launched by Hindu Seva Mandal, Jodhpur.
- A Mati Kala Centre of Excellence has been announced in the Bichoon industrial area of Jaipur. It will create new employment opportunities for pottery artisans through modern technology.
- In a high-level joint review meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Premchand Bairwa, it was announced that modern facility-rich bus ports will be developed on PPP mode at 10 district headquarters in the state.
- Rajasthan ranked among the top five states in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan for improving the quality of higher education in universities and colleges.
- The Fit India-Cycle Sunday programme was organised at SMS Stadium, Jaipur, on 24 May 2026. The theme this year was "Commonwealth Day 2030".
- Rajasthan woman sportsperson Aarti Bishnoi has been selected for the Under-15 Women's High Performance Training Camp at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.
- Rajasthan secured first place in the 8th Poshan Pakhwada with 112.33 percent achievement.
- Rajasthan ranked 11th in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. Madhya Pradesh ranked first, Bihar second and Karnataka third in HPV vaccination in the country.
- An ancient idol was found during excavation at Ahiron Ka Bas village in Didwana-Kuchaman. Preliminary examination suggests that the idol may be of Vimalnath, the 13th Tirthankara of Jainism, and possibly belongs to the 7th century.
- Operation Re-Call was conducted by the East Police of Jaipur Commissionerate. Under the operation, around 790 mobile phones worth about Rs. 2 crore have been recovered and returned to their owners so far this year.
- Rajasthan's Anjali Shekhawat won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air pistol event at the 24th Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial Shooting Championship.
- Recently, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Avinash Gehlot performed the bhoomi puja and foundation-stone ceremony for the Modern Hockey Turf and Hockey Sports Academy Project at Jaitaran in Beawar on 31 May 2026.
- Recently, 15 youth from the state selected under the "Viksit Bharat Vibrant Village Programme" (100 selected from across the country) will participate in nation-building and public-awareness activities in border villages of Himachal Pradesh.
- Recently, Governor and Chancellor Shri Haribhau Bagde issued orders removing Professor Deviswaroop, the first Vice-Chancellor of Baba Amte Divyang University, Jaipur, and Acting Vice-Chancellor of Vishwakarma Skills University, from his post with immediate effect.
- Recently, while implementing the budget announcement for 2026-27, the State Government granted in-principle approval for 77 road construction and upgradation works in more than 33 districts of the state. Their total estimated cost is Rs. 676.74 crore.
- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Neendar Bainad Biodiversity Project Eco Trail in the Neendar forest area on 29 May 2026.

- Recently, the newly appointed aide-de-camp to Governor Shri Haribhau Bagde, Squadron Leader Shri Saksham Agarwal, assumed charge. Shri Saksham Agarwal is an officer of the Indian Air Force.
- In the direction of malaria elimination in the state, the month of June will be observed as Anti-Malaria Month to ensure public awareness, community participation, strong surveillance, and timely testing and treatment.
- To provide financial support to the state's industrial units and protect the environment, grants of up to Rs. 150 crore will be provided for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in industrial areas.
- Recently, The Animal Care Organization (TACO) of Vedanta Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Forest Department to establish the Agnivesh Agarwal Nature Interpretation Center (NIC) in Sariska Tiger Reserve.
- Recently, under Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan 2.0, financial approvals of Rs. 688.28 crore have been issued for the second and third phases to accelerate water conservation and groundwater recharge works.
- Recently, under the Tribal Pride Festival, as per the directions of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Government, the campaign "Jan Bhagidari: Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle" was conducted in Jaipur district from 18 May to 25 May 2026.
- Recently, the Supreme Court directed that the Rajasthani language be taught in Rajasthan schools and be made a medium of instruction in the future.
- Recently, Pali district administration formed a Pravasi Cell to connect migrants who have moved from villages to other parts of the country and abroad with their motherland.
- Recently, inspired by the valour saga of "Operation Sindoor", the newly formed revenue village in Pachpadra tehsil of Balotra district has been named "Sindoor Nagar".
- Recently, in the elections held for the 2026-2030 term of the Rajasthan State Gymnastics Association, Chain Singh Rathore was elected President, Parmeshwar Prajapat Secretary and C.A. Sudhish Sharma Treasurer.
- Recently, the state's first private-sector data centre has been established in the form of the STT Global Data Center in Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur.
- Recently, Dr. Hemant Bhai Goyal, National Chairman of the Divyang Adhikar Mahasangh, was honoured with the "Karm Shri Award" at a ceremony organised by the AntarRashtriya Samrasta Manch.
- Recently, Jaipur-based robotics company "Club First" has built a robot named "Krishna".
- Recently, the High Court imposed an interim stay on compliance with the permission letter issued for the proposed ropeway project connecting Amer, Jaigarh and Nahargarh forts. Due to this interim stay, work on the proposed ropeway project has been halted.
- The Rajasthan Government will set up a Skill India International Centre in Jaipur to provide better overseas employment opportunities to the youth of the state.
- Recently, the state's first state-of-the-art Arbitration and Mediation Centre was inaugurated at the Vidhik Seva Sadan premises in Jaipur.
- Recently, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan announced the launch of the "Brahmagupta Award" for those doing outstanding work in the fields of science, mathematics and research, and the establishment of an "Innovation Centre" in Jaipur's coaching hub.
- Recently, MPs P.P. Chaudhary and Lumbaram Chaudhary from Rajasthan were selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2026.
- Recently, Mahima Group President Dr. R.K. Arora was honoured with the "President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service". This honour was conferred on him on 22 May 2022 at the BSF Investiture Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi.
- Recently, the Karpoor Chandra Kulish Research Institute has been established at Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University.
- Recently, Vayu Astra-1 was successfully tested at Rajasthan's Pokhran Field Firing Range.
- Recently, about 1,000-year-old rock paintings were found at the ancient Ambikeshwar Mahadev temple in Amer (Jaipur). These rock paintings depict vivid scenes of the great battle between Lord Rama and Ravana.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will make the largest-ever foreign investment in Rajasthan's green energy sector. Renewable energy projects with a capacity of 60,000 MW will be developed in the state by the UAE at a cost of about Rs. 3 lakh crore.



2. International Affairs

United Arab Emirates Exits OPEC and OPEC+

- The United Arab Emirates recently announced its withdrawal from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the wider OPEC+ alliance. The decision became effective from 1 May 2026.
- The UAE took this decision after a broad review of its national production policy, capacity and long-term economic priorities.
- **Key reasons for leaving OPEC:** the UAE is expanding its oil production capacity, which is currently around 5 million barrels per day, and aims to expand it further by 2027.
- Under Vision 2030 and its long-term economic priorities, the UAE wants to invest in infrastructure, technology and renewable energy. This requires higher short-term cash flow, which can be generated by increasing production.
- Recent disruptions linked to Iran and instability in the Strait of Hormuz have increased pressure on the UAE's traditional export routes.
- **Impact -**

Affected Area	Likely Impact and Strategic Analysis
■ Impact on OPEC	■ OPEC's ability to control and determine global oil prices will weaken.
■ Global oil prices	■ Oil supply in the market will increase, which may reduce global crude oil prices.
■ Strategic advantage for the USA	■ A weaker OPEC may be seen as a strategic gain for the United States in energy politics and global markets.
■ Impact on other members	■ Other member countries may be encouraged to take independent decisions in line with their national interests.

OPEC

- OPEC stands for Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

- Establishment - in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- It is a permanent inter-governmental organization that coordinates petroleum policies of its member countries.
- The UAE joined OPEC in 1967.
- Active OPEC members - 11 Active Members (Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela)

OPEC+

- Formation - in 2016.
- Members - It includes active OPEC members along with Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Prime Minister's Visit to the United Arab Emirates

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an official visit to the United Arab Emirates on 15 May 2026.
- During the visit, both countries expressed commitment to deepen cooperation in strategic, economic, technological and social sectors.

Outcomes of the Visit -

MoU / Agreement	Announcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company will potentially store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves. ■ The possibility of storing crude oil in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, which would become part of India's strategic petroleum reserves, will be explored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund have been appointed to explore investment opportunities of up to US\$1 billion in India's infrastructure sector. ■ The Emirates New Development Bank will invest US\$3 billion in India's RBL Bank. ■ International Holding Company will invest US\$1 billion in India's Samunnati Capital.

- Note (Memorable fact): Bilateral trade between India and the UAE reached USD 101.25 billion for the first time in FY 2025-26. At present, the UAE is the only country participating in India's strategic petroleum reserve programme.

World Migration Report 2026

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) recently released the World Migration Report 2026.

Conclusions of the Report -

- By mid-2024, there were around 304 million international migrants worldwide, accounting for approximately 3.7% of the global population.
- By the end of 2024, around 83.4 million people were internally displaced within their own countries, the highest figure recorded so far.
- **India -**
- India remains the world's largest country of origin for international migrants.
- The largest number of Indian migrants live in the UAE, the United States and Saudi Arabia.
- India ranks first globally in terms of remittances sent home by migrants.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Official Visit to the Netherlands

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Netherlands officially on 16-17 May 2026. This was his second visit to the Netherlands.
- **Outcomes of the Visit -**

- The two countries decided to build a strategic partnership. An agreement on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters was signed.
- Bilateral trade will be strengthened through the Joint Trade and Investment Committee and a fast-track mechanism.

Prime Minister's Official Visit to Italy

- At the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Italy officially on 19-20 May 2026.
- **Outcomes of the Visit -**

- The two countries decided to establish a new mechanism led by their foreign ministers to strengthen the special strategic partnership.
- They reaffirmed the shared target of increasing bilateral trade to 20 billion Euros by 2029.
- Both countries decided to establish a new innovation centre named 'INNOVIT India' in India.
- They committed to taking concrete steps for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), including holding the first IMEC ministerial meeting in 2026.

Official Visit of the President of Cyprus to India

- At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, paid a state visit to India from 20 to 23 May 2026.

■ Outcomes of the Visit -

- An agreement was signed to establish a 'Joint Working Group' for counter-terrorism.
- An agreement was signed between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Diplomatic Academy of Cyprus for cooperation in diplomatic training.
- An agreement was signed between the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, Larnaca, Cyprus and India's Ministry of Defence for official coordination and technical arrangements on search and rescue.
- Agreements were signed for cooperation in education and research and for cultural cooperation for 2026-2030.
- The India-Cyprus Defence Cooperation Roadmap 2026-2031 was approved to strengthen defence and security relations.
- India announced that it would gift a 'BHISHM Cube' to the Republic of Cyprus.
- The first India-Cyprus Space Day was observed on 18 May 2026, highlighting cooperation in the space sector.

Visit of the President of Vietnam to India

- Vietnamese President and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, To Lam, visited India officially from 5 to 7 May 2026.
- During this visit the following things/agreements were agreed between India and Vietnam-
- Both countries expressed their intention to establish a 2+2 strategic diplomacy-defence dialogue.
- Vietnam will join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- Both sides emphasized the effective and early implementation of the India-Vietnam Plan of Action for 2024-2028.
- A new ambitious target was set to increase bilateral trade to USD 25 billion by 2030.
- Vietnam agreed to explore ways for possible participation of Indian companies in procurement of medicines for Vietnamese public health facilities from 2027.
- Market access was agreed for Indian grapes and Vietnamese durian.

India Assumes Chairmanship of the Common Criteria Development Board

- India has been made Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB).
- India's term as Chair will run from April 2026 to April 2028.

Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA)

- It is a foundational international arrangement that provides mutual recognition of IT security certificates across borders.
- The CCDB functions as the technical core of the CCRA
- Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) focuses on technical standards and evaluation criteria for securing global IT products.

United States Places India on the Watch List

- The Special 301 Report released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative on 29 April 2026 placed India and six other countries on the Priority Watch List.
- India has been included along with China, Russia, Indonesia, Chile and Venezuela.
- The report cites excessive delays in patent applications, copyright and piracy-related issues, strict pricing policies, and legal challenges in enforcing intellectual property rights in India.

Miscellaneous

- People of Indian origin have become the largest migrant community in Australia. Their number has reached 971,020, accounting for 5.2% of the total population.
- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi visited Myanmar from 2 to 5 May 2026.
- Leiden University Library in the Netherlands returned 11th-century Chola copper plates to the Government of India: 21 large and 3 small copper plates.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and South Korea's former Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs jointly inaugurated an Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park, Seoul, on 21 May 2026.
- India and Ethiopia signed a bilateral accession protocol in Geneva on 22 May 2026 for Ethiopia's WTO membership.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Vietnam from 18 to 19 May 2026 and South Korea from 19 to 21 May 2026.
- India and the European Union launched a EUR 15.2 million joint initiative to strengthen electric vehicle battery recycling under Working Group 2 of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council.
- Mayon Volcano in the Philippines remained in the news due to an eruption.
- Karambir Singh Kang became the first Sikh marine engineer with a full beard to serve in BC Ferries, British Columbia's major ferry service. He belongs to Kang village in Gurdaspur district, Punjab, and is an alumnus of BITS Pilani.
- A humanoid robot named Gabi was presented as a Buddhist monk at Jogyesa Temple in South Korea.



3. National Affairs

General Elections and Assembly By-elections 2026

- The Election Commission of India announced the schedule on 15 March 2026 for general elections to the Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and by-elections to eight Assembly constituencies in Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Voting programs were organized in these States/ Union Territories as follows:

Name of the State/Union Territory with General Election/By-election	Polling Date and Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Goa, Karnataka, Nagaland and Tripura 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9 April 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 23 April 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ West Bengal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 23 April 2026 (Phase I)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 29 April 2026 (Phase II)

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** The Election Commission undertook special drives in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to improve the electoral rolls.

Assam

- Total seats: 126.
- Voting - 9 April 2026 (Single Phase).
- Election Results were declared on 4 May 2026.
- Polling percentage: 85.96%,
- It was the highest-ever turnout in Assam Assembly election history.
- The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance returned to power for a third consecutive term with a three-fourths majority.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma was reappointed Chief Minister.
- **Party-wise Result -**

Party	Seats Won
Bharatiya Janata Party	82
Indian National Congress	19
Bodoland People's Front	10
Asom Gana Parishad	10

All India United Democratic Front	2
Raijor Dal	2
All India Trinamool Congress	1
Total	126

West Bengal Assembly Election 2026

- Total seats: 294.
- Voting – in two phases
- Phase-I- April 23, 2026
- Phase-II- April 29, 2026
- Election Result- May 4, 2026
- Polling percentage: 92.47%.
- After complaints of EVM tampering at Falta seat in South 24 Parganas, the Election Commission ordered re-polling. Voting took place on 21 May and the result on 24 May favoured BJP's Debangshu Panda.
- The BJP defeated the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress and formed the government under Suvendu Adhikari with more than a two-thirds majority.
- **Party-wise Result -**

Party	Seats Won
Bharatiya Janata Party	208
All India Trinamool Congress - AITC	80
Indian National Congress - INC	2
Aam Janata Unnayan Party -AJUP	2
Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI (M)	1
All India Secular Front - SF	1
Total	294

Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026

- Total seats- 234
- Voting – April 23, 2026 (in one phase)
- Election Result- May 4, 2026
- Voting percentage- 85.1%
- C. Joseph Vijay was appointed Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- **Party-wise Result -**

Party	Seats Won
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam - TVK	108
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - DMK	59
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - ADMK	47

Indian National Congress - INC	5
Pattali Makkal Katchi - PMK	4
Indian Union Muslim League - IUML	2
Communist Party of India - CPI	2
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi - VCK	2
Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M)	2
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	1
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam - DMDK	1
Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam	1
Total	234

Kerala Assembly Election 2026

- Total seats- 140
- Voting – April 9, 2026 (in one phase)
- Election Result- May 4, 2026
- Voting percentage- 79.7%
- Senior Congress leader V.D. Satheesan has been appointed as the Chief Minister of Kerala.
- The Congress-led United Democratic Front ended the Left Democratic Front’s 10-year rule.
- **Party wise result-**

Party	Seats Won
Indian National Congress - INC	63
Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M)	26
Indian Union Muslim League - IUML	22
Communist Party of India - CPI	8
Kerala Congress - KEC	7
Revolutionary Socialist Party - RSP	3
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	3
Rashtriya Janata Dal - RJD	1
Revolutionary Marxist Party of India - RMP	1
Kerala Congress (Jacob) - KEC(J)	1
Communist Marxist Party Kerala State Committee - CMPKSC	1
Independent - IND	4
Total	140

Puducherry Assembly Election 2026

- Total seats- 30
- Voting – April 9, 2026 (in one phase)
- Election Result- May 4, 2026
- Voting percentage- 89.87%
- N. Rangaswamy of the All India N. R. Congress was appointed Chief Minister of Puducherry.

■ Party-wise Result -

Party	Seats Won
All India N. R. Congress - AINRC	12
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - DMK	5
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	4
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam - TVK	2
Indian National Congress - INC	1
Lachiya Jananayaka Katchi - LJK	1
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam - ADMK	1
Neyam Makkal Kazhagam - NMK	1
Independent - IND	3
Total	30

Assembly By-election Results 2026

- Results of by-elections held in five states were declared on 4 May 2026.
- **Maharashtra -**
- Baramati seat – Sunetra Ajit Pawar (NCP), wife of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, won. He has made the record of the biggest victory in the assembly elections in the country. He won by a margin of 2,18,034 votes.
- **Rahuri seat-** BJP’s Akshay Shivajirao Kardile won.
- **Karnataka -** Umesh Hullappa Meti (Congress) won from Bagalkot.
- Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun (Congress) won from Davanagere South.
- **Gujarat -** BJP’s Harshadbhai Govindbhai Parmar won the Umreth seat.
- **Tripura -** BJP’s Jahar Chakraborty won the Dharmanagar seat.
- **Nagaland -** BJP’s Daochier I. Imchen won from the Koridang seat.

Bureau of Indian Standards Publishes New Standards for Assistive Products for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons

- On 1 May 2026, the Bureau of Indian Standards published six new standards for assistive products for persons with disabilities and older persons.
- These standards will strengthen the Accessible India Campaign and ensure safety, quality and performance of assistive products.

New standards: The six standards published are as follows-

- Elbow Crutches-IS 18558 (Part-1)
- Walking sticks- IS 5145
- Rods with three or more legs -IS 18558 (Part-4)

- Tactile Guide Map - IS 19189
- Use of Braille- IS 19190
- Portable Ramp- IS 19631

Bureau of Indian Standards -

- Established- January 6, 1947
- Concerned Ministry- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- It is responsible for the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods in India.

Global Launch of Padma Dori

- The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation formally unveiled Padma Dori on 1 May 2026.
- Padma Dori is a distinctive cross-cultural textile initiative that combines the Eri or Ahimsa silk traditions of Northeast India with the rich Chanderi weaving heritage of Madhya Pradesh.
- Eri silk, famous in Northeast India, is called Ahimsa silk because the yarn is extracted without killing silkworms.
- Chanderi weaving is a historic and refined weaving tradition of Madhya Pradesh, known for delicate ornamentation and lightweight textiles.
- The initiative promotes the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and connects indigenous knowledge systems and textile traditions with modern fashion.

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology Inaugurates Open Observatory of C-ART at Andhra University

- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) inaugurated the open observatory of the Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, on 1 May 2026.
- The observatory is part of the Mission Mausam initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Advanced instruments installed include an impact disdrometer, 3D-printed automatic weather station, eddy covariance tower, scanning wind lidar, phased array radar and proton transfer reaction mass spectrometer.
- The observatory will help improve monitoring and accurate forecasting of extreme weather events in coastal areas.

India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow Barrier-less Tolling System Launched in Gujarat

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the launch of India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system in Gujarat.
- The system was launched at Choriyasi Toll Plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section of National Highway-48.
- It uses technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag to enable seamless toll collection without vehicles stopping.
- Expected benefits include reduced travel time, lower congestion, better fuel efficiency, reduced emissions and less manual intervention in toll operations.
- MLFF - A modern tolling system that allows vehicles to pass toll points at normal speed without stopping.

Cell Broadcast System Launched

- Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the Cell Broadcast System (CBS) on 2 May 2026.
- It is an indigenous technology developed by C-DOT of the Department of Telecommunications in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- This initiative is an important step towards strengthening India's emergency communication systems and improving public safety infrastructure.

Cell Broadcast System

- Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS) is a telecom-based public alert system that facilitates simultaneous sending of precise geo-targeted alerts to all mobile devices within a certain area.
- It overcomes the shortcomings of traditional SMS-based systems and ensures that in times of crisis, critical information can be delivered to large populations in target areas without delay and efficiently.
- Normal SMS works 'point-to-point' whereas CBS works 'point-to-area'. In this, mobile network towers send messages to every phone in their coverage area that is active at that time.

Features-

- Freedom from network jam because no network is required.
- No number required.
- Loud noise and vibration.
- No need of the internet.

Use-

- To give advance warning of natural disasters.
- To disseminate important information related to government information.
- To direct people to go to safe places during times of public safety.

Difference between SMS and CBS-

Feature	Normal SMS	Cell Broadcast
Reach	Individual	Group
Network dependence	May fail during network congestion	Remains unaffected by jam
Location targeting	Difficult	Highly precise; only in affected area
Effectiveness	Slow; sent one by one	Extremely fast; reaches lakhs within seconds

Increase in Number of Supreme Court Judges Approved

- Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to introduce the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Parliament on May 5, 2026.
- The purpose of this Amendment Bill is to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 - It provides for an increase in the number of judges of the Supreme Court by 4, i.e. from 33 to 37 (except the Chief Justice of India).
- By increasing the number of judges, the Supreme Court will be able to function more efficiently and effectively, thereby ensuring speedy justice.

Background-

- Article 124(1) of the Constitution of India inter alia provides that “There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and not more than seven other Judges unless a greater number be prescribed by Parliament.
- The ‘Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956’ was enacted to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India. After this, through various amendments, the number of judges (except the Chief Justice) was increased as follows-
 - Year 1956- 10 judges
 - Year 1960- 13 judges
 - Year 1977- 17 judges
 - Year 1986- 25 judges
 - Year 2008- 30 judges
 - Year 2019- 33 judges
- Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 (currently proposed) – 37 judges (except the Chief Justice of India)

State-of-the-Art Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of a state-of-the-art ship repair facility at Vadinar in Gujarat on 5 May 2026.

- The project will be implemented jointly by Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited with an investment of Rs. 1,570 crore.
- The project is planned as a brownfield facility with a 650-metre jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops and related maritime infrastructure.

Effect-

- The broader marine industrial ecosystem will also get a boost.
- This will reduce dependence on foreign shipyards and will reduce the flow of foreign exchange abroad.
- Improved repair capacity and better turnaround time on the west coast will enhance the overall competitiveness of Indian ports.
- Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 will achieve long-term maritime objectives.
- About 290 direct and about 1,100 indirect jobs will be created in ship repair, logistics and supporting industries.

Roadshow in Paris for Bharat Innovates 2026

- On 5 May 2026, the Ministry of Education organized a roadshow in Paris ahead of Bharat Innovates 2026 to attract global investors, corporates, universities and research institutions.

Bharat Innovates 2026-

- Event- 14 to 16 June, 2026
- Venue: Nice city, France
- Objective- To connect India’s deep-tech start-ups and higher education innovation ecosystem with investors, corporates, universities and research institutes across the world.

India to Host International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026

- India will host the International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026 in New Delhi from 1 to 2 June 2026.
- The theme is ‘Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystems’.
- More than 400 conservationists, policymakers, scientists, multilateral agencies, financial institutions, corporate leaders and community representatives from across the world will participate.

The International Big Cat Alliance -

- It is the first global platform that brings together countries where big cat species are found.
- It works for the conservation of seven big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma).

NITI Aayog Releases Report on School Education System in India

- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery and CEO Nidhi Chhibber released the report on India's school education system on 6 May 2026.
- NITI Aayog has released this report titled "School Education System in India: Topical Analysis and Policy Framework for Quality Enhancement".
- This report presents a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of India's school education system over the past decade.
- The report focuses on priority pillars such as access and enrolment, infrastructure, equity and inclusion and learning outcomes.

Important things mentioned in the report -

- Currently there are 14.71 lakh schools in India's school education system. More than 24.69 crore students study in these and it is the largest education system in the world.
- The last decade has seen significant progress in the provision of electricity, functional sanitation facilities and inclusive infrastructure in schools.
- The digital learning system has expanded significantly with increased access to computers, internet connectivity and smart classrooms in schools.

Recommendations made in the report-

- The report makes 13 major recommendations to strengthen the school education system and suggests 33 specific ways to implement these recommendations on the ground.
- All these measures have been divided into three categories – short-term, medium-term and long-term approaches.
- It clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the Central Government, State Governments and local bodies.

Union Health Ministry Launches Janani Platform

- The Union Health Ministry launched the Janani platform during the National Innovation and Inclusivity Summit on best practices shaping India's health future.
- Janani stands for Journey of Antenatal, Postnatal and Neonatal Integrated Care and will strengthen maternal and child health services.

Janani Platform

- It is a service-centred digital platform
- It is developed as an upgraded version of the existing RCH portal.
- It is designed to monitor and maintain comprehensive digital health records of women of reproductive age
- Objective - To ensure smooth monitoring of maternal and child health services.

CBC and NCGG Collaborate for Capacity Building of Sri Lankan Civil Servants

- The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and the (NCGG) National Centre for Good Governance organized a strategic session for capacity building of 40 Sri Lankan civil servants.
- The session was held under the Global Digital Capacity Building Alliance on the theme 'Building Future-Ready Public Institutions'.

Industry Consultation Meeting for PM-SETU at NSTI Kanpur

- The Directorate General of Training, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, held an industry consultation meeting at the National Skill Training Institute, Kanpur, on 8 May 2026.
- The meeting discussed the possibility of industry participation and collaborative opportunities for the proposed National Centers of Excellence under PM-SETU through Advanced Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) including the proposed National Center of Excellence for Aeronautics and allied sectors.

Prime Minister Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs

- Cabinet approval- May, 2025
- Launch – October 4, 2025
- Budget- Rs 60,000 crore
- Objective: To overcome the existing shortcomings in the ITI system by making training more relevant to the modern job market.
- It is based on the 'hub-and-spoke' model, in which 200 'hub' ITIs will be linked to 800 'spoke' ITIs.

Eleven Years of Three Central Jan Suraksha Schemes

- Recently launched Jan Suraksha Yojana on May 9, 2015 – Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) completed 11 years.

- These schemes were launched with the aim of providing affordable financial security to all the deprived and weaker sections of the society.
- These flagship schemes aim to broaden the insurance and pension system by protecting citizens from the uncertainties of life and promoting long-term financial stability.
- So far, more than 27 crore, 58 crore and 9 crore enrollments have been completed under PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY respectively.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) is designed to provide life insurance cover against death due to any cause at a premium of less than Rs 2 per day.
- PMJJBY is a one-year insurance scheme, which can be renewed every year.
- Eligibility- All individual account holders in the age group of 18 to 50 years.
- Enrollment Period – For a period of one year from 1st June to 31st May.
- Premium- Rs 436/- per year per member.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is designed to provide accidental death and disability cover.
- Its minimum premium is less than Rs 2 per month.
- PMSBY is a one-year insurance scheme, which can be renewed every year.
- Eligibility- All individual account holders in the age group of 18 to 70 years.
- Enrollment Period- For a period of one year from 1st June to 31st May.
- Premium- Rs 20 per year per member.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) aims to provide a universal social security for all Indians, especially the poor, the underprivileged and unorganized sector workers.
- It is operated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- **Eligibility** - All bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years (not income tax payers)
- **Benefits** - Depending on the contribution made by the subscriber after joining the scheme, subscribers will receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 1000, Rs 2000, Rs 3000, Rs 4000 or Rs 5000 after the age of 60 years.

Fourth Phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Launched

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the fourth phase of PMGSY on 10 May 2026 at Bhairunda, Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, during the silver jubilee celebration of PMGSY.
- Best-performing large states in the last 25 years were honoured in different categories.
- In this program, big states which have performed excellently in the last 25 years under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) were honored in various categories.

In the category of completing the maximum road length-

- First place- Madhya Pradesh (90,766 km)
- Second place- Rajasthan (75,868 km)
- Third place- Uttar Pradesh (75,695 km)

In the category of connecting most settlements-

- First place- Bihar (31,287)
- Second place- Madhya Pradesh (17,493)
- Third place- Odisha (16,990)

In the category of maximum use of green technology-

- First place- Gujarat (98.42 percent)
- Second place- Tamil Nadu (98.39 percent)
- Third place- Haryana (97.92 percent)

In the category of excellent performance in maintenance of rural roads-

- First place- Uttar Pradesh (Rs 654 crore)
- Second place- Bihar (Rs 553 crore)
- Third place- West Bengal (Rs 497.62 crore)

In the category of excellent performance in quality control system-

- First place- Madhya Pradesh
- Second place- Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu
- Third place- Gujarat

In the category of maintenance of rural roads after the defect liability period-

- First place- Madhya Pradesh (Rs 1044 crore)
- Second place- Chhattisgarh (Rs 490 crore)
- Third place- Uttar Pradesh (Rs 284 crore)

In the category of completion of maximum road length in north-eastern, hilly states and union territories-

- First place- Assam (32,169 km)
- Second place- Himachal Pradesh (23,081 km)
- Third place- Uttarakhand (21,874 km)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

- Started in the year 2000
- This is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- Objective- To provide useful road connectivity to rural settlements.
- Funding – 60:40 between Center and States for plain areas while 90:10 for North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Union Territories.
- Three-tier quality control has been implemented in it.
- Benefits- This reduced the urban-rural divide in the country and made access to basic facilities easier in rural areas.

Prime Minister Inaugurates PM MITRA Park in Warangal

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the PM MITRA Park at Warangal, Telangana on 10 May 2026.
- It is the country's first operational PM MITRA Park, developed at a cost of Rs. 1,695.54 crore.
- It is aligned with the 5F vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- The park is expected to attract investment of over Rs. 6,000 crore. About 62% of the park area has already been allotted.
- Spread over 1,327 acres, it is expected to generate more than 24,400 jobs.

PM Mitra Park

- Concerned Ministry- Ministry of Textiles
- Objective- To promote a national ecosystem for textile infrastructure.
- Cabinet approval – in March, 2023
- Number of parks – Seven (Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh)
- PM MITRA - Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park

Somnath Amrit Mahotsav

- Recently, Somnath Amrit Mahotsav was organized on May 11, 2026 to commemorate the completion of 75 years of the restoration of Somnath Temple.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in this festival.
- On 11 May 1951, the first President of independent India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, inaugurated the newly constructed Somnath Temple.

Somnath Temple

One of the most important and historical religious places of India, it is considered to be the first Jyotirlinga

among the twelve Jyotirlingas.

- This temple is situated at Veraval (Prabhas Patan) in Saurashtra region, Gujarat at the Triveni confluence of Kapila, Hiran and Saraswati rivers on the coast of Arabian Sea.
- The first major and documented attack on this temple was by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 AD. At this time Gujarat was ruled by the Chalukya king Bhimdev I, who later helped in its reconstruction.
- Jyotirlinga was consecrated by the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad on 11 May 1951 in a modern constructed temple.
- President Dr. Rajendra Prasad called Somnath "a symbol of India's cultural revival".
- The modern temple is constructed in 'Kailash Mahameru Prasad' architectural style. Its chief architect was Prabhashankar Sompura.

India's First CCUS Field Laboratory Inaugurated

- The Union Education Minister inaugurated India's first integrated Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) field laboratory facility at IIT Bombay under Bharat Innovates 2026 on 10 May 2026.
- The facility was developed under the leadership of Professor Vikram Vishal of IIT Bombay's Department of Earth Sciences and Convenor of the DST National Centre of Excellence.
- It is India's first full-scale field laboratory that integrates carbon capture and utilization (CCU) in basalt formations with geological carbon dioxide sequestration.
- It uses advanced aqueous-based carbon dioxide capture technology, using non-potable water to capture carbon dioxide from ambient air and industrial emissions.

SEHAT Mission Launched

- The Government of India launched the SEHAT Mission on 11 May 2026.
- It is a major mission built on the partnership of ICAR and ICMR under the theme Healthy Food, Healthy Farm and Healthy India.
- Its main objective is to link agriculture, nutrition and health to prevent malnutrition and disease.
- SEHAT stands for Science Excellence for Health Through Agricultural Transformation.

Sixth Phase of Yuva Sangam Launched

- The Ministry of Education launched the sixth phase of Yuva Sangam on 12 May 2026.
- The programme promotes national unity, cultural harmony and emotional integration among youth across India.

- This phase includes 22 paired states/Union Territories and host institutions.

Yuva Sangam

- Start - in the year 2023
- Concerned Ministry- Union Ministry of Education
- Participants - Youth 18 to 30 years (students, volunteers and young professionals)
- Objective - To encourage national unity, cultural harmony and emotional integration among the youth of different states and union territories.

Country Strategic Opportunities Programme Launched by Indian Government

- The Government of India launched the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 12 May 2026 for agricultural development.
- The programme will be implemented over eight years from 2026 to 2033.
- It aims to increase rural incomes, build resilience to shocks and scale up sustainable livelihood opportunities across the country.
- It is in line with the evolving India@2047 vision of the Government of India and focuses on two strategic priorities-
- Enhancing the social, economic and climate-related resilience of rural communities.
- Strengthening knowledge systems to scale up proven development models in India and developing countries.

Union Cabinet Approves Incentive Scheme for Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects

- The Union Cabinet approved an incentive scheme for coal/lignite gasification projects near the earth's surface.
- The scheme aims to accelerate coal and lignite gasification in India, strengthen energy security and reduce dependence on imports of critical chemicals.
- Key features of the scheme-
- A financial outlay of Rs 37,500 crore will be made for this.
- Its target will be to achieve 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by the year 2030.
- For this, financial incentive up to a maximum of 20 percent of the cost of plant and machinery will be given.
- The maximum limit of financial incentives for any one project is Rs 5,000 crore; The maximum limit for any one product is Rs 9,000 crore and the maximum limit for all projects for any one unit group is Rs 12,000 crore.

- Through this scheme, the country will get benefits like import substitution, energy security, geopolitical security, employment generation, higher revenue.

