



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

**FEBRUARY
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

Content

● Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project.....	3
● Rajasthan to Start Prerana Schools	3
● Rajasthan Government Appoints Rajendra Prasad Gupta as Advocate General.....	4
● Rajasthan Artisans Craft at UAE’s First Hindu Temple.....	4
● Rajasthan Government Plans Uniform Civil Code (UCC)	5
● Rajasthan Appoints Task Force for Identifying New Expressways.....	5
● Kisan Sathi’ Portal.....	6
● Vayu Shakti 2024	6
● Projects to Increase the Network of Indian Railways	7
● Rajasthan Interim Budget.....	7
● Rajasthan Government Announces Mission Olympics 2028	8
● Zero Tolerance Policy Against Corruption	8
● Evangelists Arrested in Rajasthan for Alleged Mass Conversion Attempt.....	8
● Panel Constituted in Rajasthan	9
● PM Unveils Development Projects in Rajasthan	10
● PM Lays Foundation Stone of Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan	10
● Surya Namaskar Mandatory in All Rajasthan Schools	11
● Financial Options for Funding of Road Infrastructure in Rajasthan	11
● India-Japan: Dharma Guardian.....	12
● Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	12

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh governments inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for the **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)**.

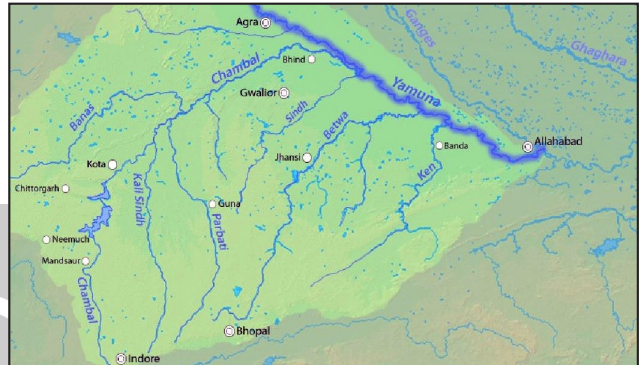
Key Points

- MoU will pave the way for the availability of drinking water and irrigation in **13 districts** of Rajasthan and will also play a huge role in changing the economic conditions of the region.
- The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), an **ambitious drinking and irrigation water project**, was announced by the state government in the state budget 2017-18 as a permanent solution to the problem of drinking and irrigation water in 13 districts of eastern Rajasthan.
 - The districts included **Jhalawar, Baran, Kota Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tok, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur**.
- ERCP aims to harvest surplus water available during rainy season in rivers in Southern Rajasthan such as **Chambal and its tributaries**, including **Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh**, and use this water in south-eastern districts of the state, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation.
 - ERCP is planned to **meet drinking and industrial water needs of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock till the year 2051**.

Chambal River

- **About:** It 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.

- The **Hadauti plateau in Rajasthan** occurs in the upper catchment of the Chambal River to the southeast of the Mewar Plains.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Sipra, Parbati, etc.
- **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**.



Rajasthan to Start Prerana Schools

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** is planning to **develop Prerana schools**, learning from the experience of Mehsana district of Gujarat.

Key Points

- The **objective is to give students** exposure by interaction with different students, learning about **technological advancements, life skills among other skills**.
- The initiative started by the **Ministry of Education, Prerana: An Experiential Learning programme**, aims to offer a **meaningful, unique and inspiring experience** to all participants, empowering them with leadership qualities.
- The Prerana programme **currently running in a vernacular school in Gujarat** is a **week-long residential programme** for **selected students of Class IX to XII**.
- It is an experiential and inspirational learning programme for students with the **best-in-class technology** where heritage meets innovation.

Note:

- For this initiative, **20 selected students** which include **10 boys, and 10 girls** attend the program there, **every week from various parts of the country**. For this school, the **curriculum has been prepared by IIT**.

Rajasthan Government Appoints Rajendra Prasad Gupta as Advocate General

Why in News?

On 3rd February 2024, Rajasthan government appointed **senior advocate of the Rajasthan High Court Rajendra Prasad Gupta** as the **Advocate General of the state**.

