



# STATE PCS CA

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RAJASTHAN

**FEBRUARY  
2025**

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## 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

### Why in News?

India is going to host the 12th Regional 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific. It will take place at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur on 3-5 March 2025.

### Key Points

- **About the Forum:**
  - The theme of the event will focus on “Realising Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia Pacific”.
  - **Objective:**
    - This conference will serve as an important platform to promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and circular economy in the Asia-Pacific region.
    - It aims to provide policy inputs to government officials and exchange best practices.
    - The forum focuses on promoting circular economies and supporting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and carbon neutrality in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - **India's Leadership and Vision:**
    - India's ‘India Pavilion’ will showcase its achievements in the field of 3R and Circular Economy, reflecting India's holistic government approach.
    - India has hosted this forum earlier at Indore, Madhya Pradesh in 2018.
- **Jaipur Declaration:**
  - The Forum will conclude with the adoption of the ‘Jaipur Declaration’ to promote the transition to a resource-efficient, circular economy in Asia-Pacific countries.
  - The Jaipur Declaration (2025-34) will build on the Hanoi Declaration (2013-23) and will provide a framework for developing 3R and circular economy policies.

### The Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum

- This forum was launched in the year 2009 by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).
- It plays an important role in promoting sustainable development in Asia-Pacific countries.
- It aims to provide policy strategies for mainstreaming 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and circularity in the Asia-Pacific region and to serve as a platform for sharing 3R best practices.

## Embroidery and Surface Embellishment Exhibition

### Why in News?

Recently India's first exhibition dedicated to embroidery and surface ornamentation was held in Jodhpur.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - The exhibition showcased 60 artworks from more than 20 artists from India and abroad.
  - This exhibition highlights the craftsmanship of the artists and provides a platform for their work.
  - The exhibition highlights the richness and diversity of Indian handicrafts by showcasing various embroidery forms like Kheta Quilts from Bihar, Kantha from West Bengal, Chikankari from Lucknow and the intricate styles of Kutch from Gujarat.
- **Objective:**
  - **Highlighting the Artwork:**
    - The primary objective of the exhibition is to showcase embroidery as a dynamic and expressive art form, not just confined to clothing.
  - **Demonstrate various embroidery techniques:**
    - The exhibition showcases embroidery techniques and the connection between craftsmanship and contemporary textiles. Empowering the artisans

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### Jodhpur

#### ➤ About:

- Jodhpur is the gateway to the **Thar Desert**. Popularly known as the '**Blue City**', Jodhpur is the **second largest city in Rajasthan**.
- Jodhpur is also known as '**Sun City**'.

#### ➤ Installation :

- Jodhpur was founded by **Rao Jodha** in the year **1459**. It was first settled at the place of Mandore and became the headquarters of the **Rathore dynasty**.

#### ➤ Geographical Location :

- Jodhpur is located at **26°-27°37' North latitude** and **72°55'-73°52' East longitude**.

#### ➤ Major places to visit :

- **Mehrangarh Fort**: A huge fort situated on a hill rock.
- **Jaswant Thada**: A memorial built in the memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh.
- **Umaid Bhawan Palace**: A magnificent palace which now serves as a hotel too.

- **Culture and Economy**: Jodhpur has a rich culture, full of traditional **Rajasthani architecture, music, dance, and art**. The city's famous indigo buildings have earned it the nickname "**Blue City**".

## Rajasthan Economic Review 2024-25

### Why in News?

The Rajasthan government presented its **economic review for the financial year 2024-25** in the Assembly, in which a detailed description of the economic condition of the state, growth rate and various schemes and figures has been presented.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Ten resolutions for inclusive development:

- The Revised Budget 2024-25 presents the goals of inclusive growth based on the principles of "**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas – Inclusive Growth for All**".
- This principle has been conceived as a five-year action plan under "**Amrit Kaalkhand – Developed Rajasthan @2047**".

- This action plan includes **10 resolutions** to be implemented in the state .

#### ➤ USD 350 billion economy:

- Rajasthan aims **to achieve a USD 350 billion economy by the year 2029**.
- For this, focus is being laid on technological innovation in agricultural activities, expansion of industrial production, investment in renewable energy and promotion of tourism using rich cultural heritage.

#### ➤ Rajasthan Economy at a Glance:

- **GSDP** at current prices is estimated at Rs 17.04 lakh crore in 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 12.02% from Rs 15.22 lakh crore in 2023-24.
- **The agriculture sector** , which includes crops, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry, contributes **26.92 % to the GSVA** for the year 2024-25 at current prices .
- **The industrial sector** includes mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply and construction, which contribute **27.16% to GSVA** .
- **The services sector** which includes transport, storage and communication, financial services, real estate, business services, public administration and other services has the largest contribution to GSVA with **45.92%**.
- **Per capita income** , which is estimated to increase by 11.04% to Rs 1,85,053 at current prices and 6.88% to Rs 96,638 at constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2024-25 over the previous year.

#### ➤ Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare:

- It contributes **26.92% to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA)** in the year 2024-25 .
- **GSVA at current prices** has increased from Rs 1.19 lakh crore in the year 2011-12 to Rs 4.23 lakh crore in the year 2024-25.
- **Food Grains (Cereals & Pulses)**: Expected to reach 267.67 lakh metric tonnes, a 10.67% increase from last year.
- **Oilseeds**: Estimated at 96.17 lakh metric tonnes, marking a 4.99% decline from 101.22 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24.
- **Sugarcane**: Projected at 4.40 lakh metric tonnes, showing a 21.21% rise from 3.63 lakh metric tonnes last year.

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- **Cotton:** Expected to be 18.45 lakh bales, a 29.61% decrease from 26.21 lakh bales in 2023-24.
- **Chief Minister Seed Swavalamban Yojana (2024-25)**
  - 19,836 quintals of seeds distributed for Kharif crops.
  - 42,000 quintals of seeds distributed for Rabi crops.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) (2024-25)**
  - Rs 2,777 crore in insurance claims distributed to eligible farmers.
- **Mukhyamantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (2024-25)**
  - The state government will provide an additional Rs 2,000 per year to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
  - A budget allocation of Rs 1,400 crore has been proposed.
- **Samman Pension Scheme for Small and Marginal Old Farmers (2024-25)**
  - Women farmers (55+ years) and male farmers (58+ years) receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,150.
  - 2,09,530 beneficiaries have received benefits till December 2024, with a total expenditure of Rs 246.64 crore.
- **Rajasthan Krishak Samman Yojana (2024-25)**
  - The state government has paid a bonus of Rs 125 per quintal at MSP rates, amounting to Rs 150.66 crore.
- **Micro-Irrigation under PMKSY (2024-25)**
  - 34,469 hectares covered under drip and mini-sprinkler irrigation.
  - 56,727 hectares covered under sprinkler irrigation.
  - Rs 123.79 crore spent on the scheme till December 2024.
- **Industrial Development and Investment Promotion**
  - **Industrial Growth in Rajasthan (2024-25)**
    - The industrial sector is expected to grow by 5.77% in Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at constant (2011-12) prices.
    - GSVA from industry is projected to rise from Rs 1.36 lakh crore (2011-12) to Rs 4.26 lakh crore (2024-25), reflecting a 9.17% CAGR at current prices.