Coal Gasification Technology

- This is an industrial and thermochemical process. In this, instead of burning coal completely, it is converted into 'synthetic gas' or 'syngas' like carbon monoxide, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and methane by reacting it with oxygen and steam under controlled conditions.

LEADS Report 2025 Released

- Recently Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal released the LEADS Report-2025 in New Delhi.

LEADS Report 2025-

- LEADS- Logistics Ease Across Different States
 - Edition of the report – 7th
 - This report reflects the assessment and standardization of logistics performance across states and union territories.
 - In this report, a four-tier performance framework has been adopted instead of the three-tier classification system of earlier reports.
 - Position of states in the four-tier performance framework-
1. **Exemplars (Those States and Union Territories which are performing best, demonstrating sustained excellence in policy, infrastructure, service delivery and regulatory dimensions.)**
 - Coastal State- Tamil Nadu
 - Landlocked State- Uttar Pradesh
 - North-Eastern State- Mizoram
 - Union Territory- Delhi
 2. **Top Performing States (Includes those States and Union Territories that demonstrate strong and consistently better results in most performance indicators.)**
 - Coastal states- Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra
 - Landlocked states- Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar
 - North-Eastern States- Tripura, Meghalaya
 - **Union Territory- Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry**
 3. **Accelerators (those states and union territories that have shown great progress and a clear direction of reform in recent years.)**
 - Coastal States- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka
 - Landlocked states- Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh
 - North-Eastern States- Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam
 - Union Territories- Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep

4. Growth-seeker states – (States which are in the early stages of logistics system development and institutional strengthening.)

- Coastal State- West Bengal
- Landlocked State- Rajasthan
- North-Eastern State- Sikkim
- Union Territory- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Crime in India 2024 Report

- Recently, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released a report named Crime in India-2024 Report.
- This report sheds light on crime conditions in India.
- Conclusions of the Report -
- Total cognizable crimes – 58.85 lakh cases registered (6% decline compared to 2023).
- Crime rate – Cases per lakh population decreased from 448.3 to 418.9 (lowest since 2019).
- Regional situation-
- Highest crime rate and cyber threat – Telangana (70 cyber cases per lakh).
- Violent crime per capita – Uttar Pradesh tops (7.4), while Nagaland has the lowest crime rate.
- Best chargesheet rate- Kerala (94.5%)
- Trend of crimes-

Category	Status / Trend	Key Factor
Cyber crime	17% rise; More than 1.01 lakh cases	Over 70% involved financial fraud.
Senior citizens	16.9% rise	Theft, fraud and murders of elderly people living alone.
Children	5.9% rise; Crime rate 42.3	Most cases involved kidnapping and POCSO.
Women	1.5% decline; Crime rate 64.6	Total 4.41 lakh cases; most common category was cruelty by husband or relatives.
Marginalized communities	Crimes against STs fell by 23.1% Crimes against SCs also fell by 3.6%	
Suicide Report	1,70,746 suicides	

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)-

- Establishment - 1986
- Concerned Ministry - Union Home Ministry
- Headquarters- New Delhi

Sikkim Becomes India’s First Paperless State Judiciary

- Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant declared Sikkim the country’s first paperless state judiciary in Gangtok on 1 May 2026.
- Legal processes in Sikkim courts will now be conducted electronically, eliminating paperwork.
- This digital model of Sikkim uses the AI platform Adalat AI and tools developed by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court.

Four Parliamentary Committees Reconstituted

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reconstituted four Parliamentary Committees for 2026-27.

Reconstituted Parliamentary Committees

- Estimates Committee: Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, BJP MP.
- Committee on Public Undertakings: Baijayant Panda, BJP MP.
- Public Accounts Committee: K. C. Venugopal, Congress MP.
- Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs: Faggan Singh Kulaste, BJP MP.

‘Darbar Move’ Tradition Reintroduced in Jammu and Kashmir

- Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir government has restored the 150 year old ‘Darbar Move’ tradition.
- According to this tradition, the secretariat and government offices will shift from Jammu to Srinagar and work from there for 6 months.
- According to this tradition, the government runs from Srinagar in summer and Jammu in winter.
- This tradition, which started in the year 1872, stopped in 2021.
- The purpose of this tradition is to maintain the reach of the administration in both areas.

Central Prabhari Officer Portal Launched

- NITI Aayog launched the Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) portal on 5 May 2026.
- Objectives of the Portal:
- Real-time governance,
- Last-mile service delivery
- Coordination among stakeholders.

Bhopal "Algae Tree" Inaugurated

- Recently, the carbon-capturing technology "Algae Tree", developed by World Group, was inaugurated in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- It absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen. The technology has been developed in view of rising carbon levels.

India to Build Border Crossings and Modern Labs in Afghanistan

- Recently, India and Afghanistan signed an agreement worth more than USD 46 million for economic and technical cooperation.
- The agreement was signed between the Indian company TCRC and the Afghan National Standards Authority.
- The objective of the agreement is to strengthen Afghanistan's quality testing and standards system for import-export products.
- Under the agreement, modern border crossings and advanced laboratories will be established at nine major border checkpoints of Afghanistan, including Kabul.
- These laboratories will enable testing of food items, medicines, agricultural products and industrial goods according to international standards.

BCCI Outside the Scope of the RTI Act

- Recently the Central Information Commission (CIC) said that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is outside the scope of the Right to Information Act.
- According to CIC, no person can seek any information from BCCI by filing RTI.
- According to Central Information Commission BCCI-
 - Neither is owned by the government.
 - Nor is it controlled by the government.
 - Nor does it receive any funds from the government.; For all these reasons, RTI Act is not applicable on BCCI.
 - BCCI is a private autonomous body, registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act.
 - Note- Under this decision, the Central Information Commission has reversed its previous decision of 2018 regarding BCCI.

Result of the Summit:

S. No.	Area	Outcome
1	India-Nordic Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting green technology, renewable energy, water management, digital infrastructure and innovation creating green jobs and strengthening energy security.

Government of India Constitutes High-Level Committee on Demographic Change

- Recently, the Government of India constituted a high-level committee to study demographic changes arising from illegal immigration and other unusual causes and to suggest measures to address them.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the formation of this committee on 15 August 2025, and the Union Cabinet approved the proposal on 11 September 2025.

Composition of the committee:

- Chairperson: Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar (Retd.)
- Members: Census Commissioner and three eminent experts - Durga Shankar Mishra, Balaji Srivastava and Dr. Shamika Ravi.
- Member Secretary: Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The committee will submit its report within one year. If required, the Ministry of Home Affairs may extend its tenure by six months.
- Task: To scientifically assess demographic changes occurring in different parts of the country due to illegal immigration and other unusual causes, analyse their causes, and recommend suitable policy, legislative and administrative measures.

India-Nordic Summit Held

- Date of event: 19 May 2026
- Venue: Oslo, Norway

Participants:

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi;
- Acting Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen;
- Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Store;
- Prime Minister of Finland Petteri Orpo;
- Prime Minister of Iceland Kristrun Mjoll Frostadottir;
- Prime Minister of Sweden Ulf Kristersson.
- The summit built on the previous two India-Nordic summits held in Copenhagen in 2022 and Stockholm in 2018.

2	Impact of India-EFTA TEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved market access, reduction of trade barriers, increased investment flows, job creation and encouragement to sustainable development.
3	Cooperation in climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting efforts to reduce the impact of climate change, attract green investment and promote environment-friendly development.
4	Cooperation in the Arctic region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting polar research and strengthening India's monsoon studies, agriculture, environmental protection and climate security.
5	Research cooperation in STEM fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting R&D, technology transfer, cooperation in advanced technologies such as 6G and innovation.
6	Cooperation in the maritime economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable use of marine resources, strengthening maritime trade, employment, regional security and Indo-Pacific cooperation.
7	Talent mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing global opportunities to students, researchers and academics, and encouraging skill development, startups and innovation.
8	Cooperation in defence production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening technology transfer, domestic defence production, job creation, export growth and defence preparedness.

TIME100 Philanthropy 2026

- TIME magazine recently released the TIME100 Philanthropy 2026 list.
- The list recognises the efforts of the world's top 100 philanthropists, social workers and founders for social welfare.

Indian personalities included:

Shiv Nadar -

- Founder of HCL Technologies;
- Included for bringing transformational change in rural education.

Sudhir and Samir Mehta -

- Promoters of Torrent Group;
- Their UNM Foundation has done exemplary work in the health sector.
- Indian-origin Americans included:

Rajiv J. Shah -

- President of the Rockefeller Foundation;
- Selected for work on climate change, food security and healthcare challenges.

Deepak Bhargava -

- President of the Freedom Together Foundation;
- Selected for pro-democracy and social justice efforts.

Anna Verghese -

- Executive Director of The Audacious Project;
- Recognised for bringing major global donors onto one platform and securing commitments of more than USD 1 billion for various non-profit organisations.

Miscellaneous

- The Department of Financial Services approved 'Viability Plan 2.0' for Regional Rural Banks on 5 May 2026.
- The Indian Institute of Mass Communication released a special issue of 'Sanchar Madhyam' on 5 May 2026 to mark 200 years of Hindi journalism. The first Hindi newspaper, 'Udant Martand', was published from Calcutta in 1826.
- Jyotiraditya Scindia virtually inaugurated India Post's 100th N-Gen Post Office at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, on 6 May 2026.
- NITI Aayog organized a workshop on SDG-5, Gender Equality, under the State Support Mission at IIM Ahmedabad on 8 May 2026 in partnership with IIM Ahmedabad, Gates Foundation and the Government of Gujarat.
- Jyotiraditya Scindia and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra inaugurated the renovated Andheri Railway Station Post Office in Mumbai as a future-ready post office under Jan Seva Connect on 8 May 2026.
- The Union Home Minister released Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's books The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre and The Lawful and the Awful in New Delhi on 9 May 2026.
- Recently 'AIM Samvad - Central India' was organized by Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog. The dialogue focused on empowering innovation and startup ecosystems at the regional level through strong collaboration with the Central and State Governments.

- The Union Cabinet approved upgradation and modernization of Nagpur International Airport through long-term licensing with private participation under PPP mode.
- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan wrote the book *Apnapan*, based on his 35 years of experiences with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated Madhur Dairy Unit-2 at Dashela, Gujarat, an automated milk processing and packaging plant with capacity of 2.5 lakh litres per day.
- Recently, National Testing Center (NTH)-Northern Region, Ghaziabad under the Department of Consumer Affairs has established a state-of-the-art shoe testing laboratory.
- The Government of India launched the Ayush Grants Portal in New Delhi on 19 May 2026 to strengthen digital governance and transparency in the AYUSH sector. It has been developed by the Ministry of AYUSH under the AYUSH Grid initiative.
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation announced the selection of 10 institutions to set up Centres of Excellence in convergence research.
- Recently the Ministry of Textiles launched 'Bharat Tex 2026' App on May 20, 2026. This app will provide personalized access, visualization and engagement tools to exhibitors, speakers, international delegates, foreign buyers, domestic wholesale buyers, sourcing consultants.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book 'The Library Man of India: The Story of P. N. Panicker' by P. P. Sathyan on 22 May 2026.
- Recently the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched "Jeevan (Joint Empowerment and Virtual Assistance Network Mobile Application) and Shatayu (Composite Care Support and Training for Senior Citizens)" Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard for senior citizens on May 22, 2026.
- Short- Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the launch of 'PM-Ajay' portal and PM-Ajay mobile app for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Scheduled Caste Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-Ajay).
- Recently, the Union Labor and Employment Minister launched the nationwide annual health checkup initiative for workers aged 40 years and above proposed under the new Labor Code on May 7, 2026.
- Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated the Innovation and Incubation Center at the National Institute of Design-Ahmedabad on May 17, 2026.
- Recently the Central Election Commission approved the name 'Telangana Raksha Sena' for Kavitha's new political party.
- Recently, the Karnataka government launched the country's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers.
- Recently, Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore has been ranked 64th globally in the QS Executive MBA Ranking 2026.
- Recently, Andaman Nicobar Administration has created a new 'Guinness World Record' by hoisting the world's largest national flag (60 meters long and 40 meters wide) underwater at Radhanagar Beach.
- Recently Indian Railways decided to create a new 'South Coast Railway' zone with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet has declared insulting the national song (Vande Mataram) or obstructing its singing as a punishable offense by amending the 'Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act-1971'.
- Recently the Government of India has launched 'Swasth Bharat Portal' as a one-stop platform. This platform will work to connect all health services at one place.
- Recently UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of Sikkim has announced to document the traditional cane bridges known as 'Ru-Soam' as part of an initiative to preserve the traditional heritage of the Lepcha community.
- Recently, Chief of Defense Staff General Anil Chauhan released the book 'Ek Sainik Ki Diary' written by Sunita Bainsla at Sapta Shakti Auditorium, Military Station (Jaipur).
- Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the "Naval Shaurya Vatika" in Lucknow on 30 May 2026. The Vatika is an open museum dedicated to the spirit, valour and courage of the Indian Navy.
- Recently, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, launched the AIME Academy (AI Media and Entertainment Academy) on 29 May 2026. It is an initiative aimed at strengthening AI-based media education and capacity building in India.
- Recently, the Ministry of Ayush released the IDY Handbook 2026. The handbook is available in English, Hindi and 21 regional languages and serves as a single reference source for the International Day of Yoga, the Common Yoga Protocol, key initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush and participation in 2026 events.

- Recently, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah interacted with BSF personnel at the Sanchu Post in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on 26 May 2026 and e-inaugurated women's barracks.
- Recently, the Central Government extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood by one year. The current tenure of Praveen Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer, was to end on 24 May 2026. He will now remain in office until 24 May 2027.
- Recently, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) decided that, from 1 October 2026, vehicles without a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate will not be supplied petrol or diesel across NCR to control rising air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- Recently, the Supreme Court included the right to move freely in public places without fear of physical assault or dog bites within citizens' fundamental right to live with dignity under Article 21.
- Recently, the Government of West Bengal launched the Annapurna Financial Assistance Scheme. The scheme will be implemented from 1 June 2026, under which eligible women aged 25 to 60 years will receive Rs. 1,000 per month.
- According to NITI Aayog's report "School Education System in India", Jharkhand has achieved the target of zero dropout at the primary level.
- Recently, the Ministry of Health launched the Janani portal. This platform will track women's digital health records during their reproductive years.
- Recently, the Government of Tamil Nadu decided to create a "Singapen" Special Task Force for women's safety and prevention of crimes. The task force will work directly under the supervision of the Chief Minister.
- Recently, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant launched the "One Case, One Data" initiative.
- Recently, the Government of Odisha made it mandatory for all government departments to purchase electric vehicles from 1 June 2026.
- Recently, Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions. This committee considers grievances and petitions submitted by the public.
- Recently, the Government of Gujarat signed an agreement with Meta, under which services of more than 20 state departments will be made available through WhatsApp.
- Recently, the Assam Government introduced the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026 in the Assembly. The Bill includes provisions for registration of live-in relationships and a ban on polygamy.
- Recently, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a proposal to rename Sawantwadi Railway Station as "Lokmanya Madhu Dandavate Railway Terminus". Madhu Dandavate is considered a socialist leader and the chief architect of the Konkan Railway.
- Recently, approval was granted to set up India's first geothermal energy project at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet in Ladakh's Puga Valley. The project will be developed by the public-sector company Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
- Recently, Indian Railways approved the operation of the country's first hydrogen train on the Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana. The train will run entirely on hydrogen fuel and will have a maximum speed of 75 km per hour.
- Recently, President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious President's Police Colour to Sikkim Police. Sikkim became the 15th state in the country to receive this honour.
- Recently, Sikkim was declared a fully literate state. The achievement was made under the government's ULLAS, or Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.
- Recently, Kerala and Tamil Nadu created separate ministerial portfolios for AI for the first time in India. P. K. Kunhalikutty has been assigned this responsibility in Kerala, while R. Kumar has been assigned it in Tamil Nadu.
- Recently, the Central Government approved the construction of a 30-kilometre-long state-of-the-art sea bridge over the Gulf of Khambhat. The bridge will directly connect Bhavnagar in Saurashtra with Bharuch in South Gujarat. Currently, India's longest sea bridge is Mumbai's Atal Setu, which is 21.8 kilometres long.
- Recently, the sacred relics of Lord Buddha's two chief disciples, Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana, were ceremonially installed at Gandantegchinlen Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima/Vesak 2026.
- Recently, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Penny Wong, paid an official visit to India from 25 to 26 May 2026. During the visit, she participated in the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting and discussed defence, trade, technology and supply-chain resilience with India.
- Recently, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26 May 2026. During the meeting, the role of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region was reiterated.
- Saudi Arabia will become the 26th member country of the International Big Cat Alliance.

- Recently, the Iraqi Parliament approved the new government led by Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi and a partial list of his cabinet.
- Recently, Jain manuscripts preserved at the Wellcome Collection in London will be returned to the Jain community. These 2,000 manuscripts were purchased by Sir Henry Wellcome, a major British businessman associated with the pharmaceutical industry.
- Recently, the United States Court of International Trade declared Donald Trump's 10% temporary global tariff policy improper.
- Recently, North Korea amended Article 3 of its nuclear policy. Under the amendment, if Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un is assassinated or becomes incapacitated, the army may automatically launch a nuclear attack.
- Recently, India and the African Union postponed the India-Africa Forum Summit scheduled between 28 and 31 May 2026. The decision was taken due to the rise in Ebola infections in Africa.
- Recently, Tulsi Gabbard, Director of U.S. National Intelligence, resigned from Donald Trump's cabinet.
- Recently, India and the United States signed an agreement for a secure supply of critical minerals and rare earth elements. The agreement aims to enhance cooperation in mining, recycling and supply chains and reduce dependence on China.
- Recently, the Quad launched the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework. Under this framework, the target is to mobilise Rs. 1.6 lakh crore for secure critical-mineral supply chains in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Recently, Taiwan became the world's fifth-largest stock market. Due to growing global demand for semiconductors and AI technologies, the total market value of Taiwanese companies rose to USD 4.95 trillion.
- According to recent data released by the World Health Organization, there were 22.1 million excess deaths worldwide due to COVID-19 between 2020 and 2023.
- Recently, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was on an official visit to India from 23 to 26 May 2026.



In the News: Great Nicobar Island Project



Introduction

The Great Nicobar Project is a strategic initiative aimed at strengthening India's presence in the Andaman Sea and South-East Asia. The project seeks to establish an ideal balance between port-led development, precise environmental safeguards, and the protection of local indigenous communities. Through a unique convergence of strategic, economic, and environmental priorities, the project seeks to ensure that the development of Great Nicobar is not only inclusive and sustainable, but also fully aligned with the national interest.



Key Details of the Project

- The project was conceptualized by NITI Aayog and was launched in 2021.
- The project is being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation.
- The project is spread over a total area of 166.10 square kilometres, comprising 35.35 square kilometres of revenue land and 130.75 square kilometres of forest land.
- The objective of the project is to strengthen India's security and maritime defence capabilities in South-East Asia and the Andaman Sea.



Infrastructure Proposed to be Developed

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | | International Container Transshipment Terminal - a port with a capacity of approximately 14.2 million TEUs. |
| 2 | | Greenfield International Airport - for both military and civilian use (dual-use). |
| 3 | | Township - an integrated township. |
| 4 | | Power Plant - a 450 MVA gas-solar power plant. |



Implementation Plan

The Great Nicobar Project is being implemented in three separate phases:

- **Phase I:** 2025-35, covering 72.12 square kilometres.
- **Phase II:** 2036-41, covering 45.27 square kilometres.
- **Phase III:** 2042-47, covering 48.71 square kilometres.

Importance of the Project

✓ Strategic and National Security Significance

- **Dominance in the Indian Ocean-** The island is located very close to the Malacca Strait, through which nearly 70-90% of global maritime trade passes. Military and infrastructure development here will enable India to monitor this critical sea route more effectively.
- **Presence of Security Forces-** Advanced military facilities and surveillance systems are being developed under the project, which are essential for maintaining peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Security of the Indian Ocean-** This region is central to India's "Act East" policy. A stronger presence here will help India strengthen its defence capabilities in neighbouring maritime regions.

✓ Economic and Trade Benefits

- **International Transshipment Terminal-** An International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) is being developed here. At present, many Indian cargo vessels have to halt at foreign ports such as Colombo or Singapore. Once this terminal is operational, India will become a major hub in global trade logistics and will also save foreign exchange.
- **Blue Economy-** The project is important for unlocking India's maritime potential and boosting the economy through sectors such as fisheries, marine tourism, and trade.

✓ Employment and Infrastructure Development

- **Local Development-** The project includes the construction of a greenfield international airport and a township, which will provide modern facilities at the local level.
- **Employment Generation-** Infrastructure construction and future industrial activities are expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities for the youth of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

✓ Connectivity and Digital Access

- **Improved Communication-** Development of the island will strengthen connectivity and communication networks with mainland India and South-East Asian countries, which is essential for regional cooperation.

✓ Sustainable Development and Scientific Research

- **Environment-Friendly Development-** Through government institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), efforts are being made to ensure that development takes place while protecting the region's rare biodiversity and the interests of indigenous tribes. A comprehensive Environmental Management Plan is being implemented for this purpose.

✓ Environmental Safeguards for the Project

- The project has been assessed under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and the ICRZ Notification, 2019. A robust Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared for biodiversity conservation, coral translocation, and long-term monitoring.

✓ Conservation of Forests and Trees

- An area of 166.1 square kilometres has been proposed for the development of this project, which is about 2% of the total area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In addition, 130.75 square kilometres of forest area is proposed to be diverted for the project, which is about 1.82% of the total forest area.
- Large-scale afforestation and conservation measures will be undertaken to compensate for the trees felled under the project.

✓ Protection of Indigenous Communities

- The project places the protection of the rights and lifestyle of local tribes, especially the Shompen and Nicobarese communities, at its core. Their interests are being secured through the re-delineation of tribal reserve areas.

✓ Judicial Review

- In its order dated 3 April 2023, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) acknowledged the strategic and national security importance of the project and upheld the decision-making process related to it.

Emerging Issues Before the Project

- The project may increase tensions among China, the Quad, and ASEAN countries. India's strategic objectives and the militarization of the island could disturb, rather than stabilize, the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The socio-environmental concerns associated with the construction of the project raise an important ethical question.
- The construction of the project may place excessive pressure on the island's limited natural resources, thereby affecting its ecosystem.
- The Nicobarese and Shompen communities, which depend on the island's natural environment for their livelihoods and cultural practices, may face displacement or forced migration.
- Due to its geographical location, the Nicobar Islands are highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as tsunamis, cyclones, and earthquakes. Therefore, this project too cannot remain unaffected by such geographical hazards.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1. Geographical Location and Structure

- Area - 8,249 square kilometres.
- Population - 379,944.
- Major Languages - Hindi, Nicobarese, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, and Telugu.
- Island Group - The Union Territory consists of a total of 572 islands, of which only 38 have permanent settlements.
- Division - It is divided into two main groups: the Andaman Islands in the north and the Nicobar Islands in the south. These are separated by the Ten Degree Channel.

- Capital - Port Blair, the administrative capital and the largest city.
- Highest Peak - Saddle Peak is the highest peak of the Andaman Islands and is located in North Andaman.

2. History and Strategic Importance

- Kala Pani - During British rule, the Cellular Jail here was infamous as a place of exile for freedom fighters.
- Azad Hind Fauj - During the Second World War, these islands were occupied by Japan, and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the Indian flag here.
- Strategic Location - Owing to its proximity to the Malacca Strait, the region is extremely important for India's maritime security and trade.

3. Demography and Tribes

- Diversity - The population includes people from different parts of India as well as indigenous tribal communities.
- Indigenous Tribes:
 - Andaman Group - Jarawa, Onge, Sentinelese, and Great Andamanese.
 - Nicobar Group - Nicobarese and Shompen.
- Note - The Sentinelese tribe still remains completely isolated from modern civilization.

4. Biodiversity and Environment

- Ecology - The islands have tropical rainforests. The region is known for its rich marine biodiversity, coral reefs, and rare flora.
- Volcano - India's only active volcano, Barren Island, is located here.
- National Parks - Important protected areas such as Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and Rani Jhansi Marine National Park are located here.

5. Economy

- Tourism, agriculture (coconut and areca nut), fisheries, and handicrafts are the main pillars of the local economy.
- The island group is considered India's "gateway" because of its natural beauty and strategic location.



4. Economy Affairs

Two More Semiconductor Manufacturing Units Approved in India

- Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of two more new semiconductor manufacturing units under the Bharat Semiconductor Mission on May 5, 2026.
- About Rs 3,936 crore will be invested in these two projects and both these units will be set up in Gujarat.
- These units are expected to generate approximately 2,230 direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled professionals.
- With the approval of these two new units, the total number of approved projects under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) has increased to 12.

Approved Units-

1. Crystal Matrix Limited- Dholera, Gujarat

- This unit will set up the country's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on GaN (Gallium Nitride) technology.
- Its annual production capacity will be 72,000 square meters of display panels. These display chips will be used in large TVs, commercial displays, smartphones, car displays, smart watches and Extended Reality (XR) glasses.

2. Suchi Semicon Private Limited- Surat, Gujarat

- It will set up an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test facility in Surat.
- Its production capacity will be approximately 103 crore chips per year. These chips will be used in power electronics, automobiles, industrial automation and consumer electronics.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0

- The Union Cabinet approved ECLGS 5.0 on 5 May 2026.
- The scheme aims to provide additional credit support to eligible businesses and airlines facing short-term liquidity stress due to the West Asia crisis.

Major Characteristics of the Scheme -

- Guarantee fee: zero.
- Eligible entities: MSMEs and non-MSMEs with existing working capital limits as of 31 March 2026, and scheduled passenger airlines with outstanding

loan facilities.

- Guarantee coverage: 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs and the airline sector.
- Assistance: additional credit up to 20% of the maximum working capital used in Q4 of FY 2026, subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 crore. For airlines, assistance can be up to 100%, with a maximum of Rs. 1,500 crore per borrower.
- Loan tenure: 5 years for MSMEs/non-MSMEs except the airline sector; 7 years for the airline sector.
- Scheme effective until 31 March 2027.

Effect-

- Will help businesses overcome the challenges posed by the West Asia conflict.
- This will help businesses maintain their operations, protect jobs and maintain supply chains.

Cotton Productivity Mission

- The Union Cabinet approved Rs. 5,659.22 crore for the Cotton Productivity Mission on 5 May 2026.
- The mission will be implemented from 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- This mission is aligned with the 5F vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Textiles.

Objectives:

- To promote exports of high-quality cotton,
- To ensure supply of low-contamination cotton to industry,
- To improve productivity through high-yielding disease- and pest-resistant varieties,
- To increase cotton productivity from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha by 2031 to produce 498 lakh bales, each bale being 170 kg.
- It will expand adoption of existing and latest crop production technologies through state governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and state agricultural universities.

Cabinet Approves Three Railway Multitracking Projects

- Recently, the Economic Affairs Committee of the Cabinet has approved three projects of the Railway Ministry with a total cost of about Rs 23,437 crore on May 5, 2026.

- These projects have been created under the PMGati Shakti National Master Plan, with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultation.
- These three projects will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 901 kilometers spread across 19 districts in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- These projects are as follows-
 1. Nagda-Mathura 3rd and 4th Line (This route is extremely important from the point of view of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.)
 2. 2. Guntakal-Wadi 3rd and 4th Line
 3. 3. Burhwal-Sitapur 3rd and 4th Line

Innovative Use of Waste Plastic in Road Infrastructure

- CSIR-CRRI and BPCL have recently been jointly featured in the 'India Book of Records' and 'Asia Book of Records' for the innovative and scientific use of waste plastic in the development of road infrastructure.
- This is the first unique effort to demonstrate practical, scientific and large-scale utilization of single-use or rejected plastic waste in the construction sector.

- Name of the record - "First roadblock section constructed using geocell, a technical textile made from recycled plastic"
- CSIR-CRRI stands for Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Road Research Institute.
- BPCL stands for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

Government Allows Limited FDI from Chinese Companies

- The Union Finance Ministry issued a notification allowing limited FDI in India by Chinese companies.
- Under the new rules, if Chinese or Hong Kong investors hold 10% or less in a foreign company, that company can invest directly in India without prior government approval.
- Approval will still be required where Chinese entities hold more than 10% stake, capital or profit control.
- The Government of India will be required to dispose of applications involving China-linked investment proposals in 40 specific sub-sectors within a maximum of 60 days.
- Foreign Direct Investment is long-term investment by a company or individual from one country in business interests located in another country.

Basis of Classification	Type	Definition	Example
1. Based on Entry Route	■ Automatic Route	■ Foreign investment does not require prior approval from the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).	■ Information Technology (IT), Textiles.
	■ Government Route	■ Prior approval from the concerned Central Ministry or the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is mandatory before investment.	■ Defence sector, Print Media.
2. Based on Direction of Business	■ Horizontal FDI	■ A foreign company establishes the same type of business or produces the same products/services in another country as it does in its home country.	■ An American company such as Apple or Tesla setting up its own manufacturing plant in India.
	■ Vertical FDI	■ A foreign company establishes a part of its supply chain in another country to support its core business operations.	■ A foreign automobile company setting up a factory in India solely to manufacture car components or tyres.
	■ Conglomerate (Mixed)	■ A foreign company invests in a business sector that is entirely different from its primary line of business.	■ A foreign electronics company investing in hotels or real estate in India.

3. Based on Nature of Infrastructure Development	■ Greenfield Investment	■ A foreign company builds new facilities, infrastructure, and operations from scratch in the host country.	■ Amazon establishing a new data centre in India.
	■ Brownfield Investment	■ A foreign company acquires or invests in an existing company or facility in the host country.	■ A foreign pharmaceutical company acquiring an Indian pharma company.

Periodic Labour Force Survey

- Recently, the data of the Periodic Labor Force Survey for the quarter January-March 2026 has been released by the National Statistics Office.
- This series begins to include quarterly estimates for both rural and urban areas from the quarter April-June 2025.
- Results of the Periodic Labor Force Survey data for the quarter January-March 2026 -
- The overall labor force participation rate (LFPR) for people aged above 15 years was recorded at 55.5 per cent in January-March 2026, compared to 55.8 per cent in the previous quarter.
- The female Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (15+ years) remained almost unchanged at 34.7 per cent compared to the previous quarter.
- The urban worker population ratio (15+ years) remains stable at 46.9 per cent in January-March 2026.
- The number of regular salaried employees above 15 years of age in rural areas increased by 15.5 percent during January-March 2026 from 14.8 percent in the previous quarter.
- The share of rural employment for people aged above 15 years in both the secondary and tertiary sectors recorded an increase during January-March 2026.
- There has been a declining trend in the unemployment rate in urban areas among people above 15 years of age.

Department of Financial Services launches 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool'

- The Department of Financial Services launched the USD 1.5 billion domestic Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool on 12 May 2026.
- It was launched to safeguard India's maritime trade amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- This is a domestic insurance pool of US\$1.5 billion for which the Government of India has provided a sovereign guarantee of US\$1.4 billion.
- General Insurance Corporation of India will act as the administrator of this pool.

- This pool will cover all types of maritime risks for Indian flagged ships, ships controlled by India, or ships transiting to India.
- Claims up to \$100 million will be settled by the pool itself through its pooled capacity and internal reserves, while claims above \$100 million will draw on the government's sovereign guarantee if the pool's accumulated reserves are completely exhausted.

Logistics Port Performance Index 2024-25

- Recently, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal released the Logistics Port Performance Index for the financial year 2024-25 on 29 May 2026.

Logistics Port Performance Index 2024-25

- It is a national benchmarking system developed under the "Sagar Aakalan" framework.
- Its objective is to improve the efficiency and global competitiveness of Indian ports.
- The index evaluates ports across three cargo categories: dry bulk, liquid bulk and container cargo.
- Operational indicators such as vessel turnaround time, container dwell time and pre-berthing waiting time are measured.
- Top-performing ports in different categories:
 - Dry Bulk Category: Paradip Port Authority, Odisha - first rank.
 - Liquid Bulk Category: Sikka Port and Terminals, Gujarat - first rank.
 - Container Cargo Category: Mundra Port, Gujarat - first rank.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, keeping the interests of sugarcane farmers in mind, the Union Cabinet has fixed the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane at ₹365 per quintal for the 2026-27 sugar production season (October-September).
- Recently, the second round of talks for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Canada was held in New Delhi from May 4 to 8, 2026.