Key Points

- Rajendra Prasad Gupta was the **Additional Advocate General (AAG) from January 2014 to January 2019**.
- He has a **good reputation** in the field of advocacy and **has been practicing in the Jaipur Bench of the High Court since 1985**.
- He is an academic member of the **National Law University, Jodhpur**. He has also done CA in addition to obtaining an LLB degree.
- The state government initiated the move after a petition was filed in the High Court regarding the delay in the appointment of the Advocate General.

Advocate General of State

- The **Advocate General of State** is responsible for **advising the State Government on legal matters** referred to him by the Governor.
- This is a **Constitutional post and authority** duly appointed **under Article 165** of the Constitution of India. He/She acts as the **highest law officer in the State**.
 - Under this **article**, the **Governor of each State** shall **appoint a person** who is qualified to be **appointed as a Judge of a High Court to be Advocate General for the State**.
- The Advocate General **appears in court on behalf of the state in all cases involving the state**.
- The Advocate General is entitled to address and participate in the sessions of both Houses of the State legislature and he has the privilege of participating in the activities of any committee of the State legislature if appointed a member.
 - But he does not have the right to vote.

Additional Advocate General (AAG)

- An Additional Advocate General (AAG) is a legal officer who assists the Advocate General (AG) of a state or union territory in India.
- The AAG is appointed by the Governor of the state on the recommendation of the AG.
- The AAG performs the duties assigned to him or her by the AG, such as appearing in the High Court or other courts on behalf of the state government, giving legal opinions, and drafting pleadings.

Rajasthan Artisans Craft at UAE's First Hindu Temple

Why in News?

The artisans from **villages in Rajasthan's Makrana** are beaming with pride as their craft has found a place in **Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple, set to be inaugurated**.

Key Points

- The temple is being built by the **BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha** on a 27-acre site in Abu Mureikhah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway.
- The temple's facade features exquisite marble carvings set against a sandstone backdrop, crafted from more than **25,000 pieces of stone by skilled artisans from Rajasthan and Gujarat**.
 - A substantial number of **pink sandstone** were transported **from northern Rajasthan to Abu Dhabi for the temple**.
- Architectural elements include **two ghumats (domes), seven shikhars (spires) that symbolise the seven UAE's seven emirates, 12 samrans (dome-like structures) and 402 pillars**.
- Within each shikhar, intricate carvings depict stories from **the Ramayana, Shiv Purana, Bhagavatam and Mahabharata**, as well as **narratives of Lord Jagannath, Lord Swaminarayan, Lord Venkateshwara and Lord Ayyappa**.
- The **'Dome of Harmony'** serves as a unique portrayal of harmony of the five natural elements- earth, water, fire, air and space.
- **The camel - a symbol of persistence, commitment and endurance**, has also been etched into the carvings while drawing inspiration from the landscape of the UAE.

Note:

Pink Sandstone

- Sandstone is a sedimentary rock largely made up of sand grains in size ranging from 2 mm to 120 mm of varying compositions. The sand may consist of grains of quartz, felspar and other detrital minerals with interstitial cementing material.
 - The pink color of sandstone is primarily due to the presence of **iron oxide** minerals.
- Like other sandstones, pink sandstone is mainly composed of sand grains, which can be quartz, feldspar, and other minerals.
 - The cementing material that binds these grains together can be calcite, silica, or iron oxide.
- Pink sandstone is prominently found in India, primarily in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
 - Notable locations include Dholpur in Rajasthan, known for its Dholpur Pink Sandstone; Jodhpur, Rajasthan, producing Jodhpur Pink Sandstone; Bhuj in Gujarat, renowned for Bhuj Pink Sandstone; and Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, which yields Shivpuri Pink Sandstone.

Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha

- It is a Hindu denomination within the Swaminarayan Sampradaya.
- It was formed in 1905 by Yagnapurushdas following his conviction that Swaminarayan remained present on earth through a lineage of gurus starting with Gunatitanand Swami.



Rajasthan Government Plans Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

Why in News?

Rajasthan cabinet minister Kanhiya Lal Choudhary informed the state assembly that the government would soon introduce the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill**.

Key Points

- The proposed UCC Bill aims to establish uniform laws **pertaining to marriage, divorce and inheritance of property**. It seeks to **curb practices like polygamy and divorce** through religious means.
- On the lines of Uttarakhand, the **Rajasthan UCC Bill will exempt the tribal community**, as they've raised **serious objections, terming their customs and practices uncompromisable**.

Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- The Uniform Civil Code is **mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution**, which is part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy**.
- These principles are **not legally enforceable but are meant to guide the state** in making policies.
 - It has been supported by some as a way to **promote national integration and gender justice, but opposed by others as a threat to religious freedom and diversity**.
- The **only state in India that has a UCC is Goa**, which retained its common family law **known as the Goa Civil Code** after it was liberated from Portuguese rule in 1961.
 - Recently, **Uttarakhand** has also introduced the **UCC bill** in the state assembly.
- The **rest of India follows different personal laws** based on their religious or community identity.

Rajasthan Appoints Task Force for Identifying New Expressways

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government has appointed a **task force for identifying new expressways to connect more cities** with the network of roads **for fast movement of traffic**.

Note:

Key Points

- The new expressways will **facilitate seamless transportation of people and goods** and **enhance tourism and economic development** along the routes in the State.
- The **task force would submit its report to the State government within six months** after looking into the scope for construction of new expressways.
 - They will get the **opinion of subject experts during the performance** of its task.

Kisan Sathi' Portal

Why in News?

With the use of **Information Technology (IT)** in the agriculture sector, the '**Kisan Sathi**' portal has started acting as a **single window platform for the farmers in Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- The **IT applications** have simplified the procedure for the agriculturists to **apply for various government schemes and monitor the benefits available to them**.
- According to the State Agriculture Commissioner, **more than 12 lakh farmers had used the web portal** so far and **benefited from the schemes for agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and agricultural marketing**.
 - The **paperless work had speeded up the procedure and brought transparency to the system**.
- The Kisan Sathi portal has **facilitated direct benefit transfer of ₹1,600 crore to about three lakh farmers**, while the **licenses for selling seeds, fertilizers and pesticides** were issued in large numbers with the help of online verification.
- The portal, **launched in 2021** as an initiative for "**ease of doing farming**", had brought **revolutionary changes** for the farming community.
- The mobile apps developed for the farmers have also created **new platforms** connecting them with the buyers of agricultural produce.
 - **The apps are rendering services for registration of sellers of farm produce, distribution of seed mini-kits, registrations for bio-farming and online submission of seed and fertilizer samples.**

Vayu Shakti 2024

Why in News?

All frontline aircraft, including the **Rafale fighter jets** and **Prachand attack choppers**, will take part in the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) Exercise Vayushakti** scheduled to be held on **February 17 in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range**.

- It is a **triennial exercise** (once every three years) aimed at showcasing the capability of the IAF to conduct **full spectrum operations (Day and Night)** and to see the participation of aircraft and helicopters, transport aircraft and **unmanned aerial vehicles**.

Key Points

- The VayuShakti-2024 would be in the form of a **major firepower demonstration** in Jaisalmer where all the **major fighter aircraft, including the Rafale, Su-30MKIs, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Mirage 2000 and MiG-29s**, would be showcasing their firepower by shooting different missiles and bombs at designated targets.
 - The next exercise planned by the IAF is the **Exercise Gaganshakti** which would see the entire IAF get activated from Ladakh to the Indian Ocean Region and from Bhuj to Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The pan-India-level exercise **Gaganshakti, conducted once in five years**.
 - Gagan Shakti is conducted by the IAF **to showcase its air dominance over the entire extended area of the Indian Ocean Region**.

Rafale

- French **twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft**.
- Equipped to perform air supremacy, interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike, and nuclear deterrence missions.

Sukhoi Su-30MKI

- Twin-engine, two-seat, multirole fighter aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi and built under **license by India's Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** for the IAF.
- Designed to perform air superiority, ground attack, electronic warfare, and maritime strike missions.

Note:

Tejas

- The Tejas by HAL is a multi-role light fighter aircraft **designed by India's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)**.
- The first Mk-1A Tejas delivery to IAF will occur in March 2024.

MIG 29s

- It is a twin-engine, multirole fighter jet, **developed by Soviet Russia in the 1970s**. It has been upgraded since.

Projects to Increase the Network of Indian Railways

Why in News?

Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister **approved 6 projects of the Ministry of Railways with 100% funding from the Central Government**.

- The **projects covering 18 Districts in 6 States i.e., Rajasthan, Assam, Telangana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland** will increase the existing network of Indian Railways and **will provide employment to the people of the States**.

Key Points

- The multi-tracking proposals **will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development** on the busiest sections across Indian Railways.
- The **projects are in line with PM's Vision of a New India** which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will **enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities**.
- The projects are **result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan** for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services.
- The routes **included in the approved projects will be used for transportation of commodities** such as food grains, food commodities, fertilizers, **coal**, cement, iron, **steel, fly-ash**, clinker, limestone, Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL), containers etc.

- The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will **help both in achieving climate goals** and minimizing logistics cost of the country, **reduce oil import and lower CO₂ emissions**.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity

- PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, **launched in October 2021**, is an initiative aimed at coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects.
 - The objective is to bring down logistics costs.
- GatiShakti is a **digital platform bringing development projects of 16 ministries**, including railways and roadways, together for integrated planning and implementation.
- When launched, the **GatiShakti scheme subsumed the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline announced in 2019**.

Rajasthan Interim Budget

Why in News?

Recently, the **interim budget** was presented by the **Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari**, who is also one of the two **Deputy Chief Ministers** of the state.

Key Points

- State's FM announced **₹1,000 crore** to establish, upgrade **schools, colleges, hospitals** in Assembly constituencies. She also announced **CM Vishwakarma Pension scheme** for laborers and street vendors.
- The budget also announced the **Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan-2**, a scheme to create **5 lakh water harvesting structures** in **20,000 villages** in the next four years, with a provision of **Rs 11,200 crore**.
- The budget proposed to recruit **70,000 posts** in various departments to fill the vacancies and provide employment opportunities.

Interim Budget

- An Interim Budget is **presented by a government that is going through a transition period or is in its last year in office** ahead of general elections.
- The purpose of the interim budget is to ensure the continuity of government expenditure and essential services **until the new government can present a full-fledged budget after taking office**.

Note:

Vote on Account

- A vote on account, as defined by **Article 116** of the Indian Constitution, is a grant in advance for the central government to meet **short-term expenditure** needs from the **Consolidated Fund of India**, generally lasting for a few months till the new financial year.

Rajasthan Government Announces Mission Olympics 2028

Why in News?

In the **interim budget 2024-25**, Rajasthan deputy chief minister and finance minister Diya Kumari announced the **Mission Olympics 2028**.

Key Points

- Under the scheme, **50 talented youths** will be **provided world-class sports facilities**.
- The selected youths will be given access to an acceleration center and an acceleration coach in Jaipur, where they will be **groomed for the Olympic level competition**.
- The state government has also allocated **Rs. 100 crore for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Sports in Jaipur**, which will offer state-of-the-art infrastructure and equipment for various sports disciplines.
- The Mission Olympics 2028 scheme is part of the state government's vision to **promote sports and physical education** in Rajasthan.
 - The minister also announced several other initiatives in the budget, such as providing **free sports kits to 10 lakh students, constructing 500 playgrounds in rural areas**, and establishing a Sports University in Jodhpur.
- According to the minister the government is committed to creating a conducive **environment for sports in the state and encouraging the youth to pursue their dreams**.

Zero Tolerance Policy Against Corruption

Why in News?

According to Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, the government is working on the policy of '**zero tolerance**' against corruption.

Key Points

- The CM stated that **negligence and corruption in works related to public interest will not be tolerated** under any circumstances.
- The CM instructed the officers to ensure **regular public hearing, prompt disposal of complaints, monitoring them and taking feedback**.
 - All district-level officers should hold **public hearings for at least one hour regularly**, so that the complainants do not have to come to the capital with their problems.
- The status of electricity and drinking water supply, medical facilities, progress of **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**, law and order and other issues were also reviewed.

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

- It is a **nationwide campaign to raise awareness** through outreach activities to achieve saturation of schemes of Government of India across the country covering all Gram Panchayats, Nagar Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.
- The campaign is being taken up by adopting a whole of **government approach with active involvement of various Ministries/Departments** of Government of India, State Governments, Central Government Organisations and Institutions.

Evangelists Arrested in Rajasthan for Alleged Mass Conversion Attempt

Why in News?

Recently, an incident happened in **Rajasthan**, where two evangelists were arrested and eight others were detained for allegedly trying to **convert hundreds of people to Christianity** by offering them money and healing.

Key Points

- The incident took place in Bharatpur, where the evangelists had organised a large-scale programme with **450-500 people**.
- The **Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)**, claimed that the evangelists used objectionable language against **Hindu gods** and misleading people.

Note:

- The police arrested two of the evangelists, identified and booked them under various sections of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** for promoting **enmity, outraging religious feelings, and causing hurt**.
- The police also detained eight other people held under **preventive measures** of **section 151** of the **Code of Criminal Procedure** and later released on bail.

Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.
- Its purpose is not to punish a person for a past offense but to **prevent him from committing an offense** in the near future.
- The detention of a person cannot exceed **three months** unless an **advisory board reports sufficient cause** for extended detention.
- **Protection:**
 - **Article 22** grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
 - **Article 22** has two parts—the first part deals with the **cases of ordinary law** and the **second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law**.

Freedom of Religion

- **Freedom of religion** in India is a **fundamental right** guaranteed by **Article 25-28** of the **Constitution of India**.
 - **Article 25** (Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion).
 - **Article 26** (Freedom to manage religious affairs).
 - **Article 27** (Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any religion).
 - **Article 28** (Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions).

Panel Constituted in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has promised a **probe into the alleged corruption** under the previous government.

Key Points

- A Cabinet sub-committee has been constituted to **review decisions and schemes** of the previous administration in Rajasthan and recommend whether they should be continued.
 - Free mobile phones for women, distribution of ration kits, and formation of new districts are among the matters to be reviewed.
- The government has also **ordered a probe into question paper leaks** during the previous government.

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Fighting Corruption in India

- **Legal Framework:**
 - **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** provides for penalties in relation to corruption by public servants and also for those who are involved in the abetment of an act of corruption.
 - **Amendment of 2018** criminalised both bribe-taking by public servants as well as bribe-giving by any person.
 - **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002** aims to prevent instances of money laundering and prohibits use of the 'proceeds of crime' in India.
 - **The Companies Act, 2013** provides for corporate governance and prevention of corruption and fraud in the corporate sector. The term 'fraud' has been given a broad definition and is a criminal offence under the Companies Act.
 - **The Indian Penal Code, 1860** sets out provisions which can be interpreted to cover bribery and fraud matters, including offences relating to criminal breach of trust and cheating.
 - **The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988** the Act precludes the person who acquired the property in the name of another person from claiming it as his own.
- **Regulatory Framework:**
 - **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013:** It provides for an establishment of a Lokpal (centre) and Lokayuktas (state).
 - They perform the function of an "ombudsman" and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

Note:

- **Central Vigilance Commission:** Its mandate is to oversee the vigilance administration and to advise and assist the executive in matters relating to corruption.
- **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1952:** The punishment specified under Section 165 of IPC was enhanced to three years instead of the existing two years.
- **Amendments in 1964:** The definition of 'Public Servant' under the IPC was expanded. The definition of 'criminal misconduct' was expanded and possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of a public servant was made an offence.

PM Unveils Development Projects in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled and laid the foundation stone of **multiple development projects worth over Rs 17,000 crore** via video conferencing in Rajasthan.

