



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

**APRIL
2024**

Drishti, 641, First Floor, Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar, Delhi-110009

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: www.drishtias.com

Email: help@groupdrishti.in

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Rajasthan Diwas 2024

Why in News?

Rajasthan Diwas is observed annually on 30th March to celebrate the foundation day of the state, marking the day it officially became a part of the federal entity.

Key Points

- It is the **largest state in terms of area**. Rajasthan has a long history that dates back to prehistoric times. Its culture was similar to the **Indus Valley civilization**, dating back to between 3,000 and 1,000 BC.
- The **Chauhans** became an imperial power by the 12th century, having dominated Rajput affairs since the 7th century. Following the Chauhans, the Mewar Guhilots ruled over the fate of the warring tribes.
- The present day Rajasthan came into being in following 7 phases:
 - **Matsya Union:** The division of India was manifested by communal agitation on a great scale that overwhelmed the nation. **Bharatpur and Alwar** were also not secured from these riots.
 - On **17th March 1948**, the Indian Government took over the supervision of these states as the rulers failed to uphold peace. Neighbouring regions to these states were **Karauli and Dholpur**. On Government advice, **all four states agreed to come together to form the Matsya Union**.
 - **Rajasthan Union:** On 25th March 1948, ten more states namely **Kushalgarh, Banswara, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Tonk, Shahpura, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur and Kishangarh of southern and South-eastern Rajputana** joined together to structure another union that is named East Rajasthan.
 - **United States of Rajasthan:** Subsequently, the **Udaipur state (Mewar)** also got united in the Rajasthan union on **18th April 1948**. The name was then changed to United Rajasthan. Therefore 15 states of Rajasthan created their own association.
 - **Greater Rajasthan:** On **30th March 1949**, the four states viz. Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer joined this integration and the region came to be known as Greater Rajasthan. The principalities of Neemra and Lawa also joined this. March 30th is now celebrated as Rajasthan day.

- **United States of Greater Rajasthan:** On 15th May 1949, the Matsya Union was amalgamated into Greater Rajasthan and thereafter the confederation was named the United state of Greater Rajasthan.
- **United Rajasthan:** The only state, Sirohi, had not joined the federation so far. Sirohi state joined the federation on **26th January 1950**.
- **Re-organized Rajasthan:** Ajmer-Merwara region was for a long period of time under unswerving British rule and it was fused with Rajasthan on **1st November 1956** on the proposal of the statement of the State Reorganization Commission. Madhya Pradesh's Bhanpura Tehsil and Gujarat's Abu Tehsil were also merged with Rajasthan at that time.

Rajasthan RSS Group Issues CAA Eligibility Certificates

Why in News?

In Rajasthan, a **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**-affiliated group has been organising camps and issuing "eligibility certificates" to members of the Hindu community from Pakistan to help them apply for citizenship under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA)**.

Key Points

- The group, **Seemajan Kalyan Samiti**, which operates in the areas along the Pakistan border, has helped around 330 people from Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan upload their documents on the **citizenship portal launched by the Home Ministry**.
- The CAA grants citizenship to members of **six "persecuted" non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh**.
- The certificate, a mandatory document to be issued by a **"locally reputed community institution"**, is to be enclosed with an affidavit and uploaded on the CAA portal along with other documents.
- It is to be noted that since the Pakistani Hindus entered India legally, on pilgrim or tourist visas, they were eligible for citizenship under **Section 5 and Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- The CAA also intends to benefit the **Matuas, a Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal** who came from Bangladesh during and after the **1971 war**.

Note:



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Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019**➤ About:**

- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (**Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the **Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920**.
 - The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

➤ Rules:

- The application process for citizenship under CAA has been made under **Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955**. Applicants need to prove their country of origin, religion, date of entry into India, and knowledge of an Indian language to qualify for Indian citizenship.
- **Proof of Country of Origin:** Relaxed requirements allow various documents, including birth or educational certificates, identity documents, licenses, land records, or any document proving previous citizenship of the mentioned countries.
- **Date of Entry into India:** Applicants can provide 20 different documents as proof of entry into India, including visas, residential permits, census slips, driving licenses, Aadhaar cards, ration cards, government or court letters, birth certificates, and more.