- Recently, under the 'One District One Product' initiative, on May 9, 2026, Baksa district (Assam) exported the first consignment of 20 metric tons of honey to America.
- India's public sector banks have earned an all-time high net profit of Rs 1.98 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26.
- Recently the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries organized a National Conference on "Enabling EV Charging Infrastructure across the country under PM e-Drive Scheme" on May 12, 2026 in Bengaluru.
- Recently, the National Statistics Office of the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation has revised the date of publication of provisional estimates of GDP and quarterly estimates of GDP for the fourth quarter from the last working day of May to June 7.
- North Eastern Region Development Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched Mizoram Ginger Mission on May 13, 2026 with an outlay of ₹189.79 crore. The objective of this mission is to develop ginger cultivation and value chain in the state of Mizoram.
- Recently, Union Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda.
- Recently, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the 'Coffees of Nagaland Mission' for Nagaland.
- Recently, coal production started from the Urtan (Anuppur district) coal mine of Madhya Pradesh on May 15, 2026 and from Dhirauli (Singrauli district) coal mine on May 17, 2026.
- Recently, Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched "Arunachal Kiwi – USP of Arunachal Pradesh" mission for cluster-based kiwi farming and value chain development in Arunachal Pradesh on May 20, 2026.
- Recently, 56 school students and 4 observers from India traveled to Japan from May 24 to May 30, 2026 under the Sakura Science Program. All these participants are scholarship recipients under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme of the Government of India.
- Recently the AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AYUSHXIL) and Spices Board of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 25, 2026 to strengthen the global promotion of AYUSH products and medicinal spices.
- Recently India Post Payments Bank launched 'Self Help Group Savings Account' for rural women. Up to Rs 2 lakh can be deposited in this zero balance account.
- Recently, with the aim of giving global recognition to traditional food products, an export agreement has been signed with Ashtam Trading Company based in Pune, Maharashtra. Under this, 10 thousand loaves of traditional jowar roti of Kalaburagi will be exported every month to America, Britain, Australia and Gulf countries.
- Recently the Government of India has approved 100% foreign direct investment in the insurance sector under the automatic route.
- Recently the National Stock Exchange has started the 'Electronic Gold Receipts' segment. With this, investors will be able to invest in gold in the form of digital security instead of physical gold.
- Recently, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the Siri Matrishree Industrial Park at Belthangady in Karnataka on 31 May 2026.
- Recently, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia launched "Mission Queen Pineapple" in Tripura. It is a Rs. 236 crore convergence-based initiative aimed at developing pineapple cultivation and the related value chain in Tripura.
- Recently, the India Semiconductor Mission launched an online portal named "Investor Assistance" on 26 May 2026 to strengthen investor confidence and address investor concerns.
- Recently, global rating agency Moody's reduced India's GDP growth forecast for 2026 by 0.8 percentage points to 6%, citing rising crude oil prices in the international market and global uncertainty.
- Recently, Morgan Stanley projected India's real GDP growth at 6.7% for FY 2026-27 amid global volatility.
- Recently, the Government of India proposed launching the "Made in India Brand Scheme" to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence. Under it, 100 products with low or no domestic production will be identified.
- Recently, the Central Government increased the minimum support price of key kharif crops by Rs. 72 per quintal for paddy and Rs. 54 per quintal for bajra. Accordingly, paddy can be procured at Rs. 2,441 per quintal and bajra at Rs. 2,900 per quintal.
- Recently, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry banned the export of sugar until 30 September 2026 to maintain domestic supply and food security. Raw, white and refined sugar have been placed in the "prohibited" category.

- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology launched the “IP Catalyst” initiative and its digital platform. Its main objective is to quickly convert patents into real products.
- Recently, the Central Government restricted the import of silver with immediate effect. According to the government, the import policy for silver bars containing 99.9% or more silver by weight has been changed from “free” to “restricted”.
- Recently, Karnataka became the first state in India to implement a new alcohol-in-beverage-based tax system on liquor. Now, liquor prices will be determined on the basis of alcohol content rather than brand.
- Recently, Southern Railway set a target to add 2,600 kW of additional solar capacity at major stations in Chennai during 2026-27.
- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India announced a dividend of Rs. 2.87 lakh crore to the Central Government for FY 2025-26.
- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India constituted the Q-SAFE Expert Committee under Professor Anil Prabhakar of IIT Madras to examine cyber threats associated with quantum technology. The committee will prepare a roadmap to secure the banking system against quantum cyberattacks.
- According to the recently released State of India’s Digital Economy Report, India has become the world’s fifth-largest digital economy. Last year, India was ranked eighth.



5. Science and Technology

Defence Technology

Indigenous Advanced Stealth Frigate Mahendragiri (Project 17A) Handed Over to Indian Navy

- Mahendragiri (Yard 12654) was delivered to the Indian Navy at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, on 30 April 2026.
- It is the sixth ship of the Nilgiri class (Project 17A) and the fourth ship of this class built at MDSL.

Features:

- It is an advanced version of Project 17 Shivalik-class frigates, with improved stealth, weapons and sensors.
- It uses a CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas) configuration, combining diesel engines and gas turbines.
- The project uses 75% indigenous content, supporting Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- It was built using the block method, reducing construction time.

Launch of Sanghamitra, Yard 3039

- The Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) Yard 3039, Sanghamitra, was launched at GRSE, Kolkata, on 20 May 2026.
- It is indigenously designed and built
- It will enhance capabilities in surveillance and defence, search and rescue, protection of offshore assets, humanitarian assistance and disaster response.
- The vessel is named 'Sanghamitra' after the daughter of Emperor Ashoka.

Successful Test of Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation Weapon

- DRDO and the Indian Air Force conducted the first successful flight test of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon off the coast of Odisha on 7 May 2026.
- TARA is a modular range extension kit and India's first indigenous glide weapon system. It converts unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons.
- It was designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- Its objective is to increase the range and accuracy of low-cost weapons for destroying ground targets.

Successful Test of Full-Scale Actively Cooled Long-Duration Scramjet Combustor

- DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad, successfully tested a full-scale actively cooled long-duration scramjet combustor.
- The test was conducted on 9 May 2026 at the advanced Scramjet Connect Pipe Test Facility in Hyderabad for more than 20 minutes.
- It used indigenous technologies such as liquid hydrocarbon endothermic fuel, high-temperature thermal barrier coating and advanced manufacturing processes in a supersonic air-breathing engine.
- The test validates India's design and capability and will lay the foundation for the hypersonic cruise missile programme.

ICGS Achal Commissioned into Indian Coast Guard

- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Achal at Goa Shipyard Limited on 9 May 2026.

ICGS Achal

- The name Achal means steadfast.
- It is the latest in the new-generation Adamy-class fast patrol vessel series.
- It will support coastal and offshore surveillance, interception, search and rescue, anti-smuggling operations and marine pollution response.
- It was indigenously designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited.

India Successfully Tests Agni Missile with MIRV System

- India has successfully test-fired Advanced Agni Missile from Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) system from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on May 8, 2026.
- The missile was tested with multiple explosives, aimed at various targets spread over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean region.
- This missile system has been developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in collaboration with Indian industries.
- This technology was first developed by America, after which the Soviet Union (Russia) adopted it. Currently the USA, Russia, China, Britain and France have this capability.

- India entered this exclusive club by conducting the first successful test of the MIRV-equipped Agni-5 missile under 'Mission Divyastra' in the year 2024.

Importance

- MIRV-missile is considered the most effective weapon against enemy ballistic missile defense systems. It is impossible for any defense system to intercept multiple warheads simultaneously and the camouflaged targets launched with them in the air.
- This technology greatly strengthens India's nuclear deterrent policy by giving it the capability to cause widespread devastation through a single launch.

Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle Technology

- **MIRV**- Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle
- This technology provides a single ballistic missile with the ability to carry more than one nuclear or conventional warhead and launch them independently at different targets located at different geographical locations.
- Conventional missiles carry only a single warhead and can hit a single target. In contrast, the MIRV missile can release multiple warheads at different speeds and trajectories from its launch mechanism once airborne.

Successful Test of Precision Guided Missile V3

- DRDO successfully tested UAV-launched Precision Guided Missile V3 (ULPGM-V3), capable of air-to-surface and air-to-air strikes.
- The test was conducted at a DRDO test range near Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- The tests were operated through an integrated Ground Control System (GCS) to ensure effective command and control of the ULPGM weapon system.
- For the development and production of this missile, DRDO has partnered with two organizations, Bharat Dynamics Limited-Hyderabad and Adani Defense Systems and Technologies Limited-Hyderabad.
- The missile was integrated into a UAV/drone developed by Bengaluru-based private company NewSpace Research and Technologies.
- **ULPGM-UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile**

Successful Test of Naval Anti-Ship Missile

- Recently, the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Navy have successfully conducted the first successful test of indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range off the Chandipur coast of Odisha.

Features-

- Developed - Research Center Building-Hyderabad
- It provides constant speed and power to the missile.
- Fire range - approximately 55 - 80 kilometers
- Speed- High Subsonic Speed
- Warhead – about 100 kg
- It is based on the 'fire and forget' system.
- It uses a solid propulsion booster (solid fuel based booster) and a long-burn sustainer (long-burning engine).

Vajranetra Drone

- IIT Jammu developed a drone named Vajranetra under the Make in India initiative.
- The drone is currently being tested by the Indian Army.
- It can conduct surveillance up to 3 km from a height of 100 feet.
- It has the capability to evade enemy radars and jammers.

Sarmat Missile

- It is Russia's intercontinental ballistic missile, which was recently successfully tested.
- Its strike range is more than 35,000 km.
- The missile is capable of penetrating modern defence systems.
- In Western countries, this missile is also known as "Saturn I".

U.S. to Provide Technical Support for Apache Helicopters and Howitzer Guns

- Recently, the United States approved two military assistance deals worth more than USD 428 million for India's defence sector.
- These deals include maintenance and logistics support for AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and M777 ultra-light howitzer guns for the Indian Army.
- Boeing and Lockheed Martin will provide support for Apache helicopter maintenance, while the British defence company BAE Systems will support the M777 howitzers.
- At present, India has 145 M777A2 ultra-light howitzers and 28 AH-64E Apache helicopters.

Apache helicopter:

- It is capable of flying up to an altitude of 21,000 feet.
- Its maximum speed is 280 km per hour.
- It is equipped with 16 anti-tank AGM, 114 Hellfire and Stinger missiles.

Howitzer gun:

- It weighs 4,200 kg, which is much lighter than other artillery guns.
- It has a crew capacity of 5 and can accommodate up to 7 members.

- Its range is 25 km, with a maximum range of 40 km.
- Brief - Recently, Indian company NIBE Limited successfully tested EXTRA and Predator Hawk "Suryastra" rockets in Odisha. EXTRA has a range of up to 150 km and Predator Hawk "Suryastra" has a range of up to 300 km.

Miscellaneous

- Recently the Defense Ministry has signed a contract with Hyderabad-based Bharat Electronics Limited for the purchase of five ground-based mobile electronic systems for the Indian Army at a cost of Rs 1,476 crore.
- DRDO inaugurated the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Field Training and Demonstration Center at Burari Ground in Delhi on May 6, 2026.
- Recently, the 'Steel Cutting' ceremony of the Fifth Fleet Support Ship was organized at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam on May 8, 2026.
- Recently IOS-Sagar reached Chattogram, Bangladesh on 08 May 2026 as part of IOS Sagar-2026 deployment.
- Recently, Indian Navy's Oceanographic Research Ship INS Sagardhwani completed her visit to Cam Ranh, Vietnam from 04 to 08 May 2026, further strengthening the strong maritime and scientific partnership between India and Vietnam.
- Recently the Indian Navy launched the Naval Sailing Node in Upper Lake, Bhopal on May 17, 2026. This upper lake is also known as Bhojtal.
- Recently, short-range ballistic missile 'Agni-1' was successfully tested on May 22, 2026 from the Integrated Test Range located at Chandipur, Odisha.
- Recently, India has successfully tested a 1,500 km range hypersonic anti-ship missile manufactured by DRDO off the Chandipur coast of Odisha. The speed of this missile is more than Mach 5.
- Recently the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to allot 600 acres of land in Puttaparthi free of cost to DRDO for India's indigenous 5th generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

Space Technology

Mission Drishti Satellite

- Recently, the Indian space start-up 'GalaxEye' successfully launched its first satellite, 'Mission Drishti'.
- This satellite was launched from Vandenberg, USA, aboard SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket.

Mission Drishti -

- It is India's largest privately developed Earth-observation satellite (weighing approximately 190 kg).
- It is the world's first OptoSAR satellite, integrating electro-optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imaging for Earth observation.
- Other components of Mission Drishti -
 - Multispectral imaging sensor
 - OptoSAR fusion payload
 - Communication antenna
 - Star tracker
 - Solar panels
- Utility - It will be useful for disaster response, border surveillance, defense, agriculture, and infrastructure monitoring.
- GalaxEye - It is a private space start-up based in Karnataka.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, the Ministry of Earth Sciences inaugurated an urban testbed and an aerosol observatory in Chennai on May 6, 2026.
- Recently, ViaSat-3 F-3 was successfully launched into space via a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This satellite is designed to provide high-speed internet connectivity.
- Recently, Pixxel and Sarvam AI announced the launch of the country's first orbital data center satellite, 'Pathfinder'. This satellite will belong to the 200-kg class and will process data in space.
- Recently, the Karnataka government launched the country's first state-level Centre of Excellence for space technology in Bengaluru to foster research and innovation in the sector.
- Recently, the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation conducted advanced-stage testing of a state-of-the-art train capable of speeds up to 1,000 km/h. This train operates on magnetic levitation (Maglev) and low-vacuum tube systems.
- Recently, Japanese scientists discovered an atmosphere around a small celestial body - (612533) 2002x93.
- Recently, the Hyderabad-based startup 'Skyroot Aerospace' became the country's first space-tech unicorn. The company raised \$60 million in new funding, pushing its valuation beyond ₹9,000 crore.

Bio, Nano, Information-Communication and Other Technologies

WHO Declares Ebola Disease a Public Health Emergency

- Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak a public health emergency under the International Health Regulations (2005) on May 17, 2026.
- Intense Ebola outbreaks were recently recorded in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda.
- The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has also officially declared it a public health emergency of security concern for the African continent.

Ebola Virus Disease

- This is an extremely rare but highly severe and life-threatening infection.
- It is a type of viral hemorrhagic fever that causes severe damage to blood vessels within the body, leading to internal and external bleeding.

Types of Ebola Virus – There are primarily four strains of the Ebola virus:

- Zaire Ebola virus** – This is the most common and most dangerous type of Ebola. It is responsible for the majority of outbreaks and deaths.
- Sudan Ebola virus**–This is also highly lethal, causing death in approximately half of those infected.
- Bundibugyo Ebola virus** – This is slightly less lethal compared to the other types.
- Tai Forest Ebola virus** – This is the rarest type.

Transmission –

- The virus is transmitted to humans through contact with, or consumption of the meat of, infected wild animals such as bats, monkeys, chimpanzees, and antelopes.
- A person can also become infected by coming into direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected patient.
- The virus can also spread by touching needles, clothing, bedding, or other medical equipment used by an infected person.

Symptoms – Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus. The symptoms progress in stages:

- High fever and sudden chills.
- Extreme fatigue, weakness, and lethargy.
- Severe muscle, joint, and body pain.
- Severe headache and sore throat.
- Complete loss of appetite.
- Persistent vomiting and diarrhea.
- Red skin rashes and bleeding.

Hantavirus

- An outbreak of Hantavirus has been observed on the MV Hondius cruise ship that recently departed from Argentina.
- The cruise ship departed from Ushuaia, Argentina in April 2026 on a trip to Antarctica and the islands of the South Atlantic.

Hantavirus-

- This is a group of viruses spread by rodents.
- It infects humans through feces, urine, saliva or direct contact with infected rats.

Geographical effects and diseases-

- North and South America** – Here this virus causes Hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome.
- Europe and Asia**–Here this virus causes hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome.
- Symptoms-** fever, severe headache, muscle pain, stomach pain, nausea or vomiting, accumulation of fluid in the lungs, bleeding disorders.
- Treatment** – There is no approved antiviral drug or vaccine available to treat hantavirus.
- An estimated ten thousand to one lakh cases of Hantavirus occur worldwide every year.

ICMR Transfers Three Indigenous Medical Technologies to Industry

- On National Technology Day, ICMR transferred three indigenous medical technologies to industry for commercial production.

S.No.	Technology	Use	Developing Institution	Transferred To
1	Affordable PSP94 ELISA Kit	Supports prostate biopsy decisions for patients with PSA level below 20 ng/ml	ICMR - National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health, Mumbai	Krishgen Labs Pvt. Ltd.
2	Medical device / Technology	Specific technology for breast cancer or related diagnostics	ICMR - National Institute for Research in Reproductive and Child Health, Mumbai	Meril Life Sciences

3	Single-tube multiplex real-time RT-PCR kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simultaneous detection of dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICMR - National Institute of Virology, Pune 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanguard Life Sciences
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REDMOD AI System

- Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson Cancer Center in the United States claimed to have developed an AI system named REDMOD.
- This system can detect pancreas cancer up to three years before formal diagnosis.
- In this technique, microscopic cellular changes and tissue structure are analyzed, through which pancreas cancer can be detected.

CSIR Transfers 13 Indigenous Technologies to Industry

- Recently, on the occasion of National Technology Day (May 11), 13 indigenous technologies have been transferred to the industry by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The technologies transferred are as follows –

- Low carbon footprint brick manufacturing technology.
- Hybrid solar-assisted heat pump system.
- IPN coating technology for protection of RCC structures.
- Precast high-strength steel cord reinforcement technology for wall protection.
- Fire retardant transparent intumescent coating for surfaces made of wood and wood substitutes.

Optical Amplifier

- Recently, researchers at Stanford University have created an optical amplifier as small as the tip of a finger.
- This optical amplifier can increase the internet speed a hundred times and reduce power consumption.

Optical amplifier-

- It is a device that strengthens the signal being sent through light.
- It is used in fiber optic internet and telecom networks.

Lion Species Spotlight Programme

- Recently, Union Environment Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav inaugurated the 'Lion' Species Spotlight Program at Sasan Gir, Gujarat on May 14, 2026.
- The event is a part of a series of events to be organized ahead of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026.
- Note - India will host the first IBCA Summit 2026 in New Delhi on June 1-2, 2026.

Agreement for Treatment of Multiple Myeloma

- The Technology Development Board signed an agreement with Helix Cell Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd. to develop advanced CAR-T cell therapy for multiple myeloma.

Multiple myeloma

- It is a highly debilitating and currently incurable blood cancer
- It affects plasma cells, which damages healthy bones and the immune system.

CAR-T cell therapy

- It involves extracting a patient's own T-lymphocytes and genetically modifying them outside the body so that they can specifically identify and destroy cancer cells.

Development of Self-Powered Sensors and Wearable Electronics Using Nano-Gold in Thin Films

- Recently, scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (Mohali) under the direction of Professor Dipankar Mandal and Sudeep Naskar have developed self-powered sensors and wearable electronics by incorporation of nano-gold in thin films.
- For this, scientists have developed an ultra-thin flexible film by mixing microscopic amounts of nanogold in ordinary ferroelectric polymers.
- This film can efficiently convert even very subtle temperature fluctuations into electrical signals.

Applications -

- With this, energy can be stored from ambient temperature and subtle thermal fluctuations.
- This will allow the development of self-powered sensors and wearable electronics by reducing dependence on external batteries.
- It can be used in healthcare, environmental monitoring and energy-efficient advanced flexible electronic systems.

Peacock Tarantula

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh started a survey to protect the peacock tarantula in Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve.
- Currently its numbers have decreased due to deforestation and beautiful color.

Peacock Tarantula -

- This is a rare and beautiful poisonous tree spider.
- This is one of the most beautiful spiders in the world.

- This spider species is also called 'Gooty Neelam'.
- Its legs span about 15-20 cm.
- It moves fast and hunts insects by ambushing.
- It lives in holes and cracks in trees in old deciduous forests.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, the Unique Identification Authority of India and National University of Forensic Sciences have signed an MoU to establish a structured five-year collaboration in the areas of digital forensics, cyber security and advanced technology research on May 5, 2026.
- Recently, Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched 'Health India Portal' on May 6, 2026. This portal will integrate health systems to accelerate India's digital health transformation.
- Recently, under Janjatiya Garima Utsav-2026, a workshop was organized on India's first indigenous CRISPR based gene therapy "Birsa-101" for sickle cell disease. Birsa-101 is India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for the treatment of sickle cell disease.
- Recently, Ring Gantry based Linear Accelerator was launched on 25 May 2026 in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Army Hospital (Research and Referral), New Delhi. This advanced technology will strengthen cancer care services.
- Recently IIT Madras has opened its first international center in California, USA. The aim of this center is to connect Indian deep-tech startups with international markets, investment and technology collaboration.
- Recently India and Japan have signed an agreement to increase cooperation in quantum technology and health research. Under this, work will be done on computing, sensing and secure communication networks between India's National Quantum Mission and Japanese institutions.
- Recently, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated 'Million Minds Tech Park' and 'GREMI City Campus' in Ahmedabad on May 17, 2026.



6. Sports Affairs

Cricket

Monty Desai

- Indian-origin Monty Desai was appointed head coach of Canada's men's cricket team.
- He has worked with Rajasthan Royals in the IPL
- He has also worked with the cricket teams of Nepal and Afghanistan.

Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026

- Edition: 19th
- Dates: 28 March 2026 to 31 May 2026
- **Winner:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB's second consecutive title win)
- Runner-up: Gujarat Titans
- **Final match:** Played on 31 May 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- Result: Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat Titans by 5 wickets.
- Player of the Match: Virat Kohli
- A total of 74 matches were played across 13 venues in this edition.
- **Major awards:**
 - Orange Cap: Vaibhav Suryavanshi (highest 776 runs, Rajasthan Royals)
 - Purple Cap: Kagiso Rabada (highest 29 wickets, Gujarat Titans)
 - Emerging Player of the Season, Super Striker of the Season, Most Valuable Player of the Season and Super Sixes of the Season: Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals)
 - Most fours of the season: Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans)
 - Best catch of the season: Manish Pandey (Kolkata Knight Riders)
 - Most dot balls of the season: Mohammed Siraj (Gujarat Titans)
 - Fair Play Award: Punjab Kings
 - Pitch and Ground Award: Cricket Association of Bengal and Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (joint winners)

Kohli Becomes Highest-Earning Player in IPL

- According to a recently released report by Fanatic Sports and Hurun, Virat Kohli has become the highest-earning cricketer in the 18-year history of the IPL.

- Virat Kohli has earned Rs. 230 crore in the IPL, followed by Rohit Sharma at Rs. 227.2 crore and Mahendra Singh Dhoni at Rs. 200 crore.
- According to the report, the combined valuation of all IPL franchises has reached Rs. 1.63 lakh crore.
- Kolkata Knight Riders is the most valuable franchise, with a valuation of Rs. 19,200 crore.

Fatima Sana

- She is the captain of Pakistan's T20 cricket team.
- Recently, in the third T20 match against Zimbabwe, she scored a half-century in just 15 balls and set a world record.
- The earlier record was jointly held by Sophie Devine, Phoebe Litchfield and India's Richa Ghosh, who made half-centuries in 18 balls.
- Fatima Sana scored 62 runs off 19 balls, including 10 fours and 2 sixes.

Sarah Taylor

- She is a 36-year-old former wicketkeeper-batter from England.
- She has been appointed fielding coach of the England men's team for the Test series against New Zealand.
- She has become the first woman to coach the England men's team.

Miscellaneous

- Rajasthan Royals batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest player to score 600 runs in a single IPL season. The previous record was held by Rishabh Pant.
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Rajat Patidar became the fastest Indian batter to hit 200 sixes in the IPL. He broke Abhishek Sharma's record for fastest 200 sixes.
- Recently, Indian all-rounder Vijay Shankar retired from domestic cricket and the IPL. Vijay Shankar was known as the "3D" all-rounder in the 2019 World Cup. He made his debut for Tamil Nadu in 2012.
- Recently, South African legendary fast bowler Shabnim Ismail reversed her retirement from international cricket. Returning after nearly three years, Ismail has 123 wickets in 113 T20 matches.

Badminton

Uber Cup 2026 and Thomas Cup 2026

- Event date- April 24 to May 3, 2026
- Venue: Forum Horsens, Denmark
- Edition - 34th edition of Thomas Cup and 31st edition of Uber Cup.
- Thomas Cup-2026 (Men's Team) -
- Winner (Gold) - China
- Runner-up (Silver) - France
- Bronze Medal - India and Denmark
- The Indian men's team lost 0-3 to France in the semi-finals.
- Uber Cup-2026 (Women's Team) -
- Winner (Gold) – South Korea
- Runner-up (Silver) - China
- Bronze Medal – Japan and Indonesia

Shooting/Archery

Archery World Cup 2026 (Stage 2)

- Dates: 5 to 10 May 2026
- Venue: Shanghai, China
- **India's performance:**

Women's Recurve Team Event-

- Medal- Gold Medal
- Winner players- Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Kumkum Anil Mohod.

Men's Individual Compound Event-

- Medal – Bronze Medal
- Winning player- Sahil Jadhav.
- Sahil Jadhav defeated Martin Damsbo of Denmark 147-144.
- This is the first World Cup medal of Sahil's career.

Chess

- Recently, Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram qualified for the chess event of the Esports World Cup 2026. The tournament will be held from 6 July to 23 August 2026 in Paris, France.
- Recently, American Grandmaster Hans Moke Niemann won the Super Rapid and Blitz title held in Warsaw, Poland. He secured first position with 13 points. World Champion D. Gukesh finished sixth.

Tennis and Table Tennis

Delhi to Host Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026

- Delhi will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026 from 27 July to 2 August 2026. The event will be organized jointly by the Table Tennis Federation of India and the Delhi Government.

- Manika Batra will lead the Indian contingent.
- Players from 35 countries will participate.

- Recently, Ukrainian tennis player Elina Svitolina defeated American player Coco Gauff in the final to win the Italian Open title for the third time. Svitolina defeated Gauff 6-4, 6-7, 6-2.

Snooker

World Snooker Championship 2026

- Venue: Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.
- Dates: 18 April to 4 May 2026.
- Winner: Wu Yize, China.
- Runner-up: Shaun Murphy, Britain.
- China's 22-year-old Wu Yize defeated Shaun Murphy 18-17 to win the title.

Wrestling

Asian Under-23 Wrestling Championship 2026

- Dates: 23 to 26 May 2026
- Venue: Da Nang, Vietnam
- India won a total of 27 medals in the championship: 11 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze.
- Men's freestyle team - champion:

Gold Medal-

1. Akshay T. Dhare (57 kg)
2. Vicky (97 kg)
3. Kumar Mohit (65 kg)
4. Chander Mohan (79 kg)

Silver Medal-

1. Deepak Rathi (61 kg)
2. Puneet Kumar (92 kg)
3. Lucky (125 kg)

Bronze Medal-

1. Deepak Berwal (74 kg)
2. Mor Sachin (82 kg)
3. Women's Wrestling Team (Champion)-

Gold Medal-

1. Muskaan (53 kg)
2. Tapasya (57 kg)
3. Bhagyashree (62 kg)
4. Pulkit (67 kg)
5. Mansi (68 kg)
6. Kajal (76 kg)

Silver Medal-

1. Neha (59 kg)
2. Sweety (50 kg)

Bronze Medal-

1. Amrita (72 kg)
2. Ahalya (55 kg)
3. Greco-Roman team-

Gold Medal-

1. Sumit (63 kg)

Silver Medal-

1. Suraj (60 kg)
2. Sagar Singh (67 kg)

Bronze Medal-

1. Neeraj Patel (55 kg)
2. Sachin (77 kg)
3. Rohit Bura (87 kg)
4. Rohit (97 kg)
5. Hardeep (130kg)

Other Sports

Petanque Transplant Asian Open Championship 2026

- Dates: 29 April to 3 May 2026.
- Venue: Bangkok, Thailand.
- Organizer: World Transplant Games Federation.
- A total of 12 Indian transplant athletes participated and won 6 medals.
- Athletes from nine countries participated: Thailand, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Hungary and Australia.
- India's performance:
- Bhawani Singh won silver in the Nation category in petanque doubles;
- Harshvardhan Singh won bronze in the Asian category;
- Mujahid Naqvi won bronze in the Nation category.

IKF Beach Korfball World Cup (Asia) 2026

- Event date- May 2 to 3, 2026
- Event- Bangkok, Thailand
- Partner organizations – In collaboration with Korfball Association of Thailand and IKF Asia.
- Team- 10 Team
- Winner- Hungary
- India- Fifth position
- Captain of India - Rajat Kumar Saini

Miami Grand Prix Champion 2026

- Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli, aged 19, created history by winning the Miami Grand Prix.
- He became the first driver in Formula 1 history to win the first three races of his career from pole position.
- This was Antonelli's third consecutive victory.

Asian Weightlifting Championship 2026

- Dates: 11 to 17 May 2026
- Venue: Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India
- A total of 172 athletes from 30 countries participated, including 97 men and 75 women.
- India's Performance: India won 10 medals: 1 silver and 9 bronze.
- Silver medal: Gyaneshwari Yadav (snatch, women's 53 kg).
- **Bronze medals:**
 1. Komal Kohar (women's 48 kg)
 2. Komal Kohar (clean and jerk, women's 48 kg)
 3. Gyaneshwari Yadav (women's 53 kg)
 4. Ajit Narayan (men's 71 kg)
 5. Ajit Narayan (clean and jerk, men's 71 kg)
 6. Harjinder Kaur (women's 69 kg)
 7. Sanjana (women's 77 kg)
 8. Sanjana (clean and jerk, women's 77 kg)
 9. Sanjana (snatch, women's 77 kg)
- China topped the medal table with 41 medals: 21 gold, 12 silver and 8 bronze.

Saudi Athletics Grand Prix 2026

- Dates: 15 and 16 May 2026
- Venue: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- More than 200 male and female athletes from over 40 countries across five continents participated in 31 events.
- **Performance of Indian athletes:**

Animesh Kujur (Sprinter)-

- 200 meter race – won gold medal in 20.77 seconds
- 100 meter race – in 10.44 seconds/ won silver medal

Mohammad Afsal (800 meters)-

- Won gold medal in 1 minute 48 seconds
- Men's 4x100m relay team
- The Indian quartet won the gold medal in the men's 4x100 meters relay event with a timing of 40.49 seconds.

15th Asian Senior Kurash Championship 2026

- Dates: 11 to 15 June 2026
- Venue: Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Organiser: International Kurash Association
- Kurash is a traditional Central Asian form of wrestling and is now a major global sport.

Taipei Capital Cup 2026

- Venue: Taipei, capital of Taiwan
- Dates: 26 to 28 May 2026
- It is an international skills competition.
- India's performance: India won 2 silver medals and 3 Medallions for Excellence.

Winner	Category	Medal/Award
Muskan	Painting and Decoration	Silver medal
Arjun Sumathi Vijaybhaskar	Mobile Application Development	Silver medal
Mohammad Mafaaz Punaikannan Rabi Ahmed	Software Applications Development	Medallion for Excellence
Suresh Kumar Ganesan Meena	Digital Construction	Medallion for Excellence
Mohammad Seraj	Automobile Technology	Medallion for Excellence

Cocodona 250

- It is one of the world's toughest ultramarathons, held in the U.S. state of Arizona.
- American runner Rachel Entrekin set a record by covering nearly 402 km in 56 hours, 9 minutes and 48 seconds. She became the fastest runner to complete the race.

Cocodona 250-

- It is held in the state of Arizona, USA.
- The race starts in the Sonoran Desert and winds through the mountainous terrain and difficult trails of Flagstaff.
- There is a climb of about 38,800 feet in this entire race, due to which it is counted among the toughest ultramarathons in the world.

Frederic Soyez

- Recently, Frederic Soyez of France was appointed head coach of the Indian junior hockey team.
- Frederic Soyez will replace two-time Olympic medallist goalkeeper P. R. Sreejesh.

Government Notifies National Sports Governance Board Rules and National Sports Tribunal Rules, 2026

- Recently, the Central Government notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026 and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026 under the provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 on 26 May 2026.

National Sports Board:

- It will be the central authority responsible for monitoring and regulating the functioning of national sports bodies in the country.
- The Board will have 3 members in total: one Chairperson and two members.
- They will be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted under the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026.
- **Key functions and powers:**

1. Grant official recognition to National Sports Bodies.
2. Ensure good governance, financial transparency and compliance with ethical standards in sports federations.
3. Regulate tenure, salary, allowances and service conditions of Board members.

National Sports Tribunal:

- It will function as a dedicated judicial/quasi-judicial body for the speedy resolution of sports-related disputes.
- Its objective is to reduce dependence on civil courts for sports disputes and prevent multiplicity of litigation.
- It will provide a single-window mechanism for independent, quick, effective and affordable resolution of sports disputes.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, the National Sports Federation Conference-2026 was organized in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Recently, in view of the preparations for the Commonwealth Games-2030 to be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Sports Authority of India in collaboration with MyBharat has launched three nationwide awareness initiatives.
- Recently India has secured third position in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings. Currently Australia is first and second. Africa is at number two.
- Recently FIFA has approved the Afghanistan women's football team to play in international competitions again.
- Two players from Rajasthan, Arun Kumar and Nirmala Kumari, have been selected in the Indian team for the second Asian Para Throwball Championship to be held in Kuala Lumpur in the month of June.
- Recently, East Bengal defeated Nita Football Academy 2-0 in the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2025-26. East Bengal became champions for the second consecutive time.

- Recently, at the Saudi Athletics Grand Prix 2026 held in Riyadh, Animesh won a silver medal in the 100 m sprint and a gold medal in the 200 m race.
- Recently, in view of preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026, the “Soccer and Technology” exhibition was launched at Science World in Vancouver in collaboration with the FIFA Museum. The exhibition will run from 15 May to 7 September 2026.
- Recently, Indian-origin British golfer Aaron Rai created history by winning the PGA Championship. He became the first British player in 107 years to win the title.
- Recently, Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes was named Footballer of the Year at the Football Writers’ Association (FWA) Awards 2026.
- Recently, the International Olympic Committee lifted all restrictions on athletes from Belarus. The IOC had imposed restrictions on Belarusian athletes in 2022 after the attack on Ukraine.
- Recently, Cristiano Ronaldo became the first player in football history to score 100 or more goals in three different domestic leagues after scoring his 100th goal in the Saudi Pro League.
- Recently, Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 2-0 to win the Spanish La Liga title for the second consecutive time and the 29th time overall.
- Due to political tension and conflict in West Asia, the Esports World Cup 2026 will be held in Paris, France, instead of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Recently, due to political tension and conflict in West Asia, Iran shifted its FIFA World Cup base camp from the United States to Mexico.
- Recently, Indian sprinter Gurindervir Singh set a national record by completing the 100 m race in 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup. He became the first Indian sprinter to achieve this feat.



7. Awards and Honours

National Panchayat Awards 2025

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards 2025, selecting 42 panchayats from across the country.
- The awards were presented on 3 June 2026 in New Delhi.
- The awards are given under the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, a component of the centrally sponsored Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.
- These awards were presented under two separate categories -

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)

- It recognizes Gram Panchayats that have excelled in the 9 themes of the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).
- Prizes are given to the Panchayats securing first, second and third positions under each subject.
- Under the National Panchayat Awards-2025, 34 Gram Panchayats spread over 17 States and Union Territories have been selected under DDUPSVP.

Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Award-Winning Gram Panchayat (Block, District)
Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Panchayat	Karnataka	1	Mudrady (Hebri, Udupi)
Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	2	Chemmullapalli (Khajipet, YSR)
Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Panchayat	Sikkim	3	Gyalshing Omchung (Gyalshing)
Healthy Panchayat	Tripura	1	Kanchanbari (Kumarghat, Unakoti)
Healthy Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Vandse (Kundapura, Udupi)
Healthy Panchayat	Kerala	3	Niranam (Pulikeezhu, Pathanamthitta)
Healthy Panchayat	Odisha	3	Potlampur (Chhatrapur, Ganjam)
Child-Friendly Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Itgaon (Pu) (Bhandara, Bhandara)
Child-Friendly Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Halanayakanahalli (Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Urban)
Child-Friendly Panchayat	Kerala	3	Ottoor (Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram)
Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Khariwali (Khalapur, Raigad)
Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Madamakki (Hebri, Udupi)
Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Odisha	3	Padua (Champua, Kendujhar)
Clean and Green Panchayat	Mizoram	1	Kawrthah North
Clean and Green Panchayat	Assam	2	Jumurmur (Kathiatoli, Nagaon)
Clean and Green Panchayat	Odisha	2	Hathibandha (Lathikata, Sundargarh)
Clean and Green Panchayat	Chhattisgarh	3	Sardih (Bagicha, Jashpur)
Clean and Green Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	3	Lohardi (Balh, Mandi)

Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Kerala	1	Melukavu (Erattupetta, Kottayam)
Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Assam	2	Hugrijan (Tengakhat, Dibrugarh)
Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	3	Gundamala (Kotha Patnam, Prakasam)
Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Sanoor (Karkala, Udupi)
Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shansha (Lahaul, Lahaul & Spiti)
Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Maharashtra	2	Chambharli (Khalapur, Raigad)
Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Odisha	2	Mandar (Polosara, Ganjam)
Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Wagura (BK Pora, Budgam)
Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Hakaladi (Kundapura, Udupi)
Panchayat with Good Governance	Andhra Pradesh	1	Sringavaram (Nathavaram, Visakhapatnam)
Panchayat with Good Governance	Maharashtra	2	Nimbale (Chandwad, Nashik)
Panchayat with Good Governance	Telangana	3	Mothukupalle (Kothapally, Vikarabad)
Women-Friendly Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	1	Bokkasam Palem (Srikalahasti, Tirupati)
Women-Friendly Panchayat	Jharkhand	2	Jhikarhati East (Pakur, Pakur)
Women-Friendly Panchayat	Telangana	3	Fasalwadi (Sangareddy, Sangareddy)
Women-Friendly Panchayat	Tripura	3	Baikunthapur (Hezamara, West Tripura)

Nanaji Deshmukh Best Panchayat Sustainable Development Award (NDSPSPVP)

- It is awarded to the overall best performing Panchayats at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat level.
- Under the National Panchayat Awards-2025, 8 Panchayats have been selected as winners, out of which 3 have been included in the Best District Panchayat, 2 in the Best Block Panchayat and 3 in the Best Gram Panchayat category.

Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Award-Winning Panchayat
Best District Panchayat	Tripura	1	Sepahijala
Best District Panchayat	Odisha	2	Ganjam
Best District Panchayat	Tamil Nadu	3	Coimbatore
Best Block Panchayat	Kerala	1	Harippad (Alappuzha)
Best Block Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	2	Kuppam (Chittoor)
Best Gram Panchayat	Assam	1	New Napam (Gabharu, Sonitpur)
Best Gram Panchayat	Bihar	2	Telkap (Rohtas, Rohtas)
Best Gram Panchayat	Uttar Pradesh	3	Birharu (Saiyan, Agra)

- The winning Panchayats receive financial incentives ranging from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore per award, depending on the category and level.
- Note - This time no panchayat of Rajasthan received the award in any category and level.

President presents National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026-

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 to nursing personnel on 12 May 2026.

■ Award Winners

S.No.	Category	Awardee	State / UT
1	ANM	Kulwinder Parhi	Ladakh
2	ANM	Ujjwala Mahadev Soyam	Maharashtra
3	ANM	Lalenthangi Hnamte	Mizoram
4	ANM	Madhu Mala Gurung	Sikkim
5	ANM	Pooja Parmar Rana	Uttarakhand
6	ANM	Geeta Karmakar	West Bengal
7	Nurse	Poonam Verma	Chandigarh
8	Nurse	Deepa Biju	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
9	Nurse	Dr. Shravan Kumar Dhaka	Delhi
10	Nurse	Raksha Rupo Parvatkar	Goa
11	Nurse	Kavita Jagannath	Karnataka
12	Nurse	Manju Mol V. S.	Kerala
13	Nurse	Aysha Beebi K.	Lakshadweep
14	Nurse	Prof. (Dr.) R. Shankar Shanmugam	Tamil Nadu
15	Nurse	Major General Lisamma P. V.	Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army), Delhi

National Florence Nightingale Award-

- Establishment - 1973
- Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India
- Objective - To recognize the commendable, exemplary and excellent services rendered by nursing personnel in the society.

LEAPS Awards 2025

- Recently Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the LEAPS Awards 2025 ceremony and LEADS Report 2025 in New Delhi.
- LEAPS AWARD 2025-
- The awards recognize excellence in logistics and innovation.
- Under this, winners were honored in a total of 13 categories.

Whitley Awards 2026

- Recently on May 1, 2026, Indian conservationists Barkha Subba and Parveen Shaikh have been honored with the Whitley Award.
- This honor has been given to Barkha Subba for the conservation of Himalayan salamanders and Parveen Shaikh for the conservation of the 'Indian Skimmer' bird of Chambal.

Whitley Award -

- It is known as 'Green Oscar'.
- It is awarded in London.
- It is awarded by the 'Whitley Fund for Nature'.
- This award recognizes local level conservationists and their efforts.

Outstanding Postdoctoral Performance Awards 2025

- Argonne National Laboratory in the United States announced the Outstanding Postdoctoral Performance Awards 2025.
- Three researchers of Indian origin - Kiran Kumar Yalamanchi, FNU Shilpika and Krishna Teja Chitti-Venkata - received the awards.
- Postdoctoral Performance Awards are given to scientists whose research is important for national missions such as energy, security and AI.

Indian Journalists Anand and Suparna Win Pulitzer Prize

- Indian journalists Anand R. K. and Suparna Sharma won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting exposing cybercrime.
- They received the award along with Natalie Obiko Pearson for Bloomberg's special report Trapped.
- The award was given in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category.

Pulitzer Prize -

- This is America's most prestigious award in the field of journalism.
- Establishment of the award – in the year 1917
- This award is given in honor of the famous newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer.

Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards

- Indian teacher Soma Mondal won the South Asia regional title in the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards.

- She was honoured for connecting students with climate change and environmental protection.
- She was among the top nine winners from 12,000 nominations across countries.

Padma Awards 2026 Presented at Civil Investiture Ceremony-I

- Recently, the President of India conferred the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri Awards for the year 2026 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25 May 2026.

Padma Vibhushan

- A total of five individuals were announced for the Padma Vibhushan award this year, of whom two were honoured during Ceremony-I.

S. No.	Name	Field	State
1	Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
2	Ms. N. Rajam	Art	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Bhushan

- A total of thirteen individuals were announced for the Padma Bhushan award this year, of whom six were honoured during Ceremony-I.

S. N.	Name	Field	State
1	Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Public Affairs	Uttarakhand
2	Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
3	Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
4	Shri Shatavadhani R. Ganesh	Art	Karnataka
5	Shri Uday Kotak	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
6	Shri V. K. Malhotra (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Delhi

Padma Shri Award

- A total of 113 individuals were announced for the Padma Shri Award this year, of whom 58 were honoured during Ceremony-I.

Padma Awards 2026

- The President approved a total of 131 Padma Awards for the year 2026.
- These include 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards.
- There are also 2 couple awards in the list, which have been treated as a single award.
- The award recipients include 19 women.
- Apart from this, 6 persons from Foreign/NRI/PIO/OCI category and 16 posthumous award recipients are also included in the list.

Padma Award

- The Padma Awards are one of India's highest civilian honours.
- These are provided in 3 categories:
 - Padma Vibhushan
 - Padma Bhushan
 - Padma Shri
- These awards are given in various fields including arts, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports and civil services.
- Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.
- Padma Awards were instituted in 1954.
- Nominations for these are accepted through the National Awards Portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Padma awards do not carry any cash or pension.
- Padma Awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day.
- These honors are conferred by the President of India in ceremonies held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Professor Kuljeet Kaur Marhas

- She is an ISRO scientist and a professor at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL).
- She has been elected Fellow of The Meteoritical Society for 2026.
- She is the first Indian woman scientist to become a Fellow in the 93-year history of the society.
- Before her, only two Indians, Devendra Lal and J. N. Goswami, had received this honour.

Meteoritical Society:

- It is considered the world's largest institution in the field of meteorites and planetary science.

The Earth Prize 2026

- Recently, Vivaan Chhavchharia, Ariana Agarwal and Aavyana Mehta from India were selected as the Asia winners of The Earth Prize 2026.

- They received the honour for a powder made from tamarind seeds that helps remove microplastics from water.
- Their natural powder, named “Plas-Stick”, causes small plastic particles in water to stick together and form larger clusters that can be removed with a magnet.

International Booker Prize 2026

- Announcement: 19 May 2026 at Tate Modern, London.
- Winning book: Taiwan Travelogue.
- Original author: Yang Shuang-zi (Taiwan).
- Translator: Lin King (Taiwanese-American).
- Prize money: 50,000 pounds
- The prize money will be divided equally between the author and the translator as per rules.
- Contents of the book: The novel is set in Taiwan under Japanese colonial rule and focuses on Taiwanese food and the relationship between two women.
- This is the first time a book translated from Taiwanese Mandarin has won this prestigious award.

International Booker Prize-

- Established in the year 2005
- The award is given annually to a novel or collection of short stories, translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- The winning title is awarded a prize of £50,000, shared equally between the author and translator.
- Note- Only two writers from India, Geetanjali Shri and Banu Mushtaq, have won the International Booker Prize.

Two Indian-Origin Scientists Receive South Africa’s Highest Civilian Honour

- Recently, two Indian-origin scientists, Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda, received South Africa’s highest civilian honour.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold on Professor Salim Abdool Karim for AIDS prevention and the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver on Professor Keertan Dheda for research on tuberculosis.

Awards:

Award	Winning Film/Person	Director/Country
Palme d’Or (highest award)	Fjord	Cristian Mungiu (Romania)
Grand Prix (second-highest award)	Minotaur	Andrey Zvyagintsev (Russia)
Jury Prize	Das Geträumte Abenteuer (The Dreamed Adventure)	Valeska Grisebach (Germany)

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026

- Recently, 12 individual Members of Parliament (10 from Lok Sabha and 2 from Rajya Sabha) and 4 parliamentary standing committees were selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards 2026.

Selected MPs:

1. Jagdambika Pal (Uttar Pradesh), individual category
2. P. P. Chaudhary (Rajasthan), individual category
3. Nishikant Dubey (Jharkhand), individual category
4. Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Maharashtra), individual category
5. Praveen Patel (Uttar Pradesh)
6. Vidyut Baran Mahato (Jharkhand)
7. Lumbaram Chaudhary (Rajasthan)
8. Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara (Maharashtra)
9. Smita Uday Wagh (Maharashtra)
10. Naresh Ganpat Mhaske (Maharashtra)
11. Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni (Maharashtra)
12. Narhari Amin (Gujarat)

Committees selected:

1. Committee on Agriculture
2. Committee on Finance
3. Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
4. Committee on Coal and Mines

Sansad Ratna Award:

- Establishment: 2010 on the suggestion of former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- Founder: Prime Point Foundation.
- The first award ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Kalam in 2010.
- The 16th Sansad Ratna Awards ceremony will be held in New Delhi in July 2026.

Cannes Film Festival 2026

- Edition: 79th
- Dates: 13 to 24 May 2026
- Venue: Cannes, France
- Jury President: Park Chan-wook, renowned South Korean director
- This year, Romanian director Cristian Mungiu won the Palme d’Or for the second time in his career.

Best Director (joint winners)	1. Pawel Pawlikowski for Fatherland; 2. Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi for La Bola Negra	
Best Screenplay	Notre Salut (A Man of His Time)	Emmanuel Marre (France)
Best Actor (joint winners)	Emmanuel Macchia and Valentin Campen (film: Coward)	Director: Lukas Dhont
Best Actress (joint winners)	Virginie Efira and Tao Okamoto (film: Soudain / All of a Sudden)	Director: Ryusuke Hamaguchi

- Camera d'Or (Best First Film)
- Ben'Imana, directed by Marie-Clementine Dusabejambo.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, Arpit Sharma, Senior Reporter of Dainik Bhaskar, and Saurabh Grihasthi, Reporter of Bhaskar Digital, were honoured with the Manoj Mathur Journalism Award.
- Recently, Major Abhilasha Barak of the Indian Army was selected for the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. She is the Commander of the Female Engagement Team under the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon and works for the safety of women and girls.
- Recently, Her Majesty Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden has honored Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross'.
- Recently, His Majesty King Harald V of Norway has honored Prime Minister Narendra Modi with 'The Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit'.
- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the prestigious Agricola Medal for the year 2026 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



Elections and Appointments**Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman of Prasar Bharati**

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appointed Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of Prasar Bharati on 2 May 2026.
- Prasoon Joshi is a noted lyricist, writer and communications expert. Before this appointment, he had been serving as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification since August 2017.

Prasar Bharti

- It is India's statutory autonomous public service broadcaster.
- It was established under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 and has been operational since 1997.
- It has two major departments -
 1. All India Radio (AIR)
 2. Doordarshan (DD)

Shashi Shekhar Vempati Appointed CBFC Chairman

- Recently, the Government of India has appointed Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- Shri Vempati will hold this post for a period of three years from the date of assuming charge.
- The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, which regulates the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act 1952.
- Films can be publicly screened in India only after they are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

- The Government of India appointed Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as Chief of the Naval Staff.
- He succeeded Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.
- He has nearly four decades of distinguished service in the Indian Navy.

Lieutenant General N. S. Raja Subramani

- The Government of India appointed Lieutenant General N. S. Raja Subramani as Chief of Defence Staff.
- From the date of assuming charge and until further orders, he will also serve as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, Government of India.
- CDS General Anil Chauhan completed his term on 30 May 2026.
- He has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Chief of Defense Staff

- This is a four-star general rank post.
- The salary and allowances of this post are equivalent to that of the Army Chief.
- He also heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to be created under the Ministry of Defense and acts as its Secretary.
- Along with being the head of the Department of Military Affairs, he is also the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- He will act as the Principal Military Advisor to the Defense Minister on all matters related to the three services.
- The Chief of Defense Staff shall not exercise any form of military command, including command over the three service chiefs, except to render impartial advice to the political leadership.

Dr. Joram Aniya and Dr. R. Balasubramaniam

- The Government of India appointed Dr. Joram Aniya and Dr. R. Balasubramaniam as full-time members of NITI Aayog.
- With these appointments, the core team of NITI Aayog has seven members.

Dr. Joram Ania -

- She is the first person from Arunachal Pradesh to reach this post. She is also the first female PhD holder from the Nishi community.

Rohit Jain

- Recently, the Government of India has appointed Rohit Jain, Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India, as the new Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. His appointment has been for 3 years. He will replace outgoing Deputy Governor T. Rabi Shankar.

Professor Susan Elias

- She was recently appointed Principal of St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. She will assume charge on 1 June 2026.
- Professor Susan Elias is the first woman principal in the history of St. Stephen's College.
- Since the establishment of St. Stephen's College, she will be the 14th head and the first woman to hold the post.

Sahdev Yadav Elected President of South Asian Weightlifting Federation

- Recently, Sahdev Yadav was unanimously elected President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation (SAWF) at the SAWF election meeting held on 12 May 2026 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- He is currently serving as the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation.

Rumen Radev

- Recently, the Parliament of Bulgaria appointed former President Rumen Radev as the country's new Prime Minister.
- Rumen Radev's newly formed party "Progressive Bulgaria" won more than 135 seats in the parliamentary elections and secured a majority.

Yoweri Museveni

- He recently took oath as President of Uganda for the seventh consecutive time.
- Yoweri Museveni has been in power since 1986 and has completed nearly 40 years in office.
- He won the presidential election held in January 2026 with 71.65% of the vote.

Tushar Kumar

- He is a 23-year-old British citizen of Indian origin.
- He has been appointed Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood.
- He has become the youngest person of Indian origin in British history to hold this post.

Janez Jansa

- He was recently elected Prime Minister of Slovenia.
- This is his fourth term.
- Janez Jansa is the leader of the Slovenian Democratic Party.

People in News

Afreen Jabi

- She is an Indian international open-water swimmer from Midnapore, West Bengal.
- She set a world record by crossing the Palk Strait in 7 hours and 5 minutes.
- The Palk Strait is a marine strait between Tamil Nadu in India and Jaffna district in Sri Lanka. It separates India and Sri Lanka.
- She has also previously swam across the English Channel.

Q. Manivannan

- He is a British citizen of Indian origin.
- Recently, he won the Scottish parliamentary election from Edinburgh on a Scottish Greens ticket.
- He originally belongs to Tamil Nadu.

Miscellaneous

- Recently Anugrah Narayan Das has assumed the charge of Controller General of Defense Accounts (CGDA) from May 1, 2026. He is a senior officer of 1991 batch of Indian Defense Accounts Service (IDAS).

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has appointed filmmaker Shri Ashutosh Gowariker as the Festival Director for the 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa.

- Recently Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited on May 9, 2026.

- Recently Shri Saurabh Vijay took charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India. He is a 1998 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre.

- Recently, CA Rohit Dayma has been entrusted with the responsibility of the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the Abu Dhabi Chapter for the year 2026-27.

- Recently Anugrah Narayan Das has been appointed to the post of Controller General of Defense Accounts under the Ministry of Defense. He is a 1991 batch Indian Defense Accounts Service officer.

- Recently, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder of pharma company Biocon, has announced to hand over the command of Biocon to Claire Mazumdar.

- Recently, R. Mukundan was elected as the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2026-27. He is the MD and CEO of Tata Chemicals and replaced Rajiv Memani.

- Recently, Prashant Pise was appointed India's new Ambassador to Oman. He is an Indian Foreign Service officer. He is currently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and will replace G. V. Srinivas.

- Recently, veteran Republican economic adviser and former investment banker Kevin Warsh was selected as the new Chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve. The Senate approved his appointment by a 54-45 majority.

- Recently, Jio Platforms Limited appointed Akash Ambani as its Managing Director for five years.

- Recently, the Central Government appointed Pratibha Parkar as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Panama. Pratibha Parkar is an IFS officer of the 2000 batch and is currently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

- Recently, diplomat Periasamy Kumaran assumed charge as India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He had earlier served as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and as India's High Commissioner to Singapore.

- Recently, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reconstituted the Committee on Empowerment of Women. BJP MP Dr. Daggubati Purandeswari was appointed Chairperson of the committee.

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India promoted Gunveer Singh to the post of Executive Director. Before promotion, Gunveer Singh was serving as Chief General Manager-in-Charge in RBI's Department of Payment and Settlement Systems.
- Recently, Indian Air Force officer Squadron Leader Sanya became the first woman officer to qualify as a Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI).
- Recently, Soumya Swaminathan and IIT Kanpur Director Professor Manindra Agrawal were elected Fellows of the Royal Society.
- Recently, Sanjay Vatsayan was appointed the new chief of the Navy's Western Naval Command. He will replace Krishna Swaminathan.

Demises

Major General (Retd.) Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri

- Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and senior BJP leader Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri passed away in Dehradun at the age of 91.
- He served in the Indian Army and was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.
- He served twice as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand (from 2007 to 2009 and from 2011 to 2012) and also served as Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Ratanlal Bhagataram Choudhary

- He was a well-known film producer, director and businessman of South India.
- He died at the age of 76 in a road accident near Jhutha village (Beawar-Pindwara National Highway-162).
- Ratanlal Bhagatram Chaudhary was popularly known as R. B. Chaudhary in South India.

Ted Turner

- He was the founder of the American media organization CNN.
- He died recently at the age of 87.
- He is remembered as a veteran who brought about major transformations in modern television journalism.

Randhir Singh

- He was an Indian shooter and the first Asian Games gold medallist from India who passed away recently.
- He won a gold medal in the trap event at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games.
- He holds the record of representing India in five Olympic Games.
- He was also the first Indian to become President of the Olympic Council of Asia.

- In his administrative career, he served as Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association from 1987 to 2010 and as a member of the International Olympic Committee from 2001 to 2014.

Bashir Badr

- He was an Indian poet who passed away recently.
- He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1999 for his contributions to literature and the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Suman Kalyanpur

- She was an Indian playback singer who passed away at the age of 89.
- She was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2023.
- She sang memorable songs such as "Aajkal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche" and "Na Na Karte Pyar".

Miscellaneous

- Amanpreet Singh Gill, a former member of India's Under-19 team recently passed away. He played six first-class matches for Punjab between 2006 and 2008 and took 11 wickets.
- Recently, Karnataka Minister for Planning and Statistics D. Sudhakar passed away. He was a senior Congress leader and MLA from the Hiriyur Assembly constituency in Chitradurga district.
- Recently, Telugu actor Bharat Kanth died in a road accident. He had acted in films such as 'Gramam' and 'Tenant' and in web series such as Geethanjali.

Conferences, Meetings, Fairs, Festivals and Exhibitions

First Preliminary Meeting of BRICS Women Working Group

- Event- 30 April, 2026
- Mode- virtual medium
- Organizer- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Representatives of BRICS member countries participated in this meeting.
- Objective: To reiterate India's commitment to promote women-led development, recognizing women as key drivers of economic growth, governance and social change.

North Tech Symposium

- Event date- May 4 to 6, 2026
- Venue: Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- Organizers - Jointly organized by Northern Command and Central Command of Indian Army and Society of Indian Defense Manufacturers (SIDM)
- Theme- "Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge"

- The symposium serves as a vibrant platform to showcase and integrate cutting-edge indigenous technologies to address operational challenges.

Fire Safety Week

- Fire Safety Week-
- Event date- May 4 to 10, 2026
- Topic - “Health Facility Fire Safety”
- Organizer - Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with all States/Union Territories and concerned Central Ministries/Departments.
- Objective - To raise awareness about the importance of prevention and mitigation of fire hazards in health care institutions across the country.

Conference on Brain-Computer Interfaces and Strategic Implications

- Event - May 5, 2026
- Venue – New Delhi
- **Theme** - “Brain-Computer Interface:- Expanding Cognitive Capabilities and its Strategic Implications”
- **Organizer** - Jointly organized by Integrated Defense Staff Headquarters and Center for Joint Warfare Studies.
- **Objective** - To explore the use of human-machine integration and neural technologies to shape the future of defence, medical and command-control systems.

India-Japan Healthcare Joint Committee Meeting

- Meeting order - Third
- Event date- May 5, 2026
- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- Chaired by - Mr. Jagat Prakash Nadda and Ms. Kimi Onoda
- The meeting was based on the shared vision of both the countries and inclusive development under India’s principle of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”.

Four major priority areas of cooperation-

- Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases.
- Strengthening supply chains and access to medical products.
- Digital Health.
- Human resource development and exchange.

National Rare Disease Conference

- Event date- May 5 and 6, 2026
- Venue – New Delhi
- Organizer- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Objective- To strengthen the way to deal with the challenges posed by rare diseases.

Rare disease

- Rare diseases are a group of diverse, complex conditions that require long-term, coordinated care and are often difficult to diagnose and manage.

- Most rare diseases are genetic and appear early in life, often in childhood.
- These diseases are usually long-term, serious and in some cases fatal.

BRICS Employment Working Group Meeting

- Meeting order - Second
- Event date - 6th and 7th May, 2026
- Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- The first meeting was held through virtual medium from March 16 to 17, 2026.
- The meeting was attended by representatives related to labour, employment and worker welfare from BRICS member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia and UAE.

India-Algeria Joint Commission Meeting

- Meeting order - First
- Event date-6 May 2026
- Venue: New Delhi
- Algeria is a strategically important country in North Africa.
- This meeting is a milestone in terms of India’s reach and ‘defense diplomacy’ in the Mediterranean Sea and the African continent.

Organisation of WAVES Doc Bazaar

- Edition- Second Edition
- Event date- June 16 to 18, 2026.
- Event- NFDC Complex, Mumbai (in conjunction with the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival)
- Objective- To bring together established professionals and emerging talent from the audio-visual industry.
- Waves Doc Marketplace is a premier platform designed to promote and accelerate the growth of documentary, animation and short film makers.
- This platform provides opportunities for support, guidance, market access and global exposure.

61st International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia 2026

- Event date: 9th May - 22nd November 2026.
- Event - Venice, Italy
- An exhibition titled ‘Geographies of Distance: Remembering Home’ has been inaugurated by the Pavilion of India in this exhibition.

All India Principals Conference (Sainik Schools)

- Edition- 52nd
- Event date- May 7 to 8, 2026 (two days)
- Venue – Sainik Vidyalaya, Kazhakoottam (Kerala)
- Objective- To ensure quality of education, administrative efficiency and discipline in Sainik Schools across the country.

India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Conference

- Edition – Second Edition (First – in the year 2025)
- Event date- May 8, 2026
- Venue – Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
- Organizers- Ministry of Civil Aviation, International Financial Services Center Authority (IFSCA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- Its first edition took place in 2025.
- The conference brought together policy, financing and aviation industry experts to deliberate on strengthening the role of GIFT IFSC in aircraft leasing and aviation financing, with a focus on developing GIFT IFSC as an emerging global hub.

ISO International Subcommittee Meeting

- Event date - May 8, 2026
- Venue: New Delhi
- Organizer - Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- BIS organized the 35th Plenary and Working Group meeting of the ISO TC 20/SC 14 'Space Systems and Operations' Subcommittee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
- 131 international representatives from 13 countries participated in this meeting.

International Ophthalmology Research Conference

- Event date - May 9 and 10, 2026
- Venue – Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- Organizer- Department of Ophthalmology (Army Hospital, New Delhi) in collaboration with All India Ophthalmological Society.
- Objective - To promote meaningful civil-military cooperation in ophthalmology.
- This is the country's first international ophthalmology research conference.

National Intellectual Property Festival 2026

- Event date - May 8, 2026
- Venue – Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun
- Objective- To promote intellectual property awareness in India.
- It is a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative and was first launched in July 2023.

Buyer-Seller Meet

- Event date- May 9, 2026
- Venue – Mumbai
- Organizers- CSIR and Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine
- This meeting has been organized before the upcoming 'Lavender Festival 2026' in Mumbai.

Girder Laying Ceremony of Air Cushion Vehicles

- Event date- May 11, 2026
- Venue – Chowgule Shipyard, Goa
- Organizer- Indian Coast Guard
- The ceremony marked the 'Girder Laying' ceremony of the fourth, fifth and sixth Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

National Conference on Laboratory Animal Welfare

- Event date- May 11, 2026
- Venue – New Delhi
- Organizer - Central Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department
- Objective - To strengthen laboratory animal welfare standards, promote ethical and responsible research practices and encourage collaboration among policy makers, scientists, veterinarians, regulatory authorities and institutional representatives across the country.
- The conference was organized on "Laboratory Animal Welfare: Policies and Best Practices".

National Council Meeting of the Joint Consultative Machinery

- Order of meeting - 49th
- Event date- May 11, 2026
- Venue – Seva Teerth, New Delhi
- Objective- To promote cordial relations between the government and its employees.

Kimberley Process Intersessional Meeting 2026

- Event date- 11 to 14 May, 2026
- Venue: Mumbai, India
- Concerned Ministry- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India
- India assumed the Chairmanship of the Kimberley Process on 1 January 2026.
- Objective: To discuss issues related to the trade in natural diamonds at the global level and to prevent the entry of illegally obtained diamonds from conflict areas into the legitimate diamond trade.
- The theme of India's chairmanship of this organization in the year 2026 focuses on the 3Cs in the natural diamond sector which stand for Credibility, Compliance and Consumer Trust.

Kimberley Process Certification Scheme

- This is an international initiative.
- Established under UN General Assembly Resolution 55/56 (2000)
- Objective- To prevent the entry of illegally obtained diamonds from conflict areas into the legitimate diamond trade.
- Members – 60 participants representing 86 countries (the European Union and its member states as a single grouping).

India-Tanzania Joint Trade Committee Meeting

- Edition/Meeting Order – 5th (Last Meeting in New Delhi in August, 2017)
- Event date- 29-30 April 2026
- Venue: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Chaired by – Commerce Secretary from the Indian side and Dr. Samuel William Shelukindo, Ambassador from the Tanzanian side.
- India-Tanzania bilateral trade has reached \$9.02 billion in 2025-26 from \$8.64 billion in 2024-25.
- Areas of cooperation between India and Tanzania-
- Financial and digital cooperation - promoting trade settlement locally.
- Education and Skills - To develop IIT Madras Zanzibar as a regional hub for science and technology.
- Agriculture and Fisheries- Discussion on trade and contract farming of pulses.
- Health and Pharma- Regulatory cooperation in pharmaceuticals and capacity building in oncology.
- Energy and Infrastructure - Plan for a comprehensive MoU for renewable energy, natural gas and biofuels.

Kalam and Kavach 3.0

- Event date - May 14, 2026
- Venue - Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- Objective - To advance the discussion on integrated military capability development, technological innovation and strategic partnership in line with national security objectives and the vision of a self-reliant India.

Joint Aerospace Power Seminar

- Event date - May 11, 2026
- Venue – Nagpur
- Organizer- Maintenance Command (Indian Air Force) in collaboration with autonomous defense think tank, Center for Airpower and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)
- Theme - “Efficient Maintenance and Atmanirbharta – Enablers of Airpower,”
- Objective - To increase the combat capability of the Air Force, understand new technologies and promote ‘self-reliance’ in the defense sector.

International Telecommunication Union Council Meeting-2026-

- Event date- April 28 to May 8, 2026
- Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
- Objectives: To shape the global telecommunications and digital policy landscape, promote digital cooperation, and oversee the organization’s strategy, budget, and financial controls.
- An Indian delegation led by Shri Mukesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications, participated in this meeting.

ITU Council-

- Serves as the governing body of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- It consists of 48 elected member countries.
- Its annual meeting is held in Geneva.
- India has been a member of the ITU Council since 1952.

Weather and Climate Innovation Conference-WISE-2026

- Event date- May 15, 2026
- Venue- Pune
- Organizer- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology -IITM, Pune
- The conference was held during the inauguration of a dedicated incubation center for startups in the weather and climate sector at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology-IITM, Pune.

Eastern Regional Agricultural Conference-

- Event date- May 19, 2026
- Venue – Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Organizer- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India
- Objective- To further strengthen the overall development of the agricultural sector, increase the income of farmers and coordination between the Central and State Governments.

All India Official Language Festival-2026

- Event date - May 18, 2026
- Venue – Pusa, New Delhi
- Organizer- National Statistical Office (NSO)
- Objective- To promote daily use of official language Hindi in Central Government offices, ministries and undertakings.

World Health Assembly session

- Event date - May 18 to 23, 2026
- Venue: Geneva, Geneva
- Organizer- World Health Organization (WHO)
- The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO.
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO member states and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the organization, appoint the Director-General, monitor financial policies, and review and approve proposed program budgets.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda participated from the Indian side.

BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting

- Event date- May 20-21, 2026
- Venue – Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Organized by- Youth Program Department of Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- The meeting was held under the overarching theme of “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”.
- Young entrepreneurs and representatives of BRICS member countries participated in this meeting.

Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) meeting

- Edition- 138th
- Event date- May 21, 2026
- Venue – Ahmedabad
- Objective- To review and strengthen the security framework for India’s offshore installations and critical energy infrastructure.

“Risk Management and Electoral Integrity” Workshop-

- Event date- May 25 to 29, 2026
- Venue: India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, New Delhi
- Organizer- Election Commission of India in collaboration with International IDEA
- The event was attended by 32 participants representing 12 countries, including Election Commissioners and senior officials of Election Management Bodies (EMBs), election managers, risk management and technical professionals, and officials engaged in crisis management and election credibility initiatives.

Session of the Governing Body of Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

- Edition- 68th
- Event date- May 20 to 22, 2026
- Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- This session was held under the chairmanship of India. The session was attended by senior representatives of APO member countries.
- The session saw high-level discussions on the APO Vision-2030 Framework, the APO Initial Budget for the biennium 2027-28 and the review of the APO Secretary-General election processes.

Medical Innovation Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry Connect Session-

- Event date- May 25, 2026
- Venue – Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- Organizer- Indian Council of Medical Research

- Objective- To translate indigenous biomedical research into accessible, real-world healthcare solutions through strong industry partnerships.
- It is India’s largest biomedical and technology transfer facility program.

Central Regional Council Meeting-

- Meeting- 26th
- Event date- May 19, 2026
- Venue: Bastar, Chhattisgarh
- Organizer- Inter-State Council Secretariat
- Hosted by- Chhattisgarh State Government
- Chairman- Shri Amit Shah (Union Home and Cooperation Minister)
- Objective- To establish cooperation, coordination and cordial relations between the Center and the States and between the States.

Central Regional Council

- The Central Regional Council consists of 4 states located mainly in the central part of India -
- Uttar Pradesh
- Uttarakhand
- Madhya Pradesh
- Chhattisgarh

Organizational Structure -

- Chairman- Union Home Minister
- Vice-Chairman – Chief Ministers of the states included in the Council (by rotation)

Members -

- Chief Ministers of all four states.
- Two other ministers were nominated by the Governor from each state.

Advisors -

- Representatives nominated by NITI Aayog.
- Chief Secretaries of Member States.
- Development Commissioners of States.

Inaugural Meeting of the National Public Works Council Held

- Recently, the inaugural meeting of the newly constituted National Public Works Council was held in New Delhi on 26 May 2026 under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The council has been constituted to modernise India’s public works and infrastructure system.
- The Hon’ble Minister and Minister of State of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs are the patrons of this council.

- Brief - Recently, a two-day Kharif Conference was organised at the Pusa campus, New Delhi, on 28-29 May 2026.