Key Points

- The announcement came as a part of the '**Viksit Bharat Viksit Rajasthan**' programme and encompassed crucial sectors, including **roads, railways, solar energy, power transmission, drinking water, and petroleum & natural gas**.
- The PM emphasized the significance of the development projects and stressed the importance of **rapid development in essential sectors** such as rail, road, electricity, and water for the progress of Rajasthan.
- He highlighted the substantial **allocation of Rs 11 trillion** in **2024 Union Budget** for infrastructure development.
- **Infrastructure in Rajasthan:**
 - For **highway infrastructure** development, various national highway projects worth over Rs 5,000 crore were inaugurated.
 - This will improve connectivity in Kota, Udaipur, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, Boondi, Ajmer, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh.
 - These roads will also ensure better connectivity with Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

- For **railways**, PM laid the foundation stone for eight projects worth approximately Rs 2,300 crore.
- He dedicated the **power transmission sector** projects worth more than Rs 2,100 crore, in Rajasthan, to the nation.
- He also outlined the **PM Surya Ghar Yojna's** aim to provide free electricity and facilitate solar panel installations in households, particularly benefiting the middle and lower-middle-class segments.
- The PM also laid the foundation stone for multiple projects under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, worth around Rs 2,400 crore.

PM Surya Ghar Yojna

- It is a pioneering government initiative aimed at **installing rooftop solar power systems in one crore households** across the nation.
- Rooftop solar panels are **photovoltaic panels** installed on the roof of a building that is connected to the main power supply unit.
- It reduces the consumption of **grid-connected electricity** and saves electricity costs for the consumer.
 - Surplus solar power units generated from the rooftop solar plant can be exported to the grid as per the metering provisions.
 - The consumer can receive monetary benefits for the surplus exported power as per the prevailing regulations

PM Lays Foundation Stone of Solar Power Plant in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for **NLC (Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited) India Ltd 300-mw solar power project in Barsingsar, Rajasthan**.

- NLC India is a **navratna company** under the **coal ministry**.

Key Points

- The total cost of **NLC India's solar project is estimated at Rs 1,756 crore** and it is scheduled to be commissioned in September 2024.

Note:

- The project is strategically **located near** the existing **Barsingar Thermal Power Station** which offers advantages in power evacuation through the existing network and utilisation of common infrastructure facilities.
 - The project will not only give green and cheap power to the region but also provide great employment opportunities to the youth.

Navratna Company

- **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** are classified into 3 categories- **Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna**.
 - As of 2023, there are 13 Maharatna, 16 Navratna and 68 Miniratna CPSEs.
- **Navratna Companies** in India are a group of CPSEs that have enhanced financial autonomy and flexibility to compete in the global market. They are given certain privileges, such as **investing up to Rs 1,000 crore without explicit government approval**.
- The Navratna status was **first introduced in 1997**.
 - To attain Navratna status, a firm must initially hold the **Miniratna designation** and it needs to achieve a score of **60 or more (out of 100) according to six performance criteria**, which include metrics like Net Profit to Net Worth, Earnings per Share, and Inter-Sectoral Performance.

Surya Namaskar Mandatory in All Rajasthan Schools

Why in News?

The state government has made **Surya Namaskar mandatory for 10 minutes** during the prayer meeting or assembly in the morning **at all government and private schools across Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- This was made official by the education minister while speaking at an event organised by the education department on the occasion of **Surya Saptami**.
 - During the event, 1.33 crore people from across the state performed Surya Namaskar.
 - A record of the event has been submitted to the World Book of Records, London.

Surya Saptami

- It is also known as **Ratha Saptami**. It is an annual Hindu festival that is **dedicated to Surya, the sun god**.
- It is made of two words- '**Ratha**' means **Chariot** and '**Saptami**' means **seventh**.
- A one-day **Brahmotsavam** is held in **Tirumala** (Andhra Pradesh) on this day.
- It marks the **birth of Surya** and is referred to as Magha Saptami as it falls on the seventh day (Saptami) of the Hindu month Magha.
- Surya Saptami also marks the change of season to spring and the start of the harvesting season.

Financial Options for Funding of Road Infrastructure in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is examining some innovative financial options, including **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**, for securing increased funding for the expansion of road infrastructure.

Key Points

- Rajasthan **ranks seventh in terms of the State highways** and **second largest in terms of the national highways** in the country.
- The Rajasthan State Highways Authority has started adopting new measures to cater to the need for better connectivity and facilitate innovative investment and financing models.
- A workshop was organised on "Financing models for road infrastructure development", jointly by the **Public Works department (PWD)** and the **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) Projects**.
 - IIFCL is a leading public sector infrastructure finance institution, which has funded about 21% of the country's national highway capacity, comprising nearly 30,000 km of roads.
- The **State government would work closely with the IIFCL Projects** for strengthening its road network and bring it parallel with those in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Note:

Public-Private Partnership Model

- PPP is an arrangement **between government and private sector** for the provision of public assets and/or public services. Public-private partnerships allow large-scale government projects, such as **roads, bridges, or hospitals, to be completed with private funding.**
 - In this type of partnership, investments are undertaken by the private sector entity, **for a specified period of time.**
 - These partnerships work well when private sector technology and innovation combine with public sector incentives to complete work on time and within budget.
 - As PPP involves full retention of responsibility by the government for providing the services, it doesn't amount to privatization.
 - There is a well defined **allocation of risk** between the private sector and the public entity.
 - Private entity is chosen on the basis of open **competitive bidding** and receives performance linked payments.
 - The PPP route can be an alternative in developing countries where governments face various constraints on borrowing money for important projects.
 - It can also give **required expertise** in planning or executing large projects.

India-Japan: Dharma Guardian

Why in News?

Recently, the **fifth edition** of joint military exercise '**Dharma Guardian**' between **Indian and Japanese land forces** commenced at the **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.**

Key Points

- The two-week drill is an **annual exercise** conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
 - The **Japanese contingent** is being represented by troops from the **34th Infantry Regiment** and the **Indian Army** is being represented by a **battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.**

- The **aim of the exercise** is to foster **military cooperation and enhance combined capabilities** to execute joint operations in semi-urban environments under the **United Nations Charter.**
- The event would focus on a high degree of physical fitness, joint planning, joint tactical drills and basics of special arms skills.

The Rajputana Rifles

- It is the **oldest rifle regiment** of the Indian Army.
- It was originally a part of the **British Indian Army**, when six previously existing regiments were amalgamated to form six battalions of the 6th Rajputana Rifles.
- In 1945, the numeral designation was dropped from the title and in 1947 the regiment was transferred to the **newly independent Indian Army.**
- Since independence, the regiment has been **involved in a number of conflicts against Pakistan**, as well as contributing to the **Custodian Force (India) in Korea** under the aegis of the **United Nations in 1953–54** and to the **UN Mission to the Congo in 1962.**

Charter of the United Nations

- The Charter of the UN is the founding document of the UN. It was **signed on 26th June 1945, in San Francisco** and **came into force on 24th October 1945.**
- The UN can take action on a wide variety of issues due to its unique international character and the powers vested in its Charter, which is considered an **international treaty.**
 - As such, the UN Charter is an **instrument of international law**, and UN Member States are bound by it.
- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, the primary judicial body of the **United Nations (UN)**, operates by its Statute, annexed to the UN Charter as an integral part.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

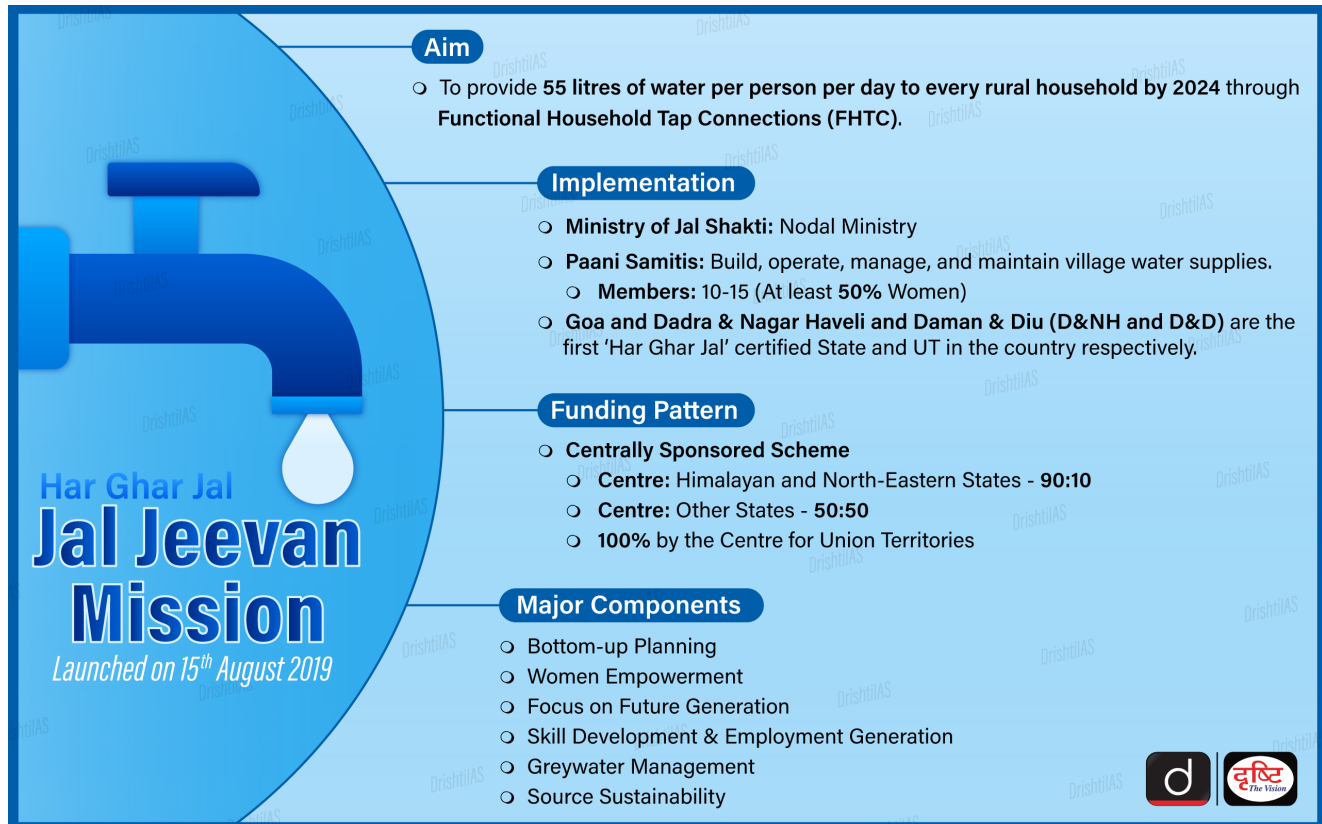
Why in News?

In an aim to implement the Centre's flagship **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** in the State, the Rajasthan government has instructed water engineers to carry out **quality testing by monitoring the situation at the grassroot level**, to meet the targets set under the mission and ensure piped water supply to all villages.

Note:

Key Points

- The JJM envisages the supply of safe drinking water through **tap connections to all rural households by the end of 2024**, and has set a **target to supply 55 liters of water per person, per day**, to every household in villages where the people have been facing water scarcity.
- In Rajasthan, the **action plans to achieve the targets** under the mission are based on water availability, rainfall pattern, drought situation, **groundwater level, water harvesting, water-borne diseases** and the situation of water resources in each village.
 - The State government has made arrangements for the **training of the members of village-level committees** to make them aware of the operation of schemes, water conservation, efficient use of drinking water, and bank account operations.
- The **district and village action plans, presented and approved by the Gram Sabhas**, have also played an important role in meeting the water needs of different areas.



Note:

