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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Approval of Rs 24.87 Crore for Super Specialty Services in Various Medical Colleges in the State

Why In News?

On December 31, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved an **additional budget provision of Rs 24 crore 87 lakh 22 thousand** for super specialty services in 6 medical colleges of the state in order to provide high-level medical facilities in the state .

Key Points

- With this decision of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, various medical equipment will be purchased for medical colleges of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Ajmer, Bikaner and Udaipur of the state. With this, super specialty medical services will be available to the common man in their city itself.
- It is noteworthy that in the budget for the year 2022-23, the announcement was made by the Chief Minister for expansion and strengthening of medical services. In this order, this approval has been given.

State Wetland Authority's Fifth Meeting

Why In News?

On January 2, 2023, the fifth meeting of the State Wetlands Authority was held in Jaipur under the chairmanship of Rajasthan's Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Hemaram Chaudhary, in which the officials were instructed to work with commitment to preserve the wetlands.

Key Points

- In this meeting, forest, environment and climate change minister Hemaram Chaudhary gave permission to notify **50 wetlands located in 20 districts** of the state and set a target to increase their number to more than 100 in the coming time.
- Apart from this, it was also decided to send a proposal for the approval of the Government of India for the proposed dedicated testing track in Sambhar area by the Indian Railways to carry out work in 28.04 hectares.

- Minister Hemram Chaudhary also released the **'State Environment Plan'** made by the Environment Department in the meeting, under which various waste management, air pollution, water pollution, forest management, industrial pollution, wetland management, noise pollution, pollution by mining, Action Plan for Rural Waste Management etc. will be implemented.

'Rajasthan Homeless Upliftment and Rehabilitation Policy-2022'

Why In News?

On January 3, 2023, Rajasthan's Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jolly told in a meeting held at the Government Secretariat in Jaipur that the **'Rajasthan Homeless Upliftment and Rehabilitation Policy-2022'** has been implemented, under which survey and identification of homeless persons will be done in the first phase.

Key Points

- In the meeting, it was agreed to complete the survey of homeless persons by the stakeholders under the Rajasthan Homeless Upliftment and Rehabilitation Policy 2022 in the next two months.
- Minister Tikaram Jolly said that on the basis of the findings of the survey, the next outline of the scheme will be decided. The survey work will be done at the division level, district level and gram panchayat level. It was agreed by the stakeholders to conduct survey work at the village level by Panchayati Raj institutions and at the urban level by voluntary organizations.
- He said that to provide shelter to homeless persons with adequate housing system and to bring them into the mainstream of development, access to self-employment and social rights including education empowerment, adequate employment generation as well as training opportunities will be ensured.
- It is noteworthy that under the 'Rajasthan Homeless Upliftment and Rehabilitation Policy-2022', provisions have been made to **provide roofs with a minimum space of 50 square feet per person**, provide proper privacy and security to special category people.

Note:



- Apart from this, there are various provisions in the policy including providing basic necessities like drinking water, medical facilities, education, security etc. and operating shelter homes for homeless persons. With this decision, the homeless will be empowered by providing education, skills and employment opportunities.

The President Inaugurated the Constitution Garden in Rajasthan

Why In News?

On January 3, 2023, the President of India Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the **Constitution Garden at Raj Bhavan** in Jaipur, Rajasthan, emphasizing the need to work to instill a sense of constitutional morality among the countrymen.

Key Points

- Speaking on the occasion, the President virtually inaugurated the transmission system set up by the Power Grid Corporation of India for solar energy sectors in Rajasthan. Apart from this, he also laid the virtual foundation stone of 1000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project.
- Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra said that after the inauguration of the Constitution Garden by the President, Rajasthan has become the first state in the country where such a Constitution Garden has been prepared in Raj Bhavan.
- He said that it has been prepared by the Jaipur Development Authority under the Smart City Project of the Central Government. On January 26 last year, the foundation stone of the Constitution Garden was laid at Raj Bhavan.
- Initiatives have been taken to build constitution gardens in all the funded universities of the state and the tradition of reciting the basic duties has been started by reading the preamble of the Constitution before the address in the state assembly. In this sequence, the Constitution Garden has been constructed here with the aim of connecting all the general and distinguished people coming to Raj Bhavan directly with our ideal culture associated with the Constitution.

- The Governor said that the Constitution Garden is not only an art form of 22 parts of the holy Constitution of the country, but it is also a reflection of the ideals and culture associated with the Constitution. Here the original handwritten copy of the Indian Constitution is not only very artistic but also presents the ideal of culture. The preface is adorned with paintings of horse, elephant, lion and bull symbolizing the civilization of Mohan Jodaro in the golden border.
- It also presents drawings made by the great artist Nandalal Bose and his disciples, including the ashram of the Vedic sage performing yagna with the disciples, the statue of Nataraja, the artworks carved at the Mahabalipuram temple, the desert and Gandhiji's Dandi Yatra, Subhash Bose's Azad Hind Fauj, gods and goddesses, Mahatma Buddha etc.

President Inaugurates 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree

Why In News?

On January 4, 2023, President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the **18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree** at Roht in Pali district of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- The 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree was attended by more than 37,000 scouts and guides from different countries including India, Ghana, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal.
- Speaking at the event, President Draupadi Murmu said that there is a confluence of tremendous enthusiasm and energy in this conference of youth. This gathering of youth is a mini young India. Scouts work for humanity and social service with their whole heart and soul. It is a matter of pride that the largest number of scouts in the entire country are from the land of Rajasthan, symbolizing courage and valour.
- He informed that Bharat scouts and guides organization has been working to train the youth for about 115 years. Even before independence, many others, including Mahatma Gandhi, were admirers of this organization.
- The work that this country's largest organization does for character building is amazing. There are more than 63 lakh scouts and guides in this organization.

Note:

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that there are more than 12 lakh scouts and guides in the state. He has played an important role in Covid management by acting like a disciplined soldier.
- A Jamboree souvenir, special cover and Jamboree magazine were also released by President Draupadi Murmu on the occasion. A cultural program on the theme of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was organized on the occasion.

Chief Minister Inaugurated the State Level Tribal Sports Competition

Why In News?

On January 5, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the state-level tribal sports competition at Gandhi Ground in Udaipur district of the state.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the state government is continuously organizing high-level sports competitions to encourage sports and sportspersons, which has created a positive atmosphere for sports in the state for the first time since independence and a new sports culture has developed.
- In order to encourage sports, the state government has decided to give 2 percent reservation in government jobs along with out-of-turn appointments to medal winning players. The prize money of sportspersons who have won medals in international competitions has been increased to Rs 3 crore.
- The government is working to provide good facilities, coaches and environment to the identified talents through sports events and training camps, so that they can perform well at the national and international level.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that for the first time, 30 lakh players participated in the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games, including 10 lakh women players. After the Rural Olympics, the Urban Olympic Games are now starting from January 26. The work of identifying sports talent from such events is being done.
- He said that this time the budget will be dedicated to the youth and students. In the coming budget, proper provisions will be made for the development of tribal areas and the players were called upon to

continuously improve their sports skills through training camps and competitions so that excellent players emerge from every district.

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also announced to open sports schools in Udaipur on the lines of Jaipur and Jodhpur, so that the sports talent of the area will get high level training from childhood.
- Apart from this, he also announced the launch of a month-long special summer training camp for tribal sportspersons.

Chief Minister Inaugurated Seva Shram and Potter's Kiln Flyover in Udaipur

Why In News?

On January 5, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated two **Seva Shram's and Potter's Kiln flyover on the busiest road of the city**, giving a big gift to Udaipur district of the state.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that with the operation of both flyovers in Udaipur, the traffic pressure in the surrounding area will be reduced and the city dwellers will be able to commute.
- In Udaipur, Seva Shram flyover has been constructed at a cost of Rs 19.55 crore and Potter's Kiln flyover at a cost of Rs 19.86 crore.

Rajasthan Tops in the Country in Service Delivery and Redressal of Public Grievances

Why In News?

On January 6, 2023, Dr. Subhash Garg, Minister of State for Public Grievances, Department of Public Grievances of Rajasthan said that under the campaign '**Good Governance Week-Administration Towards Villages - 2022**' run by the Government of India, Rajasthan has secured the first place in the entire country in two categories - service delivery and public grievance redressal.

Note:

Key Points

- Minister of State for Public Grievances Dr. Subhash Garg said that during the '**Good Governance Week - Administration Towards Villages**' campaign run by the Government of India during the year 2022, 53 lakh 80 thousand cases of **public grievances** were resolved all over the country, out of which Rajasthan got the first place by disposing of 23 lakh 36 thousand cases.
- In the year 2022, 310 lakh cases of service delivery were resolved in the entire country, out of which Rajasthan got the first place by disposing of 149 lakh applications for service delivery.
- He said that in service delivery, Alwar district stood first with 16 lakh 45 thousand cases, Jaipur second with 14 lakh 53 thousand cases and Sikar district third with 12 lakh 92 thousand cases.
- Similarly, in public grievance redressal, District Jaipur was first with 2 lakh 62 thousand cases, Jodhpur second by solving one lakh 19 thousand cases and Alwar district was third with 1 lakh 17 thousand cases.
- It is noteworthy that the divisional level review conducted by The Minister of State for Public Grievances Redressal Department Dr. Subhash Garg through video conferencing every month played a major role in making the state a leader. This increased the sensitivity of field officers to the grievances of the common man.
- State Level Public Grievance Redressal Committee Chairman Pukhraj Parashar said that for the redressal of public grievances, the facility of registering 24x7 complaints has been provided on the Rajasthan Sampark Portal and in mission mode, three-tier public hearings are being held at village level, subdivision level and district level every month.
- Director Public Services and Joint Government Secretary Dr. Om Prakash Bairwa said that Rajasthan is among the leading states to enact the Guarantee of Delivery of Public Services in the year 2011 and the Right to Hearing Act in 2012 along with the Rajasthan Guarantee of Delivery of Public Services Act in the year 2011.
- He said that at present, 624 services are being provided online under a quick and transparent system along with time-bound delivery of 308 services notified under the Rajasthan Guarantee of Delivery of Public Services Act to the common man in the state, so that the common man does not have to visit remote offices repeatedly.

Western Rajasthan Industries Handicrafts Festival

Why In News?

On January 6, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the '**Western Rajasthan Udyog Handicraft Festival**' at Ravana Ka Chabutra Ground in Jodhpur. The 33rd festival, focusing on the main theme of '**Developing Rajasthan - Entrepreneurial Rajasthan**', will continue till January 15.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visited the central pandal, industrial exhibition, development exhibition, sea-world, statue of Adidev Mahadev etc. in the festival. He encouraged the people by taking information about the products and models displayed.
- The event is being organized under the joint aegis of Jodhpur District Administration, District Industries Centre Enterprise Promotion Institute, Jaipur and nodal agency Marudhara Industries Associations, Jodhpur.
- There are about 750 stalls set up in it. More than 700 handicraftsmen from 18 states of the country are participating in it. Apart from this, marketing support is being provided by various departments of the Central and State Government to their stakeholders in the festival.
- The main theme of the festival this time is '**Developing Rajasthan – Entrepreneurial Rajasthan**'. In reflecting this, the Central Pandal is showcasing the infrastructure developed in the industrial area and the models of industrial projects guiding the overall industrial development of the area. Along with this, the vibrant panorama will be the center of attraction to showcase the development and Gandhian ideology of Rajasthan.
- The festival started 33 years ago as a small industrial exhibition at jodhpur information centre. The next year, in the old stadium, it got the look of an industry fair. Started in the year 1991 with only 80 stalls, the festival continued to grow.
- This time, small-cottage industrial and handicraft units of various states like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, West Bengal and Uttarakhand etc. will get the benefit of displaying and selling their products at the festival venue.

Note:

Rajasthan International Center

Why In News?

On January 7, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot informed that the Rajasthan International Center is being constructed in Jhalana Institutional Area of Jaipur, on the lines of India International Center in Delhi, which will be inaugurated soon.

Key Points

- In April 2013, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had laid the foundation stone of the Rajasthan International Centre.
- After the construction of Rajasthan International Center, various types of government and non-government activities including art-culture, education, information technology and communication will be done here.
- It will have an auditorium of 700 people capacity, convention center of 500 capacity, two mini auditoriums of 170 seating capacity each, exhibition area of 500 capacity, 3 conference halls, e-library, 3 lecture halls, 2 restaurants, administrative section, double basement parking facilities. A guest house will also be built here, which will also have gym facilities.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the internal construction of the center is being done on the lines of Rajasthan's architecture. The walls of the auditorium will conform to jaisalmeri pattern. The convention hall and pre-functional area will have halls based on City Palace Jaipur and walls based on Hawa Mahal Jaipur style.
- He said that a mini auditorium is being prepared on the Marwar pattern. Conference halls, lecture halls and restaurants are being prepared to suit the arches and monuments of the ancient art of Mandor Garden of Jodhpur, according to the state-of-the-art interior pattern.

18th National Jamboree Concludes

Why In News?

The 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamboree concluded at Nimbli (Rohat) in Pali district on January

10, 2023. **Rajasthan won the best state title at the closing ceremony.** Rajasthan stood first among the states participating in the event.

Key Points

- It may be mentioned here that the state-level development exhibition was organized by the state government on **January 4 at 18th National Scouts and Guides Jamburi** at Rohat in Pali district which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.
- Among the states participating in the National Jamboree, Rajasthan received the best state award for its best performance in all fields. Rajasthan also won awards in both the categories of National Commissioner Shield for Scouting and National Commissioner Shield for Guide for Best Guide.
- It is worth mentioning that during this entire event, Rajasthan has made many records, including the largest temporary stadium in the India Book of Records, the oath taken by the highest number of students in uniform on environmental pollution, etc.
- It is noteworthy that Niranjana Arya, chief commissioner of Jamburi of the state, gave the National Commissioner Shield for Scouting and National Commissioner Shield for Guide to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, keeping the tradition of Rajasthan's guest Devo Bhava meaningful.
- More than 37,000 scouts and guides from different parts of India participated in this national event along with more than 400 delegates from different countries.

Legal Aid Defence Council System Launched

Why In News?

On January 11, 2023, Chief Justice and Chief Patron, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority, Pankaj Mittal launched the **Legal Aid Defence Council System in 23 jurisdictions of Rajasthan in the New High Court Building.** The system process in the remaining 13 jurisdictions is still under consideration.

Key Points

- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice said that the Legal Aid Defence Council System would prove to be a milestone in providing competent and effective legal aid in criminal cases to the weaker and

Note:

disadvantaged sections of the state and facilitating their access to justice.

- The chief justice said the idea of implementing the Legal Aid Defence Council system is at par with Europe's public defender system. Through this, the access to justice will be made more easier by providing competent and effective legal services to the eligible persons from the weaker and deprived sections of the society in criminal cases.
- It may be mentioned that the Legal Aid Defence Council System is being introduced by the National Service Authority in 365 District Legal Services Authorities out of 22 State Legal Services Authorities in the country.
- Under this, it has also been decided to start legal aid defense council system in all 36 jurisdictions of Rajasthan in the first phase.

MoU Signed between Bikaner House Management Committee and Bharat Kala Mela

Why In News?

On January 11, 2023, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bharat Kala Mela and Bikaner House Management Committee** in the capital Delhi to promote art and culture in Bikaner House premises of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- The MoU was signed by Piyali Das Gupta, Program Director, Bikaner House Management Committee and Uma Jacob, Director External Relations & Outreach (IAF).
- This MoU of Bikaner House Management Committee and Bharat Kala Mela will connect the art, culture and heritage of Rajasthan with national and international fame, which is an important step.
- It is worth mentioning that with this coordination with Bharat Kala Mela, Bikaner House will be a partner unit and partner in the programs of Bharat Kala Mela from February 2 to February 15.
- Additional Chief Secretary (Coordination) Chief Housing Commissioner Shubhra Singh said that Bikaner House Management Committee (BHMS) will collaborate

with Bharat Kala Mela to establish Bikaner House as venue partner and young collectors program hub to promote art and cultural activities for the upcoming editions of Bharat Kala Mela 2023.

- This association with The Bharat Kala Mela will prove to be a path-breaking event for future cooperation on curated events at Bikaner House and both BHMS and IAF will contribute extensively to the promotion of art and culture.
- The **Indian Art Fair (IAF)** is internationally recognized as a premier platform for exploring modern and contemporary art in South Asia. The Bharat Kala Mela will organize an annual four-day event from February 9 to February 12, 2023 at the NSCI ground in Okhla with the help of prominent artists and participants.

Amnesty and Voluntary Load Increase Announcement Scheme Implemented for Electricity Consumers

Why In News?

On January 12, 2023, Rajasthan Minister of State for Power Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that **amnesty scheme has been implemented by the Power Distribution Corporations to recover the outstanding amount of electricity from the consumers** of regular and disconnected connections of agricultural category and other categories of disconnected connections in the state. Along with this, a voluntary load declaration scheme has also been implemented to regularize the unauthorized increased load of agricultural connections.

Key Points

- Minister of State for Power Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that it has been decided to implement voluntary load declaration scheme to provide convenience to agricultural consumers and to increase the quality of power supply in the agriculture sector and to prevent revenue loss.
- Amnesty scheme has been implemented till June 30, 2023 to recover the outstanding amount of disconnected connections of all categories of electricity consumers other than agriculture category by December 31, 2022.

Note:



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- Under this scheme, 100 percent discount in interest and late payment fee will be provided on the consumer depositing the entire principal outstanding amount by March 31, 2023 and if the consumer deposits the principal dues between April 1 and June 30, 2023, then 50 percent discount in late payment fee and interest will be provided.
- Under the scheme, consumers of regular and disconnected connections of agriculture category will be able to deposit the outstanding amount without interest and penalty in lump sum or maximum 6 bi-monthly installments till December 31, 2022. The disconnected connection of the consumer will be connected as per the prevailing provisions of the agriculture policy. This scheme will not be available to the consumers who have taken advantage of such schemes in the last three years and cases of theft and misuse will not be included under this scheme.
- Under the scheme, the disconnected connection of the consumer can be re-added as per the provision if the entire principal outstanding amount is deposited by March 31, 2023 or the entire outstanding amount is deposited from April 1 to June 30, 2023 with a discount of 50 percent in late payment fee and interest.
- To take advantage of this scheme, the consumer will have to submit the application to the concerned Assistant Engineer's office and the large industrial category consumers to the office of senior accounts officer-CA-HQ.
- Bhanwar Singh Bhati informed that the Voluntary Load Increase Declaration Scheme will be applicable to agricultural connections issued till December 31, 2022 and will be effective till March 31, 2023.
- Under the scheme, if the consumer wants to connect the disconnected connections up to two years ago with the increase in load, he can also take advantage of this scheme. The corporation will bear the cost of transformer capacity increase and new 11 KV line and sub-station, if necessary, for agricultural consumers taking advantage of the scheme during the plan period.
- During the implementation of the scheme, if the VCR of the increased load of any consumer has been filled, then that too will be regularized as per the provisions of this scheme. Such farmers who increase the load by installing another motor on the same well or increase the load on the second well which is in the same Khasra/Khet/Complex/Marmalade to run

the second motor, then they will not be given the benefit of this scheme and if in the past Two motors are approved and farmers can take advantage of this scheme if they want to increase their load.

- After the completion of the scheme on March 31, 2023, a special campaign will be launched for weight verification and if their weight is found to be more than the approved weight during checking, the amount will be recovered as per the agricultural policy.

Rajasthan became the First State in the Country to Implement the Policy for Control of Blindness.

Why In News?

On January 13, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that in an innovative initiative towards realizing the vision of healthy Rajasthan in the state, the Medical and Health Department of the state has **implemented the blindness control policy for the first time in the country** with the objective of 'Right to Sight Vision'.

Key points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the policy document has been released by the Medical and Health Department for the prevention of blindness. This policy has been brought with an aim to bring light in the lives of more than three lakh people suffering from visual impairment in the state.
- It is noteworthy that the prevalence rate of blindness in the country was 1.1 percent in the year 2020, which will be worked towards bringing it down to 0.3 percent through the 'Right to Sight Vision' policy.
- Under the state government's blindness control policy, keratoplasty centers and eye banks will be compulsorily operated in all government medical colleges. Under this policy, corneas collected by private organizations and NGOs receiving financial assistance will be made available to government institutions on priority.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that efforts will be made in collaboration with voluntary organizations, trusts, hospitals and other charitable institutions working in this field in the districts of the state.

Note:

- The state government will run a campaign for eye donation on a large scale with the help of private institutions. Special training will be given to eye specialists, eye surgeons, postgraduate students, counsellors and eye assistants working for eye donation.
- Secretary of Medical and Health Department. Prithvi said that under this policy, public awareness and various technical improvement activities related to blindness control will be organized.

Chief Minister Approved the Format of 'Post Matric Scholarship Scheme'

Why In News?

On January 14, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the draft '**Uttar Matric Scholarship Scheme**' for Mirasi and Bhishti community.

Key points

- Under this scheme, scholarships will be given by the state government to the students of Mirasi and Bhishti community.
- With this scheme, the youth of Mirasi and Bhishti communities will be able to come forward in the field of education and realize their dreams. At the same time, with the education of the youth, the family will get financial support and social upliftment of the community will also be done.
- According to the draft, students belonging to Mirasi (Dhadhi, Mir, Manganiyar, Damami, Nagarchi, Langa, Rana) and Bhishti community with annual family income up to Rs 2.50 lakh will be eligible under the scheme.
- In this, scholarships ranging from Rs 5000 to Rs 20000 per academic session will be given to 2000 students from class 11 to post-graduate.
- It is noteworthy that in the budget for the financial year 2022-23, the Chief Minister had announced various works for the economic and social upliftment of the Mirasi and Bhishti communities.

'Har Ghar Panchayat Abhiyan'

Why In News?

On January 15, 2023, Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jully launched the '**Har**

Ghar Panchayat Abhiyan' from village Poonkhar in Alwar district, taking an innovative initiative for speedy disposal of the grievances of the common people.

Key points

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jully said that under the 'Har Ghar Panchayat Abhiyan', every rural area will be visited, every house will be reached and interact with the villagers and the problems of the villagers like electricity, water, electricity, roads etc. will be solved.
- He said that the state government is working on the policy of zero tolerance, under which strict action will be implemented against the officers and employees who are negligent in the work of the common people.
- He informed the villagers by distributing pamphlets and publicity materials of flagship schemes of the state government including pension, Palanhar, MNREGA and called upon the villagers to take advantage of these schemes by remaining aware.
- Minister Tikaram Jully said that all sections of the society can get the benefit of the flagship schemes of the state government. With this objective, 'Har Ghar Panchayat Abhiyan' and Jan Samvad program have been started in Alwar rural area, under which the grievances of the common people will be heard and resolved hand-in-hand by knocking from house to house.
- In this way, a campaign to solve the problems by reaching every house has been run for the first time in the state, which is a unique step in itself. With this campaign, the problems of the common people will be solved sitting at home.

The Chief Minister has Given Consent to the 'Gaushala/Animal Shelter Public Participation Scheme'

Why In News?

On January 15, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has given consent to 'Gaushala/Animal Shelter Public Participation Scheme' in Gram Panchayats.

Key points

- The Chief Minister has also approved a financial provision of about Rs 1377 crore for site construction

Note:

and operation in 1500 gram panchayats in the first phase of this scheme.

- Under this scheme, cow shelters will be set up at a cost of Rs 1 crore each in the Gram Panchayats where competent executive agency (Gram Panchayat / Voluntary Organization) will be available to operate cow shelters / animal shelters.
- Under this, sites will be constructed in 200 Gram Panchayats in the year 2022-23 and 1300 Gram Panchayats in 2023-24. In this, the state government will bear 90 percent and the executive agency will bear 10 percent of the amount.
- A total of Rs 1377 crore has been approved by the Chief Minister for construction and operation of sites including Rs 183.60 crore in the year 2022-23 and Rs 1193.40 crore for the year 2023-24.
- This decision will provide a permanent shelter for stray and destitute animals. Farmers will also get relief from the problem of stray animals.
- It is noteworthy that in the budget for the year 2022-23, it was announced to operate cow shelters / animal shelters in Gram Panchayats.
- Continuous decisions are being taken by the state government in the interest of cattle farmers. Grants are being given to cow shelters operating in the state for 9 months in a year. Nandishalas are being opened. Cattle farmers are also getting a subsidy on milk at the rate of Rs 5 per liter.

Formation of Standing Committee in Rajasthan State Sports Council

Why In News?

On January 17, 2023, the Rajasthan government issued an order constituting a standing committee under the chairmanship of Krishna Poonia in the Rajasthan Sports Council.

Key points

- Satvir Chaudhary, president of Rajasthan Sports Council Committee and Financial Advisor of Youth Affairs and Sports Department will be treasurer. Mohammad Iqbal, a resident of Jaipur, and Anil Vyas, a resident

of Shahpura in Bhilwara, have been made members of the standing committee.

- According to the order, all nominated office-bearers and members will be nominated to the Rajasthan State Sports Council for 3 years or till their nomination is withdrawn by the state government, whichever is earlier.

Delegation of Rajasthan Tourism Department to the International Tourism Trade Fair 'FITUR-2023'

Why In News?

On January 18, 2023, a delegation of Rajasthan Tourism Department participated in the International Tourism Trade Fair 'FITUR-2023' to be held in Madrid, the capital of Spain.

Key points

- It is noteworthy that this International Tourism Trade Fair will be organized from 18 to 22 January 2023.
- As a five-member delegation, Dharmendra Rathod, Chairman of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, Gayatri Rathore, Principal Government Secretary, Tourism Department, Vijaypal Singh, Managing Director of RTDC, Salim Khan, Additional Director of Tourism Department and Navkishore Baswal, Deputy Director participated in the delegation.
- RTDC Chairman Rathore said that there is year-round arrival of tourists from other European countries including Spain in Rajasthan. In this fair, discussions will be held with various international tourism experts, travel agents, tour and travel operators and other tourism related agencies so that tourism of Rajasthan can be promoted.
- He said that 'FITUR-2023' will help Rajasthan to make a new identity at the global level in the field of tourism.
- RTDC Chairman said that Rajasthan is culturally, historically, geographically rich state. All tours, travel agencies and tourism experts related to tourism will be invited to visit Rajasthan through 'Padharo Mhare Desh' with the aim of making Rajasthan's tourism potential known at the global level.

Note:

MoU Between the Center and the State Government for the Establishment of the First Composite Regional Center in the State

Why In News?

On January 18, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Central Government and the State Government of Rajasthan to provide various types of services and facilities to the disabled people, under which the first Composite Regional Center in the state will be established at Jamdoli, Jaipur.

Key points

- The MoU was signed between the Central Government and the State Government in the presence of Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jolly. Manish Verma, Director, National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Dehradun and Dr. Committee, Government Secretary Social Justice Empowerment signed it.
- Kantri Tikaram Jolly said that after the MoU, the Composite Regional Center will be operated temporarily by the Government of India. Soon, land will be made available to the Central Government by the State Government for the permanent operation of the Composite Regional Center and the building of composite regional center will be constructed by the Government of India on the identified land.
- The operation of this center will benefit the disabled people of the state. Persons with disabilities will get free artificial limbs and equipment from this center.
- Through this center, facilities of identification of disabled people, physiotherapy, occupational therapy etc. will also be provided free of cost, as well as this center will also play an important role in issuing UDID cards to the disabled people.

The Governor Inaugurated the Book 'Exam Warriors'

Why In News?

On January 18, 2023, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra released the Hindi and English version of the book

'Exam Warriors' written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Raj Bhavan.

Key points

- The book has been translated into various languages by the National Book Trust (NBT) to ensure its use across India.
- After the inauguration, the Governor said that it is very important not only for the students, but also for teachers and parents. In this book, the Prime Minister has basically written in the context of stress in children during exams, as well as specific information on life management.
- In this book, along with many yoga asanas to help the students, important formulas have also been given on giving the exam with celebration, enthusiasm and gaiety, laughing and smiling at the exam, living in the present, improving life from sports, etc.
- In this book, along with writing letters to teachers, knowledge has been described as a permanent asset and a call has been given to learn it throughout life.
- NBT Director Yuvraj Malik said that translated versions of the book have been published in Indian languages like Assamese, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu etc. by the National Book Trust under the Ministry of Education.
- It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had written this book for the purpose of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' dialogue.

Gandhi Literature and Philosophy Corner Inaugurated in Government Colleges

Why In News?

On January 19, 2023, Minister of State for Transport and Road Safety and Churu District In-charge Minister Brijendra Singh Ola and District Collector Siddharth Sihag inaugurated Gandhi literature and philosophy corner in collaboration with Prabha Khaitan Foundation at Government SBD College and Government Girls College at Sardarshahar headquarters of the district.

Note:

Key points

- Expressing his views on Gandhi philosophy, Minister in-charge Brijendra Singh Ola said that Gandhi's thoughts are becoming more relevant with time. Gandhi gave the world a weapon called Satyagraha and proved that any war of life is possible to be fought even without violence.
- He said that Gandhi literature is a guide. Both means and ends should be sacred in life. Following the path shown by Gandhiji, everyone should follow truth and non-violence.
- Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi President and District Convenor of Mahatma Gandhi Jeevan Darshan Samiti Dularam Saharan thanked Prabha Khaitan Foundation and said that Gandhi Darshan is the path of life and Gandhi Literature and Philosophy Corner will prove to be very useful in establishing an atmosphere of non-violence and peace in this atmosphere of unrest and violence.
- He said that books would also be made available in the corner run by Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi as books of Gandhi literature create personality.

Agreement Between Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and Aaroh Consulting for Digitization of Micro and Small Enterprises

Why In News?

On January 19, 2023, a bilateral agreement between Rajasthan Export Promotion Council and Aaroh Consulting for digitization of micro and small enterprises of Rajasthan was signed by REPC Chairman Rajiv Arora and Arundhati Mukherjee, Director, Aaroh Consulting, at Udyog Bhawan.

Key points

- REPC Chief Executive P.R Sharma said that as per the bilateral agreement, REPC and Aaroh have agreed to cooperate on providing courses and faculty for running programs in areas like digitization and export facilitation for MSMEs across the state.
- Arundhati Mukherjee, founder director of Aaroh Consulting, said the organization will be ready to help

grow micro and small enterprises, expand overseas markets and remove MSME tags known as MNCs.

- Aaroh Consulting has over 7 years of experience in supporting MSMEs to expand their markets and automate their processes.
- P.R. Sharma informed that as a part of the agreement, Aaroh will tie-up with technology providers to bring low-cost solutions for digitization of MSMEs of all sizes. It will also develop an agenda for training and provide qualified and experienced faculty for the same over the next 2 years.
- Aaroh will work with associations in India and globally to coordinate with buyers and trade delegations from various countries, he said. It will help micro enterprises in Rajasthan to streamline business processes by facilitating and using new-age IT tools.
- He informed that this would help micro and small enterprises to have access to all the business data required for data-driven decision making to improve their businesses. With this, the MSME units of the state will be able to give new direction to the business in the country and abroad based on demand and availability of their products.

Rajasthan Tourism Polo Cup Tournament

Why in discussion

Rajasthan Tourism Department and Rajasthan Polo Club organized Rajasthan Tourism Polo Cup tournament from January 16 to 22, 2023 at Rambagh Polo Club Ground in Jaipur in which Bedla Trojans defeated Rajnigandha Achievers in the final match and captured the title.

Key Points

- International player Padmanabha Singh's hat-trick helped Bedla-Trojans beat Rajnigandha Achievers 7-4 in the final match of the Rajasthan Tourism Polo Cup tournament.
- Rajasthan Cricket Association president Vaibhav Gehlot, director of tourism department Dr. Rashmi Sharma presented the Rajasthan Tourism Polo Cup to the winners.
- Director of Tourism Rashmi Sharma said that organizing Rajasthan Tourism Polo Cup will prove to

Note:



be an important event for international tourists in the state in the coming days and through this, the tourism department of the state will establish new dimensions in the polo tourism sector.

- Four teams - Bedla Trojans Polo, Rajnigandha Achievers, Krishna Polo and Samode Polo - participated in the tournament, which ran from January 16 to 22. At the same time, players from India and abroad also participated in the tournament.

Aashayein The Filling Station

Why in News?

On January 22, 2023, former Union Minister of Rajasthan Bhanwar Jitendra Singh and Minister of Prisons Tikaram Jully laid the foundation stone of a petrol pump 'Aashayein the Filling Station' in the Central Jail Complex Alwar as part of an innovative initiative to connect the prisoners of the prison department in the state with employment and provide convenience to the common people.

Key Points

- Speaking on the occasion, former Union Minister Bhanwar Jitendra Singh and Prisons Minister Tikaram Juli said that this initiative of the Prison Department will provide employment to the prisoners living in open jails with good conduct and conduct according to their qualifications. This effort will prove to be an important link in living a respectable life for the prisoner and his family and to connect with the mainstream of society.
- This petrol pump will be operated by the detainees, which will be monitored by the Prison Monitoring Committee.
- He informed that the state government is providing skill training to jail inmates through various innovations. At the same time, work is being done to connect the prisoners living in open jails in the mainstream of society through these innovations.
- Central Jail Superintendent Pradeep Lakhawat told that this petrol pump will be operated by Aashayein organization in the Central Jail premises with the help of Prisons Department and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
- Petrol and diesel will also be made available to consumers in the first phase and CNG in the second

phase. This petrol pump will be started in about one and a half to two months.

- Pradeep Lakhawat said that instead of the trees removed from the land selected for the petrol pump, many times more trees have been planted in the jail premises, which will be looked after by the jail inmates.

Public Health Engineering Minister Lays foundation Stone of Urban Water Augmentation Scheme in Harmada

Why in News?

On January 22, 2023, Rajasthan's Public Health Engineering Minister Dr. Mahesh Joshi laid the foundation stone of urban water augmentation scheme to provide Bilaspur water to Harmada and Badharna areas of Jaipur city.

Key Points

- Minister of Public Health Engineering Joshi said that under the Urban Water Augmentation Scheme, two high reservoirs of 1500 kilo liters and 700 kilo liters capacity and two clean reservoirs of 1800 kilo liters and 1400 kilo liters capacity will be constructed and 143 km. long pipeline will be laid.
- On this occasion, the Public Health Engineering Minister also laid the foundation stone for the works of laying a high reservoir of 2,000 kilo liters capacity and 10.6 km DI pipeline being constructed for drinking water supply at Bhatta Basti of Hawamahal Assembly constituency of Jaipur under adequate pressure. The cost of these works is Rs 8 crore 17 lakh.
- It is noteworthy that the Urban Water Augmentation Scheme is included in the budget announcement of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to provide drinking water from Bisalpur to Harmada-Badharna.
- About 60,000 people of Gayatri Nagar, Sudamapuri, Ganga Vihar, Vijay Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Shyam Nagar, OmPuri, New Karni Colony, Bhagwan Nagar, Gautam Enclave etc. of Harmada and Badharna areas will be benefited by this drinking water scheme.
- This drinking water augmentation scheme will solve the drinking water problem of five wards of

Note:

Hawamahal assembly constituency in the long term and at the same time pure drinking water supply will be provided under adequate pressure in A, B, C and D blocks of Bhatta Basti, Shivaji Nagar, Rajiv Nagar, New Sanjay Nagar, Bajrang Nagar, Shaheed Indra Jyoti Nagar, Vijay Nagar etc.

Vidhansabha Speaker Laid Foundation Stone of Anicut on Banas river

Why in News?

On January 21, 2023, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Dr. C.P. Joshi laid the foundation stone of an anicut to be constructed at a cost of about Rs. 26 crore for better irrigation and water management system in Namana village of Nathdwara area of Rajsamand district of the state.

Key Points

- Speaking on the occasion, Water Resources Minister Mahendrajit Singh Malviya said that the construction of the concrete will increase the water level of the area and the farmers of the village will not face shortage of water for irrigation.
- Cooperation Minister Uday Lal Anjana said that the schemes of the Rajasthan government have given Rajasthan recognition as a model state in the country.
- Apart from the incident, the water resources department also laid the foundation stone of repair and restoration work Fatehpuria Pond and other works.
- Apart from this, Phulpura Minor of main Daai canal of Nandsamand Dam was also inaugurated.

Now there will be ACB Post in Bhiwadi as Well

Why In News?

On January 23, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to shift one of the two Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) posts operating in Alwar district of the state to Bhiwadi.

Key points

- It is noteworthy that Bhiwadi is a town in Alwar district of Rajasthan, where ACB outpost will be established.

- At present, two ACB posts are operational in Alwar district and not a single post is set up in Bhiwadi. Bhiwadi being a large industrial area, there are offices of many departments of the state and central government located there.
- At present, only Alwar outpost is working on the grievances of Bhiwadi. This decision of the Chief Minister will facilitate the common people and complainants to reach the post.

One Month Mine Safety Campaign Started in the Entire State

Why In News?

On January 23, 2023, Rajasthan Mines and Gopalan Minister Pramod Jain Bhaya informed that the mines department of the state has started a mine safety campaign in the entire state from January 23.

Key points

- Mines and Gopalan Minister Pramod Jain Bhaya said that during the campaign, at least 15 mining leases / 30 quarry license areas carrying out mineral mining / production will be inspected by the zone, circle, block, subdivision officers as well as vigilance officers of the department and ensure compliance of mining safety rules and provisions.
- He said that other officers of the department will also have to visit at least five mining licensees and inspect them.
- ACS Mines Subodh Agarwal said that on the instructions of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, emphasis was laid on taking steps to ensure compliance of necessary provisions for safe mining. For this, a month-long campaign has been started by the department from January 23 to February 22.
- He said that necessary provisions regarding safe mining are available in various sections of the Mines Act 1952 along with the Rajasthan Prime Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 (RMMCR), Mines Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR) and Metallurgical Mines Regulation 1961 (MMR).
- Dr. Subodh Agarwal said that during the campaign, compliance of the provisions issued by the Environment Department in the consent to operate and environment

Note:



clearance issued by the Environment Department for mining lease and quarry license areas, safety provisions issued for the protection of the environment and health of miners will be ensured.

- He informed that the Rajasthan Prime Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 have a provision to conduct mining activities keeping in mind the health standards of miners in a safe and scientific manner as per rules. According to the Mines Act, keeping in mind the interests of miners, it is necessary to have the availability of drinking water system, toilets, medical equipment etc.
- Apart from this, qualified person is required to be employed for environmental protection, demarcation of mining area, supervision of mining activities. In case of non-compliance of safety standards, necessary action can be taken by stopping mining activities.
- ACS Mines said that under MCDR, there is a provision to conduct mining activities keeping in mind the scientific conservation and environmental protection during mining operations. During the campaign, along with their compliance, recharge of abandoned mines and adherence to mines closure plan will be inspected.
- Along with this, overburden or waste etc. of the mines will also be kept in the designated place and adherence to the back filling provisions will also be seen.
- Dr. Agarwal said that MMR, 1961, has necessary guidelines regarding the use of benches, height, width, side slope angle, deep hole blasting and heavy machinery of open cast mines so that mining can be done in a safe and scientific manner.

Eight Creators of the State will get Amrit Samman

Why In News?

On January 24, 2023, in the meeting of the Amrit Samman Committee held under the chairmanship of Dr. Dularam Saharan, President of Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi, Udaipur, it was decided that nine writers of the state who are above 75 years of age will be awarded the Amrit Award of Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi for the year 2022-23. Will give respect

Key points

- Academy Secretary Dr. Basant Singh Solanki said that considering the applications received and as per the

recommendation of the Director, the committee has selected eight literature workers of the province for Amrit Samman.

- He said that Dr. Sulochana Rangeya Raghav of Jaipur, Pushpa Sharad Deora, Dr. Kalyan Prasad Verma, Gyarsilal Sen of Jhalawar, Lakshminarayan Ranga of Bikaner, Saral Visharad, Shiv Kumar Sharma Madhup of Churu and Bharti Bhavsar of Banswara will be selected for the year 2022-23. Has been done for the nectar of respect.
- These Amrit Samman's will be conferred at the Academy Foundation Day function to be held on January 28 at the Academy Auditorium, Udaipur.
- It is worth mentioning that litterateurs above 75 years of age who have served Hindi language, literature, culture, education, literacy, journalism etc. and who have not received any honor or award from the Akademi before, will be given this amount of Rs.31,000. Amrit Samman is awarded.

Review Meeting of CAMPA steering committee held

Why In News?

A review On January 24, 2023, meeting of the Steering Committee of the Compensatory Forest Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) of the Forest Department was held at the Government Secretariat in Jaipur under the chairmanship of Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usha Sharma.

Key points

- In the review meeting, along with reviewing the annual action plan of CAMPA for the year 2022-23, the annual action plan of Rs 298.57 crore for the year 2023-24 was approved.
- This Annual Action Plan will be implemented after getting the approval of the Central Government, which is Rs 49.38 crore more than the amount of Rs 249.19 crore in the current financial year.
- It is noteworthy that the amount released under the rules of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund is used for capacity building of personnel involved in forest and wildlife management and strengthening of related infrastructure. This helps in the protection of forests and wildlife.

Note:

25 Digital Interceptors Join Rajasthan Police Fleet

Why In News?

On January 24, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off 25 hi-tech interceptor vehicles in the police fleet under the state's road safety management.

Key points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that interceptors equipped with digital technology can measure speed and reading vehicle number plates even at night. These vehicles, while playing an important role in road safety, will prove to be effective in curbing road accidents.
- Interceptors have been provided to Rajasthan Police by the state government at a cost of about Rs 5 crore from the Road Safety Fund.
- The Chief Minister said that the state government is making efforts to prevent road accidents with commitment. Financial sanctions are being given to police and concerned departments for state-of-the-art resources and awareness campaigns.
- Additional Director General of Police VK Singh said that these interceptors will ensure contactless and cashless enforcement. It is equipped with a high-quality high-definition camera with speed laser gun capable of measuring the speed of vehicles from one kilometre. These interceptors will be able to detect number plates of speeding vehicles from 250 meters during the day and 100 meters at night.
- Apart from this, its AI technology by taking is **also capable of issuing e-invoices from NIC's ITMS** facility with photo-videos.
- The digital interceptor has a 360-degree camera recorder in addition to the laser track motion camera, breathing alcohol measurement device, tint meter, LED signage, LED lightbar, high-capacity siren and PA system. First aid and medical kits are also available.
- These include 4 interceptor traffic Commissionerate's Jaipur, 2 each Udaipur, Ajmer, Jaipur Rural, Sikar, Bhilwara, 1-1 Nagaur, Barmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Pali, Alwar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur Rural. Jhalawar, Sirohi and Kota have been given to the city.
- It is noteworthy that the main reasons for road accidents include speeding and drunken driving. Keeping these reasons in mind, the state government has provided interceptors to the police.

Andaman and Nicobar Island Named after Paramveer Chakra Winner Shaitan Singh of Rajasthan

Why In News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 large uncharted islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 21 winners of the Param Vir Chakra, the highest military decoration in India, on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary (Valour Day) on January 23, 2022. The name of Param Vim Chakra winner Major Shaitan Singh of Rajasthan is also included in this list.

Key points

- Born on December 1, 1924, in Jodhpur, Shaitan Singh's father Hem Singh Bhati was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army. With the spirit of bravery and patriotism inherited from his father, this brave soldier of Jodhpur State Force joined the Kumaon Regiment on August 1, 1949. In 1962, Shaitan Singh was promoted and appointed Major.
- On November 18, 1962, in the Chushul Valley of Ladakh in the Sino-Indian War, Major Shaitan Singh, leading a contingent of about 120 soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment, took the front in Rezang La and killed 1300 Chinese soldiers on his own with his contingent. Was dropped
- It is said about them that this brave son fought the enemy army by tying the machine gun to the feet with a rope. In the end, he became immortal forever by making his supreme sacrifice.
- Three months later in that snow-covered area, Major Shaitan Singh's body was found at the same spot behind Shilakhand, which was taken to Jodhpur and cremated with full military honours. Major Shaitan Singh was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, the highest wartime gallantry medal, for his indomitable courage, leadership and exemplary dedication to duty.
- Keeping in mind the historical importance of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to pay tribute to the memory of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose 2018, the Prime Minister had renamed the Ross Islands as 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island' during his visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands in. Neil Island and Havelock Island were renamed as 'Shaheed Island' and 'Swaraj Island'.

Note:



- With an aim to give due respect to the real-life heroes of the country, it has been decided to name 21 major unknown islands of the archipelago after 21 Param Vir Chakra winners.
- The first large unknown island is named after the first Param Vir Chakra winner, the second large unknown island is named after the second Param Vir Chakra winner and so are the undiscovered islands.
- The 21 Param Vir Chakra winners named after these islands are - Major Somnath Sharma; Subedar and Honorary Captain (then Lance Naik) Karam Singh, MM; Second Lieutenant Ram Raghoba Rane; Naik Jadunath Singh; Company Havildar Major Piru Singh; Capt GS Salaria; Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) Dhan Singh Thapa; Subedar Joginder Singh; Major Shaitan Singh; CQMH Abdul Hameed; Lt. Col. Ardeshir Burjorji Tarapore; Lance Naik Albert Ekka; Major Hoshiar Singh; Second Lieutenant Arun Khetrapal; Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon; Major Ramaswamy Parameswaran; Naib Subedar Bana Singh; Captain Vikram Batra; Lieutenant Manoj Kumar Pandey; Subedar Major (then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar; and Subedar Major Retd (Honorary Captain) Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav.

Four Personalities of the State Selected for Padma Shri Honor

Why In News?

On January 25, 2023, the President announced the country's highest civilian awards 'Padma Awards' for the year 2023 on the eve of Republic Day. Of these, four personalities from Rajasthan have been selected for the Padma Shri award.

Key points

- For the year 2023, the President has approved the conferment of 106 Padma Awards including three dual cases (in a dual case the award is counted as one).
- The list includes 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri awardees. The list of awardees includes 19 women and 2 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 7 posthumous awardees.
- The four personalities from Rajasthan selected for the Padma award are Moolchand Lodha, Laxman Singh and Ahmed Hussain and Mohammad Hussain (jointly).

- Social worker Moolchand Lodha of Dungarpur and Laxman Singh of Lapodiya village of Jaipur have been selected for distinguished service in the field of social work, while Hussain Bandhu Ustad Ahmed Hussain and Ustad Mohammad Hussain have been jointly selected for Padma Shri award for distinguished service in the field of art.
- The Hussain brothers of Jaipur, known for their ghazal and qawwali singing, have also been awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the year 2000.
- Significantly, Padma awards are among the highest civilian awards of the country. The Padma awards are given in three categories - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The awards are announced on Republic Day every year.
- The awards, social work public affairs science and engineering are given in the fields of various disciplines trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service etc/activities such as art.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- These awards are presented by the President of India in ceremonial ceremonies which are usually held at Rashtrapati Bhavan around March/April every year.

International Trade Fair

Why In News?

On 27 January, 2023, Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Chairman Rajiv Arora told the Rajasthan export promotion council meeting held in Jodhpur that with the aim of giving new heights to industrial development in Rajasthan on the world stage an international trade fair will be organized at EPCH Center Boranada Industrial Area of Jodhpur from On March 20 to 22, 2023.

Key points

- Chairman of Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Rajiv Arora said in the meeting that apart from furniture, the main products exported from Jodhpur will also be exhibited in this international fair, agriculture and various types of processing industries, engineering products, steel etc. will also be exhibited.

Note:

- He said that for this, foreign buyers will be invited to participate in this event by contacting Indian Embassies and High Commissioners of Countries like Europe, America, Central Asia, Australia etc. Handicrafts Export Promotion Council and major exporters and exporter organizations will also provide the desired support.
- Rajiv Arora said that suggestions will be invited from various entrepreneurs and exporters for the successful implementation of this international level trade fair, and they will be implemented mainly. Local exporters and non-export entrepreneurs will play every possible role to make the event a success.
- He said that the expo will especially encourage those artisans of the division, who metros like Delhi must work in villages and go to, Mumbai etc. to sell their products. Through this event, products will reach more and more buyers and their attraction towards local products will increase.
- It was informed in the meeting that special attention will be paid to special maintenance and beautification of roads in Jodhpur city during the mela period. A committee will be formed by the organizing organizations and entrepreneurs to cooperate in this event.

State Holiday Declared on Lord Shri Devnarayan Jayanti

Why In News?

On 27 January 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to declare a state holiday in the state on the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Devnarayan.

Key points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that keeping in mind the faith of the common people and the demand of the public representatives in the state, it has been decided to declare a state holiday in the state on the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Devnarayan.
- It is known that various people's representatives including Devnarayan Board President Jogendra Singh Awana, Industry Minister Shakuntala Rawat and Minister of State for Sports Ashok Chandna had

written letters demanding that Lord Shri Devnarayan Jayanti be declared a holiday.

- It is noteworthy that Lord Shri Devnarayan is worshiped as a cow protector, folk deity who relieves the sufferings of helpless people and a mighty warrior. In Rajasthan and other states, Lord Shri Devnarayan is worshiped by many devotees of different communities.
- This year, the 1111th birth anniversary of Lord Devnarayan is being celebrated on January 28.

Joint Meeting of Governing Council and Executive Council of Western Zone Cultural Center

Why In News?

On January 29, 2023, Kalraj Mishra, Governor of Rajasthan and President of West Zone Cultural Center, in a joint meeting of the Governing Council and Executive Council of West Zone Cultural Center in Goa, according to the honorarium of Dr. Komal Kothari Award given to artists over the years. Giving instructions to increase, approved the proposal in this regard on the spot.

Key points

- After the approval of the Governor, the amount of two and a half lakh rupees Komal Kothari Award, given by the West Zone Cultural Arts Center, will not be divided if it is given to more than one person. If two artists are given this honour, then both will be given Rs 2.5 lakh each.
- The meeting was attended by members of the Governing Body and Executive Body from the Central Member States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu.
- On this occasion, the Center also announced that the Festival of the North-East Octave will be held in Goa in 2023. This program of art promotion of artists of North-East is organized annually.
- In the meeting, the Governor also instructed to work seriously for the preservation, documentation and maximum dissemination of various art forms of traditional and vanishing tribal arts under the West Zone Cultural Center.

Note:

- Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stressed on the conservation of folk, traditional and tribal art forms belonging to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli under the Centre, promoting mutual exchange activities of artists.
- It is worth mentioning that in the memory of Padma Bhushan Dr. Komal Kothari, the well-known art connoisseur of Rajasthan, by the Western Zone Cultural Center of the Union Ministry of Culture, Udaipur, 'Dr. Komal Kothari Memorial Life time Achievement Folk Art Award' is given.
- Significantly, Dr. Komal Kothari is also known as 'Komal Da'. He did important work for the protection of folk arts. He had established Rupayan Sanstha in Borunda for the protection of Rajasthan's folk arts, folk music and instruments, search for vanishing arts etc.

Sarvodaya Day was Organized on the Last Day of Animal Welfare Fortnight

Why In News?

On 30 January 2023, Rajasthan Animal Husbandry Department and Animal Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day was celebrated as Sarvodaya Diwas in the state under the joint auspices of Welfare Board.

Key points

- On this occasion, The Special Officer of the State Animal Welfare Board, Dr. Lal Singh said that the board will organize awareness programs at various places throughout the year to awaken the spirit of animal welfare among the common people.
- It is known that the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated every year as Sarvodaya Diwas by the department and on this day, it is ensured with the help of various departments to prohibit the slaughter of animals and birds in the entire state.
- Dr. Lal Singh said that just as Mahatma Gandhi had dedicated his life to non-violence and all welfare, in the present context, it is necessary to follow the principle of 'live and let live' for the welfare of the entire human race.
- In the closing ceremony of animal welfare fortnight at a private school in Mansarovar, Jaipur, school children present there brought to life the pain caused

to animals due to human torture.

- The children showed how human beings commit atrocities against animals while prioritizing their needs. On this occasion, children also displayed posters and slogans giving a message to stop atrocities against animals. At the same time, some students gave the message of compassion towards animals and motivating animal welfare through vocal poems.
- Present on this occasion, Dr. Yashpal, the veterinary doctor of the Animal Welfare Board, honored the students who presented posters, banners, poetry recitation and staged plays by giving them symbols and citations by the board.

JV Agreement Executed Between THDCL and RRECL for Establishment of Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks in the State

Why In News?

On January 30, 2023, a joint venture cum shareholding agreement was executed in Jaipur between THDC Limited, a Miniratna A-category company of the Government of India, and Rajasthan Akshay Urja Nigam.

Key points

- The agreement was signed by DK Sharma, Technical Director, Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation and SS Pawar, Chief General Manager (Solar), THDC, in the presence of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Chairman Ashutosh AT Pednekar and Managing Director Anil Dhaka.
- THDC and RREC will hold 74:26 percent stake respectively in the joint venture company.
- On this occasion, Chairman of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ashutosh AT Pednekar said that 10,000 MW capacity renewable energy projects will be developed in different places of the state in a phased manner by this joint venture company, which will provide cheap renewable energy.
- On this occasion, THDC by Pednekar. Together with the officials, the goals of developing floating solar and pumped storage hydro plant in Rajasthan were also discussed.

Note:

- Ashutosh AT Pednekar said that the establishment of this Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks to be established in the state will prove to be such a unique initiative for the development of renewable energy in the state with the initiative of the Central Government.
- Ashutosh AT Pednekar said that the establishment of this Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks to be established in the state will prove to be such a unique initiative for the development of renewable energy in the state with the initiative of the Central Government.
- SS Pawar, CGM (Solar), THDC informed that an investment of about Rs 40,000 crore will be made on the establishment of this ultra-mega renewable energy park and about 10,000 people will get direct and indirect employment, which will improve the economic condition and standard of living of the local people. Will develop. In the first phase, solar parks of 2000 MW capacity will be developed by the year 2025.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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