



Nuclear Power Plant in Banswara | Rajasthan | 20 Sep 2025

Why in News?

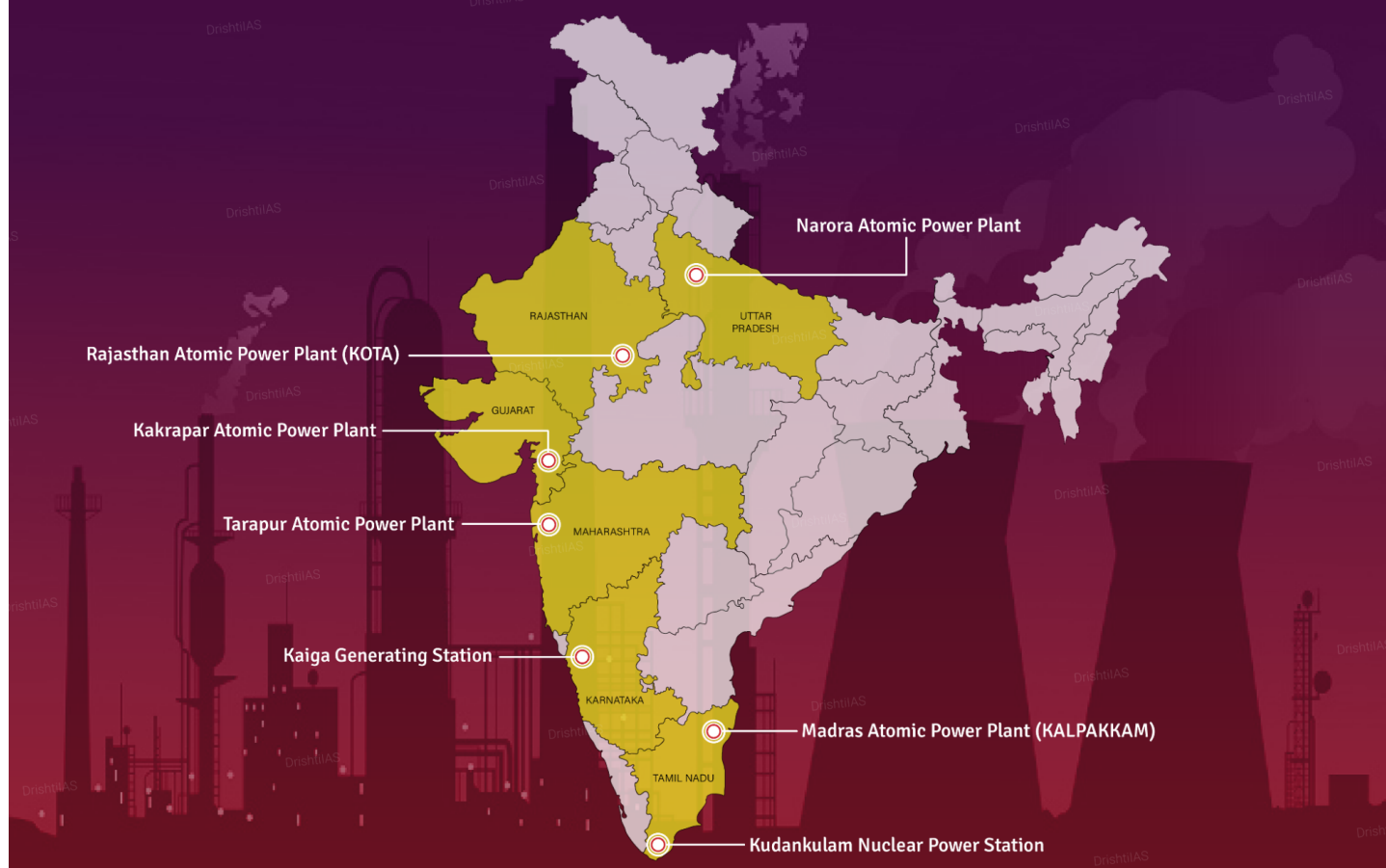
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the **Mahi-Banswara Nuclear Power Plant** in Rajasthan on 25th September 2025, boosting the state's [energy sector](#).

- The Prime Minister's visit will also see the inauguration of **several other projects** worth over Rs 1.21 lakh crore.

Key Points

- **About:** The proposed nuclear power plant, set to be built on a 1,366-acre site, will have an **installed capacity of 2,800 MW**, with an expected completion by **2036**.
 - The project, valued at around Rs 50,000 crore, will feature four indigenous 700 MWe pressurized **heavy water reactors (PHWRs)** and is part of India's broader efforts to expand nuclear power capacity.
- **Current Status:** India currently operates **15 PHWRs of 220 MWe, 2 PHWRs of 540 MWe, and a 700 MWe reactor at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan**.
 - **PHWRs** are a type of **nuclear reactor** that uses **heavy water (deuterium oxide, D₂O)** as **both a coolant and moderator**, while **natural or slightly enriched uranium** serves as **fuel**.
- **Regulator:** The [Atomic Energy Regulatory Board \(AERB\)](#) is India's national regulatory authority responsible for ensuring the **safe use of nuclear energy** and radiation technologies in the country.
 - Established in **1983** under the [Atomic Energy Act, 1962](#), AERB functions as an **independent body** under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- **Total Capacity:** India's **nuclear power capacity** is currently **8.18 GW (2024)**, with targets set at **22.48 GW by 2031-32** and **100 GW by 2047**.