Matua Community

- Originally from **East Pakistan**, the Matuas **migrated to India during Partition and after the creation of Bangladesh**. However, a sizable number are yet to get Indian citizenship.
- Matua Mahasangha is a religious reformation movement that originated, around 1860 AD, by Harichand Thakur, at Gopalganj in the Faridpur province of present-day Bangladesh for the upliftment of the oppressed.
 - He preached love, tolerance, gender equality and non-distinction irrespective of caste, class and creed.
- In the beginning Matua-mahasangha followed simplified rituals, but **later adopted Vaishnavism**.

Gagan Shakti-2024**Why in News?**

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to commence a '**Gagan Shakti-2024**', 10-day exercise to test its capabilities and preparedness for high-intensity operations.

Key Points

- IAF showcases its might and capability during the exercise "in a realistic environment" **from April 1-10, 2024**, involving all air force bases and assets scattered across the country.
 - 'Gagan Shakti' was **last held in 2018** when the IAF clocked more than 11,000 sorties during the two-phase air manoeuvre that saw the concentration of the force's deployed assets move from the western sector to the eastern front in less than 48 hours.
 - It sought to test the IAF's readiness for a two-front war with China and Pakistan.
- The latest drills follow the **Vayu Shakti-2024 exercise**, conducted at the **Pokhran air-to-ground range near Jaisalmer**, where the IAF deployed its frontline assets, including the **Rafale fighter jets**, **Mirage-2000s**, **Sukhoi-30 MKIs**, **Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA)**, **Jaguars**, **Chinook heavy-lift helicopters**, **Apache attack helicopters**, **unmanned aerial vehicles** and **surface-to-air missile systems**.
 - This year's Vayu Shakti was followed by the **tri-services Bharat Shakti exercise**. The integrated tri-services 'live fire and manoeuvre' exercise displayed how the **Indian military plans to leverage its indigenous capabilities for dominating the battlefield** and crushing any threat to national security.
 - The exercise featured several weapons and systems, including **Tejas LCA Mk-1**, the **light combat helicopter Prachand**, armed advanced light helicopters, **T-90 tanks**, **BMP-II infantry combat vehicles**, drone launched precision guided munitions, a variety of **unmanned aerial vehicles**, **rockets**, air defence weapons, and artillery guns such as the **Dhanush**, **Sharang** and **K9 Vajra**.
- The IAF will host 'Tarang Shakti', a mega exercise that is expected to **bring together 12 global air forces**, with a focus on **improving interoperability, imbibing best practices from one another and boosting military cooperation** among the participating countries.

Note:



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- It will be the **biggest multi-nation air exercise** to be conducted **on Indian soil**.
- It will involve **fighter jets, transport aircraft, helicopters, mid-air refuellers, airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, and unmanned systems**.

Rajasthan Government Urged to Boost Destination Wedding Industry

Why in News?

According to the sources, the **tourism industry in Rajasthan** is looking to intensify efforts to **grow the destination wedding market**.

- Executives from the tourism industry said although Rajasthan hosts several royal weddings every year, the involvement of the tourism department seems to be lacking.

Key Points

- According to the **Rajasthan Tourism Department**, the state witnessed a remarkable increase in domestic tourism, with over **17.90 crore tourists** visiting the desert state in 2023.
 - In 2023, Rajasthan welcomed nearly **18 crore domestic and 17 lakh foreign tourists**, a significant increase from the figures in 2020, which were **1.51 crore domestic and 4.46 lakh foreign tourists**.
 - The numbers also saw a rise from **2.19 crore domestic and 34,806 foreign tourists in 2021 to 10.83 crore domestic and 39,684 foreign tourists in 2022**.
- Rajasthan has been a pioneer in evolving unique tourism products, be it the launch of the **Palace on Wheels luxury train in 1982** or creation of the festival experience like **Pushkar Fair** or adaptive reuse of **heritage properties as tourist destinations**.
- The **State granted the tourism sector the status of industry in 1989** and has since extended many fiscal incentives for the sector, beginning with the capital investment subsidy in 1993.

Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2020

- Vision
 - To reposition Rajasthan as a preferred **tourism destination for both domestic and international tourists** by offering tourists a high quality experience.
 - **Through responsible and sustainable policies** ensuring conservation of **natural, historical and cultural heritage of the State** while simultaneously accelerating socio-economic development by improving livelihood opportunities for the local population.
- Objectives
 - Promote Rajasthan as a **leading tourism brand** in national and international markets.
 - Strengthen and diversify existing tourism products.
 - Provide **innovative tourism products and services** with focus on lesser known destinations especially in rural areas.
 - Improve the **connectivity of tourist destinations** through road, rail and air.
 - Expand tourist **accommodation infrastructure**.
 - Broad based **promotion and marketing of tourism products**.
 - Facilitate tourism specific skill development to create gainful self-employment.
 - Create suitable mechanisms to promote **effective interdepartmental coordination**.
 - Take steps to **encourage private sector investment** in the State.
 - To provide a safe and **secure environment for tourists** and in particular women travellers and also **improve tourist grievance redressal systems**.
 - To empower the department with suitable administrative structure for extending approvals for establishment of tourism units.
 - Market research and developing statistics grid development framework for better policy making and forecasting.

Solar Energy Project in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, **UltraTech Cement Ltd** announced the completion of a **100-megawatt (MW) solar energy** project under the **Group Captive Scheme** in Rajasthan.

Note:



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- This is the company's first project to source power for its captive consumption from the inter-state transmission network.

Key Points

- Power from this project will be available to the company's units in **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha among others.**
 - The company now has a capacity of 612 MW of renewable power and 278 MW of **Waste Heat Recovery System (WHRS).**
 - WHRSs are revolutionary **energy-saving power generation systems** that **recover and reuse energy** from the main engine's exhaust gas.
- UltraTech Cement has committed to increasing its **green power mix to 85% by 2030**, and the project reaffirms its dedication to innovation, sustainability, and the pursuit of a brighter, cleaner future for all.

The Group Captive Scheme

- It is a **Power purchase mechanism** which involves individuals or groups establishing a power plant to buy electricity specifically for their own use.
- These captive users **must collectively own a minimum of 26%** of the power plant and **consume a minimum of 51%** of the generated electricity annually, based on their proportional ownership shares, with a **variation not exceeding 10%.**

Solar Waste Management

Why in News?

Recently, a report titled '**Enabling a Circular Economy in India's Solar Industry – Assessing the Solar Waste Quantum**' shed light on India's escalating **solar waste** crisis.

Key Points

- The study was conducted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** in collaboration with experts from the **Council on Energy, Environment and Water** (a leading not-for-profit policy research institution in Asia).
- **Key Highlights** of the Report are:
 - The current solar capacity of India, as of FY23, has generated about **100 kilotonnes (kt)** of cumulative waste, which will increase to 340 kt by 2030.

- Around 67% of the projected waste by 2030 is expected to be produced by five states: **Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- Discarded solar modules contain **critical minerals** essential for India's economic development and national security, including silicon, copper, tellurium, and cadmium.
- Rajasthan has the **highest solar power generation potential** of all states in the country.
 - As of August 2023, **Rajasthan's operational solar power projects** produced roughly **17.8 GW** of solar energy.