Notable facts-**Regional council**

- The Regional Councils were established under Part-III of the States Reorganization Act, 1956 as a part of the scheme of reorganization of the States and matters relating to them.
- Objective- To establish cooperation, coordination and cordial relations between the Center and the States and between the States.
- At present the Regional Council and members-
- Northern Regional Council - Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- Central Regional Council- Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Eastern Regional Council – Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.
- Western Regional Council- Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- Southern Regional Council – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Union Territory of Puducherry.

TEXPROCIL Export Awards 2023-24 Ceremony-

- Event date- May 25, 2026
- Venue – Mumbai
- Organizer- Sponsored by Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Government of India
- Chairperson - Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman (Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs)
- Objective - To honor the outstanding performers in the cotton textile export sector of India.

Important facts regarding India's textile sector-

- India is the sixth largest textile exporter in the world.
- Approximately 12 percent of India's total export earnings come from the textile sector.
- The textile sector contributes about 2.3 percent to India's gross domestic product (GDP).
- Textile exports stood at approximately US \$ 33.5 billion in the financial year 2025-26.
- The textile sector in India directly and indirectly provides livelihood to about six crore people.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, the 10th round of defense policy talks between India and Australia was held on May 8, 2026 in New Delhi.
- The Government of India will start a week-long coastal cleaning campaign from September 12 under 'Swachh Sagar, Safe Sagar' 2026.

- Recently the Indian Air Force organized an 88-hour "Operation Sindoor Commemoration Series Run" in New Delhi from May 7 to May 10, 2026.
- Recently, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with Telangana State Panchayati Raj Department organized a public relations workshop on the Self-reliant Panchayat Program in Hyderabad on May 2, 2026.
- Recently, on the occasion of International Sun Day (3 May), the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy organized the 'Run for Sun' marathon.
- Recently 'Fruit Horizon-2026' was organized in Lucknow whose main objective was to make India's fruit production and exports globally competitive.
- Recently, under the vision of "Prosperity from Cooperation", the Regional Cooperative Reform Conference was held for the first time on May 8, 2026 in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Recently a photo exhibition titled 'A Decade of Silent Service to the Nation' was organized by Tricolor Mountain Rescue (TMR) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on May 8, 2026.
- Recently, the Ministry of Education has launched the Indian Language Summer Camp in Delhi on May 13, 2026.
- Recently, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the 8th District Collector's Peyjal Samvad on May 15, 2026.
- Recently the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India has hosted the BRICS Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 19-20 May, 2026 followed by the BRICS Justice Ministers Meeting (JMM) on 21-22 May, 2026 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Recently, a two-day national review meeting of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 was organized in New Delhi on May 19-20, 2026.
- Recently, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti organized the seventh edition of 'Sujal Gram Samvad' on May 20, 2026 in New Delhi.
- Recently, the Union Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA) organized the Bharat Innovates Investor Showcase in Bengaluru on May 19, 2026.
- Recently, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology organized the Governance Summit 2026 – Inclusive Artificial Intelligence (AI) for a Developed India on May 23, 2026 at ISB-Mohali.

Campaigns, Operations and Military Exercises**Multilateral Exercise Pragati-2026**

- Launch – May 20, 2026 (for two weeks)
- Venue – Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya
- Participating Countries – 12 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam)

Objective-

- To establish seamless coordination between countries participating in joint operations and identify common areas of cooperation.
- Establish an institutional mechanism to share expertise and exchange best practices developed through individual experiences.
- To strengthen defense relations and camaraderie through joint training and cultural exchanges as well as develop common concepts for management and sharing of intelligence in a multinational environment.
- EXERCISE PRAGATI-(Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region)

CINBAX-II 2026 Bilateral Military Exercise

- Event date- May 4 to 17, 2026
- Venue: Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Center (Camp Basil) at Techo Sen, Phnom Thom Mrs Praew, Cambodia
- Participation – 120 military personnel members of the Indian Army and 160 military personnel members of the Cambodian Army participated.
- Objective: To strengthen interoperability, coordination and operational coordination between the contingents of both the countries.
- The joint military exercise 'CINBAX-II 2026' reflects the growing India-Cambodia defense cooperation and further deepens the bilateral relations between the two countries while strengthening mutual understanding in addressing regional security challenges.

Miscellaneous

- Operation RAGEPILL- It is an anti-narcotics operation conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau of India.
- Operation WHITE STRIKE- This operation has been conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) against organized drug trafficking.



7. Important Days

Foundation Day of Maharashtra and Gujarat-

- Event- Every year on 1st May
- This year the 65th foundation day of these two states is being celebrated.

International Workers' Day-2026-

- Event - Every year on 1st May
- Topic - "Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Work Environment".
- Purpose - This day honors the struggle, contribution and rights of workers and is celebrated to promote better working conditions, awareness against exploitation and solidarity of workers.
- Labour Day was formally celebrated in India for the first time on 1 May 1923 in Madras (present-day Chennai).

World Press Freedom Day-2026-

- Event- Every year on 3rd May
- Theme- "Building a Peaceful Future: Promoting Press Freedom for Human Rights, Development and Security."
- Purpose - The day celebrates the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to assess the state of media freedom around the world, to protect journalists from attacks and to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

International Sun Day-

- Event date: Every year on 3rd May
- Objective- To promote maximum use of solar energy.

BRO celebrated the 66th foundation day of 'Project Deepak'-

- Recently, Border Roads Organization celebrated the 66th foundation day of Project Deepak on 4 May 2026 in Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).

Project Deepak-

- Started in the year 1961
- Concerned Body- Border Roads Organization (BRO)
- This project is helpful in creating critical infrastructure in the most remote areas of the country.

National Technology Day-2026-

- Event - Every year on 11th May
- Objective- To honor the contribution of the country's scientists, engineers and researchers and

to promote innovation and self-reliance in the field of technology.

- This day is celebrated to commemorate the nuclear tests (Operation Shakti) successfully conducted by India in Pokhran, Rajasthan on May 11, 1998, due to which India became a nuclear power country.
- Along with this historic achievement, the first flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft also took place on the same day.

International Nurses Day-2026

- Event - Every year on 12th May
- Theme - "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."
- Purpose - This day is celebrated globally to mark the contribution of nurses in the field of medicine and their invaluable contribution to healthcare.

World Metrology Day-2026

- Event - Every year on 20th May
- **Theme-** "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making".
- Objective: To increase global awareness of the science of measurement and its practical role in daily life and industrial development.
- The day marks the 151st anniversary of the historic Meter Convention, signed in Paris on 20 May 1875.

International Biodiversity Day 2026

- Event- Every year on 22 May
- Theme- "Working locally for global impact"
- Objective- To make the global society aware of the conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use and the human and scientific issues related to it.
- On this day (22 May 1992) the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted.

Godavan Day-

- Event date – 21st May every year
- Objective- To increase public awareness about the conservation of the state bird Godavan, environmental promotion and biodiversity.
- Godavan-
- The state bird of Rajasthan is the Godavan (Great Indian Bustard).
- Its scientific name is *Ardeotis nigriceps*.
- The Godavan was declared the state bird of Rajasthan in 1981.

Miscellaneous**Ishank Singh-**

- He is a seven year old swimmer from Ranchi (Jharkhand).
- He swam across the 29 kilometer long 'Palk Strait' between Sri Lanka and India in 9 hours 50 minutes.
- URF World Records has given him the title of the youngest and fastest Palk Strait swimmer.

Nitya Raman-

- She is an American citizen of Indian origin.
- She is considered a contender for the post of mayor in Los Angeles city of America.
- She originally belongs to the Tamil family of Kerala, India.
- He was born on July 28, 1981 in Kerala.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

- Observed every year on 17 May.
- Theme: Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world.
- Objective: To promote the positive use of the internet and related technologies.
- On this day in 1865, the United Nations digital technology agency, the International Telecommunication Union, was established in Paris.

International Museum Day

- Observed every year on 18 May.
- Theme: "Museums uniting a divided world."
- Objective: To make people aware of the role of museums in the development of society and in preserving our historical and cultural heritage.

Miscellaneous

- Recently, Dr. Hemant Kumar Sharma, working in the field of Ayurveda and holistic health, has been granted membership of the World Ayurveda Foundation. He will represent India in the international conference 'Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine' to be held in America in August, 2026.
- Recently, on May 2, 2026, in Kanha Shanti Vanam, City of Pearls (Hyderabad), more than 6000 participants practiced Bhujangasana together and registered this record in the Asia Book of Records.
- Recently, the first all-women team of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) hoisted the Indian flag on Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, on 21 May 2026.
- Recently, Russia's Rustam Nabiyeu became the first person in the world to reach the summit of Mount Everest using only his hands.
- Recently, Super 30 founder Anand Kumar officially launched the digital education campaign "Super Infinity". Its aim is to make mathematics highly interesting and easy to learn globally through stories, animation, music and real-life experiences.
- Mount Dukono volcano is located on Halmahera Island in Indonesia. A recent eruption produced a dense cloud of ash and smoke, disrupting air traffic and daily life.
- Recently, eight-year-old Harnaz Kaur from Jalandhar, Punjab, performed 50 hula hoops in 25 seconds while hanging. She is the first child in India to achieve this feat, and her name has been entered in the India Book of Records 2026.
- Recently, Nepalese mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa successfully climbed Mount Everest for the 32nd time.

□□□□



Dr. Leevis Yadav

Expert faculty - Science and technology
Samyak IAS
(UPSC Mains 4 times, interview 2 times,
RAS interview 2 times)

Biotechnology: From Egyptian Civilization to the modern times

Technologies developed on the basis of natural sciences focus on human welfare. The basic principles of sciences are applied to devise new things to improve the human lives & to make human life more comfortable. Biotechnology is also one of them which has been developed from the core concepts of biology. It has qualitatively transformed our daily life by bringing new products & services.

Introduction: The merger of biology and technology -

Biotechnology merges biological sciences with technology to develop products & services which are beneficial for human life. From ancient techniques of fermentation to the modern techniques of gene editing, this branch of science has evolved at a faster rate & it stands at the forefront of medical, agricultural & environmental innovation. Biotechnology is fundamentally the use of biological systems, live organisms or their derivatives, to make or modify products.

According to European Federation of Biotechnology “The integration of natural science & organisms, cells, parts thereof, and molecular analogues for products & services is biotechnology.” This definition covers both traditional & modern view of biotechnology.

Brief History - From Ancient Practices to Modern Technologies:

On the basis of complexity of techniques, the biotechnology has been divided into 3 categories: Traditional biotechnology, Ancient biotechnology & Modern biotechnology.

Traditional biotechnology -

From the time immemorial when no significant development took place in the field of biology, microorganisms had been used by humans for their benefits. The early civilizations (6000 BCE) of China & Egypt used microorganisms for food fermentation. The

Sumerians & Babylonians used yeast fungi to prepare beer & ferment grapes to make wine. The Chinese developed techniques to convert milk into yoghurt & cheese using microbial fermentation.

Not only in the field of fermentation but also during that era, humans practiced agricultural biotechnology through selective breeding. In selective breeding, plants & animals of highly desirable traits are selected & are allowed to reproduce, thereby improving the genetic traits of domesticated species.

Birth of industrial biotechnology -

As the scientific understanding towards biological systems grew, so did the ability to manipulate biological systems grow. The 19th & 20th centuries witnessed a shift from trial & error fermentation to the precise & controlled use of biological systems.

- In 1857, Louis Pasteur demonstrated that fermentation is caused by living yeast,
- laying down the foundation of industrial microbiology.
- During First World War, Chaim Weizmann used *Clostridium acetobutylicum* to ferment starch into butanol & acetone. Acetone was used in explosives during World War I.
- In 1919, Karl Ereky, a Hungarian scientist, coined the term “biotechnology”.
- In 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, antibiotic produced by a fungi *Penicillium notatum*. This discovery laid the foundation of pharmaceutical biotechnology industry.

Rise of modern biotechnology -

Modern biotechnology was emerged in 1970s by 2 leading scientific discoveries –

1. The double helix structure of DNA by James Watson & Francis Crick in 1953. (Both were awarded Nobel Prize in 1962).

2. Development of rDNA technology by Herbert Boyer & Stanley Cohen in 1973.

Both of these discoveries allowed scientists to cut the genes from one organism & unite them to the DNA of another organism, thereby creating transgenic organisms. This breakthrough transformed biology into a programmable technology. Instead of relying on selective breeding or natural microbial products, scientists could now instruct microorganisms to manufacture specific proteins.

Today, modern biotechnology has become a multidisciplinary approach which integrates various disciplines like genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics & bioprocess engineering. It has evolved as a powerhouse that affects every aspect of human life, categorized into various branches, often denoted by “colors” to represent their specific field application.

The Colours of Biotechnology: Classification of the Field -

The different branches of biotechnology have been categorized by Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) to better understand the vast scope of biotechnology & its applications.

i. Red Biotechnology -



Red biotechnology is dedicated to medical science & human health. It focuses on preventing, diagnosing & treating diseases.

Key areas include -

- **Diagnostics** - Developing techniques & tools for rapid & accurate diagnosis like PCR technique etc.
- **Biopharmaceuticals** - Using genetically engineered cells to produce therapeutic proteins, monoclonal antibodies & vaccines.
- **Gene Therapy** - Correcting genetic defects by adding, altering, removing or silencing genes.
- **Pharmacogenomics** - Tailoring medical treatments according to an individual’s genetic make up minimizing side effects & maximizing efficacy.
- **Stem Cell Technology** - To repair or replace damaged tissues & organs.

ii. Green Biotechnology -

It focuses on agricultural processes & food production. With the increase in global population, green biotechnology is the need of the hour to provide the possible solution to increase food security & sustainability.



Key areas include -

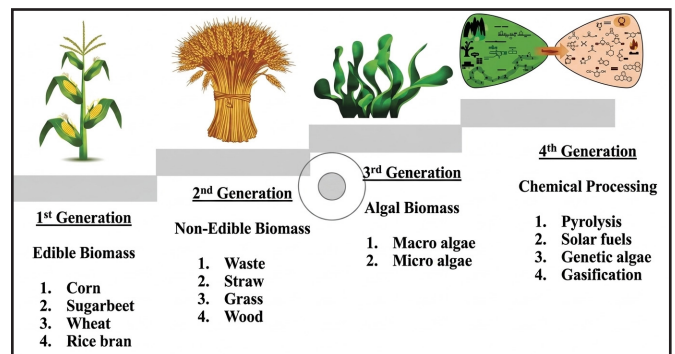
- **Genetically modified crops (GM)** – Engineering crops to resist pests & insects, withstand environmental stresses like drought etc.
- **Nutritional Enhancement** - Developing biofortified crops such as Golden Rice, engineered to contain Vit-A.
- **Biopesticides** - Using natural biological agents such as specific bacteria to protect crops instead of chemical pesticides.
- **Molecular breeding** - Using genomic tools to accelerate the traditional selective breeding process.

iii. White Biotechnology -

It focuses on designing of industrial processes so that there is less consumption of energy, less generation of wastes & more production of intended products. It relies on microorganisms & enzymes to produce chemicals, materials & energy.

Major areas:

- **Biofuels** -Fermenting sugars & starches from plant biomass to produce ethanol & biodiesel, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.



- **Bioplastics** - Utilising microorganisms to produce biodegradable plastics, thereby reducing environmental pollution.

- **Enzyme engineering** - Using enzymes in manufacturing processes, such as in textile, food & paper industries, to make processes more efficient.

iv. Blue Biotechnology -

It applies biotechnological techniques in aquatic & marine environments to transform marine resources into useful products & services. It is applied in health, food, agriculture, energy, cosmetics & environmental remediation.

Major areas:

- **Aquaculture** - Enhancing the growth rates & disease resistance of farmed fish.
- **Marine Pharmaceuticals** - Extracting novel compounds from marine organisms like sponges, algae & bacteria for use in treating cancer, pain & Infection.
- **Biomaterials** - Developing adhesives, cosmetics and nutritional supplements from marine resources.

Other colours of biotechnology:

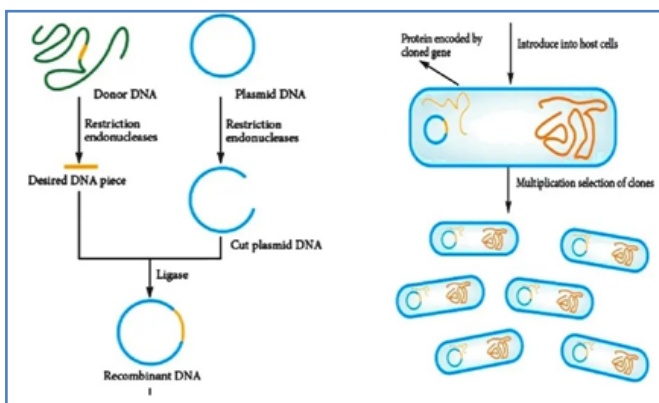
5. **Yellow biotechnology** - Focuses on food production & the reduction of food waste, including the study of fermentation processes & insect control.
6. **Grey biotechnology**- Focuses on environmental applications like bioremediation & the cleanup of contaminated environments.
7. **Gold biotechnology (= Bioinformatics)** - It focuses on computational analysis of biological data, utilizing algorithms & databases to understand biological systems.
8. **Violet biotechnology** - Focuses on the law, ethics & other issues related to biotechnology, including IPR, biosecurity & biosafety.

Key Techniques of Modern biotechnology-

The advancements in biotechnology would not have been possible without a set of core laboratory & computational techniques.

The following techniques form the backbone of modern biotechnology –

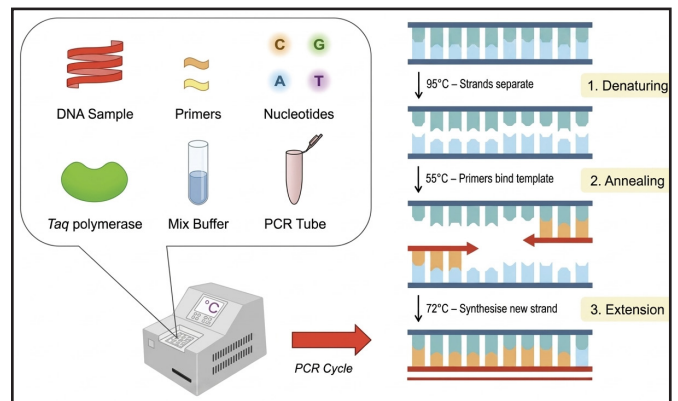
1. Recombinant DNA (rDNA) Technology & Molecular Cloning:



- Recombinant DNA technology, developed in 1973 by the efforts of American biochemists Herbert Boyer & Stanley Cohen, is the process of taking a gene from one organism & inserting it into the DNA of another organism. It involves following steps –

- (a) **Isolation** - The gene of interest is identified & isolated from the donor organism by the use of restriction endonuclease enzymes.
- (b) **Insertion** - The gene is inserted into a vector usually a plasmid, (a small, circular piece of DNA found in bacteria) of a bacterium.
- (c) **Transformation** - The vector is introduced into a host organism (usually E. coli) for its multiplication/ amplification.
- (d) **Expression** - The host organism modifies the gene of interest as well as it can produce the protein encoded by the gene of interest.

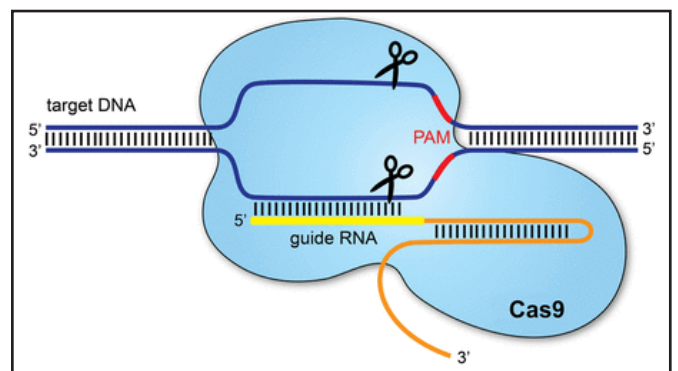
This process allows scientists to produce large quantities of specific proteins or create transgenic organisms with new traits.



2. PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) -

- Developed by Kary Mullis in 1983. It is a technique of generating thousands to millions of copies of a particular DNA sequence (gene amplification). PCR is the cornerstone of molecular biology & biotechnology. It is used in genetic testing, the diagnosis of infectious diseases, forensic science (DNA fingerprinting) & cloning.

3. CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Editing -



- It is faster, cheaper & more accurate than any previous genome editing tool, opening up possibilities for curing genetic diseases, developing desired traits in plants & animals, & engineering microbes for industrial use.
- Derived from a bacterial immune system, CRISPR uses a guide RNA (gRNA) to direct the Cas9 enzyme (molecular scissor) to a particular location on the DNA strand, where the Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA. Once the DNA is cut, the cell's natural repair mechanisms can be utilized to replace & add genetic sequences.

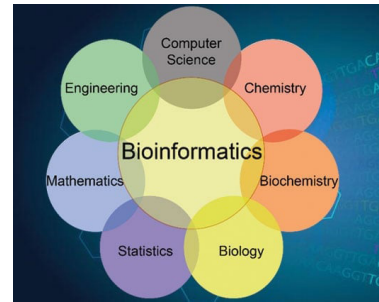
4. Synthetic Biology (SynBio) -

- While traditional genetic engineering, involves modifying existing organisms, synthetic biology involves the design & construction of new biological parts, devices & systems that do not exist in nature, or the redesigning of existing natural biological systems. By assembling standardized genetic parts (Bio-bricks), scientists aim to create synthetic organisms capable of performing specific tasks, such as manufacturing complex drugs on demand, cleaning up toxic waste or producing novel biofuels.

5. Bioprocess Engineering (= Biomanufacturing) -

- It is the branch of biotechnology. that deals with the design & development of equipment & processes for the manufacturing of products. Bioprocess engineers optimize conditions such as temperature, pH, nutrient supply & oxygen levels in bioreactors to maximize the yield of the desired product.

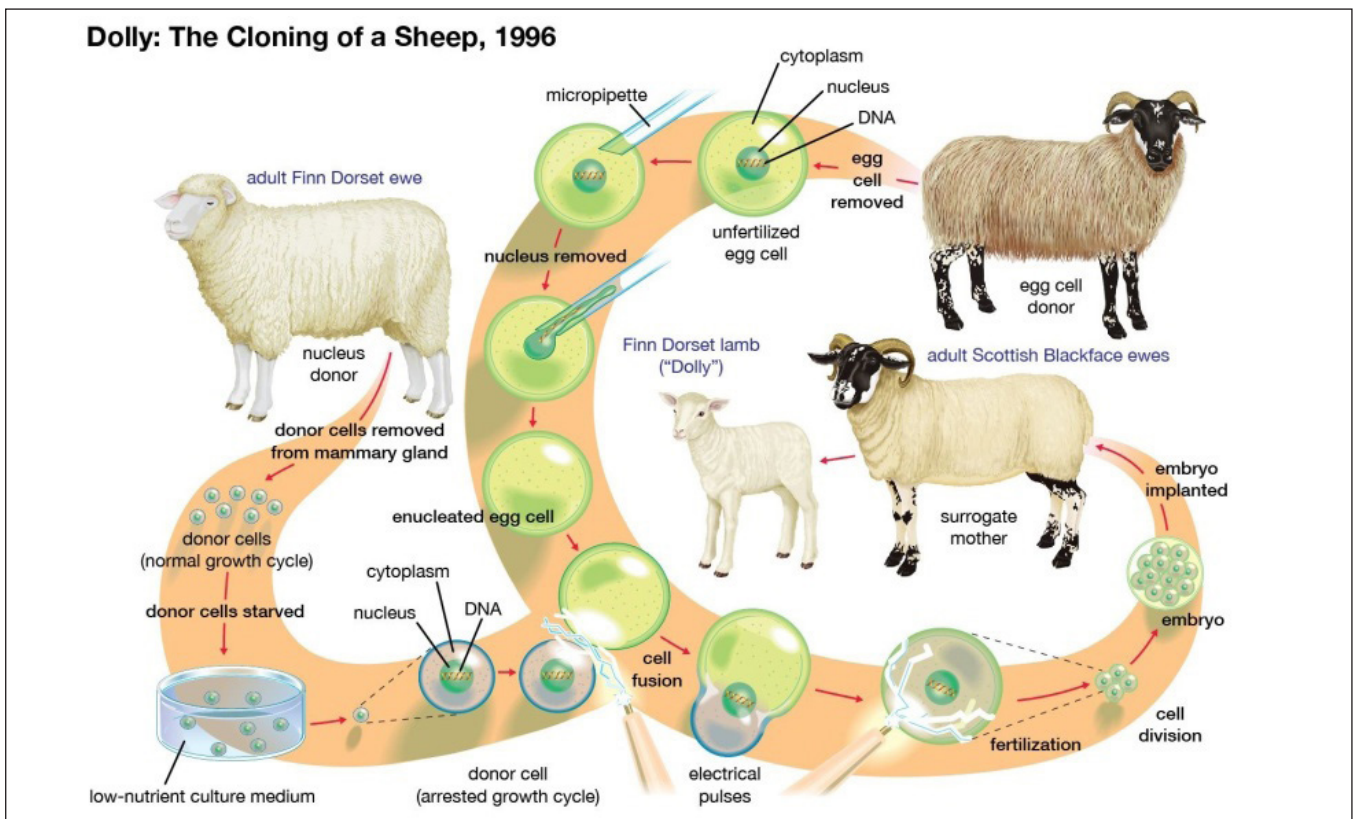
6. Bioinformatics -



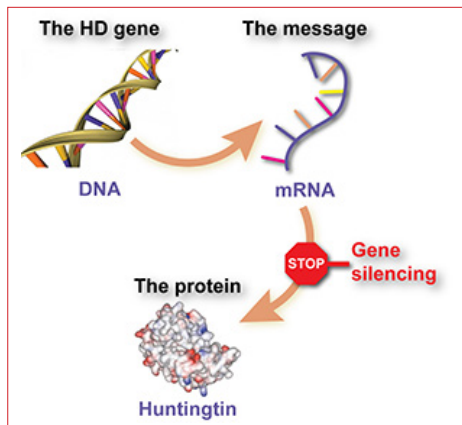
- Bioinformatics is the application of computer science, mathematics & statistics to the analysis of biological data. Without bioinformatics, the vast amount of data produced by modern sequencing technologies would be unmanageable. It serves as a bridge between raw biological data & new biological discovery.
- Computational tools & AI can now predict the 3-D structure of proteins with remarkable accuracy. This ability accelerates the development of new drugs by allowing scientists to design molecules that can bind to specific proteins & alter their function.

7. Cloning -

- Cloning is the process of producing a genetically identical copy of a cell, tissue, organ or an organism. Reproductive cloning was started by Dr. Ian Wilmut by creating an exact replica (Dolly the sheep) of a sheep using SCNT (Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer) technique.

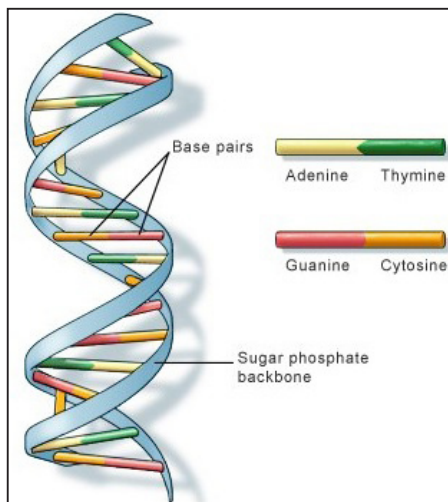


8. Gene Silencing (RNA Interference Technology) -



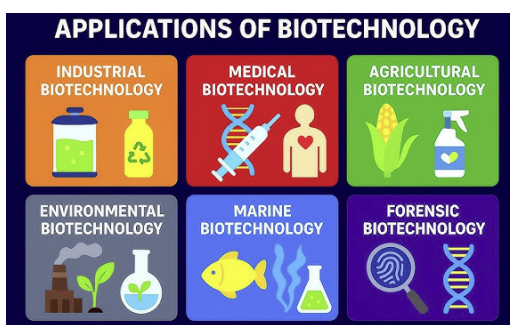
- RNAi takes place in all eukaryotic organisms as a method of cellular defence. This method involves silencing of a specific mRNA due to a complementary dsRNA molecule that binds to it, & prevents translation of the mRNA (silencing). Gene silencing is a technique that temporarily switches off problematic genes to prevent them from expressing harmful proteins.

9. DNA Sequencing -



- It is the process of determining the exact order of 4 nitrogenous bases in a DNA molecule: Adenine, Thymine, Cytosine & Guanine. This unique order reveals the hereditary information (DNA fingerprinting), helps in understanding gene functions, regulatory function & disease causing mutations.

Applications of Biotechnology -



1. In the field of healthcare and medicine- By deciphering the human genome & understanding the molecular mechanisms of disease, biotechnology has revolutionized pharmacology & medicine.

- (a) **Recombinant Therapeutics & vaccines** - Earlier, therapeutic proteins such as insulin were extracted from the pancreas of pigs & cows. This method induced unwanted immunogenic responses (allergic reactions) to patients. In 1983, Eli Lilly Company of USA prepared 2 DNA sequences corresponding to A & B chains of human insulin & introduced them in plasmids of E. coli to produce insulin chains. This breakthrough eliminated animal suffering & provided a pure, safer product for millions of diabetics.

Today, rDNA tech. is used to manufacture a wide array of therapeutic proteins –

- **Growth hormones** – To treat growth disorders in children.
- **Blood clotting factors** – To treat haemophilia.
- **Interferons** – To treat multiple sclerosis & certain types of cancers.

- **Recombinant Vaccines** - Recombinant vaccines, like Hepatitis B vaccine, use harmless fragment of pathogen’s genetic material to stimulate the immune response. The advent of mRNA vaccines marked a historic shift in vaccinology, allowing for faster response against viral pandemics.

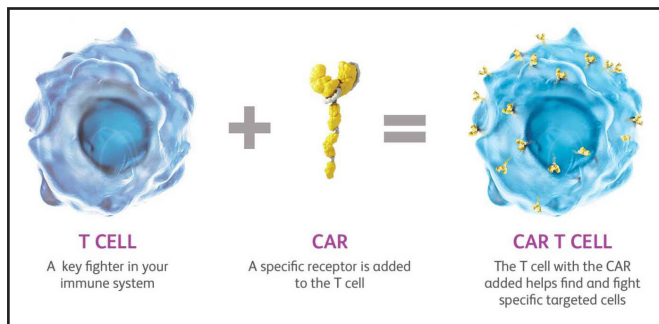
- (b) **Gene therapy and genome editing** - Gene therapy involves adding, replacing or altering genes within a patient’s cell or embryo to treat a disease. It has the potential to treat genetic disorders at the very first place, rather than merely treating the symptoms. The first clinical gene therapy was given to a 4 year old girl Ashanthi De Silva with Adenosine deaminase (ADA) deficiency in 1990. Today, gene therapies are given to treat inherited forms of blindness, spinal muscular atrophy & leukemia.

- The recent development in this field is CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technique which is much more exciting. CRISPR allows scientists to edit parts of the genome at specific locations by cutting & adding new DNA sequences at those locations (by utilizing the natural repair process of DNA). CRISPR is currently being evaluated in clinical trials for conditions such as sickle cell anaemia, cystic fibrosis & muscular dystrophy.

- (c) **Personalized Medicine & Pharmacogenomics** - Historically, medicines have been prepared with a one-size-fits-all approach, but due to genetic variations, a drug that cures illness of one person can prove disastrous to another person.

Biotechnology has changed this traditional method of drug preparation. By genome sequencing of an individual's DNA or after analyzing specific biomarkers, doctors can tailor treatments according to the patient's unique genetic profile. For example, during the cancer, doctors can test a tumor's genetic mutation to determine the most effective therapy, shifting away from the damaging effects of traditional chemotherapy.

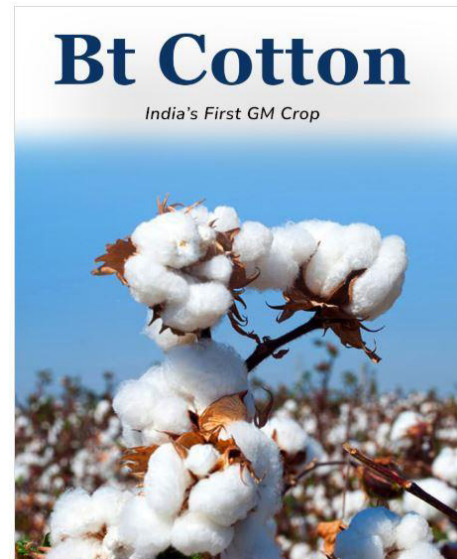
- (d) **Regenerative Medicine** - Regenerative medicine seeks to replace or regenerate damaged cells, tissues or organs. This branch is dependent on stem cell technology. Stem cells are those cells which have unique potential to develop into any type of body cells. Biotechnology aims to utilize these cells to grow replacement tissues or organs in-vitro, which could eventually be used by patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, heart failure, liver failure & diabetes.
- (e) **CAR-T Cell Therapy / Cancer Therapy** - It is an innovative, personalized immunotherapy to reprogramme a patient's own T-lymphocytes in-vitro where they are genetically modified to have Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) to recognize & destroy cancer cells.



- (f) **Biopharmaceuticals** - These are medical drugs manufactured using living cells or biological systems through biotechnology, rather than through traditional chemical synthesis. They include proteins, antibodies & nucleic acids used to treat or prevent various diseases. E.g. monoclonal antibodies, recombinant proteins, gene therapy, m-RNA vaccines etc.
- (g) **Monoclonal Antibodies** - These are laboratory-made proteins designed to function as substitute antibodies that can enhance & mimic the immune system's attack on antigens.
- (h) **Molecular Diagnosis** - The traditional diagnostic tools were incapable of diagnosing the diseases at the initial stage. PCR, rDNA, ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) are some of the techniques which are used for early diagnosis.

2. **In the field of Agriculture** - FAO projects that global food production will need to increase significantly to feed the growing population. Biotechnology provides solution to this issue by enhancing crop yields, nutritional value & resilience.