Operational Nuclear Power Plants in India



FACTS

- Presently, India has 22 nuclear power reactors operating in 6 states, with an installed capacity of 6780 MegaWatt electric (MWe).
- Activities concerning the establishment and utilization of nuclear facilities and use of radioactive sources are carried out in India in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulates nuclear & radiation facilities and activities.
- **Newest & Largest Nuclear Power Plant:** Kudankulam Power Plant, Tamil Nadu.
- **First & Oldest Nuclear Power Plant:** Tarapur Power Plant, Maharashtra.



Rajasthan's 1st Transgender Lawyer | Rajasthan | 20 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Raveena Singh has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the **first transgender lawyer** to register as a woman with the [Bar Council](#) of Rajasthan.



Key Points

- **About:** Raveena Singh, born Ravindra Singh in a conservative family in Rajasthan's Pali district, **defied societal norms** and familial expectations to embrace her true gender identity.
- Her achievement not only marked a personal victory but also **set a precedent** for the inclusion of transgender individuals in professional spaces.
- **Legal Initiatives:** Raveena also filed a [writ petition](#) at the Rajasthan High Court to further the cause of transgender rights, pushing for comprehensive recognition and representation of transgender people in educational and employment systems.

Transgender Persons

- **About:** According to [Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Act, 2019](#), a transgender person is someone whose gender identity does not align with the gender assigned at birth.
- **Population:** In India, the total population of transgender is around **4.88 Lakh as per the Census 2011**.
 - The top 3 states with the largest transgender population are **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
 - It includes trans-person with intersex variations, gender-queer, and people having such socio-cultural identities as kinnar, hijra, aaravani, and jogta.
- **Part of LGBTQIA+:** Transgender individuals are part of the [LGBTQIA+](#) community, represented by the "T" in the acronym.
 - [LGBTQIA+](#) is an acronym that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual.
 - The "+" represents the many other identities that are still being explored and understood.
 - The acronym is constantly evolving and may include other terms like non-binary and pansexual.

▪ Key Milestones in Transgender Rights Reforms:

- **Election Commission's Directive (2009):** The registration forms were updated to include an "others" option, enabling transgender individuals to avoid male or female identification.
- **Supreme Court Ruling (2014):** In the [National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of India case, 2014](#), the Supreme Court recognized transgender people as the "Third Gender," framing it as a human rights issue.
- **Legislative Efforts (2019):** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, was enacted to safeguard the rights of transgender individuals.

Rajeshwar Singh Appointed as SEC of Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 20 Sep 2025

Why in News?

On 17th September 2025, Rajasthan [Governor Haribhau Bagde](#) appointed **Rajeshwar Singh** as the new [Chief State Election Commissioner \(SEC\)](#) of Rajasthan, succeeding Madhukar Gupta.

- Rajeshwar Singh, a **retired IAS officer** with a distinguished 35-year career, will now oversee the State Election Commission's role in **ensuring free and fair panchayat** and municipal elections, leveraging his extensive experience in governance and election management.

Key Points About State Election Commission

- **About:** The State Election Commission (SEC) of Rajasthan was constituted in **July 1994 under Article 243K** of the Constitution of India.
 - The [73rd and 74th constitutional amendments](#) act of 1992, along with Articles **243K and 243ZA**, mandate the creation of **State Election Commissions (SECs)** to oversee the conduct of elections for Panchayats and local urban bodies in each state and union territory.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - **Electoral Rolls:** Preparing and maintaining updated electoral rolls.
 - **Conducting Elections:** Holding free and fair elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal bodies.
 - **Supervision:** Ensuring the transparency and fairness of elections to local bodies across Rajasthan.
- **Role of SEC:** The State Election Commissioner (SEC) is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting elections under the direct superintendence, direction, and control of the SEC, ensuring a **free and fair election process** at the local level.
- **Obligation:** State governments are required by law to provide **necessary funds, staff, and assistance** to the SECs for the effective conduct of elections, as requested by the SEC.
- **Appointment:** The State Election Commissioner is **appointed by the Governor** of the state. The conditions of service and tenure are determined by the Governor, and the position is held with autonomy and authority.
- **Powers:** Under Article 243K(1), the SEC has the **exclusive responsibility** for the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections for Panchayats (and Municipalities under Article 243ZA).
- **Tenure:** Article 243K(2) ensures that the **tenure and appointment process** of the State Election Commissioner is governed by laws made by the **state legislature**, providing a clear legal framework for the role.
- **Removal:** The State Election Commissioner holds the same status, salary, and allowances as a

High Court judge. They can only be removed from office following the same procedure and grounds as a judge of the High Court, ensuring their independence and security of tenure.

▪ **History of Elections in Rajasthan:**

- **First Election:** The **first Panchayat election** in Rajasthan was conducted by the Panchayat Department in **1960**, followed by the first Municipal elections in 1963, which were organized by the Election Department.
- **SEC's Role:** The SEC assumed responsibility for conducting PRI elections from the 6th general election in 1995 and has been organizing general elections for Municipal bodies since 1994.

▪ **Structure of Panchayati Raj:** Rajasthan follows a **three-tier** Panchayati Raj system consisting of:

- **Zila Parishads (District level):** 33 Zila Parishads, with 1014 constituencies.
- **Panchayat Samities (Block level):** 352 Panchayat Samities, with 6995 constituencies.
- **Panchayats (Village level):** 11,307 Panchayats, with 108,924 wards.

▪ **Structure of Municipal Elections:** Urban local bodies in Rajasthan consist of Municipalities, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations.

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