Solar Waste

- It is any waste generated during the **manufacturing of solar modules, or discarded modules and scrap** from manufacturing processes.
 - Modules are discarded at the end of their functional life or due to damages from transportation, handling, and installation.
 - Improper handling and landfilling of solar waste should be avoided. Proper treatment is necessary to **reclaim valuable minerals and prevent the leaching** of toxic materials like lead and cadmium.
- According to the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**, approximately **80% of solar panel components, including glass and metal frames, are recyclable.**
 - Solar waste can be recycled to recover materials like glass, aluminium, copper, silicon and silver.
 - Recycling can be broadly categorised into **mechanical, thermal and chemical processes.**
 - Each process helps in the recovery of specific minerals of varying purity grades.

3.7 Magnitude of Earthquake in Rajasthan

Why in News?

According to the **National Center for Seismology**, an **Earthquake** of magnitude 3.7 shook Pali, Rajasthan, recently.

Key Points

- An earthquake in simple words is the **shaking of the earth.** It is a natural event. It is caused due to release of energy, which generates waves that travel in all directions.

Note:

- The vibrations called **seismic waves** are generated from earthquakes that travel through the Earth and are recorded on instruments called seismographs.
- **Types of Earthquakes:** Fault Zones, Tectonic Earthquakes, Volcanic Earthquake, Human Induced Earthquakes.
- Earthquake in India:
- India is one of the highly earthquake affected countries because of the presence of technically active young fold mountains - Himalaya.
- India has been divided into **four seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)** based on scientific inputs relating to seismicity, earthquakes that occurred in the past and tectonic setup of the region.

Right Against Adverse Effects of Climate Change Part of Rights to Life, and Equality: SC

Why in News?

In a significant ruling, the **Supreme Court (SC)** has expanded the scope of **Articles 14 and 21** to include the “right against the adverse effects of climate change”.

Key Points

- The bench was hearing a plea to protect the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** from losing its habitat due to power transmission lines.
 - The April 2021 order of the SC imposed restrictions on setting up of overhead transmission lines in certain areas of Rajasthan for conservation of GIB.
- **Article 21** recognises the right to life and personal liberty while **Article 14** indicates that all persons shall have **equality before law and the equal protection of laws**.
 - These Articles are **important sources of the right to a clean environment** and the right against the adverse effects of climate change.
- Despite governmental policy and rules and regulations recognising the adverse effects of **climate change** and seeking to combat it, there is no single or umbrella legislation in India which relates to climate change and the attendant concerns.
- Important SC Judgements of Constitutionalising Environmental Problems:

- **MC Mehta v. Kamal Nath, 1996:** The Supreme Court made it clear that any disturbance of basic environmental elements namely air, water and soil which are necessary for life would be hazardous to life and can't be polluted.
- **Virendra Gaur vs State Haryana (1995):** The Supreme Court emphasized that Article 21 protects the right to life, extending it to sanitation for the enjoyment of life with dignity.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

- The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), the State bird of Rajasthan, is **considered India's most critically endangered bird**.
- It is **considered the flagship grassland species**, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its **population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat**. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
 - The bird is **under constant threats due to** collision/electrocution with power transmission lines, hunting (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.
- Protection Status:
 - **IUCN red List:** Critically Endangered
 - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Appendix 1
 - **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Appendix I
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Constitutional Provisions Related to Environment

- **Article 48A** of the Constitution provides that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Clause (g) of Article 51A** stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures.

Note:

EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves in all directions**

HYPOCENTER

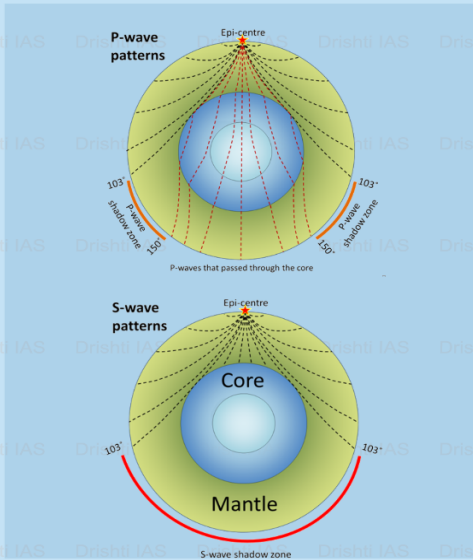
- Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

EPICENTER

- Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

- Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane



CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Release of energy along a **Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- Movement of **tectonic plates (most common)**
- Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

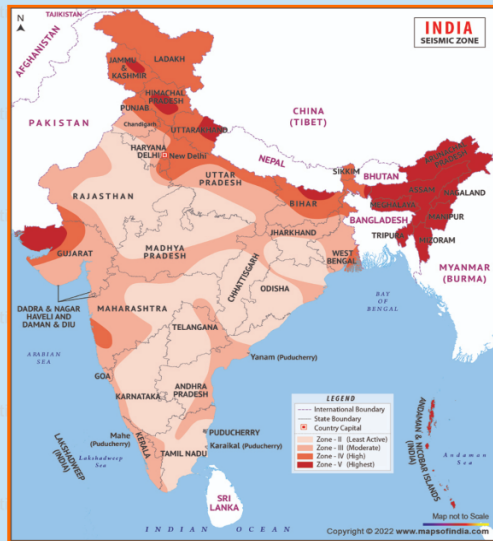
- India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- India has been divided into **4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)**

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

- Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- Alpine Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater



DRDO Conducted Weapon System Trials

Why in News?

The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has reached a significant milestone by conducting successful trials of the **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**.

- MPATGM which has a **range of 2.5 kilometers**, with **fire-and-forget** and top attack capabilities for infantry use.

Key Points

- The tests, conducted at the **Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR)** in Rajasthan, showcased the impressive performance of the MPATGM in front of the user team.
- Created and produced in India by DRDO, the MPATGM Weapon System includes the MPATGM, Man Portable Launcher, **Target Acquisition System (TAS)**, and **Fire Control Unit (FCU)**.
- The testing has proven that the system can function within the full operational specifications outlined by the Indian Army's **General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR)**.
 - The completion of penetration trials for the **Tandem Warhead System of the MPATGM** demonstrates its ability to defeat modern armor-protected Main Battle Tanks.
 - With day/night and top attack capabilities, this **Anti-Tank Guided Missile system** features a dual-mode seeker for increased effectiveness in tank warfare situations.
- The successful trials were a crucial stride towards realizing the vision of **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** (self-reliant India).

Defence Research & Development Organisation

- It is the **Research & Development wing of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India**, with a vision to **empower India with cutting-edge defence technologies**.
- It was **established in 1958** after combining the Technical Development Establishment (TDEs) of the Indian Army and the Directorate of Technical Development & Production (DTDP) with the Defence Science Organisation (DSO).

Article 371

Why in News?

Recently, the President of one of India's national parties mentioned **Article 371** at a public rally in **Rajasthan** causing a controversy.

Key Points

- **Article 371**, under **part XXI of the Indian Constitution**, grants some temporary, transitional and special powers for certain States.
 - It has been part of the Constitution since **26 January, 1950**.
 - However, **Articles 371(A-J)** was brought in via **amendments through Article 368**.
- There are **12 other States that enjoy special powers under Article 371** of the Constitution. **These include** Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Karnataka.
 - The Centre has also suggested that it is considering the extension of Article 371-like protection to Ladakh.
 - Special provisions under this article range from protection to ownership of land to establishment of development boards.
- **Article 371** grants special responsibility to the Governor of Maharashtra and Gujarat for the establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada, Saurashtra, and Kutch, and for ensuring equitable allocation of funds and opportunities for these regions.
- **Article 371A** grants special status to Nagaland, and provides that the Parliament cannot legislate on matters relating to the Naga religion, social practices, customary law, land rights, and civil and criminal justice, without the consent of the state assembly.
- **Article 371B** deals with Assam, and was brought in 1969. It allows the President to deal with the Constitution and functioning of a committee of the Legislative Assembly comprising members elected from the tribal.
- **Article 371C** applies to Manipur and was inserted into the Constitution in 1972. It provides for the constitution of a committee of legislators from the Hill Areas of Manipur.