- (a) **Genetically modified crops (GM crops)** - GM crops are those crops whose genome has been altered using biotechnology tools. These are also known as Transgenic crops. The usual goals of crop modification are to improve crop protection, enhance nutritional value & improve post-harvest characteristics. The most famous example of GM crops is Bt crops. Scientists have isolated & inserted a gene from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* into crops like cotton. This gene produces a protein that is toxic to specific insect pests, but harmless to humans. This technology has significantly reduced the need for chemical insecticides.



- (b) **Nutritional enhancement (Biofortification)** - Biotechnology is not only utilized for yield improvement and protection, but also utilized to improve the nutritional profile of edible crops. This is known as biofortification. The famous example is "Golden Rice". The golden rice is fortified to produce β -carotene (a precursor of Vit-A). Biofortification represents a cost-effective way to deliver essential nutrients to population that rely heavily on a single staple crop.
- (c) **Agricultural biological products** - Agricultural Biologics include biopesticides, biofertilizers & biostimulants. Instead of synthetic chemicals, these products use living microorganisms or their products to enhance plant growth & protect crops. For e.g. nitrogen fixing bacteria can be applied to soil to reduce the need for synthetic chemical fertilizers.

- 3. Industrial and environmental uses** - Industrial Biotechnology uses living cells & enzymes to create & modify products in chemical, food & energy sectors. It holds the potential to shift industrial manufacturing from petrochemical based processes to biological processes, thereby reducing carbon emissions & reliance on fossil fuels.
- (a) **Biofuels** - Biofuels are developed from biological resources & they provide alternative to fossil fuels. First generation biofuels are produced from food crops (corn, sugarcane etc.); second generation biofuels are produced from non-edible biomass such as agriculture residue; third generation biofuels are produced from algae.
 - (b) **Bioplastics**- Biotechnology offers an alternative of plastic waste through the production of bioplastics. Certain bacteria like *Ralstonia eutropha* produce PHAs (Polyhydroxyalkanoates) naturally. Scientists can extract PHAs from these bacterial cultures to create biodegradable plastics.
 - (c) **Industrial enzymes** - Industrial Biotechnology harnesses enzymes to make manufacturing processes more efficient, cost-effective & environment friendly.
- 4. Marine Biotechnology:** Marine Biotechnology involves the exploration & harnessing of marine bio resources to develop new products & industrial applications.
- (a) **Marine Pharmaceuticals** - The harsh conditions of the deep sea, including extreme temperature, high pressure & absence of light have compelled marine organisms to evolve unique metabolic pathways & chemical compounds. These adaptations have become a rich source for novel pharmaceuticals. Sponges, tunicates & algae produce metabolites to defend themselves. Many of these compounds possess antiviral, antibacterial or anticancer properties. For e.g. the drug Yondelis is used to treat sarcomas, was originally derived by Caribbean tunicate.
 - (b) **Aquaculture & Fisheries** - Aquaculture is the farming of fish, crustaceans & aquatic plants. Biotechnology is applied in aquaculture to improve sustainability & yield through –
 - Selective Breeding & Genomics.
 - Developing recombinant vaccines to protect farmed fish from pathogens.
 - Developing transgenic fish like AquAdvantage salmon to grow faster, reducing the time required to bring food to market.
 - (c) **Marine Biomaterials & Enzymes**- Marine organisms produce unique materials for their own use but they can also be useful for human beings. For e.g. some marine mussels secrete specialized adhesives. Biotechnology seeks to replicate these bio-adhesives for use in medical, dental & industrial applications.

For example:

- **Detergent Industry** - Proteases & lipases are added to laundry detergents to break down protein & fat stains at lower temperatures, saving energy.
 - **Textile Industry** - Enzymes are used to soften fabrics, fade jeans & remove starch during the weaving process, replacing harsher chemicals.
 - **Food & Beverage** - Enzymes are deployed in the clarification of fruit juices, the production of sweeteners, & the brewing of beer.
- (d) **Bioremediation** - Environmental Biotechnology utilizes biological systems to clean up polluted environments. It is like bioremediation. Industrialization, mining & agricultural runoff have resulted in heavy metal & toxic chemical contamination of soil & water. Microorganisms have evolved to degrade organic pollutants, including oil, pesticides & solvents. Scientists deploy these microorganisms in bioremediation in 2 ways –
- (i) **Biostimulation** - Adding nutrients to contaminated environments to stimulate the growth of pollutant-degrading natural microbes.
 - (ii) **Bioaugmentation** - Introducing specific, laboratory cultured microbes or genetically engineered microbes to a contaminated site to break down specific pollutants that natural microbes cannot easily degrade.
- Some marine organisms also produce highly stable enzymes. These “extremozymes” can function at extreme temperature & pressure. They are used in industrial processes that require harsh conditions e.g. PCR technique & certain industrial manufacturing.
- **Ethical, Legal & Social Issues** - As biotechnology has advanced, it has raised serious ethical, legal & social issues. The ability to manipulate the genome sequence, thereby altering the proteins produced carries significant responsibility. The manipulation of live organisms requires strict regulation. Some ethical standards are required to monitor the bioengineering processes so that morality of society can be kept intact.
 - Violet biotechnology constantly debates & examines guidelines to ensure biotechnology advances are used safely & ethically.
- 1. Ethical Concerns in Human Genetics** - The genetic information could be used by employers & insurance companies to discriminate against individuals vulnerable to certain diseases. Another concern is

privacy & security of genetic information of people. This genetic information can be misused. One more concern is regarding the editing of germline cells (sperms & eggs) which can alter the genome of future generations. The long-term consequences of such changes are unknown. "Designer babies" where genes are altered for enhanced cosmetic traits or enhanced intelligence, remains a highly controversial topic.

2. Ethical Concern of Environment & Agriculture -

Critics are concerned about the long term health effects of consuming GM crops & their environmental impact. The modified genes of such crops could spread to wild species, which may become herbicide-resistant "superweeds". There is also a serious concern that toxins produced in insects resistant crops might affect harmless insects such as monarch butterflies & other useful insects which play an important role in pollination.

- "Gene Drive" is another point of concern of biotechnology. Gene drive is a biasness towards inheritance of a particular gene at a higher rate. Scientists use "gene drive" to create infertility in mosquitoes so that mosquito borne diseases can be eradicated; but it can be detrimental for ecological balance & may create irreversible ecological disruption.

3. Ethical Concerns of Safety & Security -

Many biotechnologies possess an inherent risk of dual-use dilemma, i.e. those technologies which are used for beneficial purposes could also be used for malevolent purposes. For e.g. the technique used to develop a viral- vectored vaccine could also be used to develop viral-vectored biological weapons. The gene editing tools & the ability to synthesize viruses require strict international biosafety & biosecurity regulations. In the USA, biotechnology products are regulated by FDA (Food & Drug Administration) and the EPA (Environment Protection Agency). In India, GEAC (Genetic Engineering Approval Committee) regulates the production of genetically engineered products. International treaties such as Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, aim to ensure the safe handling, transport & use of living genetically modified organisms that may prove dangerous to biodiversity.

4. Ethical Concerns of Intellectual Property Rights-

Critics express concerns over the patenting of innovations of novel genetic sequences, development of GM organisms & innovations in biotechnological processes.

- On the one hand, the innovators demand incentive as their right for their innovations through patents, whereas on the other hand, critics argue that patenting biological systems makes life-saving therapies unaffordable.

- Biopiracy is also another concern, where developed countries & large corporations or MNCs might patent traditional knowledge of use of biological resources, or biological resources indigenous to developing countries without sharing the benefits with local populations.

The Future of Biotechnology -

No doubt the future of biotechnology is bright & it will take a dominant position in facing the challenges faced by humanity. From eradicating the complex diseases to mitigating climate change, the future of biotechnology is vast & transformative.

- **The blending of AI & Biotechnology -** The future of biotechnology will be deeply tied with AI & machine learning. AI & machine learning can help in faster & precise analysis of massive biological data and in prediction of proteins that will be formed by a particular DNA sequence with incredible accuracy. This convergence will increase the pace of drug discovery. AI will also optimize synthetic biology pathways, allowing for the precise design of custom microorganisms for manufacturing & bioremediation.



■ **Biomanufacturing & the Circular Bioeconomy -**

Synthetic biology will enable the creation of microbes capable of producing high-value materials, chemicals & food using least resources. This transition supports the development of a circular bioeconomy, where industrial processes are powered by renewable biological resources & generate little to no waste.

■ **Addressing climate change -**

Biotechnology will play a crucial role in climate change mitigation Scientists are working on engineering plants with deeper root systems that can store more carbon in the soil. Furthermore, synthetic biology is engineering microbes that can capture CO₂ from the atmosphere or can convert greenhouse gases into valuable industrial products.

■ **Regenerative Medicine & 3D Bioprinting -**

A major focus of regenerative medicine is 3D Bioprinting. Instead of using plastic, bioprinters use bioinks made of living cells to construct tissues. In future, this technology could be used to construct organs for transplantation from the patient's own cells, thereby eliminating the chance of organ rejection.

■ **Advancement in Gene Editing -**

Biotechnology will go forward in gene editing beyond the CRISPR-Cas9 technology. Future advancements include base editing

& prime editing, will prove more precise modification of genome. These techniques will make gene therapies more effective & safer. Furthermore, in-vivo delivery systems of direct delivery of editing tools into the patient's target cells will expand the range of treatable diseases.

- **Advancement in Agriculture** - Scientists will utilize CRISPR-Cas9 technology to develop crops that require very less amount of water, fertilizer & minerals, & that are capable of fixing their nitrogen by their own. It will help in reducing reliance on synthetic fertilizers.
- **Biotechnology for Space Exploration** - Space biotechnology involves developing biological systems to sustain life in extraterrestrial environments. This includes growing crops in microgravity, engineering microbes to produce food, oxygen & pharmaceuticals on long space missions & developing bioreactors to recycle waste.

Conclusion -

- Biotechnology is one of the most powerful & transformative fields of science & technology in human history. By utilizing the potential of biological systems, it has revolutionized healthcare, agriculture, industrial manufacturing & environmental conservation.
- What began 6000 years ago with the ancient fermentation process of Mesopotamians & selective breeding has evolved into a highly developed technology field driven by rDNA, gene editing, genomics, gene mapping, bioinformatics & AI. Today it allows us to cure genetic diseases at gene level, developing personalized medicines, develop GM crops having high nutritional value & high crop yield to feed a growing global population, produce sustainable biofuels & bioplastics & clean up environment through bio-remediation.
- However, this immense power comes with great responsibility because all these discoveries have their ethical, social & legal implications. Ensuring genetic privacy, preventing misuse, managing ecological risks & providing equitable access to biotechnological advancements require international cooperation & robust regulatory frameworks.
- Biotechnology is the “technology of future” & “technology of hope” as it holds the potential to solve emerging human challenges. From curing complex diseases to addressing organ shortages through xeno transplantation to mitigating climate change, the possibilities are boundless.
- As biology, computer science, engineering & AI are getting more intertwined, the potential of biotechnology is limitless, which will give a promising, healthier & more sustainable future.



Ashok Kumar Sharma
Rajasthan Tehsildar Service (RTS)

FLAGSHIP SCHEME

Objective of the Flagship Schemes

- To carry out intensive monitoring of the implementation of programmes.
- To empower persons belonging to weaker sections and bring them into the mainstream.

S. No.	Name of Department	Name of Scheme
1	Food and Civil Supplies Department	1. Extending NFSA benefits to new families
2	Energy Department	2. Prime Minister Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM Scheme); 3. Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme
3	Women Empowerment Department	4. Lado Protsahan Yojana
4	Agriculture and Horticulture Department	5. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
5	Medical and Health Department	6. Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission
6	Ground Water Department	7. Karmabhoomi Se Matribhoomi Campaign
7	Panchayati Raj Department	8. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin); 9. SVAMITVA Scheme; 10. Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan 2.0; 11. Atal Gyan Kendra
8	School Education	12. Mukhyamantri Shikshit Rajasthan Abhiyan
9	Public Works Department	13. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; 14. Atal Pragati Path
10	Local Self Government Department	15. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban; 16. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban); 17. Mukhyamantri Svanidhi Yojana
11	Industries Department	18. PM Vishwakarma Scheme
12	Forest Department	19. Mission Hariyalo Rajasthan
13	Public Health Engineering Department	20. Jal Jeevan Mission; 21. AMRUT Scheme
14	Planning Department	22. Panch Gaurav Yojana
15	Rural Development Department	23. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Rural; 24. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Poverty-Free Village Scheme; 25. Namo Drone Didi; Solar Didi; Lakhpati Didi Scheme; Bank Sakhi; Krishi Sakhi; Pashu Sakhi

Food and Civil Supplies Department

Extending NFSA Benefits to New Families

- Name of Department: Food and Civil Supplies.
- Objective: To add families that were left out but are eligible.
- Under the National Food Security Act (2013), food and nutritional security is provided to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population.
- As per Section 10 of this Act, identification of beneficiaries/eligible families for NFSA will be carried out by the State Government. In the Budget 2025-26, the Government of Rajasthan announced the addition of 10 lakh new units for food security.
- Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, 35 kg of foodgrain is being provided per month, and 5 kg is being provided to other families.
- Note: Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (1 January 2024), 35 kg of free grain per family is being provided for 5 years.

Energy Department

Pradhan Mantri KUSUM Yojana (Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Mahatthan Abhiyan)

- Launched: March 2019.
- Central Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Rajasthan Department/Agency: RRECL (Rajasthan Renewable Renewable Energy Limited) / Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited, an agency under the Energy Department, as stated in the source.



- Three components of the KUSUM Scheme:
 - ❑ Component A: Establishment of grid-connected solar power plants with capacity up to 2 MW.
 - ❑ Component B: Installation of standalone solar agricultural pumps with capacity up to 7.5 HP.
 - ❑ Component C: Solarisation/operation through solar energy of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps with capacity up to 7.5 HP.
- Target in Rajasthan: 1000 MW under Component A and installation of 4 lakh solar pump sets under Component C.

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

- Department: Central Ministry of Power and the State Energy Department in Rajasthan.
- Period: Financial Year 2021-22 to Financial Year 2025-26; started in July 2021.
- Expenditure: ₹3,03,758 crore over 5 years.
- Targets:
 - ❑ Bring AT&C losses down to 12-15%.
 - ❑ Reduce the ACS-ARR gap to zero.
 - ❑ Install prepaid smart metering, etc.

Women Empowerment Department

Lado Protsahan Yojana

- Department: Women Empowerment Department.
- Launch: 1 August 2024.
- Eligibility: Girls born after 1 August 2024.
- Objective: Financial security for girls belonging to poor families.
- Earlier, the amount was ₹1 lakh; from Women's Day, 8 March 2025, it has been increased to ₹1.5 lakh.
- First instalment: Provided at the Women's Conference held in Udaipur on 14 December 2025.

■ ₹1.5 lakh in 7 instalments:

- ❑ At the time of childbirth = ₹5,000
- ❑ Vaccination (all) up to 1 year = ₹5,000
- ❑ Admission to Class 1 = ₹5,000
- ❑ Admission to Class 6 = ₹10,000
- ❑ Admission to Class 10 = ₹20,000
- ❑ Admission to Class 12 = ₹25,000
- ❑ On completion of graduation and completion of 21 years of age = ₹70,000

Agriculture and Horticulture Department

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

- Launched: 1 July 2015.
- Scheme period: 2015-16 to 2025-26.
- Financial pattern: 60:40 (Centre: State).
- Objective: "Har Khet Ko Pani" — water for every field.
- Tagline: "Per Drop More Crop".
- Nodal Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Type of scheme: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Major programmes included in the scheme:
 - ❑ Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) — Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - ❑ Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP).
 - ❑ Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) — micro irrigation such as drip/sprinkler irrigation.
 - ❑ Watershed Development Component.
- Objectives:
 - ❑ To coordinate and converge irrigation investment at the field level.
 - ❑ To ensure the availability of irrigation water to every farm.
 - ❑ To expand cultivable land and the irrigated area.
 - ❑ To increase water-use efficiency.
 - ❑ To promote micro-irrigation technologies such as drip and sprinkler irrigation.
 - ❑ To encourage water conservation and "More Crop per Drop".
 - ❑ To attract private investment in the irrigation sector.
- Key features:
 - ❑ Provision for District Irrigation Plans.
 - ❑ Special emphasis on water-use efficiency.
 - ❑ Priority to drought-affected and rainfed areas.
 - ❑ Financial assistance to farmers for micro-irrigation.
 - ❑ Promotion of water conservation, water harvesting and groundwater recharge.

Medical and Health Department

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)

- In Budget 2021-22, the "Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana" was announced, which was

later named the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 15 September 2021 and launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi on 25 October 2021.
- Period: 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Total budget: ₹64,180 crore.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objectives:**
 - To strengthen the country's health infrastructure.
 - To expand primary, secondary and tertiary health services.
 - To develop a capable health system for dealing with pandemics and health disasters.
 - To strengthen Disease Surveillance and Emergency Response System.
- **Major components:**
- **Centrally Sponsored Components:**
 - 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States.
 - 3,382 Block Public Health Units in 11 High Focus States.
 - Establishment of Integrated Public Health Labs (IPHLs) in all districts.
 - Establishment of Critical Care Hospital Blocks in districts with population above 5 lakh.
 - Central Sector Components:
 - Strengthening the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and regional disease control centres.
 - Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal.
 - Establishment of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and Container-based Mobile Hospitals.
 - Establishment of 4 new National Institutes of Virology and BSL-III laboratories.

Ground Water Department

Karmabhoomi Se Matribhoomi

- Department: Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- Launched: 15 January 2025 by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- Objective: To conserve and augment every drop of rainwater and construct water-recharge structures through public participation, in order to arrest the declining groundwater level in the State.
- Target: Construction of 45,000 recharge/water-conservation structures over the next 4 years through Bhamashahs and migrant Rajasthanis, by 2027-28.
- Progress: So far, construction work of 14,025 groundwater recharge/water-conservation structures has been completed.
- In the initial phase of this campaign, Sirohi, Pali, Jodhpur, Bhilwara, Jaipur and Jhunjhunu districts have been given priority.

Panchayati Raj Department

Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin (SBM-G)

- A major campaign-based scheme of the Government of India to promote sanitation, toilet construction, and solid-liquid waste management in rural areas.
- Type of scheme: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Launched: 2 October 2014.
- Tagline: "Ek Kadam Swachhata Ki Ore" — One step towards cleanliness.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Nodal Department in Rajasthan: Panchayati Raj Department.
- **Main objectives:**
 - To make rural India Open Defecation Free (ODF).
 - To improve rural sanitation and public health.
 - To promote solid and liquid waste management.
 - To develop a sanitation model based on behaviour change and public participation.
- **SBM-G Phase I (2014-2019):**
 - Objective: To declare rural India ODF by 2 October 2019.
 - Key achievements:

Indicator	Achievement
Rural Sanitation Coverage	39% in 2014 to approximately 100% in 2019
ODF Declaration	All States and Union Territories by October 2019
Rajasthan ODF Declaration	31 March 2018

- **SBM-G Phase II (2020-21 to 2025-26):**
- **Objective:**
 - Transition from ODF to the ODF Plus model.

- ❑ Objective: Strengthening solid and liquid waste management in rural areas.
- ❑ Key components of Phase II:

1. Individual Household Toilet (IHHL)

- ❑ ₹ 12,000 incentive amount for construction of toilets to eligible families.

2. Community Sanitation Complex (CSC)

- ❑ Construction of community sanitation complexes at Gram Panchayat level.
- ❑ Special focus on disabled friendly facilities.
- ❑ The provision costs approximately ₹3 lakh per premises.

3. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)

- ❑ Grey-water management
- ❑ Plastic and organic waste disposal
- ❑ Composting and Recycling System

4. GOBARdhan Scheme

- ❑ Energy and organic fertilizer production from animal waste and organic waste.
- ❑ Promotion of both rural cleanliness and income generation.
- ❑ Aim to develop a model Gobar-Dhan project in every district.

Financial partnership-

Area	Centre: State Ratio
General States	60:40
North-Eastern and Special Category States	90:10
Union Territories	100% Central assistance

SVAMITVA Scheme

- An ambitious Government of India scheme to prepare accurate digital records of property ownership in rural inhabited areas.
- Type of scheme: Central Sector Scheme.
- Launch: 24 April 2020, National Panchayati Raj Day.
- Full form: Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA).
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- Technical support: Survey of India.
- **Need for the scheme:**
 - ❑ Lack of clear property records in rural inhabited areas.
 - ❑ Increase in boundary disputes and court cases.
 - ❑ Need for accurate GIS data for Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP).
 - ❑ Linking the property of rural families to the formal economy.
- **Major objectives:**
 - ❑ Scientific survey and digital mapping of rural inhabited land.
 - ❑ Reduction of property-related disputes.
 - ❑ Providing Property Cards to rural citizens.
 - ❑ Preparing GIS-based development plans at Panchayat level.
 - ❑ Strengthening digital land administration and financial inclusion.

■ **Key features:**

1. Drone based survey

- ❑ High Resolution Drone Survey of populated areas.
- ❑ GIS based digital maps are prepared.
- ❑ Accurate determination of property boundaries.

2. Property Card

- ❑ Ownership certificates issued to rural families.
- ❑ Useful in bank loans, property transfer and financial services.

3. GIS based rural planning

- ❑ Assistance in preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- ❑ Use of roads, water, housing and public assets in planning.

4. Digital Governance

- ❑ Promotion of digital land record system.
- ❑ Transparency and efficiency in rural administration.
- ❑ National level progress (Official Data)

Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan 2.0 (MJSA 2.0)

- A State-level campaign operated by the Government of Rajasthan to promote water conservation, groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting.
- Launch: February 2024.
- Nodal Department: Panchayati Raj Department.
- **Background:**
 - ❑ This campaign is an upgraded and expanded version of the earlier “Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (MJSA)”.
 - ❑ Launch of original campaign: 27 January 2016.
 - ❑ Launch place: Gardankheri village, Jhalawar.
- Objective: To make water conservation a public-participation-based movement.
- **Key targets of MJSA 2.0:**
 - ❑ To include 20,000 villages of the State over the next 4 years.
 - ❑ Construction/revival of approximately 5 lakh water-harvesting and water-conservation structures.
 - ❑ To ensure water security and improvement in groundwater level in rural areas.
- **Major Works**
 - ❑ Construction of new Anicut.
 - ❑ Farm pond construction.
 - ❑ Development of Mini Percolation Tank (MPT).
 - ❑ Construction of Sub Surface Barrier (SSB).
 - ❑ Revival and repair of traditional water structures.
 - ❑ Rain water harvesting and ground water recharge work.
- **Economic Review 2025-26**
 - ❑ Mention of about 1.10 lakh works and expenditure of ₹ 2,289.49 crore under Phase-I.

- 26,059 works sanctioned in 20,000 villages in Phase-II.
- Water conservation was developed as “Community-led Water Management Model”.
- **Major objectives of the campaign:**
 - Ensure maximum rainwater harvesting.
 - Improve groundwater level and increase water recharge.
 - Strengthen the availability of drinking water.
 - Increase irrigated area and agricultural productivity.
 - Promote scientific and prudent use of water resources.
- **Four concepts of the original MJSA (2016):**
 - Conservation and treatment of collected water.
 - Effective use of existing water structures.
 - Revival of non-functional water structures.
 - Construction of new water-harvesting structures.

Atal Gyan Kendra Scheme (Rajasthan)

- An important initiative launched by the Government of Rajasthan to increase access to digital services, competitive-examination preparation and e-governance facilities in rural areas.
- **Announcement:** 24 December 2024, Good Governance Day.
- The scheme is being implemented at Gram Panchayat level.
- **Background:**
 - The state government announced the establishment of “Atal Gyan Kendra” at every Gram Panchayat headquarters with the aim of providing digital resources and study facilities to the rural youth.
 - This scheme was formally included in the Rajasthan Budget 2025-26.
- **Main objectives:**
 - Promote digital inclusion in rural areas.
 - Provide resources to youth for competitive examinations and career guidance.
 - Strengthen e-governance services at Panchayat level.
 - Ensure last-mile delivery of government schemes.

■ Key features:

1. **Atal Prerak -**
 - Local young men and women will be selected as “Atal Prerak”.
 - Their work will be to provide information and benefits of government schemes to rural families.
2. **Digital and Study facilities -**
 - Arrangement of e-Library at every centre.
 - Books for competitive exams, Current Affairs Magazine and newspapers available.
 - Minimum of 4 digital workstations and internet facilities.

3. **E-Mitra and e-Governance Services -**

- Certificates, online applications and other digital services available.
- Working as a digital service center at Panchayat level.

4. **Career Counselling -**

- Guidance to youth for employment, skill development and competitive examinations.
- Study and counseling facilities for rural students.
- Facts of Rajasthan Budget and Economic Review 2025-26
- Announcement of setting up centers in the first phase at Gram Panchayat headquarters with a population more than 3000.
- About 2056 gram panchayat headquarters were included in the first phase.
- Financial approval to 1687 centres.

School Education Department

Mukhyamantri Shikshit Rajasthan Abhiyan (MSRA)

- A State-level campaign launched by the Government of Rajasthan to expand school education and ensure 100% enrolment.
- **Launch:** 29 March 2025.
- **Inauguration:** During “Chief Minister Employment Festival and Youth Conference” organized in Kota.
- **Nodal Department:** School Education Department.
- **Background:**
 - The previously run “School Education Ke Badhte Kadam” campaign was reorganized and named as “Mukhyamantri Shikshit Rajasthan Abhiyan (MSRA)”.
 - The campaign was linked to education sector reforms under the “Developed Rajasthan” vision.
- **Major objectives of the campaign:**
 - Increase the school enrolment rate in the State.
 - Bring dropout students back into the mainstream.
 - Promote girls’ education and social inclusion.
 - Ensure quality and inclusive education in government schools.
 - Increase the participation of the community and parents.

Public Works Department

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- A major road-infrastructure scheme launched by the Government of India to strengthen rural connectivity.
- **Launched:** 25 December 2000.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Implementation in Rajasthan:** Public Works Department (PWD).
- **Major objectives of the scheme -**
 - Connecting rural settlements with all-weather road facilities.

- Increasing access to education, health, agricultural markets and employment in rural areas.
- To boost the rural economy through infrastructure development.

■ **Eligible settlements:**

Region	Minimum Population
General plain areas	500 or more
Tribal, desert, Himalayan and North-Eastern areas	250 or more (As per Census 2001)

■ **Financial partnership:**

Period	Financial Ratio
Initial Arrangement	100% Central assistance
After 2015-16 (General States)	60:40
North-Eastern and Special Category States	90:10

■ **Major phases of PMGSY:**

■ **Phase-I (2000–2012)**

- Focused on providing road connectivity for the first time in rural areas.
- Phase-II (2013–2019)
- Emphasis on upgrading and strengthening existing rural roads.
- Around 50,000 km road improvement target.
- Phase-III (2019–2025)
- Linking rural connectivity with economic and social institutions.
- Strengthening the road network to schools, hospitals and agricultural markets.
- 1.25 lakh km road upgradation target at national level.

Atal Pragati Path Scheme (Rajasthan)

- Launched: 29 March 2025.
- Launch place: Kota, Youth and Employment Festival.
- Nodal Department: Public Works Department (PWD).
- Rajasthan Budget 2024-25
- Announced the development of 1-3 km long main roads in villages with more than 10,000 population as “Atal Pragati Path”.
- In Rajasthan Budget 2025-26, the scope of the scheme was expanded.
- Provision for construction of cement-concrete (CC) roads in 250 villages with a population above 5,000.
- Total expenditure provision: ₹500 crore.
- **Objectives:**
 - Develop quality and durable road infrastructure in rural areas.
 - Provide all-weather road facilities to villages.
 - Promote rural connectivity, market access and economic activities.
 - Reduce the rural-urban infrastructure gap.

Facts from Economic Review 2025-26:

- Phase I: Villages with population 10,000+ included.
- Phase II: Consisting of villages with a population of 5,000–10,000.

Local Self Government Department

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)

- Launched: 25 June 2015.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Mission: Housing for All.
- Objective: To provide pucca and affordable housing with basic facilities to slum dwellers and EWS, LIG and MIG groups in urban areas.

■ **Target beneficiaries:**

Category	Annual Family Income
EWS (Economically Weaker Section)	Up to ₹3 lakh
LIG (Low Income Group)	₹3-6 lakh
MIG-I	₹6-12 lakh
MIG-II	₹12-18 lakh

- For women’s empowerment, it is mandatory to make the female head of the household the owner/ co-owner of the house.

■ Four major components of PMAY-U:

1. In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR):

- Slum redevelopment on the “Land as a Resource” model
- Pucca houses to slum residents with private-sector participation
- Central assistance up to ₹1 lakh per house.

2. Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS):

Category	Loan Limit	Interest Subsidy
EWS/LIG	Up to ₹6 lakh	6.5%
MIG-I	Up to ₹9 lakh	4%
MIG-II	Up to ₹12 lakh	3%

- Interest subsidy for house construction, purchase and extension.

3. Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP):

- Construction of affordable housing in partnership with State Government/private developers
- Central assistance of ₹1.5 lakh for every EWS house.

4. Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC):

- Assistance to EWS families to construct/extend their own house
- Central assistance of ₹1.5 lakh per house.

Key features of the scheme-

- Demand-driven Scheme: Approval based on demand from States/UTs.
- Direct transfer of assistance amount through DBT.

- ❑ Special emphasis on social inclusion and women ownership.

Achievements and new initiatives-

- ❑ About 122.69 lakh houses sanctioned by March 2022.
- ❑ Target of assistance to 1 crore urban poor and middle class families under PMAY-U 2.0.

Rajasthan special facts

- ❑ According to Rajasthan Economic Review 2024-25, 2,88,550 houses have been approved under PMAY-U in the state.

Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U)

- Introduction: A major Government of India mission to ensure sanitation, Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and scientific solid-waste management in urban areas.
- Launched: 2 October 2014.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Type of scheme: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Objectives:
 - ❑ Make urban India ODF and garbage-free.
 - ❑ Ensure 100% scientific solid-waste management.
 - ❑ Promote behaviour change and public participation.
 - ❑ Develop a circular economy and Waste to Wealth model.
- SBM-U 1.0 (2014-2019):
- Major targets:
 - ❑ Make all statutory towns ODF
 - ❑ Ensure scientific solid-waste management.
- Major Achievements
- SBM-U 2.0 (2021-2026):
 - ❑ Financial outlay: Approximately ₹1.41 lakh crore.
- Main focus:
 - ❑ ODF to ODF+ to ODF++
 - ❑ Garbage Free Cities
 - ❑ Used Water Management
 - ❑ Legacy Waste Remediation
- Major components:
 - ❑ Source segregation and door-to-door collection
 - ❑ 100% scientific waste processing
 - ❑ Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM)
 - ❑ Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)
 - ❑ Public awareness through IEC/BCC.
- ODF categories:

Category	Meaning
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ODF+	ODF plus functional public toilets
ODF++	ODF+ plus safe sewerage/faecal-sludge management

Rajasthan: Facts from Economic Review 2025-26:

- Increase in the number of ODF+/ODF++ certified urban local bodies in the State;
- Expansion of door-to-door waste collection and solid-waste processing infrastructure;

- Special focus on legacy-waste disposal and garbage-free cities.

Importance:

- ❑ Improvement in urban health and sanitation
- ❑ Reduction in pollution and uncontrolled waste disposal
- ❑ Promotion of Sustainable Urban Development.

Mukhyamantri SVANidhi Yojana

- Launched: 15 December 2024.
- Launch place: Sanganer, Jaipur.
- Nodal Department: Local Self Government Department.
- Objective: To provide financial assistance and loans for self-employment to unorganised workers and needy families in urban areas.
- Target beneficiaries:
 - Building-construction workers;
 - Handicraft workers;
 - Gig workers;
 - ❑ Transport workers;
 - ❑ Sanitation workers;
 - ❑ Domestic and care workers;
 - ❑ Other unorganised-sector workers.
- Eligibility:
 - ❑ Age 18 to 60 years;
 - ❑ Must be a native resident of Rajasthan
 - ❑ Must be an urban-area unorganised worker/ needy family
- Key provisions of the scheme:
 - ❑ Collateral-free loan facility
 - ❑ Banks will provide loans without guarantee and without processing fee.
 - ❑ Loans up to a total of ₹80,000 will be provided in three phases.

Phase	Loan Amount	Repayment Period
First phase	₹10,000	12 months
Second phase	₹20,000	18 months
Third phase	₹50,000	36 months

- Interest subsidy: Beneficiaries who repay loans on time will be provided a 7% interest subsidy by the State Government.
- Importance of the scheme:
 - ❑ Financial assistance for self-employment to urban poor and unorganised workers;
 - ❑ Encouragement to small businesses and micro-enterprises;
 - ❑ An effort to reduce dependence on moneylenders;
 - ❑ Promotion of financial inclusion and self-reliance.

Industries Department

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- Launched: 17 September 2023.
- Type of scheme: Central Sector Scheme.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Rajasthan's Industries Department is the nodal State department.

- Period: 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- Total financial outlay: ₹13,000 crore.
- In Budget 2023-24, “PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM-VIKAS)” was announced.
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide comprehensive support to traditional artisans and craftspeople.
 - Preserve traditional skills and the guru-shishya tradition.
 - Provide skill, credit, toolkit and market support.
 - Connect artisans with MSME and the digital economy.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Traditional artisans/craftspeople above 18 years of age;
 - Persons engaged in 18 identified traditional occupations;
 - Only one member per family is eligible;
 - Government employees and their family members are ineligible.
- **Key benefits:**
 - Skill training: Basic Training of 5-7 days (40 hours) and Advanced Training up to 15 days.
 - Stipend: ₹500 per day.
 - Toolkit assistance: ₹15,000 support through e-RUPI/e-Voucher to purchase modern tools.
 - Collateral-free loan assistance

Instalment	Amount	Period
First	₹1 lakh	18 months
Second	₹2 lakh	30 months

- Concessional interest rate of 5%.
- Digital incentive: Incentive of ₹1 per transaction for up to 100 digital transactions per month.
- Important occupations: Carpenter, blacksmith, goldsmith, potter, cobbler, tailor, barber, mason, basket maker, etc.
- **Note:** In Rajasthan Budget 2025-26, establishment of “Vishwakarma Kaushal Sansthan” in Kota was announced.
- Proposed amount: ₹150 crore.

Forest Department

Hariyalo Rajasthan Mission

- A mission inspired by Shri Narendra Modi’s “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative.
- Launched: 7 August 2024 from Jahota, Dudu district, Jaipur.
- Department: Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- Target: To plant 50 crore saplings over 5 years under the mission.
- Current-year target is to plant 10 crore saplings.
- Other main points:
 - By 2028, 20,000 hectares of forest area will be created.
 - Inspired by the concept of Green Budget 2025-26.

Public Health Engineering Department

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Launched: 15 August 2019.
- Centre-State ratio: 50:50.
- Target: Availability of 55 litres per person per day of water and tap connections to every household by 2028.
- Launch – By Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019.
- Objective: To provide pure drinking water to every home, village and hamlet.
- Progress: In the last two years, water has been provided to more than 13 lakh 56 thousand families at a cost of ₹10,482 crore.
- This year, a target of 20 lakh water connections has been set in Rajasthan (Budget announcement).

AMRUT 2.0 Scheme

- AMRUT - full form: Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.
- Launched: 25 June 2015; initially 29 cities were included.
- Department: PHED for water-supply-related works at the State level.
- Central Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Progress: Under AMRUT 2.0, approvals worth ₹5,099.56 crore have been issued for improvement of drinking-water arrangements in 178 urban bodies, out of which work orders have been issued for 104 bodies.
- Works: Water supply, sewerage, drainage, park development, Wi-Fi, etc.
- **Financial pattern:**

Population	Central Share
Less than 1 lakh	50%
1 to 10 lakh	33%
More than 10 lakh	25%

- **Note:** The remaining amount is borne by the State Government, of which 10% is payable by the urban local body.

Planning Department

Panch Gaurav Yojana

- The Government of Rajasthan launched the “Panch Gaurav Yojana” to promote balanced and multidimensional development of the State.
- This scheme is an important initiative to promote each district’s distinct identity, local resources, cultural heritage, agricultural produce, industries and sports talent.
- Launch: 17 December 2024.
- State: Rajasthan.
- Concerned Department: Planning Department.
- Objective: To promote five-dimensional development.
- Target area: Development of the unique identity of each district.

- Objective of the scheme: to develop the following areas of Rajasthan:
 1. Strengthening the agriculture-based economy.
 2. Conservation of local flora and biodiversity.
 3. Promotion of local industries and products.
 4. Tourism development and employment generation.
 5. Development of sports talent.
- **Five components of Panch Gaurav:**
 1. One District - One Product.
 2. One District - One Crop.
 3. One District - One Plant Species.
 4. One District - One Sport.
 5. One District - One Tourist Destination.
- Administrative arrangement: Two levels of committees have been constituted for effective implementation of the scheme:
 - **State-level committee:**
 - Chairperson - Chief Secretary;
 - Function - monitoring, coordination and policy formulation for the scheme.
 - District-level committee:
 - Chairperson - District Collector;
 - Function - operation and implementation of the scheme at district level.

-:- Panch Gaurav Programme -:-

Start- Year 2025-26

Objective- To provide a unique identity to each district by selecting products/places on the basis of the capacity and distinctive features of each district, and to provide a strong cultural and economic identity to the districts through their conservation, promotion and development.

Under this programme, five major elements have been determined for each district under the 'Panch Gaurav' initiative-

- One District-One Product
- One District-One Crop
- One District-One Plant Species
- One District-One Sport
- One District-One Tourist Place

To ensure effective implementation of the Panch Gaurav Programme, a State-Level Panch Gaurav Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and District-Level Panch Gaurav Committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of District Collectors.

Table: District-wise Identified List of Panch Gaurav

S. No.	District	Crop	Plant Species	Product	Tourist Place	Sport
1.	Ajmer	Rose	Neem	Granite and Marble Products	Pushkar Tirth	Kabaddi
2.	Alwar	Onion	Arjun	Automobile Parts	Sariska Tiger Reserve	Wrestling
3.	Balotra	Pomegranate	Rohida	Textile Products	Nakoda Jain Temple	Cricket
4.	Banswara	Mango	Teak	Marble Products	Tripura Sundari Temple	Archery
5.	Baran	Garlic	Chironji	Garlic Products	Ramgarh Crater	Football
6.	Barmer	Isabgol	Rohida	Embroidery	Kiradu Temple	Basketball

S. No.	District	Crop	Plant Species	Product	Tourist Place	Sport
7.	Beawar	Wheat	Karanj	Quartz and Feldspar Powder	Todgarh Hill	Hockey
8.	Bharatpur	Honey	Kadamba	Agriculture-Based Products	Keoladeo National Park	Wrestling
9.	Bhilwara	Orange	Arjun	Textile Products	Mandalgarh Fort	Basketball
10.	Bikaner	Moth Bean	Rohida	Bikaneri Namkeen	Karni Mata Temple	Archery
11.	Bundi	Rice	Dhok	Sandstone	Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve	Kabaddi
12.	Chittorgarh	Custard Apple	Bilva Patra	Granite and Marble Products	Chittorgarh Fort	Kabaddi
13.	Churu	Aloe Vera	Khejri	Wooden Products	Salasar Balaji Temple	Athletics
14.	Dausa	Fennel	Dhak	Stone Products	Mehandipur Balaji Temple	Football
15.	Didwana-Kuchaman	Onion	Khejri	Marble and Granite Products	Didwana Lake	Basketball
16.	Deeg	Mustard	Arjun	Stone-Based Products	Deeg Mahal	Wrestling
17.	Dholpur	Potato	Karanj	Stone-Based Products	Machkund	Hockey
18.	Dungarpur	Mango	Teak	Marble Products	Beneshwar Dham	Hockey
19.	Hanumangarh	Kinnow	Shisham	Agriculture-Based Products	Gogamedi Temple	Hockey
20.	Jaipur	Amla	Lasora	Gemstone	Amer Fort	Kabaddi
21.	Jaisalmer	Date Palm	Jal	Yellow Stone Products	Jaisalmer Fort	Gymnastics
22.	Jalore	Pomegranate	Jal	Granite Products	Sundha Mata Temple	Boxing
23.	Jhalawar	Orange	Teak	Kota Stone Products	Gagron Fort	Basketball
24.	Jhunjhunu	Mustard	Neem	Wooden handicraft products	Lohargal pilgrimage	Basketball
25.	Jodhpur	Cumin	Jaal	Wooden furniture	Mehrangarh Fort	Gymnastics
26.	Karauli	Sesame	Bargad	Sand stone products	Kaila Devi Temple	Cricket
27.	Khairthal - Tijara	Onion	Sheesham	Automobile parts	Tijara Jain Temple	Wrestling
28.	Kota	Coriander	Khair	Kota Doria	Chambal River Front	Wrestling
29.	Kotputli - Behror	Carrot	Guggal	Automobile parts	Bairath	Wrestling
30.	Nagaur	Moong	Khejri	Paan Methi and Spice Processing	Mirabai Memorial	Kabaddi
31.	Pali	Mehendi	Neem	Textile products	Ranakpur Jain Temple	Basketball
32.	Phalodi	Cumin	Jaal	Sonamukhi products	Khichan	Athletics
33.	Pratapgarh	Kalonji	Tendu	Thewa jewellery	Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary	Archery
34.	Rajsamand	Custard Apple	Neem	Granite and marble products	Kumbhalgarh Fort	Hockey

S. No.	District	Crop	Plant Species	Product	Tourist Place	Sport
35.	Salumber	Maize	Palash	Quartz	Jaisamand Lake	Kabaddi
36.	Sawai Madhopur	Guava	Neem	Marble products	Ranthambore National Park	Football
37.	Sikar	Onion	Aradu	Wooden furniture	Khatu Shyam Ji Temple	Basketball
38.	Sirohi	Fennel	Mahua	Marble products	Delwara Jain Temple	Archery
39.	Sri Ganganagar	Kinnow	Sheesham	Mustard oil	Budha Johad	Athletics
40.	Tonk	Mustard	Amaltas	Slate stone products	Diggi Kalyan Ji	Athletics
41.	Udaipur	Custard Apple	Mahua	Marble and granite products	Fatehsagar and Pichola Lake	Swimming

Rural Development Department

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)

- Launch: 1 April 2016.
- Type of scheme: Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Previous scheme: Restructured form of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY).
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development.
- Objective: Under “Housing for All”, to provide pucca houses to homeless families and families living in kutcha houses in rural areas.
- Major objectives:
 - Provide a pucca house with basic facilities to all eligible rural families;
 - Improve living standards through clean and safe housing;
 - Promote women’s empowerment;
 - Ensure rural poverty alleviation and social security.
- Extension of the scheme (2024-29):
 - Initial target was 2.95 crore houses up to 2023-24.
 - In August 2024, the Union Cabinet extended the scheme up to 2028-29.
 - Additional 2 crore new houses were approved.
 - Total outlay: ₹3,06,137 crore.
- Beneficiary selection:
 - Based on SECC-2011 (Socio Economic and Caste Census);
 - Verification by Gram Sabha and geo-tagging are mandatory;
 - Making the female head the owner/co-owner is a key feature of the scheme.
- **Funding pattern:**

Area	Centre: State Ratio
States in Plain Region	60:40
North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	90:10
Other Union Territories	100% Central assistance

Financial assistance:

Region	Assistance Amount
Plain areas	₹1.20 lakh
Hilly/difficult and North-Eastern areas	₹1.30 lakh

Additional benefits:

- Additional ₹12,000 for toilet construction under Swachh Bharat Mission;
- 90 days of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);
- Direct transfer of amount to the bank account through DBT.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Poverty-Free Village Scheme

- Introduction: An integrated rural development and poverty-alleviation scheme of the Government of Rajasthan.
- Launch: Rajasthan Budget 2025-26.
- Objective: To reduce multidimensional poverty in rural areas and develop self-reliant villages.
- Nodal Department: Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.
- **Objectives:**
 - Identification and comprehensive upliftment of poor rural families.
 - Promotion of employment, self-employment and skill development.
 - Saturation of basic facilities and social-security schemes.
 - Development of villages as “poverty-free villages”.
- **Key provisions:**
 - Family-based survey in selected villages;
 - Linking eligible families with government schemes;
 - Special focus on livelihoods,
 - Skill development and financial inclusion;
 - Encouragement to women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

■ **Major focus areas:**

Area	Major Activities
Livelihood	Self-employment and employment
Skill development	Training of youth
Social security	Pension and DBT schemes
Financial inclusion	Bank accounts and loan facility
Basic facilities	Housing, drinking water and sanitation

Scheme strategy:

- Implementation based on the “Convergence Model”;
- Integration of various departmental schemes;
- Gram Panchayat-based monitoring;
- Data-based poverty identification and tracking.
- Rajasthan Budget 2025-26 — key points:
- Special emphasis on inclusive development in rural areas;
- Promotion of an Antyodaya-based development model;
- Target of ensuring saturation coverage of government schemes for poor families.
- Importance of the scheme:
- Reduction in rural poverty;
- Reduction of social and economic inequality;
- Rural self-reliance and employment generation;
- Promotion of the philosophy of “Antyodaya”.

Namo Drone Didi Scheme

- Introduction: A Central Government initiative to provide drones to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and increase their participation in agricultural services.
- Launch: 2023.
- Nodal Ministries: Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare.
- **Objectives:**
 - To connect women SHGs with drone technology.
 - To promote Precision Farming and Nano Fertilizer Spraying in agriculture.
 - To increase the income of rural women.
- **Key facts:**
 - Target to provide drones to approximately 15,000 women SHGs from 2024-25 to 2025-26.
 - Up to about 80% assistance for drone purchase, maximum ₹8 lakh.
 - Provision of training and Drone Pilot Certification.
- **Importance:**
 - Modernisation of agriculture
 - Promotion of women’s technical entrepreneurship.

Solar Didi Initiative

- Introduction: An initiative to connect rural women with solar-energy-based livelihood and energy empowerment.

Related schemes:

- PM Surya Ghar
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - NRLM.

■ **Objectives:**

- To train women in operation and maintenance of solar equipment
- To promote green energy and rural employment.

■ **Key works:**

- Training related to solar lanterns, solar pumps and rooftop solar;
- Linking SHGs with green energy entrepreneurship.

Lakhpati Didi Scheme

- Introduction: A campaign to raise the annual income of women associated with Self-Help Groups above ₹1 lakh.
- Announcement: Independence Day 2023.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Targets:**
 - Initial target of 2 crore women,
 - Later it increased to 3 crore “Lakhpati Didis”.
- **Strategy:**
 - Skill development;
 - Micro-enterprise promotion;
 - Financial literacy;
 - SHG credit linkage.
- Rajasthan context: Under NRLM in Rajasthan, women SHGs are being linked with self-employment, dairy, handicrafts and rural entrepreneurship.

Bank Sakhi

- Introduction: SHG women are trained as “Banking Correspondent Sakhi” to provide banking services in rural areas.
- **Objectives:**
 - To provide doorstep banking services
 - Increase financial inclusion.
- **Services:**
 - Cash withdrawal/deposit;
 - DBT payments;
 - Aadhaar-based banking;
 - Operation of Jan Dhan accounts.
- **Importance:**
 - Increase in financial participation of rural women.

Krishi Sakhi

- **Introduction:**
 - An initiative to connect SHG women with agricultural extension services.
 - Operated with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and DAY-NRLM.
- **Objectives:**
 - To promote natural farming and improved agricultural techniques,
 - To convey scientific agricultural information to women farmers.
- **Major works:**
 - Organic farming training;
 - Advice on the use of fertilisers and pesticides;
 - Information on FPOs and agricultural schemes.

Pashu Sakhi

- **Introduction:** An initiative to connect rural women with livestock-based livelihoods and animal-health services.
- **Objectives:**
 - ❑ To increase women's participation in the livestock sector
 - ❑ To enhance dairy and livestock-based income.
 - ❑ Major works:
 - ❑ Awareness on animal vaccination;
 - ❑ Animal-nutrition advice;
 - ❑ Dairy-management training.
- **Rajasthan context:**
 - ❑ In Rajasthan, livestock-based SHG models have been linked with the Rural Livelihood Mission.
 - ❑ Economic Survey of India:
 - ❑ Women SHGs have been described as a "Rural Transformation Engine".
 - ❑ Special emphasis has been placed on digital financial inclusion and women entrepreneurship.
 - ❑ Rajasthan Economic Review 2025-26:
 - ❑ Promotion of SHG-based livelihood models, women entrepreneurship and rural self-employment.
 - ❑ Focus on bank linkage and skill development of women groups through NRLM.



Rajasthan Language and Literature



- The basic language of Rajasthan is Rajasthani and it originated from Gurjar Apabhramsha of Shauraseni. Some scholars believe that it originated from Nagar Apabhramsha.
- Marubhasha is used in the native languages mentioned in Kuvalayamala and Marwari word is used in Pingal Shiromani and Ain-e-Akbari.
- Rajasthani language was popular before the advent of Hindi which included dialects like Mewari, Marwari, Malvi, Bagri etc. These dialects have also been influenced by the languages of specific regions.
- Literature was written in Rajasthani Sanskrit before the mediaeval period. But Rajasthani literature gained momentum after the mediaeval period. Mythological, historical, social, religious and heroic literature was written. The original form of Rajasthani literature can be seen in 'Rasa' which is a mixture of dance, song and acting. Jain poets nurtured this literature. Khuman Raso and Bisaldev Raso are late mediaeval compositions. Bahubali (1184 AD) written by Shalibhadrasuri is also an excellent example of Khand Kavya. Gradually, the number of Apabhramsha words decreased in Rajasthani literature and the importance of worldly words increased. From the 14th to 16th century, worldly words kept getting added to Rajasthani literature. While 'Kanhadde Prabandh' was full of heroic sentiment, 'Veli Kishan Rukman Sheri' had the

influence of Braj Bhasha. On the basis of period division, it can be divided into early, medieval and modern literature, which can be divided into saint style, Charan style, Jain style and worldly style from the perspective of style.

- By looking at the history of Rajasthani language, it is known that in the book 'Kuvalayamala' written by Udyotan Suri (written in Jalore in 835 AD), 'Maru Bhasha' was also included in the 18 native languages mentioned, which were spoken in western Rajasthan. Similarly, poet Kushallabh has used the word Marwari Bhasha in his book 'Pingal Shiromani'.
- Abul Fazal has also included Marwari language among the major Aryan languages.
- The name Rajasthani was first used by George Abraham Grierson in his book 'Linguistic Survey of India' in 1912.
- Dr. L. P. Tassitori has thrown light on the origin and development of Rajasthani language in the magazine 'The Indian Antiquary'.
- Dr. Grierson has divided the dialects of Rajasthan into two parts-
 - **Eastern Rajasthani** - Dhundhari, Hadoti, Mewati, Ahirawati (Rathi)
 - **Western Rajasthani** - Marwari, Mewari, Vagadi, Shekhawati
- Motilal Menaria has described Rajasthani language as having passed through the following stages of development.
 1. **Gurjar Apabhramsha**: 11th to 13th century
 2. **Ancient Rajasthani**: 13th to 16th century
 3. **Medieval Rajasthani**: 16th to 18th century
 4. **Modern Rajasthani**: 18th century to present

Marwari

- Marwari is the most widely spoken Rajasthani dialect in terms of geographical area. It is primarily spoken in the districts of Jodhpur, Pali, Bikaner, Nagaur, Sirohi, and Jaisalmer. Its sub-dialects include Mewari, Shekhawati, Nagauri, Khairadi, and Godwadi. The purest form of Marwari is spoken in the Jodhpur region. The literary form of the Marwari dialect is called 'Dingal.' Marwari literature is rich and diverse, with a significant portion of Jain literature written in this dialect. Popular poems like Rajiya Ke Sorathe, Veli Krishan Rukmani Ri, Dhola-Maravan, and Moomal are examples of Marwari literature.

■ **Sub-dialects of Marwari** - Mewari, Bagri, Shekhawati, Bikaneri, Dhatki, Thali, Khairadi, Nagauri Devdavati, Gaudwadi.

- I. **Mewari**: The Mewari dialect is primarily spoken in most parts of Udaipur, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, and Rajsamand districts. While there is less written literature in Mewari compared to Marwari, it still has its own literary tradition. Mewari was used in Kumbha's 'Kirti Stambh Prashasti'. Motilal Menaria considered Mewari to be a sub-dialect of Marwari. The two dialects share many linguistic features, with a particular emphasis on the sounds of 'A' and 'O' in Mewari. After Marwari, Mewari is the second most important dialect in Rajasthan.
- II. **Bagadi**: The combined area of Dungarpur and Banswara is known as 'Bagad,' and the dialect spoken in this region is called Bagadi. Gujarati influence is more pronounced in Bagadi. In this dialect, the sounds 'Ch' and 'Chh' are pronounced as 'S.' Additionally, 'Hato' is used instead of the past tense auxiliary verb 'Tha'. Grierson referred to Bagadi as 'Bhili Boli.
- III. **Shekhawati**: Region - Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu. Influence of Marwari and Dhundhadi is visible.
- IV. **Kheradi**: It is spoken in Shahpura (Bhilwara) and some parts of Bundi. It is a mixture of Mewari, Dhundhadi and Hadoti.
- V. **Godwadi**: This is a sub-dialect of Marwari, spoken primarily in the Ahor tehsil of Jalore and Pali districts. The Bisaldev Raso is a major literary work composed in this dialect. Sub-dialects - Balvi, Sirohi, Khani, Mahahadi.
- VI. **Devdavati**: A sub-dialect of Marwari, spoken in Sirohi region.

Note - Sortha, Chhand and Maand Raga are the artistic features of Marwari.

Dhundhadi

- Dhundhadi is the main dialect of eastern Rajasthan. It is spoken in Kishangarh, Jaipur, Tonk, Ajmer and eastern parts of Merwara. This dialect is influenced by Gujarati and Brajbhasha. A lot of literature has been written in this dialect in both prose and poetry. Dadupantha's literature is also written in this dialect. The translation of the Bible in Dhundhari was also published by missionaries. In this dialect, 'Chhai' is used for the present and 'Chhi', 'Chhau' is used for past tense. Major sub-dialects - Toravati, Rajavati, Chaurasi, Nagarchol, Kishangarhi, Ajmeri, Kathedi, Hadoti.
- I. **Toravati**: The southern part of Jhunjhunu district, the eastern and south-eastern parts of Sikar district and some northern parts of Jaipur district are called Toravati. Hence the dialect spoken here is called Toravati. Flow area of Kantli river.

- II. **Rjavati**: It is spoken in the eastern part of Jaipur district.
- III. **Kathedi**: It is popular in Sawai Madhopur.
- IV. **Chaurasi**: It is popular in the south-western part of Jaipur district and the western part of Tonk district.
- V. **Nagarchol**: Spoken in Tonk and Sawai Madhopur.
- VI. **Hadoti**: The region of Kota, Bundi, Baran and Jhalawar is called Hadoti. It is influenced by Gujarati and Marwari. The works of Bundi poet Suryamall Meesan are written in Hadoti dialect.

Mewati

- Mewati dialect is spoken in Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and eastern part of Karauli. The influence of Brajbhasha is visible on it. From the point of view of origin and development, Mewati acts as a bridge between Western Hindi and Rajasthani. The influence of Brajbhasha is more visible in the Mewati dialect. Most of the literature of Laldas Ji and Charanadasi sects is written in Mewati language. The works of Charandas' disciples Dayabai and Sahajobai are in this dialect.
- Various forms of Mewati dialect in different regions - Khadi Mewati, Rathi Mewati, Kather Mewati, Bhayana Mewati, Bighota Mewati, Brahmin Mewati etc.

Ahirwati/Rathi

- Ahirwati language is spoken in Behror, Mundawar, Kishangarh of Alwar and Kotputli.
- In ancient times, the Ahir caste settled in this region, so this region came to be known as Ahirwati or Heerwal. Historically, the region of this dialect is also called Rath and the dialect is also called Rathi.
- Hammir Raso Mahakavya of Jodhraj (court poet of King Chandrabhan Singh Chauhan of Neemrana), Shankar Rao's 'Bheem Vilas' poem etc. were composed in this dialect.

Malvi

- This dialect is spoken in Malwa, Jhalawar, Kota and Pratapgarh. In this dialect, the characteristics of both Marwari and Dhundhari are found. It is a pleasant and soft language. (Influence of Gujarat and Marathi is limited)
- Subdialects- Nimadi, Rangdi.
 - I. **Nimadi** - It is considered a sub-dialect of Malvi. Nimadi is also called 'South Rajasthani'. It is influenced by Gujarati and Bagdi dialects.
 - II. **Rangdi** - In the Malvi dialect area, Rangdi dialect, which is a mixture of Malvi and Marwari, is also prevalent. This dialect is somewhat harsh and is mainly spoken by the Rajputs of Malwa.

Braj

- It is spoken in Bharatpur, Dholpur and Alwar regions.
- Other dialects spoken district wise

Kishangarhi	Ajmer
Rangdi	Dholpur, Bharatpur
Sondhwari	Jhalawar
Dhawadi	Udaipur
Dhati	Barmer
Jagrauti	Karauli

- Kather Mewati is spoken in Pratapgarh, Ajabgarh, Thanagazi and Baldevarh.
- In terms of origin and development, Mewati acts as a bridge between Western Hindi and Rajasthani.

Rajasthani Script

- Devanagari
- Mudia
- Devanagari** - Most of the letters of Rajasthani language are similar to Devanagari script. The difference in the formation of letters which was there earlier is now slowly ending. Rajasthani word 'ꣳ' is similar to Devanagari word 'स'. But it is different in meaning. In Rajasthani script, the word 's' is used for Devanagari words 'sh' and 'sh'.
- Mudia script** - The Rajasthani script is not written in its purest form by merchants and moneylenders. They often use a simplified version with fewer vowels and punctuation marks, known as the Mudia script. It is written from 'left to right'.

Rajasthan Literature

- The various forms of Rajasthani literature demonstrate the region's rich intellectual heritage. Even the most complex subjects have been expressed in a lucid style, making them accessible to the common man. The Mughal period is often considered the golden age of Rajasthani literature. Saints, rulers, bards, Bhaats, Jains, and others have played significant roles in its development. Vaishnavas have made major contributions, often influenced by popular trends. Not only male writers but also women have contributed to Rajasthani literature. Whether it's Meera's bhajans or the tale of Padmini's bravery, literature related to ideal women continues to inspire today.

On the basis of Style and Subject -

- Jain literature** - Literature related to Jain followers and Jainism are Dhurtakhyan (Haribhadra Suri), Kuvalayamala (Udyotan Suri)
- Brahmin literature** - Under Brahmin literature, literature related to religious subjects has been written in Brahmin style. For example - Hitopadesh, Baital Pachisi etc.
- Charan literature** - It is composed by singing castes

such as Charan, Bhaat, Dhaadi etc. which are mostly written in verse in heroic style. For example - as Ramraso (Madhodas), Prithviraj Raso, Veli Kishan Rukmani Ri etc.

The following are the forms of Charan literature-

- In the form of Prabandh Kavya
- In the form of efficacious songs
- In the form of short verses like couplets, Soraths, Kundalis, Chappays, Jhoolans, Savaiyas etc.
- Saint literature**- Literature written by saints mainly in verse. For example - Meera's Satyabhama Ji Nu Rusno and Rukmani Mangal.
- Folk literature**- Folk literature exists in the form of folk tales, love stories, proverbs, riddles, folk songs by the common people. For example - Dholamaru Ra Duha is a famous folk poem.

Dingal -	Pingal -
1. Literary form of Western Rajasthan.	1. Literary form of Eastern Rajasthan.
2. Origin - Gurjari Apabhramsha.	2. Origin - Shauraseni Apabhramsha.
3. Most of the literature was written by Charan poets.	3. Most of the literature was written by Bhaat poets.

- Khyat** - Khyats are named after the dynasty, state or author. These are the historical texts of Rajasthani literature which were composed by the rulers of that time to depict their honour and genealogy. In Khyats, details of the works and achievements of men and women of a particular dynasty are found. These can be divided into two parts (in terms of style).
 - Sanlagn Khyat (Attached Chronicle)**: In such Khyats, history is written in sequence, eg. Dayaldas Ri Khyat.
 - Baat-Sangrah**: In such Khyats, facts of history are written in separate small or big words, eg. "Nainasi and Bankidas Ki Khyat"
- Barhamasa** - Narration of heroine's separation while depicting the circumstances of 12 months of the year (starting from Ashadh month).
- Rupak**: Poetry showing the nature of achievements of a dynasty or a particular person.
- Vanshawali**: In this category of compositions, genealogies of dynasties are written with detailed description. eg. Amar Kavya Vanshawali, Suryavansh Vanshawali, Sisod Vanshawali.
- Vaat**: Vaat means story or tale. These are written on historical events, famous historical characters and mythological stories - Rana Pratap Ri Vaat, Rao Maldev Ri Vaat and Achaldas Khichi Ri Vaat. Child marriage, polygamy, purdah system, dowry, sati system etc. are depicted in these stories.
- Prakas**: Works that throw light on the achievements of a particular dynasty or person or on a particular event are

called 'Prakas'. These include Rajprakash of Kishordas, Suraj Prakash of Karanidan, Bhiprakash of Ramdan Lalas, Pabu Prakash of Ashiya Modji, Udayprakash of Kishan Sidhayach, Kehar Prakash of Bakhtawar, Mahayash Prakash of Ashiya Mansingh and Deepak Kul Prakash of Kamji Dadhwadia etc.

- **Vachnika:** In Rajasthani literature, poetry mixed with prose and poetry was called Vachanika.. There are two types of Vachanika. In verse form there are rhyming words of 8-8 or 20-20 syllables, whereas in prose form the rule of syllables does not apply, for example- Achaldas Khinchi Ri Vachanika.
- **Marasya:** This means 'Shok Kavya'. These poems are composed to express grief after the death of a king or a particular person. In this, apart from the character traits of that person, other activities are also mentioned. These works are useful because they are contemporary. For example - 'Rane Jagpat Ra Marasya' was written to express grief at the death of Maharana Jagat Singh of Mewar.
- **Davavait (containing Urdu-Persian vocabulary):** Rhyming poems written in prose-verse are called 'Davavait'. The biography of an incident or a character in verse along with small sentence segments of prose is found in 'Davavait'. For example - Raja Jaisingh ri Dawawait, Akhamla Devda ri Dawawait.
- **Raso:** According to Motilal Menaria, the poetic text which has detailed description of the fame, victory and war valour of a king is called Raso. Poetry texts written in praise of kings, which contain details of their war campaigns and heroic acts, as well as details of their dynasty are also available. Prithviraj Raso (Chandrabardai), Bisaldev Raso (Narapatinalh), Qayam Khan Raso (Kavi Jaan), Khuman Raso (Dalpat Vijay), Sagat Raso (Girdhar Asiyan), Shatrusal Raso (Dungarsi), Hammir Raso (Jodhraj), Pratap Raso (Jachik Jeevan), Jawan Raso (Sitaram Ratanu), Binhe Raso (Maheshdas), Ratan Raso (Kumbhakarna).
- **Veli:** Historical Veli texts are written in "Veliyo" verse. Information about social, political and religious beliefs is obtained in these texts. For example - Daidas Jaitawat Ri Veli, Rawartan Ri Veli.
- **Vigat:** Detailed description of any subject is found in it. From a historical point of view, a description of the ruler, ruling family, prominent person of the state or their political social personality is found. Economic data obtained from this is useful in knowing the social economic condition of the time. For example- Nainsi Ki Marwar Ra Pargana Ri Vigat.
- **Vilas:** Apart from political events, description of entertainment related aspects is also found in these. For example - Rajvilas. Buddhi Vilas, Vijay Vilas, Bhim Vilas etc.
- **Kakka:** Starting a composition with each of the fifty-two letters of the alphabet is called Kakka.
- **Tabba:** Writing notes on the edges of a letter to explain the meaning of the original work is called tabba.
- **Baal Avbodh:** Detailed explanation of the original composition is called Baal avbodh.

- **Jhamal and Jhulana:** These are metrical verses of Rajasthani poetry. In this, there is Sagan at the end of the 24 letter syllabic verses. For example - Amarsingh Rathore Ra Jhulana, Rao Indrasingh Ri Jhamal.
- **Sakhi:** Description of eye-witness accounts is called Sakhi. For example - Kabir ki Sakhiyan.
- **Siloka:** These are written by ordinary educated people. Like Rao Amarsingh Ra Siloka.
- **'Aadi/Hiyali' Shabd:** The term used for riddles in Rajasthani folk literature.

Major literary works

Early period or Heroic tale period	Medieval Literature	Modern Literature

Note:

1. **Poetry literature** - Poetry literature includes Doha, Soratha, Geet, Kundaliyan, Chhand Chap-paya etc.
2. **Prose Literature** - Vaat, Vachanika, Khyat, Dawabait, Vanshawali, Pattavali, Peedhiyavali, Daftar, Vigat and Haqiqat etc. come under prose literature.

Literary works of the early period or Veeragatha period

1. **Kuvalayamala** -
 - Jain Muni Udyotan Suri.
 - Maru language.
2. **Neminath Barhamasa** -
 - Palhan.
 - The first Barhamasa of Maru Gurjar language.
3. **Prithviraj Raso** -
 - Poet Chandbardai.
 - Information about Prithviraj Chauhan III.
4. **Bisaldev Raso** -
 - Narapatinalh.
 - Information about the love story of Ajmer ruler Vigharaj IV (Bisaldev) and his queen Rajmati.
5. **Ranmal Chhand** -
 - Shridhar Vyas.
 - 70 verses (Veer Kavya).
 - Description of the war between Muzaffarshah, the Subedar of Patan, and Rathore king Ranmal of Idar.
6. **Achaldas Khinchi Ri Vachanika** -
 - Shivdas Gadan.
 - Dingal Granth which is a Champu Kavya.
 - Description of the Battle (1423) between Sultan Haushganshah of Mandu and Achaldas Khinchi, the ruler of Gagron.
7. **Prithviraj Vijay** -
 - Jayanak
 - In Sanskrit language.
 - Information about Prithviraj-III.

8. Vijaypal Raso -

- Nallsingh.
- Pingal language (Veer Rasa Kavya).
- Information about King Vijaypal of Karauli.

9. Hammir Mahakavya -

- Nachanchandra Suri.
- Information about the rulers of Ranthambore.
- Written in Sanskrit language.

10. Dhola Maru Ra Duha -

- Kavi Kallol.
- Dingal language (Shringar Rasa)
- Love story of Dhola and Marwani.

11. Veermayana -

- Badar Dhaadi.
- Information about Rawal Mallinath and Gogade of Khed.
- Earlier it was also called Badar Dhaadi ki Nisaniyan.

12. Brahmasphuta Siddhanta -

- By Brahmagupta (Bhinmal, Jalore)
- Information about Astronomy.

13. Shishupalavadha -

- Written by Mahakavi Magh.

14. Khandakhadyakam -

- Written by Brahmagupta.
- Information about plain and spherical trigonometry is found in it.

15. Sharangdhar Samhita -

- Written by Sharangdhar.
- It contains a brief text of the extinct book on music 'Gandharvashastra'.

16. Krishi Parashar Granth -

- By Maharshi Parashar.
- This book contains ancient references to cow worship, and a description of celebrating Parwa after Diwali.
- Predictions related to rain, information about agricultural almanac, behavior of animals and birds, wind direction, weather forecast.

17. Samaraichchhakatha -

- Written by Haribhadra Suri.
- There is mention of the life of the people of Rajasthan.

18. Lalit Vigharaj -

- Written by Somdev.

19. Deshinam Mala -

- Book written by Hemchandrasuri

20. Sthuli Bhadra Raas, Revantgiri Raas -

- Written by Jambu Swami

- In this, the main methods of treatment of diseases are irrigation of trees, plant water fumigation, sprinkling and mantra recitation.

■ **Vishwvallabh Vrikshayurveda-** In this book of Chakrapani Mishra, the verses of Rajavallabh have been expanded in the context of description of water reservoir.

■ Rajyabhishek Paddhati, Muhurtamala and Vyavaharadarsh were the other books of Chakrapani Mishra.

2. Sutradhar Mandan

- Information Kumbha period sculpture and architecture.
- Belonged to the Sompura Shilpajgya clan of Gujarat.
- Books** - Devta Murti Prakaran, Prasadamandan Vasturajvallabh Vastushastraam, Vastumandanam, Vastusaar, Vastumanjari.

3. Muhnot Nainsi Khyat

- Muhnot Nainsi (Abul Fazal of Rajputana).
- Patronised by Jaswant Singh I, Maharaja of Jodhpur.
- Other books - 'Marwar Ra Pargana Ri Vigat'- It is also called Gazetteer of Rajputana.
- Muhnot Nainsi, was a poet of Dingal language.

4. Gajgun Roopak

- Keshavdas Gadan (Patronised by Gaj Singh I).
- Book of 1000 verses.
- Information about the reign of Maharaja Gaj Singh I of Jodhpur.

5. Kanhadade Prabandha

- Padmanabh (Poet of Akheraj, Chauhan ruler of Jalore).
- Description of the battle between Kanhadde Chauhan and Alauddin Khilji.

6. Rao Jaitsi Ro Chand

- Written by Bithu Souza.
- Description of the battle between Babur's son Kamran and Bikaner's ruler Rao Jaitsi.

7. Hala Jhala Ri Kundaliyan

- Written by Barahath Isardas.
- Description of the battle between Jhala Rai Singh and Hala Jasaji.

8. Sagatraso

- Written by Girdhar Ashiya
- Description of the Battle of Haldighati and the descendants of Shakti Singh.

9. Ekling Mahatmya

- Written by Kanha Vyas.
- Information about the political and social organization of the Guhil rulers.

10. Padmavat

- Written by Malik Muhammad Jayasi in 1540 AD.
- Description of the battle fought between Ratan Singh and Alauddin Khilji in 1303 AD.

11. Rajiye Ra Soratha

- Kriparam Khidiya, a poet patronised by Rao Raja Laxman Singh of Sikar, has described the Sorathas in 'Rajiye Ra Soratha' addressed to the servant Rajiya.

Medieval Literary Works (15th century to before 19th century)

1. Vishwvallabha

- Chakrapani Mishra (court poet of Maharana Pratap).
- This book contains descriptions of material collected from sources ranging from Vishnu Dharmetar Purana to Varahamihir's Brihatsamhita.

12. Veli Krisan Rukmani Ri

- ❑ Written by Prithviraj Rathore (Pithal) of Bikaner.
- ❑ A short poem of 305 verses in which the story of the marriage of Shri Krishna and Rukmani is described.
- ❑ Dursa Aadha has called it the 5th Veda and the 19th Purana.
- ❑ Tessitori has called Prithviraj the Horace of Dingal.

13. Khumaan Raso

- ❑ Written by Dalpat Vijay, a description of Pratap Shakti Singh's meeting during the battle of Haldighati and the Mughal-Mewar treaty made by Amar Singh is found.

14. Bikaner Ra Rathoda Ri Khyat

- ❑ A book written by Dayaldas Sindhachay, contains information about the Rathores of Jodhpur and Bikaner.
- ❑ Other books - "Aryakhyan Kalpadram" and "Gama Ri Patta Ri Vigat".

15. Suraj Prakash

- ❑ A book written by Karanidan Kaviya, in Dingal
- ❑ A description of 13 branches of Rathores is found.
- ❑ In this, the genealogy of Rathores starts from Kush. There is also a mention of the Battle of Sumel (1544) and Dharmat (1658).

16. Bankidas Ri Khyat

- ❑ A book written by Bankidas, in which information is available about Jodhpur Maharaja Man Singh.

17. Nehtaranga

- ❑ A book written by Bundi King Budh Singh.
- ❑ It is written in Braj language.

18. Gun Jodhaayan

- ❑ A book written by Gaadan Pasait in which Rao Jodha has been praised. Other books - Rao Rinmal Ro Rupak.

19. Rathore Ratan Singh Ki Veli

- ❑ A book written by Duda Visral which describes the war between Mughals and Jaitaran ruler Ratan Singh.

20. Hammir Raso

- ❑ A book written by poet Jodhraj which gives information about the genealogy of Ranthambore ruler Hammir Dev Chauhan.

21. Yashwant Yashobhushan

- ❑ A book in Sanskrit language written by poet Muraridan.
- ❑ Other books - Vansh Samuchchay and Dingal Kosh.

22. Ramraso

- ❑ A book of 1175 verses written by Madhudas Dadhwadia which describes the story of Rama.

23. Rajrupak

- ❑ A book written by Virbhan Ratnu which gives information about Jodhpur ruler Abhay Singh.
- ❑ Other texts - Ekaakshari Namamala and Bhagwat Prakash.

24. Ajitodaya

- ❑ Written by Jagjivan Bhatt.
- ❑ Language - Sanskrit.
- ❑ Information about historical events of Marwar is available.

25. Amarsar

- ❑ Written by Pandit Jeevdhar.
- ❑ Information about Amarsingh and Maharana Pratap is available.

26. Amirnama

- ❑ Written by Munshi Bhusavan Lal.
- ❑ Information about Nawab Amir Khan Pindari of Tonk is available.

27. Kyamkhan Raso

- ❑ Kavijaan (Niyamat Khan)
- ❑ Chauhans have been described as belonging to Vatsa gotra.
- ❑ **Note** - Vatsagotriya Brahmins are also mentioned in the Bijolia inscription.

28. Chhatrapati Raso

- ❑ Written by poet Kashi Changani.
- ❑ History of Bikaner.
- ❑ Mention of 'Matire ki Raad'.

29. Pratapraso

- ❑ Written by Jachak Jeevan.
- ❑ Information about the ruler of Alwar, Raoraja Pratap Singh is available.

30. Prabandh Chintamani

- ❑ Acharya Merutunga.
- ❑ Information about the ruling system of Prithviraj Chauhan is available.

31. Buddhivilas

- ❑ Written by Shah Bakhatram.
- ❑ Information about the construction of Jaipur city is available.

32. Mancharitra Raso

- ❑ Written by poet Narottam.
- ❑ Information about Maharaja Mansingh I is available.

33. Mundiyyar Ri Khyat

- ❑ Written by the bards of Mundiyyar village.
- ❑ Information about Marwar-Mughal relations is available.

34. Raj Prakash

- ❑ Written by Kishordas.
- ❑ Information about the Mewar dynasty is available.

35. Raj Ratnakar

- ❑ Written by Sadashiv.
- ❑ Gives information about Maharaja Rajsingh.

36. Rajvallabh

- ❑ Shilpi Mandan.
- ❑ Gives information about Bikaner ruler Rao Kalyanmal.

37. Rajvinod

- ❑ Sadashiv Bhatt.
- ❑ Gives information about Bikaner ruler Rao Kalyanmal.

38. Veer Vinod

- ❑ Shyamdas Dadhivadia (Shyamaldas).
- ❑ Gives information about the Mewar dynasty.

39. Hammirayan

- ❑ Bhandanu Vyas (Bhandu Vyas).
- ❑ Gives information about Hammir (Ranthambore).

40. Hammir Hath

- ❑ Written by Chandrashekhar.
- ❑ Information about Ranthambore's ruler Hammir is available.

41. Hammir Madmardan

- ❑ Written by Jaisingh Suri.

42. Books of Dursa Aadha

- ❑ Viruddh Chhathari, Kirtar Bavani, Jhoolana Rao Amarsingh Gajsingh Ghot Ri.

Modern writers

1. Shankardan Samore

- ❑ Born in Bobasar (Churu).
- ❑ Criticised the policies and practices of British rule.
- ❑ **Main works** - Sagati Sujas, Bhagirathi Mahima, Vakhatro Bayro Desh Darpan, Saket Sartak etc.

2. George Abraham Grierson

- ❑ An English Indian linguist
- ❑ Major works -
 1. Linguistic Survey of India in 1912.
 2. Modern Vernacular Literature of Northern India

3. Ikram Rajasthani - Related to Sikar Gharana

- ❑ Major works- Akshar Ke Ird-Gira, Sukoon, Dard Ke Rang, Is Sadi Ka Aakhri Panna, Ek Raha Hai Ek Rahega Apna Hindustan, Amar Hai Jinse Rajasthan, Khule Pankh.
- ❑ He translated the Holy Quran Sharif in Hindi and Rajasthani language which is known as Prakash Path.

4. Kanhaiyalal Sahal

- ❑ Resident of Nawalgarh (Jhunjhunu).
- ❑ Works- 'Chauboli' Harjas Bavni, Historical Legends of Rajasthan, Rajasthani proverbs.

5. Shrilal Nathmal Joshi

- ❑ Resident of Bikaner.
- ❑ Works - 'Aabhai Patki', 'Dhoran Ro Dhor', 'Ek Beenani Do Been', 'Sarnagar' Parnyodi Kanwari, Molaayadi Ladi, Bhadeti etc.

6. Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat

- ❑ Born in Devgarh Thikana of Udaipur, Rajasthani writer, former MP (1972-78). Rajya Sabha member and MLA Lakshmi Kumari Choodawat has been awarded Padma Shri in 1984 and Rajasthan Ratna in 2012. In 1978, she participated in the New York Disarmament Conference of the United Nations.

- ❑ **Major Works**

1. Devnarayan Bagdawat Ki Mahagatha.
2. From Purdah to People.
3. Kai Re Chakwa Vaat.
4. Majhli Raat
5. Shanti Ke Liye Sangharsh
6. Lenin Ri Jeevani
7. Moomal
8. Hindukush Ke Us Paar.

7. Chandraprakash Deval

- ❑ **Works** - Paagi, Kavadi, Marag, Topnama, Bolo Madhavi.

8. Shivchandra Bharatia

- ❑ He is called the 'Bharatendu Harishchandra' of modern Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Works** - Kesar Vilas (Drama) and Kanak Sundar.

9. Meghraj Mukul

- ❑ Born in Rajgarh (Churu), 'Kodmare', 'Aan Ri Baat', 'Durgavati', 'Chanwari' etc. are his major works. 'Sainani Ri Jagi Jot' and 'Kirtya' are collections of Mukul's published works. 'Umang' was his first book. Sainani is his famous poetic work in which he has described how his newly wedded wife Hadi Rani cut off her head and gave it to Chundawat Sardar of Mewar when he asked for a token.

10. Mani Madhukar

- ❑ Born in Rajgarh (Churu) (1942)
- ❑ Major works - 'Kaalo Ghodo', 'Narak Vado', 'Sojati Gate', 'Ambadas Ro Chitram', 'Pagphero' are his famous poems. 'Sudhi Sapnon Ke Teer', 'Rasgandharva', 'Khelapalempur' etc. are his other major works.

11. Satyaprakash Joshi

- ❑ 'Radha' and 'Bol Bharmali' are two special poetic works of Joshi. 'Deeva Kampai Kyu', 'Laskar Nathamai', 'Dhola Maru' and 'Oojali' are other famous works of Joshi.

12. Vijaydan Detha

- ❑ Born - Borunda (Jodhpur)
- ❑ Popularly known as Bijji Ram, his work Baaton Ri Phulwari has been published in 14 volumes. The 10th volume also received the Kendriya Sahitya Akademi Award. He edited Rajasthani research journals 'Parampara', 'Lokgeet', 'Gora Hat Ja', analysis of popular love stories of Rajasthan, 'Jaithvai Ra Sohtha' and jointly edited 'Vaani' and 'Lok Sanskriti' with Komal Kothari. He has also been awarded Bihari Award in 2002 and 'Padma Shri' in 2007. 'Maa Ro Badlo', 'Tidorao' are two major folk novels of Detha, in which a sharp satire on the social system based on folk tales has been made.
- ❑ The novel 'Maa Ro Badlo' is a strong attack on the distortions of the feudal system. 'Rookh', 'Uljan', 'Sapanpriya', 'Kenchuli', 'The Dilemma', Alekhood, Hitler are his other famous works. Films have been made on his works - Duvidha, Parinati and Charandas Chor. He was awarded 'Pratham Rajasthan Ratna' in 2012. Bijji was also the co-founder of 'Rupayan Sansthan' along with Komal Kothari.

13. Yadavendra Sharma 'Chandra'

- ❑ Rajasthani writer from Bikaner.
- ❑ His major works are - 'Hazaar Ghodon Par Sawar', 'Mitti Ka Kalank', 'Khamma Annadata', 'Chanda Sethan', 'Laaj Rakho Rani Sati', 'Taas Ro Ghar', 'Hoon Gori Kin Peewari', 'Jamaaro' etc. He has also been awarded the Meera Award.

14. Chandrasingh 'Birkali'

- ❑ He was born in Birkali (Hanumangarh)
- ❑ His important work 'Baadli' is the first modern Rajasthani poem. Other works are 'Loo', Saanjh, Seep, Valsad, Dilip, Chitrangada, Kaleje Ri Kor, Keh-Mukarni and Zafarnaamon.

15. Kanhaiyalal Sethia

- He was born in Sujangarh (Churu)
- His important work is 'Pthal aur Pithal' in which he has given a poignant portrayal of the situation of Maharana Pratap. 'Meenjhar', 'Leeltaas', 'Hemani', 'Maayad Ro Helo', 'Leek Likodo', 'Kaalo Road Ro' etc. are his other important works. 'Vanphool' was his first poetry collection. His Hindi language composition 'Nirgranth' has received the Murtidevi Sahitya Puraskar. After his death in 2008, he was honoured with 'Rajasthan Ratna'. He was honoured with 'Padma Shri' by the Government of India. He was honoured with the Rajasthani Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Leeltaas' and the highest Suryamall Meesan Shikhar Award by the Rajasthani Bhasha Sahitya and Sanskriti Academy, Bikaner for the Rajasthani poetry collection 'Sabad'. His popular and immortal creations are 'Dharti Dhoraan Ri', 'Are Ghas Ri Roti, Jad Ban Bilaavdon Le Bhagyo-----' etc. K.L. Sethia Foundation has started the Kanhaiyalal Sethia Award for poetry in the memory of Kanhaiyalal Sethia under which a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh is given.

16. Colonel James Todd

- He was born in Islington (England) in March 1782.
- He worked as a political agent from 1817 to 1822, resigned in 1822 due to health reasons, died in 1835.
- Colonel Todd wrote the first part of the book 'Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan (Central and Western Rajput States of India)' in 1829 and its second part was published in 1832. His second book 'Travel of Western India' was published after his death in 1839. In the first part of Annals, Todd has described the geographical location of Rajputana, the genealogy of Rajputs, the feudal system of that time and the history of Mewar and in the second part, we find the description of the states of Marwar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Amer and Hadoti. Todd has mentioned in his book 'Annals' that "There is not even a small state in Rajasthan which does not have a battlefield like Thermopylae and hardly any city can be found where a brave man like Leonides was not born. He made Jain ascetic Gyan Chand his Guru and gifted his work to him.

17. Dr. L. P. Tessitori

- He was born in Udine city (Italy) on 13 December 1887. Bikaner was his workplace. He received a doctorate degree in Ramcharita Manas.
- Impressed by his intelligence, linguist George Grierson called him to India for the work of historical survey of Rajputana under the Asiatic Society of Calcutta. Tessitori first came to India on 8 April 1914. Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner entrusted him with the task of surveying and collecting Charan literature, of which he prepared a detailed list and wrote a book titled 'Bardic and Historical Survey of Rajputana' and 'Grammar of the Old Western Rajasthani'. He is credited with editing the Dingal texts titled Veli Krishan Rukmani Ri and Rao Jaitasi Ro Chhand. He translated Indriya Parajay and Nashiket Ki Katha into Italian.

- Apart from literature, Dr. Tessitori did remarkable work in the field of Archaeology. He got the excavations done at places like Baropal, Rangmahal, Ratangarh and Suratgarh. He died on 22 November, 1919 in Bikaner itself.

18. Suryamall Meesan

- He was born in Harna village (Bundi), 1815. He was the pioneer of the renaissance of modern Rajasthani poetry. His father Chandidan was the court poet of Bundi King Maharao Ram Singh. After his father, Suryamall became famous as Ram Singh's court poet. He composed books named 'Vansh Bhaskar', 'Veer Satsai', 'Balwant Vilas', 'Chhand Mayukh', 'Sati Raso', 'Ramranjaat', 'Dhatu Rupavali' etc. As per the order of Maharao, he started writing 'Vansh Bhaskar' in 1840 AD, but after a rift with Maharao, he stopped writing it in 1856 AD. After this, his adopted son Muraridaan completed it.

19. Gauri Shankar Hirachand Ojha

- He was born in Rohida village (Sirohi). Mr. Ojha, a man of versatile talents, was called to Ajmer by the Resident of Rajasthan Erskine in 1908 and made the curator of Rajasthan Museum, where he worked for 30 years.
- The book Bhartiya Prachin Lipimala written by him is considered to be the best book. Apart from the history of Rajputana, he edited 'Muhnot Nainsi Ri Khyat'. Apart from this, he translated Colonel Todd's book Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan into Hindi. He is called the Gribbon of Rajasthan.

20. Munshi Devi Prasad

- He was born in 1847 in Jaipur state and had knowledge of Arabic and Hindi languages. He translated many Persian texts into Hindi, among which 'Baburnama', 'Humayunama', 'Jahangirnama', 'Alamgirnama', etc. are prominent. In Hindi language, he independently wrote 'Jaswant Singh ki Jivani' (Jodhpur), biographies of rulers of Udaipur and Jaipur. Swapna Rajasthan," written by him, provides a vivid portrayal of the modern Rajput rulers' character. He died in 1923.

21. Kaviraj Shyamaldas

- He was born in Chhaliwara village of Mewar in 1838 and died in 1893. He started writing the history of Udaipur on the advice of the then Maharana Shambhu Singh of Mewar. But Maharana Fateh Singh banned the circulation of this book.

22. Rangeya Raghava

- Rangeya Raghava (Terumallai Veera Raghava Acharya)- Born in 1923 in Agra.
- At the age of 18 he wrote a novel named 'Gharaunda', since then he became known as Rangeya Raghava.
- Major works - Kab Tak Pukaru, Murdon Ka Tila, Andhere Mein Jugnu, Vivaad Math, Tufanon Ke Beech, Pratidaan, Cheever etc.

23. Pt. Jhabarmall Sharma

- Born in Jasrapur (Khetri), he was a scholar of Sanskrit, Hindi, Rajasthani etc.
- He was the editor of the newspapers - Bharat, Gyanodaya, Calcutta Samachar, Hindu Sanchar-1981.
- He was awarded with Padma Bhushan.
- He is known as the Bishma Pitamah of Journalism.

First in literature

- Rajasthan's oldest work** - Bharateshwar Bahubali Ghor (written by Vajrasen Suri)
- Rajasthan's first play** - Kesar Vilas (written by Shiv Chandra Bharatia)
- Rajasthan's first story** - Vishrant Pravas (written by Shiv Chandra Bharatia)
- Rajasthan's first novel** - Kanak Sundar (Shiv Chandra Bharatia)
- Rajasthan's first vachnika** - Achaldas Khinchi's prose (Shiv Das Gadan)
- First Rajasthani novel of post-independence era** - Abhay Patki (Shri Lal Nathmal Joshi)
- Modern Rajasthani's first poetic work** - Badli (Chandra Singh Birkali)

Composition/Book

Author

Composition/Book	Author
1. Prithviraj Raso	Kavi Chandra Bardai
2. Khuman Raso	Dalpat Vijaya
3. Virood Chathari, Kirtar Bavani	Kavi Dursa Adha
4. Bikaner Ra Rathora ri Khyat	Dayaldas Sindhayach
5. Sangat Raso	Girdhar Aasiya
6. Hammir Raso	Jodhraj
7. Prithviraj Vijaya	Jayanak
8. Ajitodaya	Jagjivan Bhatt
9. Dhola Maru ra Duha	Kavi Kallol
10. Gajgunarupak	Keshavdas Gaadan
11. Suraj Prakasa	Kaviya Karnidan
12. Ekling Mahatmya	Kanha Vyas
13. Nainisi Ri Khyat, Marwar ra Pargana ri Vigat	Muhnot Nainisi
14. Padmavat	Malik Mohammad Jayasi
15. Vijayapal Raso	Nall Singh
16. Nagar Samucchaya	Bhakt Nagaridas
17. Hammir Mahakavya	Nayanchandra Suri
18. Bihari Satsai	Mahakavi Bihari
19. Velin Kisan Rukmini ri	Prithviraj Rathore
20. Kanhaddev Prabandh	Padmanabh
21. Rajrupak	Veerbhan
22. Kuvalayamala	Udyotan Suri
23. Brajnidhi Granthavali	Maharaja Pratap Singh
24. Hammir Hath, Surjan Charit	Kavi Chandrashekhar
25. Hammirayana	Bhandau Vyas

26. Veermayan	Baadar
27. Raghunath Rupak	Manccharam
28. Bisaldev Raso	Narpati Nalha
29. Ranmal Chhand	Sridhar Vyas
30. Achaldas Khinchi ri Vachnika	Shivdas Gaadan
31. Rao Jaitisi ro Chhand	Beeth Sujaji
32. Rukmini Haran, Nagdaman	Kavi Sayanji Jhula

Major Cultural Institutions of Rajasthan

Rajasthan Sahitya Academy, Udaipur

The Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi was established in Udaipur on January 28, 1958, with the aim of developing, promoting, and propagating literature in Rajasthan, as well as providing protection and support to litterateurs. The academy's primary activities include publishing books and magazines, publishing manuscripts, supporting literary institutions in their promotional endeavors, and honoring eminent litterateurs. The academy also confers several awards, with prominent ones being the 'Meera Award' and 'Devi Lal Samar Award'. Dr. Ramanand Tiwari was the first recipient of the Meera Award from the academy. The monthly magazine 'Madhumati,' published by the academy, has established its own unique identity.

Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Academy, Jodhpur

The Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi was established on September 6, 1957, with the aim of promoting Rajasthan's musicians and dramatic genres. Its primary activities include conducting dramas, folk dramas, classical singing, instrumental music, dance, and folk music. The academy's main objective is to generate greater interest in music within the state and to encourage talented musicians by providing them with financial assistance.

Lalit Kala Academy, Jaipur

The Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi was established in 1958 with the objective of encouraging and developing visual and craft arts in Rajasthan and to establish provincial cultural unity.

Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy, Jaipur:

The Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy was established in Jaipur on July 15, 1969, under the National Education Policy, 1968, with the objectives of creating university-level literature in Hindi and promoting the development and prosperity of the Hindi language.

Rajasthani Bhasha, Sahitya and Sanskriti Academy, Bikaner

The Rajasthan Rajasthani Akademi was established in Bikaner on January 25, 1983, with the aim of developing Rajasthani language and literature. The academy's primary objectives include promoting mutual cooperation among litterateurs and scholars for the development, promotion, and preservation of language, literature, and culture, as well as assisting in the

creation of high-quality books, journals, and funding surveys and indexing of institutions and individuals. The highest award bestowed by the academy is the 'Suryamall Misan Shikhar Award.' The academy publishes a magazine called 'Jaagti Jot.'

Rupayan Sansthan (Borunda), Jodhpur

The Rupayan Cultural and Educational Institute is actively engaged in the Borunda village of Jodhpur district. Established in 1960 by dedicated social workers and litterateurs of the village, this institution has undertaken the commendable task of systematically collecting Rajasthan's cultural heritage. Through its efforts, it has preserved cultural elements, folk tales, folk songs, folk instruments, folk talks, and other linguistic artifacts. Notable figures like 'Komal Kothari' and 'Vijaydan Detha' have made significant contributions to this institution.

West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur

The West Zone Cultural Centre was established in Udaipur in 1986 with the aim of reviving the vanishing folk arts. It is one of the seven centers established by the Government of India to provide more and more platforms to the artists of Rajasthan. For this, a Shilpgram has been established in Udaipur in which the folk art and culture of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman-Diu are preserved and promoted by connecting them. Its office is in the Haveli of Bagor.

Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, Udaipur

This institute was established in Udaipur in 1952 by Padma Shri Late Shri Devi Lal Samar. The institute aims to research, survey, train, and propagate folk arts, performing folk arts, and puppets. The institute boasts an internationally renowned folk culture museum and organizes the 'Bal Kathputli Samar' annually.

Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

The Jawahar Kala Kendra, a cultural complex dedicated to discovering, preserving, and promoting traditional and vanishing arts, was formally inaugurated on April 8, 1993, by President Shri Shankar Dayal Sharma. Designed by the renowned architect Charles Correa, the center boasts nine auditorium blocks, including an open-air stage, exhibition area, theater, library, cafeteria, and studio. The complex also features a Shilpgram, showcasing rural residential and lifestyle huts. The 'Muktakashi Manch' is a particularly renowned feature of the Jawahar Kala Kendra.

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Arabic-Persian Research Institute, Tonk

It was established in Tonk on December 4, 1978, and was renamed in 1987. The institute conducts historical and cultural research on Arabic and Persian languages, as well as oriental research, indexing, editing, publishing, and other literary activities. The institute's rare manuscript collection includes various forms of the Quran, such as the 'Alamgiri Quran Sharif' (written by Aurangzeb) and the 'Quran-Kamal' (by Shahjahan).

Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur

The Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy was established in Jaipur in 1980-1981 with the objectives of promoting, developing, and protecting Sanskrit literature in the state, as well as supporting Sanskrit litterateurs. Under the Veda Conservation Scheme, the academy's key activities include operating Veda schools in regional areas, organizing astrology training and ritual camps, publishing magazines, and honoring Sanskrit scholars. The academy publishes a magazine called Swar Mangala and annually confers the Magh Award.

Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner

The Rajasthan State Archives was established in 1955 and was later transferred from Jaipur to Bikaner in 1960. It is renowned as a "treasure trove of invaluable national records" and holds a prestigious position both nationally and internationally. The archives preserve records of former princely states of Rajasthan, as well as records of more than 25 years of significance.

Rajasthan Sindhi Academy, Jaipur

The Rajasthan Sindhi Academy was established in 1979 for the promotion, preservation, and development of Sindhi literature. An annual literary magazine called Rihaan is published by this Academy.

Rajasthan Urdu Academy, Jaipur

The Rajasthan Urdu Academy was established in 1979 to promote Urdu language and literary activities. Its activities are similar to the Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy.

Rajasthan Braj Bhasha Academy, Jaipur

It was established on 19 January 1986 in Jaipur. It publishes a quarterly magazine 'Brajshat Dal'. Its main objective is to propagate Braj language.

Rajasthan Music Institute, Jaipur

It was established in 1950 to enrich music education in the state. This institute has provisions for teaching classical singing, sitar, violin, tabla, guitar, and Kathak dance.

Rabindra Manch, Jaipur

The Rajasthan Cultural Institute was established on August 15, 1963, in Jaipur, with the aim of performing cultural programs. It is located in Ramniwas Bagh, Jaipur.

Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute, Jodhpur

The Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute was established in 1951 with the objective of collecting, surveying, editing, publishing, and preserving ancient and rare handwritten books that symbolize the state's culture, history, and oriental studies.

Jaipur Kathak Kendra

The Jaipur Kathak Kendra was established in 1978 to promote Kathak dance in Jaipur. Its aim was to revive and develop the ancient and classical style of the Jaipur Gharana of Kathak. Kathak Kendra provides traditional training in Kathak dance of the Jaipur Gharana and aims to foster interest in dance education among students and the general public.

Guru Nanak Sansthan, Jaipur

It was established in Jaipur on May 30, 1969. This institute works for the benefit of students by organizing various activities such as short-term training, free coaching, and camps during summer vacations.

Nagar Shri Lok Sanskriti Shodh Sansthan, Churu

This Institute was established in Churu on Ram Navami in 1964 by Shri Subodh Kumar Agarwal. It has become a living museum due to the photographs of various incidents related to the folk life of Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu, Nagaur, Bikaner districts.

The museum of the institute has a rare collection of ancient statues, coins, palm leaf copies, handwritten books, ancient articles-ledgers etc. which introduces various aspects of folk culture.

Apart from this, thousands of years old archaeological material obtained from the dunes of Kalibanga, Rangmahal, Karati, Pallu etc. during research tours is also preserved as heritage in the institute.

There are many account books written in Mudia script in the research department of Nagar Shri. Currently, the institute has taken up the work of publishing a book named 'Rajasthani Lok-Katha Kosh'. Apart from this, manuscripts of folk songs have also been prepared.

Rajasthan School of Art and Crafts, Jaipur

Madrassa-e-Hunri was established by Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh of Jaipur in 1857. In 1886, its name was changed to Maharaja School of Art and Crafts and now to Rajasthan School of Art Crafts.

Shri Ramcharan Oriental University and Museum - It was established in 1960.

Rajasthani Punjabi Language Academy, Sri Ganganagar - Established on 7 March 2006.

Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Promotion Authority, Jaipur - Established on 19 August 2006.



Samyak Current Affairs - June 2026 Test Paper

Total Question : 100

Maximam Marks : 200

1. In the State-level Sub-Junior Boys' and Girls' Boxing Championship, the number of correctly matched pairs showing the category and the winner is—
- | Category | Winner |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Best Boxer (Boys' Category) | - Yash Kumar, Bharatpur |
| 2. Best Challenger Boxer (Girls' Category) | - Priyanshi (Hanumangarh) |
| 3. Girls' Team | - Alwar (Winner) (Kota - Runner-up) |
| 4. Best Promising Boxer (Girls' Category)- | Priyanshi (Hanumangarh) |
- Code:
(a) Only one pair is correctly matched.
(b) Only two pairs are correctly matched.
(c) Only three pairs are correctly matched.
(d) All pairs are correctly matched.
2. In which district has the launch of the state's first 'Goat Bank' campaign recently been announced?
(a) Jaisalmer (b) Barmer
(c) Sikar (d) Alwar
3. Consider the following statement(s) regarding 'Umang-VII', which has recently been in the news, and identify the correct statement(s):
1. It is a special campaign against child labour in Rajasthan.
 2. This campaign will be conducted under the instructions of the Chief Secretary.
 3. This campaign will run from June 1 to June 30, 2026.
- Code:
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
4. On which date did Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal recently launch the 'Career Counseling Van' in Bikaner district?
(a) May 4, 2026 (b) May 24, 2026
(c) May 14, 2026 (d) May 1, 2026
5. With reference to the recently held Central Zonal Council meeting, the correct pair(s) is/are-
1. Date of event- May 23, 2026
 2. Venue- Bastar, Chhattisgarh
 3. Presided by- Shri Amit Shah
- Code:
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
6. The 15th Asian Senior Kurash Championship 2026 will be organized in-
(a) India (b) Türkiye
(c) Tajikistan (d) China
7. Identify the incorrect statement(s) regarding the 'Sarmat Missile'.
1. It is a missile manufactured by Russia.
 2. It is an intercontinental cruise missile.
 3. This missile is known as 'Nikola' in Western countries.
- Codes:
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3
8. For which book was the winner of the International Booker Prize 2026 awarded this prize?
(a) Taiwan Travelogue Incident
(b) Joyfully Travelogue
(c) Taiwan Travelogue
(d) Taiwan History

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RANK
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RANK
4

Ravindra Singh



RANK
5

Vikash Siyag



RANK
6

Aishwarya Kanwar



RANK
7

Dinesh



RANK
9

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RANK 2  VIRENDRA CHARAN	RANK 3  NAVNEET SHARMA	RANK 4  RAVINDRA SINGH	RANK 5  VIKASH SIYAG	RANK 6  AISHWARYA KANWAR	RANK 7  DINESH	RANK 9  BHOOPENDER SINGH			
RANK 12  KULDEEP SHARMA	RANK 13  KAILASH KUMAR	RANK 16  KAILASH RANWA	RANK 18  UMANG RAWAL	RANK 23  SAHDEV BIDADA	RANK 24  PARAMVEER SINGH	RANK 25  SWAROOP SINGH	RANK 26  AANCHAL NAGPAL	RANK 27  MAMTA LIMBA	RANK 28  ARIHANT JAIN
RANK 29  SIMRAN SHEKHAWAT	RANK 30  VINAY MOHAN	RANK 31  ANSHIKA AGARWAL	RANK 33  LOKENDRA SINGH	RANK 34  VIKAS CHOUDHARY	RANK 35  SANJU	RANK 36  KRISHANPAL SHEKHAWAT	RANK 43  JITENDRA	RANK 45  AMAR SINGH RATHORE	RANK 46  MANASVINI VERMA
RANK 48  TULSI	RANK 49  RAMAVTAR MUNDEL	RANK 50  DHARMRAJ SINGH RAO	RANK 52  BHOOMIKA TRIVEDI	RANK 55  RONAK	RANK 57  POONAM	RANK 58  SACHIN AGRAWAL	RANK 59  PARUL CHOUDHARY	RANK 61  KAMLESH KR SHARMA	RANK 65  ARIMARDAN CHAUHAN
RANK 66  UNNAT KISHOR RAJORA	RANK 70  KRITIKA GAUR	RANK 71  URMILA VISHNOI	RANK 73  JAYESH PRAJAPAT	RANK 74  MAHENDRA DAN	RANK 76  SIDDHARTH DHAKAD	RANK 77  JYOTSANA RANAWAT	RANK 78  CHOUDHARY MADHU ROORPARAM	RANK 79  NITESH GUPTA	RANK 80  VIKASH BISHNOI
RANK 82  DAMODAR PAREEK	RANK 83  KAILASH KUMAR	RANK 84  SHYAM SUNDER MEENA	RANK 85  MOHIT GODARA	RANK 86  NARASI RAM BISHNOI	RANK 87  RAM RATAN BATESAR	RANK 88  MAHENDRA CHOUDHARY	RANK 99  GHAMANDA RAM	RANK 100  VANDANA PATEL	+069...