- The industry sector contributed 27.16% to Rajasthan's GSVA, with manufacturing as the leading contributor.
- **Industrial Production & Growth**
  - The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** increased from 122.34 (2021-22) to 157.31 (Nov 2024), indicating industrial expansion.
- **Investment & Policy Initiatives**
  - **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS)** launched to attract investments.
  - **Rajasthan Export Policy-2024** aims to strengthen the state's export potential with focused support for exporters.
  - **Rajasthan MSME Policy-2024** promotes small and medium enterprises, fostering a favorable business environment.
  - **Rajasthan M-Sand Policy-2024** encourages the production and use of manufactured sand (M-Sand) as a sustainable alternative to river sand in construction.
  - Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit secured MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore, reinforcing the state's commitment to economic growth.
- **Exports (2023-24)**
  - Rajasthan's exports totaled Rs 83,704.24 crore.
  - Engineering goods, gems & jewellery, metals, textiles, and handicrafts contributed over 65% of total exports.
- **Transportation**
  - **Road Network in Rajasthan (2024)**
    - Total road network: 3,17,121 km
    - Road density: 92.66 km per 100 sq km
    - Villages connected by roads: 39,408
    - Highway upgrades: 47 national highways and 23 state highways are being upgraded for high-speed travel.
  - **Investment & Development:**
    - Road development budget: Rs 60,000 crore over the next five years.
    - Rs 11,986 crore allocated for 2024-25.
    - Rs 10,705 crore utilized by December 2024.
    - National highway development: Rs 15,920 crore invested in 845.32 km under NHDP and **Bharatmala Pariyojana**.

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Note:

- **Highway & Road Distribution**
  - National highways: 10,790 km
  - State highways: 17,376 km
  - Rural roads: 2,06,318 km
- **Water Supply**
  - **Surface Water Resources in Rajasthan:**
    - **Indira Gandhi Canal Project:** Serves 5,719 villages and 39 towns.
    - **Chambal River:** Serves 4,899 villages and 29 towns.
    - **Narmada River:** Serves 902 villages and 3 towns.
    - Bisalpur Dam: Serves 3,109 villages and 22 towns.
    - Jawai Dam: Serves 811 villages and 10 towns.
  - **Urban & Rural Water Supply Initiatives**
    - **AMRUT 2.0:** Launched on October 1, 2021, aims to provide drinking water to all households under "Har Ghar Nai" by 2025-26.
    - Investment: Rs 5,123.06 crore approved for water supply projects in 183 urban local bodies.
  - **Water Infrastructure Development (2024-25)**
    - Tube wells installed: 1,012 in rural areas.
    - Hand pumps installed: 1,268 in rural areas.
    - Hand pumps repaired: 1,64,684 till September 2024.
    - Drinking water provided: 15,417 villages/settlements.
- **Electricity**
  - **Electricity Infrastructure in Rajasthan**
  - Total Installed Capacity: 26,325.19 MW (as of December 2024).
  - **Renewable Energy Leadership:**
    - Solar Power: 5,482.66 MW.
    - Wind Power: 4,414.12 MW.
  - **Power Transmission & Electrification**
    - Extra High Voltage (EHV) Transmission Network: 44,638 circuit km (as of December 2024).
  - **Rural Electrification:**
    - Villages electrified: 43,965.
    - Dhanis electrified: 1.14 lakh.
    - Rural households electrified: 108.09 lakh.
  - **Consumer Growth & Agricultural Support**
    - Total Consumers: Increased from 190.61 lakh (March 2024) to 196.22 lakh (December 2024) (2.94% growth).
- Agricultural Connections: 72,373 provided (till December 2024).
- Tariff Subsidy for Farmers: Rs 22,755.22 crore allocated in 2024-25.
- **Quality of Life-Civic Amenities**
  - **Metro Expansion & Development Authority Expenditure**
    - Jaipur Metro Expansion: Undergoing phased development with an investment of over Rs 18,000 crore.
  - **Capital Expenditure (2024-25, till December 2024):**
    - Jaipur Development Authority: Rs 913.34 crore.
    - Kota Development Authority: Rs 420.11 crore.
  - **Urban Infrastructure & Smart Cities**
    - UIDSSMT Projects: 12 projects sanctioned, including 11 sewerage projects and 1 water supply project, with a total investment of Rs 646.24 crore.
  - **Smart Cities Initiative:**
    - Cities Selected: Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, Ajmer.
    - Funds Utilized: Rs 3,740.30 crore (out of Rs 3,820 crore received, as of December 2024).
  - **Housing & Land Allotment**
    - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban):
    - Total Houses Sanctioned: 2,88,550.
    - Completed: 1,96,700.
    - Under Construction: 73,603.
  - **Land Allotment for Marginalized Communities:**
    - Vimukta, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Plot/Patta Allotment Drive (October 2, 2024).
    - Total Plots/Leases Allocated: 17,156 for homeless families.
  - **Disaster Management & Mitigation Measures**
    - State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF): Rs 4,408.38 crore (as of December 2024).
    - Utilization Areas:
    - Agricultural subsidies.
    - Flood-affected area repairs.
    - Disaster mitigation (e.g., 2,130 portable lighting devices & lightning arresters installed).
- **Tourism, Art and Culture Promotion**
  - Tourist Footfall (2024)

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Note:

- Total Visits: 2,321.56 lakh (Domestic: 2,300.84 lakh, Foreign: 20.72 lakh).
- Top International Tourist Destinations: Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Ajmer.
- Tourism Policy & Investment
  - Rajasthan Tourism Unit Policy (RTUP) 2024:
- **Implemented on: December 4, 2024.**
- **Objective:** Encourage private-sector tourism projects, offer incentives to investors, and create employment opportunities.
- **Investment & Employment (2024-25, till December 2024):**
  - Approved Tourism Projects: 259 units.
  - Total Investment: Rs 3,599.23 crore.
  - Estimated Employment Generation: 12,000 jobs.
- **Heritage Conservation & Artistic Endeavours**
  - Department of Archaeology & Museums:
  - Manages: 345 protected monuments & 43 archaeological sites.
  - Significance: Preserves cultural heritage, boosts tourism revenue.
- **Skill Development & Safety in Tourism**
  - Rajasthan Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (RTTMAN):
  - Focus: Enhancing workforce skills for the hospitality & tourism industry.
  - Other Initiatives: Marketing & safety programs to improve tourism experience.
- **Sustainable Development and Green Growth**
  - **Improved SDG Performance**
    - SDG Score (SDG India Index): Improved from 60 (2020-21) to 67 (2023-24).
    - Status Upgrade: Moved from Performer to Front Runner category.
  - **District Rankings (5th Edition of Rajasthan SDG Index):**
    - Top District: Jhunjhunu (Score: 66.44).
    - 2nd & 3rd Places: Nagaur & Sikar.
  - **Renewable Energy & Green Policies**
    - Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024:
- **Target:** 125 GW of renewable energy by 2029-30.
- PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme:
- Solar Rooftop Capacity Installed: 111.77 MW.
- **Beneficiaries:** 22,657 consumers (till December 2024).
- Green Development Policies:
  - Rajasthan E-Waste Management Policy, 2023.
  - [Rajasthan Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)
  - Rajasthan Electric Vehicle Policy (RIGP), 2022.
  - [Climate Change Policy, 2023.](#)
- **Education**
  - Educational Initiatives & Gender Inclusiveness:
    - Model Schools: **Swami Vivekananda Model Schools & PM Shri Schools** improving educational access.
    - Girls' Education:
  - [Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas \(KGBVs\)](#): 342 schools, benefiting 43,543 girl students.
    - Free Tablets: Distributed to 23,100 meritorious students.
  - **Vocational Training:**
    - Vocational Schools: 4,155.
    - Students Benefited: 3.25 lakh.
- **Medical and Health**
  - **Digital Health & Insurance Coverage**
    - [Ayushman Bharat Health Account \(ABHA\)](#) IDs Issued: 6.20 crore.
    - Health Records Linked: 88.67 lakh (including treatment details).
    - Rajasthan Digital Health Mission: Digitizing patient records for streamlined healthcare delivery.
  - Government Health Schemes
    - **Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya (MAA) Yojana:**
- **Families Covered:** 1.33 crore.
- Total Government Expenditure: Rs 1,675 crore (cashless treatment).
- **Chief Minister Free Nirogi Rajasthan Scheme:**
  - Beneficiaries: 14.93 crore patients (till December 2024).
  - Expenditure: Rs 1,221.76 crore.
- **Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS):**
  - Families Covered: 13.65 lakh (includes government employees, pensioners, MLAs, ex-MLAs).

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Note:

- Healthcare Claims Processed: 130.72 lakh.
- Total Expenditure: Rs 2,370.82 crore.
- **Improvement in Health Indicators**
  - **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):** Declined from 41.3 (NFHS-4) to 30.3 (NFHS-5) per 1,000 live births.
  - **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Reduced from 2.4 to 2.0, indicating progress towards population stabilization.
  - **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** Dropped from 141 (SRS 2017-19) to 113 (SRS 2018-20) per 1,00,000 live births.
- **Employment**
  - **Unemployment Rate & Labour Force Participation**
    - Unemployment Rate: Declined from 4.9% (2022-23) to 4.7% (July 2023 – June 2024) as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), indicating improved job opportunities.
    - Unorganized Workers Registered: 1.43 crore workers enrolled on the state labour portal (till December 2024).
  - **Employment Guarantee Schemes**
    - [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#)
- Total Expenditure: Rs 7,676.98 crore (till December 2024).
- Man-days Created: 2,309.72 lakh.
- Employment Provided: 53.28 lakh families benefited.
- 100 Days Employment Completion: 1.27 lakh families.
  - [Chief Minister Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme](#)
- Families Registered: 6.53 lakh (till December 2024).
- Work Allotted: 1.83 lakh families in 2024-25.
- Total Labour Generated: 86.48 lakh man-days.

## Rajasthan Budget 2025-26

### Why in News?

On February 19, 2025, the State Finance Minister of Rajasthan presented the Rajasthan Budget 2025-26 in the Assembly.

### Key Points

- **About the budget:**
  - This is the first green theme based budget, with special emphasis on rural development, infrastructure and renewable energy.

- Many schemes have been made in the budget keeping in mind the needs of **women, farmers and youth**.
- **Key announcements:**
  - **Drinking Water:**
    - Provision of Rs 425 crore for drinking water in rural areas along with providing connections to 20 lakh houses in the coming year.
    - Chief Minister [Jal Jeevan Mission \(Urban\)](#) has been started under which a provision of Rs 5830 crore has been made.
  - **Energy:**
    - To generate more than 6400 MW of electricity in the coming year.
    - To provide 50 thousand new agricultural connections and five lakh domestic connections.
    - One 765KV, five 400KV, 13 220KV, 28 132KV and 133 33/11KV GSS will be constructed.
    - 10 GW of power will be generated through the private sector in the coming year.
    - Under [the Chief Minister Free Electricity Scheme](#), 150 units of electricity will be given free per month.
  - **Transport Development:**
    - Works worth more than Rs 5000 crore will be done for the development of roads.
    - Rs 60,000 crore will be spent on [nine Greenfield Expressways](#).
    - Non-pavable road works will be done in every assembly at the cost of Rs 10-10 crore.
    - **'Atal Pragati Path'** will be constructed in 250 villages with a population of more than 5 thousand at a cost of Rs 500 crore.
    - 500 new roadways buses will be provided on GCC model, and 500 buses for urban areas will be provided through State Urban Transport Corporation.
    - **Jaipur Metro** will be extended from Sitapura Industrial Area to Ambawadi and Vidyadhar Nagar (till Todi Mor) at a cost of Rs. 12,000 crores. Along with this, DPRs will be prepared for Jagatpura and Vaishali Nagar.
    - Provision of Rs 550 crore under **'Panchgaurav Yojana'**.

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- Leases will be given to 2 lakh families under **the Swamitva Scheme**.
  - 3400 lakh man days will be created under **MNREGA**.
  - 250 crores will be spent to improve the traffic system of Jaipur. Apart from this, the BRTS corridor built in Jaipur will be removed.
  - Provision of Rs. 100 crore each for Dang, Magra, Mewat and Bridge regional development schemes.
  - Creation of '**Zero Accident Zones**' by improving roads on **Delhi-Jaipur, Jaipur-Agra and Jaipur-Kota highways**.
  - Provision of Rs 50 crore for strengthening of 20 Trauma Centres under PPP mode.
  - Facility of 25 Advanced Life Support Ambulances.
- **Urban Development:**
- Provision of Rs 780 crore for expansion and development of parking, renovation, residential flats, bus stand etc.
  - A provision of Rs 12050 crore has been made for **the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Urban Development Scheme** for a period of 7 years.
  - 50 thousand street lights will be installed in all the cities of the state.
  - A provision of Rs 175 crore has been made for the construction of 500 pink toilets.
  - Mechanised Transfer Stations will be established in 30 municipal councils.
- **Industrial development:**
- Increasing the number of online permissions through '**Single Window – One Stop Shop**' to 149 to promote industrial development.
  - Competitive Index will be implemented for the departments. PMU will be formed to make the MoUs of Rising Rajasthan effective. Flatted Factory system will be implemented. Industrial area will be developed under Plug and Play Model.
  - **Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy** will be applicable for investment in service sector and Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy will be applicable for trade promotion.
- In the development of industrial parks, Toy Park will be established in Kota, Stone Park in Nimbahera-Chittorgarh and Bundi, Ceramic Park in Soniana-Chittorgarh, Pharma Park under DMIC, expansion of Textile Park in Bhilwara and Block Printing Zone in Sanganer-Jaipur.
  - Provision of Rs 150 crore for infrastructure development of 18 new industrial areas. Assistance will be given for CETP in private industrial parks. Two logistics parks connected to DMIC (Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor) will be built and **the PM Gati Shakti** update system will be developed.
- **Tourism, Arts and Culture:**
- Provision of Rs 975 crore for tourism development.
  - IIFA Awards will be held in Jaipur. 10 iconic tourist destinations will be developed under **Heritage Tourism**, while a provision of Rs 100 crore has been made to promote night tourism.
  - Conservation work will be done on historical artistic havelis under **Shekhawati Haveli Conservation Scheme** and **Heritage Walk**. Provision of Rs 25 crore for the upgradation of Jaipur Albert Hall Museum.
  - **Tribal Tourist Circuit** will be developed with Rs 100 crore for tribal tourism.
  - **Flying Training Organisation (FTO)** established in Pratapgarh, Jhalawara and Jhunjhunu. Hop-on-Hop-off bus service in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.
  - A provision of Rs 101 crore was made for the upgradation of various temples, the offering amount in temples was increased to Rs 3,000 per month and the honorarium of priests was increased to Rs 7,500 per month.
- **Youth Development and Welfare:**
- Announcement of bringing **Rajasthan Employment Policy-2025**.
  - '**Vivekananda Employment Assistance Fund**' of Rs 500 crore will be established.
  - There will be recruitments for 1.25 lakh posts in the coming year. 1.50 lakh youth will be given employment in the private sector.
  - '**Vishwakarma Yuva Udhm Protsahan Yojana**' will be launched. 8% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 2 crore and margin money assistance to 5 lakh youth.

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Note:

- Establishment of **Advanced Skills and Career Counselling Centre** in each division .
- **Vedic Gurukul and Vedic tourism centers** will be established in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.
- Land will be allotted to **Dronacharya Award** winning coaches.
- Special sports complexes for parasports will be built in Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Bharatpur and Ajmer divisions.
- **Medical and Health:**
  - **'MAA Fund'** of Rs 3,500 crores constituted for free testing and medicines to the general public. Interstate portability implemented in MAA scheme.
  - Free medicine at home for senior citizens above 70 years of age. Diabetic clinics established in all district hospitals. Digital X-ray, TRU-NAAT and CB-NAAT machines will be available at CHCs for a TB free state.
  - Cervical cancer screening of HIV infected and at risk women.
  - MAA Eye Voucher Scheme applicable for free eye check up and operation.
  - 148 **Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (UAAM)** will be established.
  - Upgradation of Vitreo Retina Surgery Unit in Bikaner Hospital.
  - Augmentation of Spinal Injury Centre capacity to 120-bed capacity at Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota.
  - Rs 195 crore for cancer unit and cottage ward in Kota Medical College.
  - Establishment of **Ultra Advanced Burn Care Centre** at each divisional headquarters .
  - **Rs 500 crore for upgradation of Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS)**, Jaipur; 750 doctors and 1,500 paramedical posts will be created.
  - Rs 50 crore provision for 'Fit Rajasthan' campaign; Emphasis on reducing the amount of oil in the diet by 10%.
  - Under **New AYUSH Policy** Rs 11 lakh incentive was provided by declaring villages as **Ayushman Arogya Gram**.
- **Food laboratories** will be established in 7 districts (Hanumangarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Pali, Sirohi, Chittorgarh and Dungarpur).
- **Social Security:**
  - The pension received under social security will now be Rs 1250 per month.
  - Provision of Rs 350 crore in **Gig and Unorganised Workers Fund** for unorganised workers .
  - Provision for distribution of 35 thousand scooters to girls.
  - **'Rani Lakshmibai Centre'** will be established in the higher secondary school or college in every block.
  - Target to bring 20 lakh women in **Lakhpati Didi** category.
  - **'Dadudyal Nomadic Empowerment Scheme'** started for nomadic communities .
  - **One Time Settlement Scheme(OTSS)** for SC, OBC & Minority Corporation loans .
  - Establishment of 'Annapurna Bhandar' at 5 thousand fair price shops.
  - **Chief Minister's Nutrition Nutri-Kit Scheme** implemented for additional nutrition to pregnant women .
- **Law and Order and Good Governance:**
  - Strengthening of surveillance and security system under **'Rajasthan Civil Security Act'** .
  - **In 2 years: 1,000 vehicles and 3,500 new posts** created for the police .
  - Provision of expenditure of Rs 350 crore on establishment of **Sardar Patel Centre for Cyber Control and War-Room** .
  - Establishment of **400 Video Conference (VC) Nodes** for the production of undertrial prisoners .
  - **Installation of T-HCBS system** to block illegal mobile signals in **7 Central Prisons** .
  - Provision of **minimum wages** for convicted prisoners .
  - Upgradation of **Ajmer Jail Training Institute** .
  - **Additional Superintendent of Police Office:** Shahpura (Jaipur), Ringas (Sikar).
  - **Deputy Superintendent of Police Office:** Raipur-Biawar, Khatushyamji (Sikar).

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Note:

- Provision for establishing **8 new cyber police stations**.
- In the coming year, 'Atal Gyan Kendras' will be established in Panchayat headquarters having a population of more than 3 thousand.
- Establishment of **Ambedkar Constitution Studies and Research Institute**.
- Provision of expenditure of Rs 250 crore for providing tablets to officers and employees for digitisation of departmental work and paperless system.
- **Modern RajNET 2.0 system** implemented at a cost of Rs 400 crore. RajNET 2.0 doubles connectivity capacity.
- Disaster Recovery Data Centre will be established in Jodhpur.
- Provision of Rs 300 crore for Brahmagupta Frontier Technologies Centre.
- MLA public hearing centre will be established in every assembly constituency.
- Provision of Rs 1,000 crore for district level offices in the new 8 districts.
- **Personnel Welfare:**
  - 10% increase in honorarium of all honorarium employees next year.
  - 10% increase in commission of NFSA dealers.
  - 5% additional allowance to judicial service pensioners at the age of 70 years.
  - Government employees will get the benefit of increased gratuity from April 1, 2024.
  - Journalist welfare amount increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 3 lakh.
  - Exposure Tour facility available to journalists.
- **Agriculture Budget:**
  - Provision of Rs 9,300 crore for **Ram Jal Setu Link Project**.
  - Provision of Rs 2,250 crore for **Manoharthana irrigation project**.
  - Provision of Rs 950 crore for **Dholpur Lift Project and Kalitir Projects**.
  - Provision of Rs 500 crore for construction and renovation of 100 anicuts.
  - **Micro Irrigation:** Scheme in 1 lakh hectare+ area, provision of expenditure of Rs 1,250 crore for drip and sprinkler system in 3.50 lakh hectare.
  - Provision of Rs 900 crore for 25 thousand farm ponds, 10 thousand wells, 50 thousand solar pumps and 20 thousand km of pipeline.
  - **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi:** Annual assistance increased to Rs 9,000.
  - Bonus on MSP of wheat is Rs 150 per quintal.
  - Works worth Rs 1,350 crore proposed in the coming year under **Rajasthan Agriculture Development Scheme (RajKVY)**.
  - 1,000 Custom Hiring Centres will be established.
  - Grant of Rs 300 crore for modern agricultural equipment, 1 lakh farmers will benefit.
  - 3 lakh Dhaincha seed minikits available for green manure under **Soil Strength Enhancement Scheme**.
  - **AI Excellence Centre** will be established for innovation in the agriculture sector.
  - Centre of Excellence for Maize will be established in Banswara and Centre of Excellence for Honey Bee-keeping will be established in Bharatpur.
  - 30 thousand km fencing for 75 thousand farmers. Rs 324 crores spent.
  - Agricultural machinery and equipment worth up to Rs 5,000 will be provided to one lakh landless agricultural labourers.
  - 100 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) member farmers will be sent abroad (including Israel) and 5 thousand farmers will be sent outside the state for training.
  - **Global Rajasthan Agri-Tech Meet (GRAM)** will be organised.
  - Provision for giving loans of Rs 25,000 crores to more than 35 lakh farmers. Provision for expenditure of Rs 768 crores on interest subsidy.
  - Provision of Rs 150 crore for interest-free loan to 2.50 lakh cowherds under Gopal Credit Card.
  - 5% interest subsidy on long term cooperative loan of Rs 400 crore for agriculture and non-agriculture sector.
  - **Purchasing and Selling Cooperative Societies (KVSS)** will be established in the newly established 8 districts.
  - Mini food parks will be built in Anupgarh-Sriganganagar and agro food parks will be built in Sanchoe-Jalore.

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Note:

- Power Cleaning Machines to improve the quality of agricultural products.
- Establishment of Garlic Excellence Centre in Baran.
- **Animal Husbandry and Dairying:**
  - **Chief Minister Mangala Animal Insurance Scheme:** Number of insured livestock farmers doubled, provision for additional expenditure of Rs 200 crore.
  - **Livestock Free Health Scheme:** Number of medicines and vaccines increased to 200.
  - **Dairy products and animal feed plants:** Rs 540 crore for increasing and expanding the capacity of milk plants.
  - **New milk plants:** in Alwar, Udaipur, Banswara, Bharatpur and Sawai Madhopur, cost Rs 225 crore.
  - **New Bypass Protein Animal Feed Plant:** Rs 150 crore expenditure in Rajsamand-Nathdwara and Udaipur.
  - **Milk collection target:** 13 lakh litres, 1,000 new co-operative societies/collection centres established.
  - **Cowsheds and Nandi Shalas:** Grant of Rs 50 per day per animal.
  - New veterinary sub-centres will be established in 200 Gram Panchayats.
  - Bassi-Sex Sorted Semen Lab will be established in Jaipur.
  - 100 veterinary officers and 1,000 livestock inspectors will be appointed.
- **Green Budget:**
  - The state's first green budget was presented.
  - Focus on 10 key areas – (1) **Climate Change Adaptation** (2) **Forests and Environment-Biodiversity/Ecology** (3) **Sustainable Agriculture, Water Harvesting/Recharge** (4) **Sustainable Land Use** (5) **Green Energy** (6) **Recycling and Waste Disposal- Circular Economy** (7) **Clean Technology Development** (8) **Green Auditing** (9) **Capacity Building- Education, Skills** (10) **Green Financing**.
  - 5-year '**Climate Adaptation Plan-2030**' implemented.
- **Centre of Excellence for Climate Change** will be established at a cost of Rs 150 crore .
- **Tree Outside Forest (ToFR) Policy and Agro-Forestry Policy** implemented for expansion of green area .
- **Gharial rearing centers** will be established in Sawai Madhopur.
- **National Natural Farming Mission:** Subsidy to 2.50 lakh farmers in the coming year.
- **Organic farming:** 1 lakh farmers benefit from bio agents and biopesticides.
- Incentive of Rs 30 thousand to small and marginal farmers for farming with bulls, subsidy on biogas plant.
- **Chief Minister Water Self-Reliance Campaign 2.0:** Provision of spending Rs 2,700 crore on Water Harvesting Structures in 4700+ villages.
- **Developed Rajasthan @2047:** GIS based Green Land Use Perspective Plan.
- New honorarium as Solar Didi for increasing use of solar equipment, 25 thousand women will be trained.
- The pumping stations of **PHED (Public Health Engineering Department)** will be connected to solar energy through **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) model**.
- Provision of Rajasthan Circular Economy Incentive Scheme-2025 for the widespread propagation of Circular Economy.
- Provision of grant of Rs 2 crore for R&D for recycling/reuse.
- MSMEs and Startups working in the field of Circular Economy will be provided an additional discount of 0.5% on loans.
- Rajasthan Vehicle Scrap Policy implemented in the state.
- Waste to Wealth Parks will be established at all district headquarters and utensils banks will be established in gram panchayats.
- Establishment of Clean and Green Technology Development Centre with Rs 250 crore.
- Development of a clean and green-ecological city with Rs 900 crore in next 3 years.

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Note:

- Establishment of **Sustainable Development Goals Coordination and Acceleration Centre (SDGCAC)**.
- Rajasthan Green Credit Mechanism and Tradable Credits will be developed on the lines of Carbon Credit.
- **Rajasthan Green Challenge Fund** with Rs 100 crore, **Green Aravali Development Project** started with Rs 250 crore.

Description	Budget Estimates for the year 2025-26
Revenue Receipts	Rs 2,94,536.49 crore
Revenue expenditure	Rs 3,25,545.90 crore
Revenue deficit	Rs 31,009.41 crore
Fiscal deficit	Rs 84,643.63 crore (4.25% of GSDP)
Projected GSDP (year 2025-26)	Over Rs 19,89,000 crore
Target (by the year 2030)	Building a USD 350 billion economy

## Soil Health Card Day

### Why in News?

The **10th Soil Health Card Day** was celebrated on 19 February, 2025 in India .

### Key Points

#### ➤ Soil Health Card Scheme:

- This scheme was launched by the **Prime Minister** on **19 February 2015** in **Suratgarh, Rajasthan**.
- The theme of this scheme is: **Healthy Earth, Green Fields**.

#### ➤ Objective

- Distributing soil health cards to farmers at an interval of every 2 years.
- Providing necessary guidance to farmers for improving soil health and its fertility
- Providing information to farmers about the nutrient status of soil along with proper quantity of nutrients
- Strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories (STL)
- To solve the problem of soil fertility in the states
- To provide corrective measures

#### ➤ Portal

- **Soil Health Card Portal** provides a facility to generate Soil Health Cards for the benefit of farmers in a uniform and standardized format in all major languages and 5 dialects across the country.
- Soil health card contains the status of soil with respect to 12 parameters, such as
  - **Macro nutrients:** Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K)
  - **Secondary Nutrients** : Sulfur (S)
  - **Micronutrients:** Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), Boron (B)
  - **Physical Parameters:** pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC)
- Based on this, the card also gives the fertilizer recommendations and soil amendments required for the farm.
- Soil samples are generally taken twice a year, after harvesting of Rabi and Kharif crops respectively or when there is no standing crop in the field.

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Note:

## Review of Mega Infrastructure Projects

### Why in News?

The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** reviewed the key issues affecting mega infrastructure projects in the states of **Gujarat and Rajasthan**.

### Key Points

- The review focused on expediting resolution of the issue through **inter-ministerial and state coordination** facilitated by the **Project Monitoring Group (PMG)**.
- The major topics are:
  - DPIIT reviewed 21 issues related to 14 critical **infrastructure projects**.
  - Significant emphasis was given to the transmission projects of **Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat**, which is expected to generate 81 billion units of electricity annually.
  - Reliance Jio's 5G/4G expansion project was also reviewed, which offers benefits such as **faster speeds, lower latency and wider coverage**.

#### Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- **About:**
  - DPIIT was **established in the year 1995** and the **Department of Industrial Development** was merged into it in the year **2000**.
  - It **came into existence in its current form on 27 January 2019**, when the erstwhile Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion was renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Objective:**
  - The Department is **responsible for formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures** for the growth of the industrial sector keeping in view the national priorities and socio-economic objectives.

- It is also responsible for facilitating and increasing **foreign direct investment (FDI)** inflows into the country.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.

## All India State Water Ministers Conference

### Why in News?

The **2nd All India State Water Ministers Conference** was held in **Udaipur, Rajasthan** on 18th and 19th February 2025.

### Key Points

- **About the conference:**
  - It was organized under the aegis of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
  - This conference is an **important step towards adopting effective water management measures**, addressing the complexities of the water sector and realizing the vision of **water security**.
- **Subject:**
  - The theme of the conference was **"India@2047 – Water Secure Nation"**, which is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of a developed, water-secure India.
- **Objective:**
  - Its main objective is to **strengthen collaboration with states and stakeholder ministries** while working towards a shared vision for sustainable and integrated water resources management.
- **Major Focused Topics:**
  - Strengthening water governance
  - Augmentation of water storage infrastructure and supply
  - Water distribution services with a focus on potable water
  - Water distribution services focusing on irrigation and other uses
  - Demand management and water use efficiency
  - Integrated River and Coastal Management

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### Jal Jeevan Mission

- Introduction:
  - Launched in the year 2019, this mission envisages supply of 55 litres of water per capita per day to every rural household through functional household tap connection (FHTC) by the year 2024.
  - Jal Jeevan Mission aims to become a mass movement for drinking water, making it everyone's priority.
  - It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Goal:
  - The mission aims to ensure the functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
  - It ensures conjunctive use of conserved water. It also ensures augmentation of drinking water source, drinking water supply system, grey water treatment and reuse.
- Features:
  - Jal Jeevan Mission focuses on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level.
  - Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures with essential elements such as rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of domestic wastewater for reuse are taken up in convergence with other Government programmes/schemes.
  - The mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive information, education and communication as key components of the mission.

## Regional Official Language Conference

### Why in News?

Recently, a joint regional official language conference was organized in Jaipur.

### Key Points

- About the conference:
  - This conference was organised by the Official Language Department of the Home Ministry .
  - About 3000 people from Central Government offices, Nationalized Banks, Public Sector Undertakings and Town Official Language Implementation Committees participated in the conference .
  - The best performing institutions were also honoured for promoting greater use of Hindi in government work .
- Objective:
  - The objective of this conference was to promote the use of Hindi in government departments .

### Hindi Language

- Introduction :
  - Hindi is an Indo-Aryan language, spoken mainly in the Indian subcontinent .
  - It is the official language of India according to the Indian Constitution , and it holds an important place in Indian society , culture and literature .
  - It is the third most widely spoken language in the world and one of the ten official languages of the UNESCO General Conference.
- History :
  - Hindi evolved from Sanskrit and has been spoken in the Indian subcontinent since ancient times. Over time, Hindi has also adopted words from Persian , Arabic , and English , especially during the Mughal Empire and British rule .
- Script :
  - The script of Hindi is Devanagari , which is developed from the Sanskrit script. It has 11 vowels and 33 consonants . Devanagari script is used not only for Hindi but also for many other Indian languages.
- Linguistic Diversity :
  - Hindi language has many dialects, such as Awadhi , Bhojpuri , Braj , Haryanvi , Marwari etc.
- Expansion :
  - Hindi is spoken not only in India but also in Nepal , Pakistan , Malaysia , Thailand , Fiji and other countries.

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### ➤ Place in the Constitution :

- Hindi has been accepted as the official language of the Union under **Article 343 of the Indian Constitution**.
- Apart from this, Hindi has been recognized as one of the 22 scheduled languages listed in **the Eighth Schedule**.

## Ammonia Gas Leak in Kota

### Why in News?

**Ammonia gas** leaked from a **Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL)** plant near Gadepan village in **Kota district of Rajasthan**. This leak caused **students of a government school to fall sick**, with the children complaining of nausea and fainting after inhaling the gas's sharp, suffocating odor.

### Key Points

#### ➤ Impact of the Gas Leak:

- The gas leak affected students who went to the school grounds to fetch water, with some **complaining of breathlessness and abdominal pain**.
- The **school and the CFCL factory share boundaries**, likely contributing to the exposure.
- School staff immediately transported the students to the hospital in their own vehicles as their condition worsened.

#### ➤ Precautionary Measures:

- As a precautionary measure, the school was closed, and children were sent home after the incident, which caused panic in the village.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker** and local officials visited the hospital to check on the affected students.

### Ammonia Gas (NH<sub>3</sub>)

#### ➤ About:

- It is a compound of Nitrogen and Hydrogen.
- It is a colorless gas with a pungent, penetrating odor.
- Ammonia is highly reactive and a soluble alkaline gas.

#### ➤ Mode of Production:

- Natural:
  - Produced in soil through bacterial processes.

- Generated during the decomposition of organic matter, including plants, animals, and animal waste.

- Bacteria in the intestines also produce ammonia, and a small amount is generated by lightning strikes.

#### ○ Commercial:

- Produced through steam reforming of natural gas and coal gasification.

#### ➤ Uses:

- Used to **produce nitrogen compounds like urea**, the most commonly used **source of nitrogen in fertilizers**.
- **Applied directly to soil** for crops, lawns, and plants.
- Utilized in various **cleaning products**.
- Forms compounds like **ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, and various ammonium phosphates**.
- Used in the **manufacture of explosives**.
- Used in **refrigeration and cooling systems**.

#### ➤ Impact:

##### ○ Plants:

- Causes **direct toxic damage to leaves**.
- Alters plant susceptibility to **frost, drought, and pathogens**, including insect pests and invasive species.

##### ○ Health Risks:

- Long-term exposure to low concentrations or short-term exposure to high concentrations can cause **adverse health effects from inhalation**.
- Symptoms may include **burning sensations in the nose, throat, and respiratory tract irritation**.

## Exercise Cyclone- III

### Why in News?

Recently, the Joint Special Forces **Exercise "Cyclone-III" between India and Egypt** began from 10 February 2025 at Mahajan Field Firing Range in **Rajasthan**.

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### Key Points

- About the Cyclone-III:
  - It is an annual exercise, held alternately in **both countries**.
  - Its last edition was held in **Ansas, Egypt in January 2024**.
  - The Indian team will have 25 soldiers, who will be represented by soldiers of two **special forces battalions**.
  - The Egyptian team will also have 25 soldiers, who will be represented by soldiers of **Egypt's Special Forces Group and Task Force**.
- Objectives:
  - To **strengthen military ties** between the two countries.
  - Paying special attention to physical fitness, joint planning and tactical exercises.
  - To rehearse and validate tactical exercises for **counter-terrorism operations** in **desert and semi-desert areas**.
    - It will also include a demonstration of indigenous military equipment by Egypt and an inspection of the **defence manufacturing industry**.



- About:
  - Egypt is a transcontinental country in northeastern Africa and the Sinai Peninsula in Western Asia (Middle East).
  - **Cairo** is the capital of Egypt.
  - Boundaries:
    - **North:** Borders the Mediterranean Sea.

- **East:** Bordered by the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea.
- **West:** Shares a land border with Libya.
- **Northeast:** Borders the Gaza Strip (Palestinian territory) and Israel.
- **South:** Shares a border with Sudan.
- Maritime Borders:
  - **Mediterranean Sea:** Shares maritime borders with Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece.
  - **Red Sea:** Shares maritime borders with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.
- Egypt gained modern **independence in 1922**.
- The official language is **Modern Standard Arabic**.
- The commonly spoken dialect is **Egyptian Arabic (Masri)**.
- **Islam is the dominant religion**, with 85-90% of the population being Sunni Muslim.
- Major River:
  - **The River Nile** is the only year-round flowing river in Egypt.
  - Around 98% of the population lives in the **Nile River Valley**.

## Subsidy on Electric vehicles

### Why in News?

Under the **Electric Vehicle Policy**, the Rajasthan government has constituted an **e-vehicle promotion fund** of Rs 200 crore to **promote electric vehicles**.

### Key Points

- About the Fund:
  - The State Government's "**Electric Vehicle Policy-2022**" includes a provision to **reimburse the State GST amount** and offer a **one-time grant from the E-Vehicle Promotion Fund to buyers of electric vehicles** equipped with modern batteries, following the guidelines of **FAME-2**.
  - The reimbursement and one-time grant amount will be payable on vehicles purchased from 1st January 2022 and registered in the state.
  - The Process:
    - To avail the subsidy, firstly the vehicle manufacturer is required to **register on the departmental portal**.

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Note:

- After verification, the department will allow the vehicle buyer to apply for the grant.
- Under this policy, **all types of electric vehicles ranging from two-wheelers to heavy vehicles** have been included.
- The government aims to **encourage more people to use electric vehicles instead of diesel and petrol**, reducing **pollution** and preserving environmental balance.

➤ **Advantages of Electric Vehicles:**

- It produces zero tailpipe emissions, contributing to cleaner air and improved public health.
- Electricity can be cheaper than gasoline, leading to lower fuel costs per kilometer.
- Electric motors produce significantly less noise than gasoline engines.
- Electric motors convert a higher percentage of energy into useful power than gasoline engines.

#### Electric Vehicles

- Electric vehicles are types of vehicles that use one or more electric motors for propulsion, instead of conventional **internal combustion engines (ICE)**, which burn gasoline or diesel.
- **Types of Electric Vehicles:**
  - **Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV):** These rely solely on battery power for propulsion and produce zero tailpipe emissions.
  - **Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV):** Combine an electric motor with a gasoline engine. These can be charged externally and run on battery power for a limited distance, then switch to the gasoline engine for longer trips.
  - **Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs):** These use both an electric motor and a gasoline engine, but the battery cannot be charged by plugging in directly.

## Beneshwar Fair 2025

### Why in News?

**Beneshwar Fair** was organised from **8 to 12 February 2025** at **Beneshwar Dham** in **Dungarpur** district of Rajasthan.

### Key Points

➤ **About the fair:**

- Beneshwar Fair is an **annual festival held in the months of January or February, dedicated to Baneshwar Mahadev (Lord Shiva)**.
- On this holy occasion **Bhils** travel from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to take a dip at the **confluence of the Mahi and Som rivers**.
  - This fair showcases the rich tribal culture of the Bhils and is called the **“Kumbh Mela of Tribals”**.

➤ **Cultural programs and sports:**

- During the Beneshwar fair, many **cultural and sports programs were organized** by the district administration, tourism department and tribal development department.
- **Archery, volleyball, tug of war, women’s matka race, bhajan group, turban tying competitions** were organised.

#### Bhil Community

- The Bhil are **one of the largest tribal groups**, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The name is derived from the word ‘billu’, which means bow.
- The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with **deep knowledge about their local geography**.
- Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. They are also skilled sculptors.
- Bhil **women wear traditional saris** while **men are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas**. The woman put on **heavy ornaments made of silver, brass** along with rosaries of beads and silver coins and earrings.

## Saddle Dam

### Why in News?

The Chief Minister inspected the **saddle dam** upstream of **Rana Pratap Sagar Dam** at Rawatbhata.

### Key Points

- The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the proposed works and gave necessary instructions to the concerned officials.

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- The officials of the **Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Rajasthan** gave him detailed information about **Rana Pratap Sagar-Brahmani flood protection management and water diversion project** at **Bisalpur Dam**.
- The surplus water of the Saddle Dam will be taken to **Bisalpur Dam** by connecting it to the **Brahmani River**. This will enable maximum use of surplus water and there will be no wastage of water.
  - Under this project, a barrage is proposed to be built on the Brahmani river at Shripura village. Also, under the project, construction of tunnels and filling of Garada, Abhaypura and **Gudha dams** of **Bundi** district are also proposed.
- Rana Pratap Sagar Dam:
  - The Rana Pratap Sagar Dam is located on the **Chambal River** near the town of **Rawatbhata** in the Chittaurgarh district of Rajasthan.
  - It is part of the **Chambal Valley Project**, which also includes the **Gandhi Sagar** and **Jawahar Sagar Dams**.
  - The purpose of this dam is irrigation, **hydroelectricity production** and **flood control**. The reservoir created by the dam is known as **Rana Pratap Sagar Lake**.

#### Brahmani River

- Brahmani River is a tributary of Chambal which originates from Madhya Pradesh and flows into Rajasthan.
- It is worth noting that there is another river named Brahmani which originates from Dumka district of Jharkhand and flows eastwards into the state of Odisha.
  - This river is formed by the confluence of the Shankh and South Koel rivers near Rourkela.

## 32nd National Convention of Dhakad Samaj

### Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan addressed the **32nd National Convention of Dhakad Samaj** in Kota.

### Key Points

- The Chief Minister described the Dhakad community as a community **making significant contributions to the**

**overall development of the country** and highlighted their **history, hard work, and spirit of service**.

- He emphasized on the upliftment of farmers, youth and women in the convention.
- The convention was also attended by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**, who laid special emphasis on the **prosperity and well-being of farmers** to take the country forward on the path of progress.

#### The Dhakad Society

- The Dhakad community is a **Hindu peasant Kshatriya caste** mainly found in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
  - They are found in the **Tonk, Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Chittaurgarh and Ajmer** districts of Rajasthan.
- The word '**Dhakad**' means one who is not afraid of anyone but faces the circumstances courageously.
- They consider themselves **descendants of Balramji (Balram, elder brother of Lord Krishna)**.
- They speak **Hindi and Devanagari**.

## Birth anniversary of Lord Sridevnarayan

### Why in News?

The **1113th birth anniversary of Lord Devnarayan**, the incarnation of **Lord Vishnu** and the most revered deity of the **Gurjar community**, was celebrated in the state.

### Key Points



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- **Folk deity:**
  - Lord Devnarayan, who is considered to be the incarnation of Vishnu, is the main folk deity of Rajasthan . He is also known as Uday Singh Dev.
  - He was born in **Malasari of Rajasthan** and dedicated his entire life for public welfare.
  - Lord Devnarayan is said to be of the Bagrawat dynasty .
- **Birth:**
  - His birth falls on the sixth day of the Shukla Paksha of Magh month.
  - During this time, **he is worshipped by the Gurjar community on Makar Sankranti** and Dev Ekadashi .
- It is said that **apart from Rajasthan, Devnarayan has also lived in various areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**

## New Director of Minority Affairs

### Why in News?

On 5th February 2025, Matadeen Meena, an Indian Administrative Service officer, took charge as Director of the Department of Minority Affairs .

### Key Points

- **After assuming charge, the officer** visited the Madrasa Board to observe the functioning of various sections.
- During this, he took feedback from the officers and employees of the Directorate and instructed them to work with honesty, dedication, discipline and spirit of service.

#### Department of Minority Affairs

- The **Government of Rajasthan established a new Minority Department in 2009** for the all-round development and socio-economic and educational upliftment of the minority communities (**Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis**) of the state.
- This department reviews and coordinates policies, schemes and development programmes for the benefit of minority communities. This department is **headed by the Minister of Minority Affairs and Wakf**.

## Anti-Conversion Bill

### Why in News?

The Rajasthan government introduced the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025, aiming to **prevent religious conversions** through force, fraud, or inducement.

- The Bill includes provisions for **imprisonment of up to 10 years** and a **fine of up to Rs 50,000** for various offences.

### Key Points

- **Approval and Purpose:**
  - In November 2024, the **State Cabinet approved the draft of the Bill**, aiming to **stop the “increasing instances of ‘love jihad’”** in certain areas of the State.
    - The term **‘love jihad’** refers to Muslim men marrying Hindu women to convert them to Islam.
- **Bill Provisions:**
  - The State Medical and Health Minister introduced the Bill, which makes offences **cognisable, non-bailable, and triable in court**.
  - The Bill **criminalizes conversions** through misrepresentation, force, coercion, allurement, fraud, or marriage.
  - Individuals wishing to convert their religion must give a declaration to the District Magistrate at least 60 days in advance.
- **Rationale Behind the Bill:**
  - According to the Bill’s statement, while other states have laws on the right to religious freedom, Rajasthan lacked such a statute.
  - The Bill aims to balance the individual right to religious freedom with the need to prevent proselytism, which could undermine secularism.

#### Religious Conversion

- Religious conversion is the **adoption of a set of beliefs identified with one particular religious denomination** to the exclusion of others.
- Thus “religious conversion” would describe the **abandoning of adherence to one denomination** and affiliating with another.
  - For example, Christian Baptist to Methodist or Catholic, Muslim Shi’a to Sunni.
- In some cases, religious conversion “marks a **transformation of religious identity** and is symbolized by special rituals”.

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## Global List of Wetland Accredited Cities

### Why in News?

Indore and Udaipur have become the **first two Indian cities** to be **accredited as wetland cities** under **the Ramsar Convention**.

### Key Points

- **International Recognition for Wetland Conservation:**
  - **The Wetland City Accreditation** recognizes cities that **prioritize the conservation** of their **natural and human-made wetlands**.
  - The Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation **accredited 31 new cities**, including Indore and Udaipur, bringing the **global total to 74 accredited cities**.
- **Bhopal Misses Out on Accreditation:**
  - Bhopal, which was nominated alongside Indore and Udaipur, did **not receive accreditation due to concerns** about the ecological impact on **Bhoj wetland**.
  - Citizen groups **raised concerns** about a **proposed road project cutting through the wetland's catchment area**, potentially threatening local water bodies and wildlife.

- **Criteria for Wetland City Accreditation:**
  - Cities must satisfy **six international criteria**, including:
    - Conserving wetlands and their ecosystem services.
    - Ensuring sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.
- **Global Status of Wetland City Accreditation:**
  - **China leads the global list** with 22 accredited cities, **followed by France** with 9 cities.
  - The accreditation program promotes the **sustainable use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**.

### Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

- The WCA is a **voluntary accreditation system established by the Ramsar Convention** during the **Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) 12, 2015** to recognize cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
  - The WCA is **valid for 6 years**.
- The scheme **aims to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.



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Note:

## Key Points

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## Summary

# Summary

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**Summary**