Note:



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- It gives the Governor a special responsibility to make an annual report to the President on the administration of the Hill Areas.
- **Articles 371 D and E** includes special provisions for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
 - The President can pass an order to provide equitable opportunities and facilities to people belonging to different parts of Andhra Pradesh in public employment and education.
- **Article 371F** grants special status to Sikkim, and provides that the existing laws, customs, and rights of the Sikkimese people shall be respected and preserved by the Parliament.
- **Article 371G** applies to Mizoram. It includes special provisions to preserve the religious and social practices, customary law, and procedure of Mizos in Mizoram, as well as for the administration of criminal and civil justice, besides ownership and transfer of land.
- **Article 371H** confers a special responsibility on the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh concerning law and order.
- **Article 371I** relates to Goa. It requires the Legislative Assembly of Goa to consist of not less than 30 members.
- **Article 371J** accords special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region (Kalyana Karnataka), and provides for the establishment of a separate development board for the area.

Rajasthan's Mines Department Plans to Increase Revenue in FY25

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan Department of Mines & Geology** has developed a strategy to increase revenue during the current financial year (FY25).

Key Points

- Rajasthan is one of the richest states in terms of availability and variety of minerals, producing over 57 types of minerals.
 - The mines department earned a revenue of over Rs 7,490 crore during FY2024.
- A plan has been made to ensure daily monitoring by preparing a **road map for exploration, drilling, preparing blocks and plots for auction**, creating an auction calendar, and revenue collection.

- According to the plan, **better coordination with the concerned departments** including forest, district administration, and police administration would be strengthened to stop **illegal mining activities**.
- There should be a regular system for collecting the revenue due to the government so that there is no need to make much effort for recovery at the last moment.

Illegal Mining

- Illegal mining is the extraction of minerals, ores, or other valuable resources from land or water bodies **without the necessary permits, licenses, or regulatory approvals** from government authorities.
- It can also involve the violation of environmental, labor, and safety standards.
- Government Initiatives Related to Mining
- **National Mineral Policy 2019**: It aims to **increase mineral exploration and production, promote sustainable** mining practices, and streamline regulatory processes.
- **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)**: It is a welfare scheme for mining-affected areas, and the **Sagarmala project**, which aims to develop port infrastructure to support the growth of the mining sector.

Bhiwadi To Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

Why in News?

Recently, realtors body **Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI)** has urged the Rajasthan Government to **facilitate the linkage of Bhiwadi**, an emerging industrial and residential hub, to the **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway**.

Key Points

- **CREDAI NCR Bhiwadi Neemrana** requested this to not only **stimulate economic growth** but also facilitate **smoother movement of goods and people**, thereby **fostering regional development and prosperity**.
 - It is one of the Chapters of CREDAI NCR representing developers of **Bhiwadi, Dharuhera, and Neemrana**.
- They also suggested exploring the possibility of developing a road along the **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** with an interchange at the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Note:

Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI)

- CREDAI is the **apex organisation representing** more than **11,940 real estate developers** spread across 23 states and 170 city chapters.
- Since its **inception in the year 1999**, CREDAI has worked consistently to improve the standards of **fairness, transparency and ethical behavior in the real estate sector**.

Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)

- It is a **high speed and high capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight**, or in other words, goods and commodities.
- DFC involves the **seamless integration of better infrastructure** and state of the art technology.
- **DFC consists of two arms:**
 - **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC):**
 - It starts at **Sahnewal (Ludhiana) in Punjab** and ends at **Dankuni in West Bengal**.
 - The EDFC route has **coal mines, thermal power plants and industrial cities**. Feeder routes are also being made for these.
 - The EDFC route covers Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal
 - The **World Bank is funding** a majority of the EDFC.
 - The **351-km-long 'New Bhaupur-New Khurja section'** will decongest the existing Kanpur-Delhi main line and double the speed of freight trains from 25 kmph to 75 kmph.
 - **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC):**
 - The other arm is the around **1,500-km WDFC from Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai**, touching all **major ports** along the way.
 - The WDFC covers Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
 - It is **being funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency**.

Boost for Artisans in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is planning to implement

an '**integrated cluster development scheme**', which will help boost the productivity and quality of handicrafts, handlooms, and **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sectors.

- A draft had already been prepared and suggestions were being sought from stakeholders.

Key Points

- **Cluster development schemes** are being run by various central government ministries such as MSME, textiles, food processing, information and technology, and commerce and industry to support MSMEs.
- According to the draft policy, there are **four main components of the scheme:**
 - The key component includes **support for artisans, craftsmen, and weavers** for undertaking soft interventions for capacity building, operation of the raw material bank for easy availability of resources, and market development through e-commerce platforms.
 - The other is support for MSME clusters for establishing **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)** with assistance from the state government for projects of up to Rs 5 crore.
 - Another component notes infrastructure development for existing clusters in **non-Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)** industrial areas and for greenfield clusters in non-RIICO industrial areas.
- The draft policy says that for implementation of the cluster development project related to artisans, craftsmen and weavers, a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** will be constituted as a partnership firm and/or a trust or society or co-operative society or company or producer company etc. with at least ten artisans, craftsmen and/or weavers, having registered artisan ID card. Artisans, craftsmen, and weavers practicing their trade in Rajasthan will be eligible to be part of the SPV.

Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO)

- It is a premier agency of the Government of Rajasthan that has played an important role in the industrial development of Rajasthan, it was **formed in 1980**.
- A Government enterprise established under **Companies Act, 1956** on 28th March 1969 as Rajasthan State Industrial & Mineral Development Corporation (RSIMDC) was divided into two entities on 1st January 1980:

Note:



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- Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (**RIICO**)
- Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation (**RSMDC**)

Deemed Forest Status

Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court asked the state to highlight the “**steps being taken for identification and survey of Orans, De-Vans, Rundhs among others such groves as forest land**”. In response to this the Rajasthan government finally notified its sacred groves, known as Orans, as “**deemed forest**”.

Key Points

- Orans are a vital part of community life in Rajasthan community forests that are sometimes centuries old, traditionally seen as sacred, preserved and managed by rural communities, with local laws and rules governing their use.
 - Pastoralists take their livestock to the Orans for grazing.
 - These also serve as places for the communities to congregate for social events and festivals.
 - They are also the natural habitat for the critically endangered **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**.
- The **Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980** had certain restrictive provisions, wherein the Centre’s approval was required to convert the status of forest to non-forest land. But in the amended FCA, the clearance of deemed, unclassified and private forests can be done by the state government itself.
- In a Supreme Court case where the constitutionality of these amendments has been challenged, the Court noted in an interim order that deemed forests as per the **1996 Godavarman case** should be protected.

Orans

- These are community-conserved green spaces that include indigenous trees, such as **Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*)** and **Rohida (*Tecomella undulata*)**, and are usually dedicated to local deities.
- They were on the verge of destruction as revenue records marked them as a culturable wasteland of government land that could be brought under cultivation. This made it easier for Orans to be allotted for non-forest activities.

Hate Speech

Why in News?

The **Election Commission (EC)** is examining the complaint made against the speech made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Rajasthan.

Key Points

- **About Hate Speech:**
 - In the **267th Report** of the **Law Commission of India, hate speech** is stated as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like.
 - **The context of speech is crucial** in determining whether it constitutes hate speech or not.
 - It can cause harm to the targeted individuals and groups, as well as to the society at large, by inciting hatred, violence, discrimination, and intolerance.
- **Freedom of Speech and Hate Speech:**
 - **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution guarantees **freedom of speech and expression as a fundamental right** for all citizens.
 - **Article 19(2)** imposes **reasonable restrictions on this right**, balancing its use and misuse.
 - Restrictions are allowed in the interests of sovereignty, integrity, security, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, dignity, morality, contempt of court, defamation, or instigation of an offence.

Law Commission of India

- The **Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body** constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
 - **The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955** for a three-year term.
 - The **first Law Commission** was established during the British Raj era in 1834 **by the Charter Act of 1833** and was **chaired by Lord Macaulay**.
- It works as an **advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- The Law Commission undertakes research in law and review of existing laws in India for making reforms therein and enacting new legislations on a reference made to it by the Central Government or suo-motu.

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Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)

Why in News?

Recently, C-DOT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) signed an agreement for “Automated Service Management in 5G and Beyond Networks Using AI”.

Key Points

- The agreement is signed under the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** of the DoT, which is designed for providing funding support to domestic companies and institutions involved in **technology design, development, commercialization of telecommunication products and solutions** to enable affordable broadband and mobile services in rural and remote areas.
- The **primary objective** is to **develop AI frameworks for automated network management, fault detection, and diagnostic techniques** by utilizing continuous information generated within the network like 5G.
- The service will establish a **real time 5G and Beyond testbed (in compliance with O-RAN)** for the demonstration of the developed automated network management and slicing techniques in conjunction with specific application use-cases such as smart metering, remotely operated vehicles, etc.

Open-RAN

- It is not a technology, but rather an **ongoing shift in mobile network architecture** that allows networks to be built using subcomponents from a variety of vendors.
- O-RAN has an **open, multi-vendor architecture** for deploying mobile networks, as **opposed to the single-vendor proprietary architecture**.
- O-RAN **uses software to make hardware manufactured by different companies work together**.
- The key concept of Open RAN is “**opening**” the **protocols and interfaces between the various subcomponents** (radios, hardware and software) in the RAN.

Climate Change May Lead to Greening the Thar Desert

Why in News?

According to a **theory on rainfall and climate data**, with a focus on the ‘Indian Ocean Warm Pool’ (IOWP), scientists have postulated that the **Thar Desert** could become greener due to global warming.

Key Points

- The presence of **IOWP in the Indian Ocean** has been recognised for many years and plays a role in the generation of monsoons. With the **effects of global warming**, the Indian Ocean Warming Pool is **spreading towards the west**.
 - At IOWP’s western boundary, **water evaporates and is pulled by the earth’s rotation towards India**, causing the northeast to **receive rain for 150 days and the northwest for only 70 days**.
- With the IOWP expanding westward, the ‘length of the rainy season’ would result in a **50-100% increase in the mean summer rainfall** over the semi-arid northwest of India
- Essentially, the scientists argue that the Thar desert has the potential to experience ample rainfall and gradually become greener.

Thar Desert

- The Thar Desert, also known as the **Great Indian Desert**, is an **arid region** of rolling sand hills on the Indian subcontinent.
- It is one of the **largest subtropical deserts in the world**.
- It extends across the states of **Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana in India**, and the provinces of **Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan**.
- It is **bordered by the irrigated Indus River plain to the west, the Punjab Plain to the north and northeast, the Aravalli Range to the southeast, and the Rann of Kachchh to the south**.
- The desert is **separated from the Greater Rann of Kutch to the west by the low-lying marshy lands of the Luni River**.

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Chambal River

Why in News?

In a suspected case of suicide, the bodies of a man and a woman were reportedly recovered from **Chambal river** near a jetty in **Kota of Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- Chambal is a 960 km long river that originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya** mountains (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the **North direction** in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a **north-easterly direction** for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.
- It enters UP and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.
- It is a **rainfed river** and its basin is bounded by the **Vindhyan mountain** ranges and the **Aravallis**. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the **Malwa** region of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Parbati.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for **critically endangered gharial**, the **red-crowned roof turtle**, and the **endangered Ganges river dolphin**.



Note: