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(CONSOLIDATION)

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National Science Day-2023

Why In News?

On February 28, 2023, the Department of Science and Technology of Rajasthan organized National Science Day at the Regional Science Center and Science Park established at Shastri Nagar, Jaipur.

Key points

- On this occasion, Curator of Regional Science Center Kailash Mishra said that for the promotion of science, the department will organize programs in private educational institutions, colleges, schools and engineering schools in all the districts of the state from February 28 to March 15.
- In these, competitions like demonstration on scientific explanation of miracles, recreational use of liquid nitrogen, science show, science exhibition, science painting competition, science essay, science quiz, science exhibition, science talk, slogan writing, debate will be organized.
- In the program, the poster of National Science Day programs to be organized in the entire state for the next 15 days was released.
- It is noteworthy that Nobel laureate Sir CV Raman discovered the Raman effect on February 28, 1928, this day is celebrated as National Science Day.
- This year's theme is 'Global Science for Global Well Being'.
- Kailash Mishra said that on National Science Day, selfie points have been installed by the department at major places in the entire city of Jaipur. This innovation has been done by the department so that people can relate to the concepts of science and can be made aware beyond superstitions.
- In the programme, Professor Rishi Kumar Singhal, Head of the Department of Physics, University of Rajasthan, told that Sir CV Raman's research paper was published at the age of just 18 years. Seeing the ripples of the Sun's rays on the waves of the ocean, CV Raman thought that this is not an ordinary phenomenon, but an important phenomenon of science and he got involved in the study of the scattering of light.
- He invented the spectrometer at a cost of just Rs 200 and through spectroscopy, the Raman effect awarded him the Nobel Prize.

- The winners of National Science Symposium-2022, National Science Drama Competition-2022, West India Science Fair 2022-23, National Children's Science Congress 2022-23 were awarded at the event.

Regular Publication of Madhumati, the Monthly Magazine of Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi

Why In News?

On February 28, 2023, Rajasthan's Art, Literature and Culture Minister Dr. B.D. Kalla told that regular publication of monthly magazine Madhumati is being done by Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi.

Key points

- Art, Literature and Culture Minister Dr. B.D. Kalla told that after publishing 48 issues of this magazine, the e-book has been uploaded on the website of the Academy.
- Madhumati issues contain articles of famous litterateurs and great men from all over the country and Rajasthan. Apart from this, if an article of a foreign language has also come, then its translation has also been published.
- Dr. B.D. Kalla said that the book 'Gandhi Sabad Nirantar' has also been published by the Academy.
- It is noteworthy that Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi was established on January 28, 1958. During the year 2013 to 2017 no work has been done by Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi Udaipur for translation of literature of other Indian languages and foreign languages.

Bihar's Babita Gupta Selected for 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman-2023'

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on March 1, 2023, Babita Gupta of Bihar has been selected for the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023' by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Note:

Key points

- On International Women's Day, she will be honored with the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023' by the President at a function organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on March 4 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- International Women's Day week will be celebrated from March 4 under the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It is known that Babita Gupta, a resident of Siho village of Muzaffarpur, is a member of Self-Help Group (Jeevika), along with making her own livelihood by making decorative material from plastic waste, and showing the way to other women, and has won national level awards for different categories of cleanliness and drinking water. He has been selected in the competition.
- After her husband's disability, she became a member of Jeevika and learned the skill of making useful items from plastic waste. Due to this she has become self-reliant. Now she is giving training to the women of the village. With this initiative of hers, more than 24 women have become self-reliant.

Referral Lab will Soon Open in the State for Testing Food Items

Why In News?

On March 1, 2023, Rajasthan's Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena assured in the assembly that a referral lab would be set up in the state soon for testing food items. He informed that a proposal has been sent to the Central Government by the State Government in this regard.

Key points

- Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that there are different parameters for testing food samples by the State Food Testing Laboratory and referral lab. The state government has also written a letter to the central government to fix the same parameter across the country.

- Replying to a supplementary question asked by the member in this regard during question hour, Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that samples that samples that have been unsafe in the testing of food samples in the state laboratory can be tested through referral. At present, referral labs are set up in Mumbai, Pune and Mysore.
- He said that the parameters of safe and unsafe are different in the center and the state. Unsafe 1202 samples were sent for referral to the state laboratory, where only 154 of them were found to be unsafe. The central government has assured the early establishment of referral labs in the state as well.
- Earlier, in a written reply to the original question of MLA Suryakanta Vyas, the Medical and Health Minister said that government laboratories are established in the state to check adulteration of food items. He laid on the table of the House the year-wise and district-wise details of samples taken in government laboratories in the last four years and reports received from them.
- The Medical and Health Minister also placed on the table of the House the decisions, decisions received from the referral received from the said report from the samples declared unsafe by the food laboratories of the state to the referral lab, year-wise and district wise information of the samples considered non-standard and standard.
- Parsadi Lal Meena said that section 46(4) of the Food Safety and Standards Act provides for an appeal against the report of the food analyst to the concerned officer. Under these provisions, on appeal by the designated officer concerned, the samples can be tested by the designated officer from the referral laboratory. The FSSAI has earmarked three referral labs for the state - Mysore, Pune and Navi Mumbai.
- He said that the main reason for the difference in the results of the state laboratory and referral laboratory is to test on different parameters and the interpretation of the results obtained by the investigating officer to give his opinion is also one of the reasons for the investigation results obtained after testing the samples.
- The Medical and Health Minister said that proposals have been sent to FSSAI New Delhi under the MoU in the Work Plan 2023-24 for setting up referral labs in the state.

Note:

Cabinet Approves 35 proposals for Economic, Social and Educational Development of the State

Why In News?

In the state cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on March 1, 2023, 35 different schemes including economic, social development, promotion of higher education, encouragement of state employees, promotion of industrial activities and control of organized crimes in the state. Important proposals were approved.

Key points

- The Rajasthan Control of Organized Crime Bill-2023 was approved in the cabinet meeting.
- In this, against whom more than one charge sheet has been presented in the court in the last ten years and the court has taken cognizance of it, as well as who, as a member of organized crime gang, has committed an offense which is cognizable and punishable for a period of three years or more. is punishable, action can be taken against that person.
- Action will be taken against the gang of two or more persons by whom organized crime is committed in organized crime gang.
- In case of death of the victim, the offender has been given death penalty or life imprisonment and a minimum fine of one lakh rupees. Also, for criminal conspiracy, giving shelter to gang members, a minimum of five years imprisonment, which can be maximum life imprisonment. Also, a minimum fine of five lakh rupees has been made.
- At the same time, a provision of minimum three years imprisonment, which can be a maximum of life imprisonment, has been made for acquiring property through organized crime. Also, a public servant who has cooperated in organized crime is punishable with a maximum of three years imprisonment and a fine.
- Other important proposals approved by the Cabinet:
- The Cabinet has approved a bill to set up Rajiv Gandhi Fintech Digital Institute in Jodhpur. The institute will function as a deemed public university. It will offer certificate courses and diploma courses in the digital and financial technology domain.
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal to approve the Rajasthan State Forest Policy. This decision will facilitate the systematic development, management of forests in the state and will promote conservation of natural resources in the state and generate many employment opportunities.
- The Cabinet approved the Climate Change Policy aimed at preventing additional exploitation of the state's natural resources and their sustainable use.
- The cabinet has approved the 'E-Waste Management Policy' with the objective of reducing, reusing and recycling e-waste in the state and reducing the damage caused by e-waste to the environment.
- The cabinet has approved amendment in various service rules for appointment in the state government to widows and abandoned women with more than 2 children on and after June 1, 2002. Also, various service rules have been amended regarding promotion of personnel having more than 2 children on or after June 1, 2002.
- The cabinet approved the proposal to amend the Rajasthan Animal Husbandry Subordinate Services Rules, 1977 to change the educational qualification and designation of the posts of water bearer/sweeper/shepherd. With this decision, the posts of waterman/sweeper/shepherd will be merged, and their new designation will be 'animal attendant'.
- The cabinet approved the proposal for amendment in the Rajasthan Fisheries State and Subordinate Services Rules, 2012. With this, the recruitment of posts not coming in the work area of Fisheries Subordinate Service can now be done through written examination by the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board.
- The Cabinet approved the draft Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences Bill, 2023. Its passage will pave the way for the establishment of a university-level innovative institute in the field of higher learning related to governance and social sciences on public-private partnership mode at Jaipur district headquarters.
- The Cabinet approved formation of Section-8 company for setting up Artificial Intelligence of Things Innovation Hub (AIoT) under City Innovation Cluster at Jodhpur. This decision will benefit the youth, startups and entrepreneurs of the state and create employment opportunities.

Note:



- The cabinet has approved the proposal to amend section 39 of the Rajasthan Municipality Act, 2009 to take action against the municipality member for pre-election disqualifications. With this decision, the state government will get the right to take action against such municipality members.
- The cabinet decided to allot 210 hectares of land to JK Cement Limited at Village-Parevar, District-Jaisalmer for setting up a cement plant. There will be an investment of about Rs 5000 crore in this project. With the establishment of the project, 1000 people will get direct employment and 5000 people will get indirect employment.
- The Cabinet approved the proposal for allotment of land for establishment of Regional Millet Research Station of Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad at Gudamalani village in Barmer district.
- The cabinet decided to construct broad gauge dedicated rail line on government land at village Nawan, district Nagaur. Testing and trials of intermediate rolling stock and base land components made in the country and abroad will be possible on this dedicated rail line.
- The Cabinet approved the draft Jai Meenesh Tribal University, Ranpur (Kota) Bill, 2023. The passage of this bill will pave the way for the establishment of this university in the private sector.
- In compliance of the previous budget announcements in the cabinet meeting, it has been decided to develop necessary infrastructure facilities by planning Greater Bhiwadi Industrial Township area and Marwar Industrial Cluster and expanding their jurisdiction.
- Rajasthan Energy Conservation Building Code and Rajasthan Energy Conservation Building Code Rules-2023 were approved for the construction of energy efficient buildings to save energy in commercial buildings. This will reduce energy consumption in the building sector. Also, reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions will help in making the environment cleaner.
- Tuition fees waived on government seats for non-creamy layer candidates of MBC and OBC category on the lines of SC, ST, EWS and women students in the MBBS course of medical colleges run by State Medical Colleges, Jhalawar Medical College and Hospital Society and Raj-MES in the cabinet meeting. It has been decided to do.
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal for allotment of land to the Protection of Animals and Welfare Society for shelter house for homeless dogs. This land is a

newly created plot of 1000 sqm in Jaipur Development Authority's residential scheme Ramchandrapura.

Certificate of World Book of Records Handed Over to Education Minister

Why In News?

On March 2, 2023, education minister Dr. B. D. Kalla was awarded the Certificate of World Book of Records by Pratham Bhalla, Vice President of Rajasthan in the India chapter of World Book of Records, London.

Key points

- It is noteworthy that on behalf of The World Book of Records, London, the Education Department of The Rajasthan Government, has announced 21 November on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (No Bag Day' as part of 'Chess in School Activity' 9 innovations in 38 lakh thousand 19, 2022). The participation of the students was certified.
- Education Minister In a message to Kalla, the India chapter of the World Book of Records, London, said that this initiative of the Education Department has been recorded by them in their records. Under this, schools in all 33 districts 57 thousand 462 organized on the third Saturday of November in 'No Bag Day' was of the state.
- On this occasion, 38 lakh 21 thousand 9 students played brain exercise game (chess) across the state. In a single day, participation of 38 lakh 21 thousand 9 students in chess together has made the education department of Rajasthan's name registered in golden letters on the world stage.
- It is noteworthy that the World Book of Records has a global network in all continents of the world. It issues international level certificates assessing talent and potential through World Records in various disciplines.
- In the program, the education minister said that the team of the department in the state is working towards progress in the academic level and the overall development of children with full spirit. Thanks to this, the department has set five world records including Chess in School Activity".
- On this occasion, Director of School Education Gaurav Agarwal said that chess books of English and Hindi

Note:



provided by the Chess Association will also be sent to the schools to promote chess in the schools of the state.



Approval of Three 33 KV Substations in Neem Ka Thana

Why In News?

On March 2, 2023, Rajasthan's Minister of State for Energy Bhanwar Singh Bhati informed that approval has been received to set up three 33/11 KV sub-stations in Neem Ka Thana assembly constituency of the state.

Key points

- Minister of State for Power Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that the construction of 33/11 KV GSS Dabur in Neem Ka Thana is targeted to be completed by this month and 33/11 KV substation Mandoli and Kola Ki Nangal in the same assembly constituency are proposed to be constructed in the coming year.
- He informed that three proposals for new 33/11 KV sub-station were received from Dabur, Mandoli and Kola ki Nangal in Neem Ka Thana constituency. Out of these, Dabur's approval has been issued on March 16, 2022, and Mandoli and Cola's approval for Nangal has been issued on February 25, 2023.

MoU Signed Between Aus Heritage and PDCOR to Preserve the Splendor of the Pink City

Why In News?

On March 3, 2023, a one-day workshop organized under the joint auspices of Aus Heritage, a partner organization of PDCOR, JDA, Municipal Corporation Jaipur

Heritage, Jaipur Smart City Ltd and newcomer Australia, in Jaipur to preserve the pink city of Rajasthan as a historical heritage. An MoU has been signed between Aus Heritage and PDCOR.

Key points

- Under this MoU, the Ace Heritage Organization will provide services using modern and traditional ancient methods in the core area of mutual interest for the conservation and promotion of the archaeological wealth of Jaipur city.
- It is noteworthy that Jaipur, the pink city established by Raja Sawai Jai Singh 35-40 to live happily for in 1727 forty thousand people, which has been declared as a World Heritage by UNESCO and as a Craft City in 2015.
- In the concluding session of the workshop, Reema Huja, President of Jaipur Heritage Foundation and Director of City Palace said that children will also have to become heritage warriors to save the city's heritage as well as the climate.
- G.S. Sandhu, Advisor to the Government of Rajasthan for Urban Development and Housing, presented a memento and a book on UNESCO World Heritage Jaipur Development Plan to the President and participants of Aus Heritage.

Renewable Energy Conclave

Why In News?

On March 3, 2023, renewable energy conclave was organized in Jaipur under the joint aegis of RRECL, Rajasthan State Power Transmission Corporation Limited and Economic Times.

Key points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that Rajasthan is at the first place in the country in the field of renewable energy due to the investment-friendly policies of the state government.
- He informed that investors are coming forward to set up wind power, hybrid plants and green hydrogen projects along with solar energy in the state. The state government is committed to manufacture the necessary equipment for renewable energy plants in Rajasthan itself so that along with environmental protection, employment can also be created at the local level.

Note:

- The Chief Minister said that Rajasthan has immense potential in the field of renewable energy. The country's largest solar park is in Bhadla (Jodhpur). Rajasthan has been given the National Energy Conservation Award in the year 2022 due to outstanding performance in renewable energy across the country and RRECL has been awarded by the Ministry of Renewable Energy at the national level.
- MoU's were signed between the state government and investors during the conclave. The MoU signed between the state government and Torrent Power Limited in the renewable energy sector create will bring investment of Rs 37,000 crore in the state and 6150 jobs.
- Apart from this, the MoU signed between Welspun New Energy Limited and the state government in the renewable energy sector provide employment to will bring an investment of Rs 50,000 crore in the state and 2250 people.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched the Energy Sectoral Portal. Through this portal, all information related to energy will be available in one place. Data of 11 departments is available on the portal and it has been created by the IT team of the Chief Minister's Office.

President honored Gayatri Devi Yadav with Water Warrior Category

Why In News?

On March 4, 2023, at held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi the 'Swachh Sujal Shakti' Award Ceremony, President Draupadi Murmu honoured volunteer Gayatri Devi Yadav, who is playing the role of water woman in Rajasthan, with the water warrior category.

Key points

- Gayatri Devi has been honoured for her outstanding work done through rural women self-help groups to make farm ponds in Sambhar block area of Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- It is noteworthy that Gayatri Devi Yadav, along with The Gram Chetna Kendra Sanstha of Jaipur, has done excellent work for rainwater harvesting and conservation by forming 65 women self-help groups

in about 68 villages of Sambhar block for the last several years and contributed significantly to making women water literate in rural areas.

- Bansi Lal Meena, member of Gram Chetna Kendra Sanstha, said that Gayatri Devi Yadav worked to help the people in spreading the schemes being run by the state government and the central government for rainwater harvesting and clean water management through women self-help groups.
- He trained the villagers to collect rainwater through farm ponds, especially in rural areas, to make it fit for drinking and farming and to do better water management.
- Gayatri Devi's important work of training rural women to get pure drinking water and other crops from the accumulated rainwater stopped the migration of families in rural areas and increased their income, giving rural women an opportunity to lead a respectable life.



Chief Minister Increased the Amount of Assistance for Marriage Conferences

Why In News?

On March 4, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has increased the grant amount to encourage mass marriage conferences to be held in the state.

Key points

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that under the mass marriage scheme, now 25 thousand rupees will be given per couple. In this, the newly married woman will get a grant of 21 thousand rupees and the institution will get a grant of 4 thousand rupees.

Note:

This amount will be payable to marriage conferences held from April 1, 2023.

- It is known that at present this amount is being given 15 thousand and 3 thousand rupees respectively i.e., a total of 18 thousand rupees.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced an increase in grants in the budget, taking important decisions towards promoting social activities like mass marriages, preventing malpractices like dowry system and reducing unnecessary expenditure 2023-24.
- A provision of Rs 10 crore has been made on behalf of the Chief Minister for the year 2023-24 as assistance. With this, a target has been set to provide mass marriage grant to about 4000 couples.
- He has agreed to give an additional assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the organizers for the participation of families of different communities, castes and religions in mass marriages. Realizing the spirit of 'unity in diversity', this amount will be given for organizing marriages of at least 25 couples. In this, there is a provision to aid of Rs 2 crore to about 20 institutions.

MoU Signed Between Banasthali Vidyapeeth and RCAT in the Program organized on International Women's Day

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, at the event organized by Rajiv Gandhi Center for Advanced Technology (RCAT) on International Women's Day, an MoU was signed between RCAT and Banasthali Vidyapith, under which RCAT will provide training to students and teachers of Banasthali in the field of advanced technology and provide support to students interested in working in the field of advanced technology with its industrial partners.

Key points

- A graphic designing course for rural and self-help group women was also launched by RCAT's industrial partner computer software company Adobe.
- On this occasion, Chief Secretary Usha Sharma said that health remarkable work has been done in the fields of education, security, IT etc. in Rajasthan. Mahatma

Gandhi English Secondary School, IM Shatti Udaan Scheme and free check-up and medicine scheme related to women's health by the state government are examples all over the country.

- The Chief Secretary informed that Rajasthan is making unprecedented progress in the field of IT. The state's Jan Aadhaar Scheme, Incubation Center, Data Center etc. are typical examples of this, which the whole country is proud of. RCAT has emerged as the best finishing school by signing MoU's with high-end companies.
- Speaking on the occasion, Information and Technology Commissioner and RCAT MD Ashish Gupta said that RCAT 70 conducts courses in more than areas of robotics, blockchain etc. and soon RCAT will be started in every divisional headquarters.
- RCAT Executive Director Jyoti Luhadiya informed that RCAT is providing opportunities to engineering students as well as general graduates, women. Companies like Microsoft, Apple will also be associated with RCAT in the upcoming sessions.

30,000 Students of the State will get the Benefit of 'Chief Minister's Anuprati Coaching Scheme'

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot the 'Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Scheme' approved the proposal to increase the number of beneficiaries under 15 thousand to from 30 thousand. For this scheme, the Chief Minister has approved a financial provision of Rs 56.40 crore.

Key points

- With this decision of the Chief Minister, the economically weaker students of the state will get opportunities to get free quality coaching to prepare for various professional courses and competitive examinations.
- It is noteworthy that this scheme was started with the aim of providing free preparation for professional courses and competitive examinations to the students with weak economic background of the state.
- Seeing the success of the scheme as expected, the number of beneficiaries was increased from 10 thousand to 15 thousand in the budget of the financial

Note:

year 2022-23, which has been increased to 30 thousand in the budget of the financial year 2023-24.

Rajasthan Millets Conclave 2023 organized under International Year of Millets

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, Dinesh Kumar informed that Rajasthan Millets Conclave will be organized in the state on March 13 and 14, 2023 at the State Institute of Agricultural Management, Durgapur, Jaipur under the International Year of Millets.

Key points

- Principal Government Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture Dinesh Kumar said that this event is being organized with the cooperation of millets producers, agribusinessmen, startups, FPOs, voluntary organizations, agricultural scientists and agricultural officials. More than 100 stalls of millets startup and agro processing will be set up in this conclave.
- Secretary Dinesh Kumar said that Rajasthan has the first place in the country in terms of area and production of millet. Rajasthan's share in millet area in the country is 57.10 percent and share in production is 41.71 percent. Similarly, the state ranks third in the area and production of jowar in the country.
- He said that Rajasthan millets the year 2022-23 to encourage millets in Rajasthan mission was announced by the Chief Minister in the budget for, under which several strategies are being adopted to encourage millet and jowar cultivation, increase production, promote domestic consumption and promote main promotion.
- Under this, seed minikilt's have been distributed. Also, a Centre of Millets Excellence has been set up in Jodhpur for increase in production, post-harvest management and value addition.
- Principal Secretary said that in order to increase the consumption of millets, an action plan has been made to organize year-round events throughout the state under the International Millets Year to publicize its health benefits and popularize the products of millets.

- He informed that state-level seminars on nutritional importance of millets and conclave on agro-processing are being organized, in which concrete strategy is being developed through dialogue between millets producers, agricultural businessmen, startups, FPOs, voluntary organizations, agricultural scientists and officials. Is.
- It is noteworthy that the year 2023 declared by the United Nations General Assembly is being celebrated as the International Year of Millets. Under this, the general public will be made aware about the nutritional value and health benefits of various millets like Bajra, Jowar, Ragi, Kodo, Kutki and Sawa. Along with this, their production, productivity and marketing opportunities will be encouraged.

Approval of Proposal to organize International Rajasthani Conclave in Jaipur

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to organize International Rajasthani Conclave in Jaipur on September 23-24, 2023. The Chief Minister has also approved the proposal for an additional budget provision of Rs 5 crore for this mega event to be held under the auspices of the Industries Department and Rajasthan Foundation.

Key points

- The Chief Minister had announced to organize international Rajasthani Conclave in the budget for the year 2023-24 with the aim of uniting migrant Rajasthani's.
- In this two-day conclave to be held in September, interesting sessions will be organized on subjects like Rajasthani pride, literature, business, tradition, music, art, culture, social welfare, enterprise, food and entertainment etc.
- It will include a special session on entrepreneurship and investment opportunities. Overseas entrepreneurs from all over the world will participate in it. The Pravasi Samman Award announced in the NRR policy will also be launched in this conclave.

Note:



- It is noteworthy that in the year 2000, realizing the importance of Rajasthani diaspora, the International Rajasthani Conclave was organized for the first time under the leadership of Chief Minister Gehlot. To organize an international conference only for its diaspora was a unique initiative for the Central Government or any State Government at that time. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was organized by the Government of India on the same lines in the year 2003. Other states have also adopted this model.
- In the last three years, the role of Rajasthan Foundation has been very important in strengthening the relationship with the Pravasi Rajasthani's. The Foundation has been regularly organizing various programs to connect the migrant Rajasthani's with their motherland. Even during the Kovid epidemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, Rajasthan Foundation played a big role in helping the migrants.

Social Justice and Empowerment Department got the Honor at the National Level

Why In News?

On March 10, 2023, the Social Justice and Empowerment Department of the state has received national honours at the national level scotch award digital ceremony held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under which the department received two awards.

Key points

- Government Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment Department of Rajasthan. Samit Sharma received these honours.
- Government Secretary Samit Sharma said that the schemes run by the state government in the field of social security are being appreciated not only in the state but across the country. Rajasthan has emerged as a model state in the country through its various schemes.
- He said that the department was given digital certificates and citations by the Scotch Award team for its innovations.
- Dr. Samit Sharma told that three important schemes of the department got these awards. Palanhar Yojana

was awarded Gold Award, North Matric Scholarship with Silver Award and Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana with Silver Award.

- The department is working to simplify and digitize the facilities to reach the beneficiaries of the schemes through technological innovations using information technology.
- These are the innovations in the schemes -
 - In the post-matric scholarship scheme, the student's caste certificate, domicile certificate and income proof are automatically obtained from the Jan Aadhaar database. Class 10th and 12th mark sheets are being received directly from RBSE and CBSE through e-vault service. Mark sheets of other boards are retrieved based on DigiLocker availability.
 - In order to ensure scholarship of students in scheduled caste, post matric scholarship scheme, provision of free ship card (ensuring scholarship to the student) has been made on the portal.



Note:

- In the Palanhar Yojana too, on the lines of the Pension Scheme, through a centralized system, bills will be prepared from the directorate level itself and paid through a single treasury, which will ensure timely payment of assistance to the children associated with the Palanhar Yojana. Standard operating procedure has been issued for this.
- Government Secretary Dr. Samit Sharma said that three other schemes of the department, Corona Sahayata Yojana, Social Security Pension Scheme and Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana, have been awarded with Order of Merit certification.

Increase in the Amount of Assistance Received under Palanhar Yojana

Why In News?

On March 10, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to increase the amount of assistance given to beneficiaries of the category other than orphan category under the Palanhar Scheme. This decision of the Chief Minister will benefit more than 6.5 lakh children of the state.

Key points

- According to the proposal, the monthly assistance of Rs 500 to Rs 750 and Rs 1000 to 6 to 18 years will be increased for children in the age group of 0 to 6 years, except the orphan category. 1500 has been made to Rs.
- This increase in assistance amount will be effective from July 1, 2023. Its implementation will put an additional financial burden of about Rs 411 crore on the state government.
- It is noteworthy that this proposal has been approved in connection with the announcement made by the Chief Minister in the Budget 2023-24.
- Under the Palanhar Yojana run by the state government, assistance of Rs 1500 and Rs 2500 is being given to the children of the orphan category. With this, now other categories of children will also get the benefit of more assistance.
- It is worth mentioning that in this scheme, orphan children up to 18 years of age, destitute pension

eligible or remarried widowed mother, divorced/abandoned mother and children of distant mother, especially abled, HIV or leprosy and death penalty/life imprisonment mother. / Father's children are given monthly financial assistance by the state government for economic, social and educational development.

Increase in Remuneration of Redeployed Retired Personnel

Why In News?

On March 10, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal to increase the rates of monthly consolidated remuneration of retired personnel on re-employment in service.

Key points

- As per the proposal, of the Rajasthan Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules-2017 and the multiples of consolidated remuneration amount has been fixed in pay matrix the Rs 100 by adding 50 percent of the first cell of the pay-level existing dearness allowance of 38 percent.
- This has almost doubled the rates of monthly consolidated remuneration.
- With this decision of the Chief Minister, the re-employed retired personnel will get an increased monthly consolidated remuneration amount. This will increase their income on one hand, while retired employees will also be easily available to the state government.
- It may be mentioned that after almost 5 years, the consolidated remuneration of the re-employed retired personnel has been increased.

Behavioural Lab to Be Set Up in Jaipur

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Public Relations, Information and Language Department of Rajasthan on March 12, 2023, Behavioural Lab will be established at Harishchandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration located in Jaipur district. For this, the Chief Minister has approved a financial proposal of Rs 1.22 crore.

Note:

Key points

- The behavioural lab will be set up at Patel Bhawan of Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration. This will be the first behavioural lab being built with state-of-the-art technology in the country.
- The lab, to be set up in an area of about 2665.04 sq. ft, will be managed and operated by IIM Udaipur.
- The faculty of IIM Udaipur will provide training on experimental methods. Here P.H.D Level certificate courses will be conducted. International experts will also be involved in conducting experiments and workshops.
- Here, the behaviour of humans will be studied with the help of innovative technology including state-of-the-art software, hardware. The state-of-the-art lab will room, PC lab have all the necessary rooms including focus group, control room for measurement, waiting area and office space.
- Through this laboratory, training programs will be organized in the field of practical management and conducting experiential studies in various colleges and universities.

Animal Husbandry Training Centers will be Opened in Sikar, Alwar, Nagaur, Bharatpur and Ajmer

Why In News?

On March 12, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved Rs 5.18 crore for opening animal husbandry training centers in Alwar, Nagaur, Bharatpur, Sikar and Ajmer and necessary resources to provide training to animal herders in new techniques.

Key points

- According to the proposal, each of these training institutes in the state will have 30 cattle batches of breeders each month. In this way, a total of 36 batches will be organized in a year and 1080 cattle rearers will be trained. In this way, 5400 cattle farmers will be trained every year in all the five centres.
- Various schemes are being run by the state government towards the all-around development of cattle rearers. The training centres will lead to better work towards

advanced and prosperous animal husbandry and will also increase employment opportunities.

- It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced to open animal husbandry training centers in five districts in the budget year 2023-24.

Indira Mahila Shakti Promotion and Honor Ceremony

Why In News?

Jaipur, March 11, 2023: As part of The International Women's Day Week in Rajasthan, a District-level Indira Mahila Shakti Promotion and Samman Ceremony was organized under the auspices of the District Administration and District Women Empowerment Office at Jaipur Zilla Parishad Auditorium.

Key points

- In the program organized, institutions and personalities working in the field of women and girl development were honoured.
- Inaaya Foundation was awarded the first prize, Sarita Yogi was awarded the second and Ekadashi Foundation was awarded the third prize.
- The awardees were given cash prizes, mementos and certificates.
- On this occasion, Deputy Director Women's Empowerment Dr. Rajesh Dogiwal also honoured Garima Sharma, Parul and Dr. Shraddha for playing an important role in public awareness in Udaan scheme.
- Apart from this, a colleague, a worker, a colleague, an assistant of the Women and Child Development Department were also honoured with cash prizes of Rs 11,000 each, mementoes and certificates.



Note:

Rajasthan Millets Conclave-2023

Why In News?

On 13 March 2023 Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the Rajasthan Millets Conclave-2023 at the State Institute of Agricultural Management at Durgapura in Jaipur city of the state.

Key points

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that the state government has played an important role in the welfare of farmers and development of agriculture sector. A historic initiative was taken across the country by presenting a separate agricultural budget twice in the Assembly.
- He said that strong infrastructure is available in the state to increase the production capacity of millets and agricultural research. About 42 agricultural colleges have been established, which are providing opportunities to the younger generation to take higher education in the agriculture sector and shape their future. Recently, veterinary university has also been announced.
- The Chief Minister said that agricultural research will benefit the farmers in preparing their crops for the future. The conclave will showcase important suggestions for better production, management and marketing of millets.
- On this occasion, he informed that a provision has been made in the budget to provide 2000 units of free electricity per month to the farmers. This will benefit approx.12 lakh farmers.
- At the Rajasthan Millets Conclave-2023, the Chief Minister launched the Rajkishan Suvidha App. In this, the application of the schemes and their status can be known. Apart from this, he also released a booklet related to success stories of Rajasthan Agro Processing, Agribusiness and Agricultural Export Promotion Policy-2019. A short film titled 'Samridha Kisan-Khushal Rajasthan' was also screened.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot congratulated Bhupendra Singh from Hanumangarh, Patasi Devi from Nagaur, Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary, Ghasiram Jat from Jaipur, Vishnu from Bhilwara, Kuresh Bagidora from Banswara, Hanumanram from Sikar, Suraj Bhan from Alwar and Jitendra Singh Sankhla from Jodhpur. He was awarded the State Level Farmer Award.



Rs. 14200 crores Approved for Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)

Why In News?

On March 11, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a financial proposal of Rs 14200 crore for the construction of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP).

Key points

- Rs.14200 crore various works including Navnera-Galwa-Bisalpur-Isarda With the financial sanction of Link Project, construction of under-construction Navnera Barrage and Isarda Dam, Ramgarh and Mahalpur Barrage, Installation of Pumping and Power Stations in Navnera Barrage, Mej anikat and Galwa Dam and storage of flood water will be completed.
- In addition, the height of Bisalpur dam has been increased by 0.5 meters and increased to 202.42 km. Work can also be done to develop a long water transport system.
- Under the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), water management works can be done keeping in view the additional drinking water requirements of Jaipur, Ajmer and Tonk districts and the additional demand of 16.82 TMC drinking water for the remaining rural areas of Jaipur district by the year 2040.
- It is notable that ERCP is an ambitious project to solve the problem of irrigation and drinking water in 13 districts of eastern Rajasthan. Under this, the excess water available in the rivers of the state, which flows wastefully into the sea every year through

Note:

Yamuna River, will be used in the state after stopping it through dams.

- It is known that Ashok Gehlot had made the budget 2023-24 a provision of Rs 13 thousand crore for various works under this project. This approval has been given in compliance with this budget announcement.

IT Day-2023 Festival

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Rajasthan Public Relations, Information and Language Department on March 14, 2023, IT Day-2023 will be organized from March 19 to 21 at Rajasthan College, Commerce College and Jawahar Kala Kendra campus in Jaipur to increase the skills of the youth of the state in the information technology sector, create employment and explore the upcoming possibilities in the interest of the state.

Key points

- It is notable that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has given approval of Rs 36.82 crore for organizing information technology related activities.
- The IT Fest will also feature panel discussions among renowned experts in the country as well as live pitching sessions for startups.
- A job fair will be organized in the commerce college campus by the state government, committed to provide employment opportunities to the youth in the IT Fest. More than 400 employers from across the country will participate in it. About 20 thousand youth are likely to get employment. These include IT sector, BPO, engineering telecom, civil, banking and finance consulting, retail, electrical and multi-profile jobs.
- There will be a 36-hour offline hackathon from March 19 to March 21 in Rajasthan College on IT Day. In this, 3000 participants will solve the problems of daily life of the common people and solve the knots of many subjects for the development of the state and the country.
- It aims to inculcate a culture of innovation, problem-solving and out-of-the-box thinking among the students. Also, the online hackathon will be held from March 19 to March 20 with more than one lakh participants.
- The winner will get Rs 25 lakh, the second winner will get Rs 20 lakh, and the third winner will get Rs 15 lakh.

- A 'smart village' will be built at Shilpgram of Jawahar Kala Kendra. In this, all the technologies that fulfil the concept of Smart Village including the ideal outline of the rural area, agricultural machinery, drone, sprinkler system, GIS, watershed, digital transaction, e-Mitra, e-Mitra plus machine will be seen. There will be 7D, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality based activities for children.
- A startup/IT expo and market will also be organized by the state government in the IT Day event. In this, renowned startups from all over the country will be able to display their products and sell them. From here the youth will also get to learn how to start a new startup.
- Youth Film Festival will also be organized at Jawahar Kala Kendra, in which various short, documentary films from across the country including Rajasthan will be screened.

Protected Forest Area Increased to 3.92 Percent in the State

Why In News?

On 15 March 2023, Rajasthan Forest and Environment Minister Hemaram Chaudhary informed that in the year 2018 of the geographical area of the state, 2.91 percent was under protected forest area, which has increased to 3.92 percent at present.

Key points

- Forest and Environment Minister Hemaram Chowdhary said that the Vidhan Sabha has passed the demand for a grant of Rs 16 billion 78 crore 24 lakh 36 thousands of Forest and Environment Department by voice vote.
- He said that 9.7 percent of the total area of Rajasthan is forest area. After approving the new forest policy by the government, a target has been set to convert 20 percent of the land into forests.
- The Forest Minister informed that in the year 2022-23, tree plantation has been done in 56 thousand 410-hectare areas and in the year 2023-24, tree plantation will be done in the 80-thousand-hectare area under various departmental schemes.
- Hemaram Chaudhary said that 9 new conservation reserves have been declared during the tenure of the

Note:



present government. Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary is being developed as the fourth Tiger Reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundara Tiger Hills. Further, the process of notifying a Tiger Reserve at Dholpur is under process.

- With the help of Gram Panchayats and Urban Bodies and public cooperation to encourage tree plantation outside forest areas. He said that a massive tree plantation program named 'Tree Outside Forest in Rajasthan' will be launched.
- Under this scheme, 5 crore saplings will be prepared and distributed in the financial year 2023-24.
- The Forest Minister informed that one Luv Kush Vatika is being developed in every district of the state and in the year 2023-24, one more Love Kush Vatika will be developed in every district. Apart from this, green lungs areas will be developed in urban areas by doing works worth Rs 32 crore in the coming year.
- He informed that voluntary displacement of villages from tiger reserves of the state has also been accelerated. Three villages each from Sariska Tiger Reserve and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve and one village from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve have been completely displaced.
- Hemaram Chaudhary said that captive animal sponsor scheme has been started by wildlife lovers, institutions and cooperative organizations in the state for adoption of wild animals living in biological parks.
- He informed that out of 24 places for protected areas of the state, 15 areas have been notified as Eco Sensitive Zones.
- In the year 2023-24, Rajasthan Humanities and Biodiversity Development Project worth Rs 1,693 crore will be started in 13 districts of the state and with the help of JICA, a project worth Rs 1,803.42 crore is being prepared for 19 districts of the state.

Animal Husbandry Honor Ceremony

Why In News?

On March 15, 2023, Director of Rajasthan Animal Husbandry Department, Dr. Bhawani Singh Rathore told that in order to honor the progressive cattle rearer's selected by the department every year, the Animal Husbandry Samman ceremony will be held on March 22

at the State Institute of Agricultural Management, Durgapura.

Key points

- Director Dr. Bhavani Singh Rathore said that a total of 415 selected cattle rearers of the state will be honored by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Cattle breeders from all over the state will participate on this occasion.
- In the meeting, Organizing Secretary Dr. P.C Bhati while giving detailed information about the program said that the cattle herders present in the program will be given information about the departmental schemes by the subject experts.
- Along with this, cattle rearing dialogue program will also be organized, under which the problems faced by cattle rearers in animal husbandry will be discussed.

India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' Concluded in Jodhpur

Why In News?

The 13th edition of the bilateral exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' between the Indian Army and the Singapore Army was held at Jodhpur Military Station from March 06-13, 2023.

Key points

- For the first time in the series of exercises, both armies participated in a command post exercise, involving battalion and brigade level planning units and computer wargaming. The exercise, conducted by the Indian Army, involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armed Regiment and an Armed Brigade of the Indian Army.
- This joint training fostered a common understanding of mechanized warfare in an environment of emerging threats and emerging technologies, as well as Developed-Interoperability through a computer simulation-based wargame, using joint operations and tactical procedures controlled through a joint command post.
- Both the contingents not only learned about each other's military exercises and procedures but also exchanged ideas and best practices being followed on the modern battlefield.

Note:

- It is noteworthy that the exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra' is organized within the scope of bilateral arrangements for joint military training and exercise between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army. First conducted in 2005, the exercise underlines the strong and long-standing bilateral defence ties between the two countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies.



8 thousand 108 Villages of 16 Districts Have Been Declared Deficient

Why In News?

On March 16, 2023, the state government issued a notification declaring 8,108 villages in 16 districts as poverty-stricken. This notification will remain in force till March 31, 2023.

Key points

- Based on Kharif crop 2022 (Samvat 2079) regular and special Girdawari report received from district collectors, a notification has been issued for the villages of these districts to provide relief to the farmers in case of crop failure due to floods.
- According to the notification issued by the Disaster Management, Relief and Civil Defence Department, relief has been provided to 1597 villages in Jhalawar district, 1231 in Baran, 957 in Bharatpur, 766 in Kota, 717 in Banswara and 716 in Tonk district.
- Similarly, relief has been provided to 625 villages of Pratapgarh district, 517 of Bundi, 347 of Nagaur, 274 of Udaipur, 227 of Ajmer, 58 of Dhaulpur, 47 of Jodhpur, 14 of Sawai Madhopur, 13 of Karauli and 02 of Sriganganagar.

Formation of a Committee to Give the Status of Official Language to Rajasthani Language

Why In News?

On March 16, 2023, Education Minister of Rajasthan, Dr. B.D. Kalla said in the assembly that the Minister of State for Languages has approved the formation of a committee in connection with declaring Rajasthani language as the second official language of Rajasthan.

Key points

- The education minister said that this committee will study the model of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and submit a report regarding the recognition of Rajasthani language on the lines there.
- It is known that the education minister was replying to the attention motion moved by Member Rajendra Rathore during Zero Hour in the Assembly regarding making Rajasthani language the official language of the state and adding it as a third language in the Board of Secondary Education.
- He said that at present Rajasthani language is included as a literary subject in the curriculum under the Board of Secondary Education. He said that after approval from the competent level, it would be possible to include it as a third language.

Note:

- Dr. Kalla said that on August 25, 2003, a resolution was unanimously passed by all the members of the State Legislative Assembly regarding recognition of Rajasthani language and its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The Central Government has been urged from time to time to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. In this regard, requests have been made to the Central Government by the Chief Ministers in the years 2009, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2023. He told that at present the matter is under consideration at the level of the Government of India.
- The education minister said that it has come to the notice of the state government that different languages have been made official languages in different states. At present, the Rajasthan Official Languages Act-1956 is in force in the state. The matter is being examined for amendment in the said Act to include Rajasthani language in the official language.
- He said that Mahapatra Committee has also considered Rajasthani language eligible to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Dr. Kalla said that in this regard, the members of the party and the opposition should unite and request the Prime Minister.

State's First University for Divyangjan will Open in Jamdoli

Why In News

On March 20, 2023, Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jully said that the state assembly has passed the bill to establish Baba Amte Divyang University at Jamdoli in Jaipur for higher education and research for the disabled by voice vote.

Key Points

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Minister said that land has been identified for this university to be built at a cost of Rs 72 crore.
- He said that Baba Amte Divyang University will be the first university in the state and the third university in the country for the disabled.
- With the establishment of this university, better opportunities for higher studies and research will

be provided to the disabled people. The purpose of establishing the university is to make them competent and self-reliant by rehabilitating the disabled people along with teaching, training and research.

- This university will be completely modern, in which wi-fi, smart classroom, modern computer lab, projector etc. will be available. The building of the university will be made completely barrier-free for the convenience of the disabled.
- Minister Tikaram Julie said that B.Ed. Regular courses will also be conducted along with courses on Intellectual Disability, Diploma in Sign Language etc. The course will start from the year 2023-24 and priority will be given to differently abled students for admission in the university.

Rajasthan MSME Act-2023 Bill Passed

Why In News

On March 20, 2023, Rajasthan Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat informed that the Rajasthan Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Enforcement) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed by a voice vote in the state assembly.

Key Points

- Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat said that Act-2023 Bill, the economic, social nature of the state after the introduction of the Rajasthan MSME will change and the industrial sector will be strengthened at the national and international level.
- The Act seeks to increase the period of exemption from 3 years to 5 years for giving a boost to the economy and obtaining various approvals of the State Government. Under the MSME policy, the way has been opened to set up any inspection or NOC free industry for 5 years.
- He said that to solve any problem related to industries, a state-level one-stop shop is being operated, where top officials of 14 departments sit and solve the problems related to industries immediately.
- Shakuntala Rawat said that Rajasthan is the first unique state in the country which has come up with a new MSME and handicraft policy.

Note:

- He informed that many major schemes including Chief Minister's Incentive Scheme, Youth Industry Promotion Scheme, RIPS have been brought to set up industries.
- For the first time in the state, extensive road shows were held at the district level, so that even the smallest entrepreneurs could take advantage of the exemption given to industries.
- It is known that hotels in Rajasthan have also been given the status of industry. Recently, the MoU signed at the national and international level in Invest Rajasthan has been implemented on the ground.

'Chief Minister's Minority Language Efficiency and Communication Skills Development Scheme'

Why In News

On March 20, 2023, Rajasthan Minority Affairs Minister Shale Mohammed launched the 'Chief Minister's Minority Language Proficiency and Communication Skill Development Scheme' for language proficiency and communication skill development in order to innovate for the inclusive development of minorities of the state.

Key Points

- The objective of 'Chief Minister's Minority Language Proficiency and Communication Skill Development Scheme' is to provide employment to the youth of minority communities by developing their skills in studying Spanish, Persian and, speaking and communicating French other foreign languages, German, Arabic, along with English.
- Along with language knowledge, students enrolled in this scheme will be provided 1500 monthly maximum of Rs a monthly 4500 for stipend of Rs 3 months.
- It may be mentioned that English language training facility is available at all district headquarters by the executive agency. The facility of training of other foreign languages is available at division level.
- The "Chief Minister's Minority Language Proficiency and Communication Skill Development Scheme' is targeted towards educated youth of higher secondary level of minority community native to Rajasthan, who

are between 18 and 35 years of age. For eligibility, the family / guardian must be up to Rs annual income of the beneficiary's 8.00 lakh or less.

- Minority Affairs Minister Shale Mohammed said that the 'Chief Minister Minority Language Proficiency and Communication Skill Development Scheme' is an important step towards empowering and succeeding the youth of minority society in the modern world. By learning a foreign language, they will get better employment opportunities not only in India but also abroad.

Rajasthan Right to Health Bill, 2022 Passed

Why in News?

On 21 March 2023, Rajasthan's Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena informed that the state assembly has passed the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill, 2022 by voice vote.

Key Points

- Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that the state government had sent this bill to the select committee on the basis of the suggestions of all the members. The suggestions of all the members and doctors have been included in the bill.
- He said that patients should not be denied treatment in hospitals in the state, that is why the Right to Health Bill has been brought. Under this, in case the cost of treatment in emergency is not borne by the concerned patient, the reimbursement will be done by the state government.
- Under the Right to Health Bill, the State Health Authority Logistical Complaint has also been constituted. Along with this, the provision of district level authority has also been made.
- The minister informed that land has been made available to big hospitals at concessional rate by the state government. There is a provision to link these hospitals under the Right to Health Bill.
- The Medical and Health Minister informed that the state is becoming a model state in the field of health. For this, the state government is spending 7 percent of the budget on the health sector.

Note:



Rajasthan Advocates Protection Bill, 2023 Passed in Amended Form

Why in News?

On 21 March 2023, Rajasthan's Law and Legal Affairs Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal said that the state assembly has passed the Rajasthan Advocates Protection Bill, 2023 in amended form to prevent violence against advocates, in which important suggestions are included given by advocates.

Key Points

- Shanti Kumar Dhariwal said that the Rajasthan Advocates Protection Bill, 2023 has been brought to prevent assault, grievous hurt, criminal force and criminal intimidation against any advocate while discharging his duties in the state. With this law, advocates will get protection against violence.
- He said that Rajasthan is the first state where such a law has been brought in the direction of protection of advocates. For the welfare of the advocates, every year Rs 5 crore is given by the State Government to the Bar Council.
- The provisions of the Bill have been prepared after detailed discussions with advocates. In this regard, the first meeting was held in the year 2019, after which several informal meetings were held to prepare the bill.
- If a criminal damages the property of an advocate, a provision has been made to recover the amount of compensation fixed by the court and give it to the aggrieved advocate. The speedy recovery of this amount of compensation will be done on the lines of arrears of land revenue.
- A provision of punishment of up to 2 years has also been made for misuse of this law by the advocates. Also, Clause 9 of the Rajasthan Advocates Protection Bill, 2023 draft has been deleted.

Draft Notification Issued for 44 Wetlands in the State

Why in News?

Keeping in view the importance of wetlands, on the occasion of World Water Day celebrated on 22 March 2023, a draft notification marking 44 wetlands in different

districts of the state has been issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change as per the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

Key Points

- There are 44 water bodies in the state that have been notified as wetlands. In relation to these wetlands, within 60 days, any person will be able to give his/her suggestions or objections to the Joint Government Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department. Based on the suggestions and objections received during this period, a final notification will be issued regarding these 44 wetlands.
- Shikhar Aggarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Water Resources Department, said that along with the GPS details of the wetland boundary and buffer area, a list of prohibited and regulated activities has been attached in the notification.
- Mining work, draining of water for commercial purposes, dumping of waste, industrial activities, poaching, farming, etc. have been prohibited within the limits of wetlands.
- It is known that wetlands are a rich ecosystem not only of animals but also of plants, where useful flora and medicinal plants are also found in abundance in wetlands as wetlands play an important role in their production.
- Wetlands absorb the excess of water during floods so that there is no loss of life and property in human habitation areas. These areas contribute significantly to environmental protection by performing important roles like 'carbon absorption' and 'increase in ground water level'. Wetlands are also very important for the livelihood of the local people.

Second Phase of 'Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY)' Started

Why in News?

On 22 March 2023, Rajasthan's Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Ramesh Chand Meena virtually inaugurated the second phase of 'Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY)' at the state level program organised at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur on World Water Day.

Note:

Key Points

- Under the second phase of the Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY), 2 lakh activities of water storage and conservation with an amount of Rs 2600 crore, will be done in 4600 villages in 349 Panchayat Samitis of 33 districts of the state.
- Minister Ramesh Chand Meena said that the villagers should fix the centre line for the rivers, make efforts for the revival of the rivers that have disappeared, plant more and more trees, use organic fertilisers for farming and cooperate in ensuring access of water to the reservoirs by removing encroachments from the roads.
- He said that the success of the Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana (RGJSY) would be ensured only when the work being done under it is not only visible on the ground, but also increases the water level of the area. There should be discussion in every *Gram Sabha* regarding water conservation works and water harvesting works should be decided only after mutual discussion.
- In the programme, Panchayati Raj Minister, along with the launching of the department's YouTube channel, various social media handles, as well as awards for excellent works in the watershed area, were given at the district level, block level, project level and gram panchayat level.
- On this occasion, a short film was screened on the first phase of Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana and the importance of water catchment works.
- It is noteworthy that 'Rajiv Gandhi Jal Sanchay Yojana' was started on 20 August 2019 to get the state out of drought and famine. Through the scheme, old wells, drains, rivers, reservoirs and canals are being cleaned by preparing an action plan for renovation and increasing their water conservation capacity. In the first phase of the scheme, 4029 villages have been included in 1450-gram panchayats.



Note:

Four-Day Divisional Level Health Fair Started

Why in News?

On 23 March 2023, Rajasthan's Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jolly inaugurated the four-day divisional level health fair- *Arogya Mela* organised at the playground of Babu Shobharam Government Arts College, Alwar.

Key Points

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jolly said that fulfilling Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's vision of a healthy Rajasthan, divisional level health fairs are being organised in the state.
- He informed that better medical facilities are being provided to the people of the state through the 'Chiranjeevi Yojana'. Under this scheme, a health cover of up to Rs 25 lakh has been kept for the general public. Along with this, the state government has implemented 'Right to Health' providing the right to health to the common man.
- District head Balbir Singh Chhillar said that steps like Arogya Mela to promote Ayurveda will increase people's faith in Ayurveda.
- Deputy Director of Ayurveda Department Rajendra Singh said that 179 medical officers, 179 compounders and nurses from all the districts of Jaipur division participated in the fair.
- On this occasion, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Jolly inaugurated the green house medicinal plant exhibition at the divisional level health fair and shared information about various medicinal plants in the green house like Hadjod, Tulsi, Vasa, Harsingar, Ghrit Kumari, Amla, Anjeer, Arjun, Varun, Shigru, Giloy.
- 16 OPD stalls and 15 medical store stalls have been set up at the divisional level health fair, which include Homoeopathy medical consultation, Unani medicine, Agni Karma therapy, Shalya (Ksharsutra) therapy, Jaloka therapy, Panchakarma therapy, Geriatric therapy OPD.
- Specially stall of National Institute of Ayurveda Honorary University Jaipur was also set up in the fair, on which information about Ayurveda system was given through brochures and pamphlets.





Workshop on 'Early Childhood Care and Education in India'

Why in News?

On 23 March 2023, Rajasthan's Education Minister Zahida Khan inaugurated a two-day workshop on "Convergence and Management of Governance for Universalization and Quality Early Childhood Care and Education in India" by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) in Jaipur.

Key Points

- Representatives from 16 states are participating in the workshop.
- Education Minister Zahida Khan told that many innovations are being done in Rajasthan with special focus on 'Early Childhood Care and Education' (ECCE), which is exemplary for other states of the country. Rajasthan's innovations like integration of Anganwadi centres into schools have been included in the National Education Policy-2020.
- He informed that 'School Readiness Programme' has been implemented in more than 68 thousand schools of Rajasthan. At present, about 62 thousand Anganwadi centres are being operated in the state under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), out of which more than 42 thousand Anganwadi centres will be linked with the education department, focusing on early childhood care and education.
- The optimal development of children in the age group of 1 to 6 years is considered to be the most

critical in childhood. The state government is working vigorously in this direction by identifying the important components of ECCE according to the need of the hour.

- Commissioner of Rajasthan School Education Council and State Project Director Dr. Mohanlal Yadav said that in order to eliminate unnecessary mental pressure on children in Anganwadi centres, school and at home, an initiative has been taken to reduce the syllabus by condensing the textbooks of this level and to implement innovation like 'No Bag Day' on Saturdays in Rajasthan.
- By incorporating Anganwadi centres in schools in the state, 'Child Friendly Furniture' has been made available in more than 37 thousand Anganwadi centres and materials for outdoor games for children in more than 34 thousand Anganwadi centres so far. Rajasthan ranks first in the country in programs like National Achievement Survey, Performance Grading Index and Khelo India.
- NIEPA Professor Dr. Rashmita Das told about ECCE that the responsibility of education of children in the age group of 3 to 6 years in the country has been borne by the government, which earlier had the monopoly of the private sector; civil society is also contributing to this.
- A framework is being established for uniform pre-primary education across the country, which can be implemented in all states and union territories.

Rajasthan Sahitya Academy Announced the Awards for the Year 2022-23

Why in News?

On 24 March 2023, in the meeting of the Board of Directors, chaired by Dr. Dularam Saharan, President of Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi, annual awards for the year 2022-23 were announced to express commitment towards the upliftment, promotion, encouragement and honour of resident and migrant writers of Rajasthan province.

Key Points

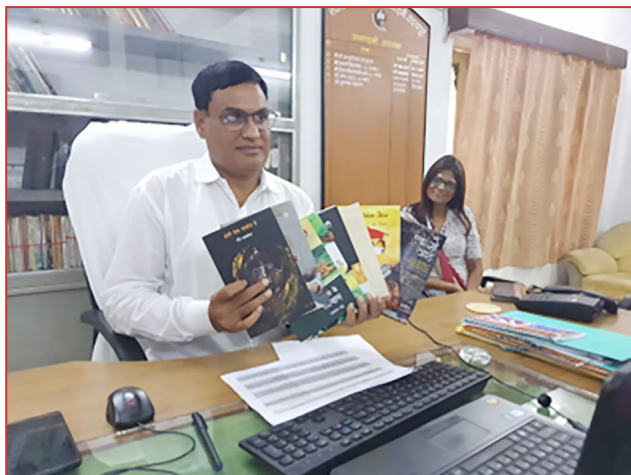
- Academy Secretary Dr. Basant Singh Solanki told in the meeting that the Meera Award for the year 2022-23 will be given to Rati Saxena, a native of Jaipur and a resident of Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), for the poetry book 'Hansi Ek Prarthana'.

Note:

- It is noteworthy that this is the highest award of the Academy with an amount of seventy-five thousand rupees.
- The Janardan Rai Nagar Samman of one lakh rupees, courtesy of the Government of Rajasthan, will be given to Ajmer resident Dr. Chandra Prakash Deval for the year 2022-23. This decision was taken in the meeting of Samman Samiti held in Jaipur recently.
- Under the annual awards for the year 2022-23, the Rangeya Raghav Award, given in the fiction and novel genre, will be given to Bharat Chandra Sharma, a resident of Banswara, for the novel 'Pir Parbat-Si'.
- Sudhindra Award for poetry has been announced for Jaipur's poet Mayamrig for his collection of poems 'Mujhme Meetha Tu Hain' and Devi Lal Samar Award for one-act play has been announced for Jaipur resident Ajay Anuragi for his play 'Wrong Number'.
- The prestigious Devraj Upadhyay Award in the field of criticism will be given to Bharatpur-based Rajaram Bhadu's critic's work 'Dimensions of Poetry' and the Kanhaiyalal Sahal Award under various genres will be given to Jaipur's satirist Yash Goyal for his work 'Namumkin Neta'.
- The Shambhudayal Saxena Award in the field of children's literature will be given to Kusum Agarwal of Kankroli for the children's one-act book 'Hum Sab Ek Hain'.
- All the above awards are of twenty-one thousand rupees.
- According to Secretary Dr. Basant Singh Solanki, the Sumnesh Joshi Award for the first published work amounting to twenty-one thousand rupees will be given to Udaipur resident story writer Tarana Parveen for her story collection 'Ek Sau Aath'.
- In the meeting, school and college level awards started by the academy keeping in mind the campaign to prepare young writers were announced after approval from the directorate.
- School Level Pardeshi Award for Poetry to Prachi Sharma of Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls School, Jaipur for 'Sagar Moti and other poems'; Pardeshi Story Award to Divya Vintaman Sanap of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Pallu-Hanumangarh for the story 'Khushi ke Aansoo'; Foreign Essay Award to Harshita Meena of Raumavi Amarapura-Udaipur for the essay 'Emergence of Innovations' and the Foreigner Short Story Award will be given for the short story 'Asli Takt' by Armaan Nadeem of Rajkiya Sardul Umavi Bikaner.
- College-level Chandradev Sharma Poetry Award to Himanshu Bhardwaj of Government Lohia College, Churu for 'Spruha and other poems'; Chandradev Sharma Story Award to Nirmala Sharma of Twenty One College Gopalyan-Lunkaransar for the story 'Koi Chara Nahi'; Chandradev Sharma One Act Award for Maa Jalpa Devi Government College Taranagar's Tanishka Padihar's one act 'Jago Pyare, Jaago' and Chandradev Sharma Essay Award will be given to Maina Kanwar of Sonadevi Sethia Girls College, Sujangarh for the essay 'Past and Prospects'.
- Sudha Gupta College Level Poetry Award will be given to Suraj Kumari of Women's Post Graduate College, Jodhpur for 'Voice of Nature and other poems'.
- It is noteworthy that under all the above awards, five thousand rupees are given per award.
- Special literary honors to be given by the Academy were also announced in the meeting of the Director.
- Distinguished Writer Award for the year 2022-23 will be given to Ajanta Dev-Jaipur, Atul Chaturvedi-Kota, Dr. Anita Verma-Kota, Kusum Meghwal-Udaipur, Kailash Manhar-Manoharpura, Gopal Mathur-Ajmer, Gordhan Singh Shekhawat-Sikar, Javarimalla Parakh-Jodhpur, Jeevan Singh Manvi-Alwar, Farooq Afridi-Jaipur, Bakshish Singh-Ajmer, Dr. Mahendra Bhanawat-Udaipur, Malchand Tiwari-Bikaner, Rajan Nirmohi Java-Jodhpur, Dr. Ramkumar Ghotad-Sadulpur, Ramswaroop Kisan-Parlika, Rajendra Kaswan-Jhunjhunu, Revathiraman Sharma-Alwar, Shivraj Chhangani-Bikaner, Vidya Paliwal-Udaipur, Dr. Satyanarayan-Jodhpur, Savitri Chowdhary-Jaipur, Habib Kaifi-Jodhpur, Hariram Meena-Bamanwas, Hasan Jamal-Jodhpur.
- Under this honour, an amount of fifty-one thousand rupees will be given to each.
- Many other decisions taken in the executive meeting-
- Many books will be published under the Academy's 'Rajasthan Sahityakar Prastuti Yojana' and 'Purodha Shrinkhla', while all pending books will also be published.
- There will be publication of independent books focused on poetry, story, essay, woman-discussion, Dalit-discussion, tribal-discussion, youth literature, children's literature, drama. The Gandhi special issue and Nehru special issue of Academy's magazine Madhumati will also be published in book form.
- It was also decided to publish the award and release of various schemes for the coming year.

Note:





Cattle Feed Plants will be Built in Udaipur and Rajsamand

Why in News?

On 24 March 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal to set up Cattle Feed Plants in Udaipur and Nathdwara in Rajsamand.

Key Points

- With this decision of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, more quantity of cattle feed will be produced in the state and quality feed will be easily available for the animals.
- The amount for the establishment will be spent through the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT).
- It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced in the budget of 2023-24 regarding the establishment of Cattle Feed Plant.

National Level Khadi and Village Industries Conference

Why in News?

On 26 March 2023, Rajasthan's Disaster Management and Assistance Department Minister Govind Ram Meghwal inaugurated the two-day National Level **Khadi and Village Industries Conference of the State Peace and Non-Violence Department at Daga Palace in Bikaner.**

Key Points:

- On this occasion, Minister Govind Ram Meghwal said that on the initiative of the Chief Minister, the country's first **peace and non-violence department** has been set up in Rajasthan to spread the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi to the masses and through this department, various programs are being organized from time to time.
- Through these programmes, people and organizations working for Khadi and village industries in different areas of the country will get an opportunity to understand each other.
- State Bhoodan Yagya Board President Laxman Kadwasara said that Bikaner's role has been important in the movement to encourage Khadi and many Khadi organizations here have instilled the feeling of patriotism among the people. The role of Khadi can be important in solving the problem of unemployment.
- Bikaner District Collector Bhagwati Prasad Kalal said that representatives of 152 Khadi institutions from different regions of the country are participating in the programme. These include representatives from states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- Lectures will be delivered by various experts during the two-day event.

Rajasthan Literature Festival (Sahitya Kumbh-2023) begins in Jodhpur

Why in News?

On 25 March 2023, Art and Culture Minister of Rajasthan, Dr. B.D. Kalla inaugurated the **three-day Rajasthan Literature Festival (Sahitya Kumbh-2023)** at Zanana Bagh located in Ummed Udyan, Jodhpur.

Key Points:

- Minister Dr. B.D. Kalla, on behalf of various academies, honored 7 intellectual scholars/writers with various awards for their remarkable work and excellent contribution in various fields.

Note:

- Among these, the **All India Magh Award to Pramod Kumar Sharma**, Associate Professor at the Institute of Sanskrit and Oriental Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, from the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur and **Ambikadatta Vyas Award** was given to Vaidya Banwari Lal Gaur, Professor & Scholar of Ayurveda and Sanskrit.
- On behalf of Rajasthan Urdu Academy, Jaipur, Dr. Ashrad Abdul Hameed (Tonk) was awarded by Prof. Mahmood Shirani Award and Akhtar Shirani Award to Adil Raza Mansuri (Jaipur), Eminent children's writers Dr. Divik Ramesh (Delhi) and Dr. Prabodh Kumar Govil (Jaipur) and artistic and multifaceted creative writer Chand Mohammad Ghosi (Merta) were honored with the Children's Literature Manishi Award of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Children's Literature Academy, Jaipur.
- Padma Shri Chandraprakash Deval was awarded Pt Janardan Rai Nagar Award, Habib Kaifi and Shivraj Chhangani were given special literary honors on behalf of Rajasthan Sahitya Academy at the ceremony.

A Three Days Kisan Mela started in Bikaner

Why in News?

On 27 March 2023, a three-days (March 27-29) **Kisan Mela** started under the joint auspices of the University and Atma at Swami Kesavanand Rajasthan Agricultural University located in Bikaner district of Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- The Kisan Mela is being organized on the theme of '**Poshak Anaz, Sammriddh Kisaan**'.
- University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Arun Kumar said that about 100 exhibitions of various Central and State Government Departments, ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and private stall holders have been put up during the fair.
- Various competitions will be organized for the farmers during the fair. The first day of the fair will be celebrated as Fruit, Vegetable & Flower Day, the second day as Animal Husbandry Day and the third day as Crop Day.
- On this occasion, Energy Minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that historic decisions have been taken by the state government like Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana, making 2000 units of electricity available free of cost to the farmers every month.

- During this, the Agriculture Minister released various books like Mela Smarika, Mushroom Utpadan Taknik, Pragati ke Path par Agrasar Krishi Mahavidyalaya Mandawa, Harnessing the Potential of Millets for Agri Entrepreneurship.
- He awarded the farmers selected by Atma, the winners of various farmer competitions, the winners of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Memorial Award. On the other hand, Dr. Dayanand, in-charge of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jhunjhunu, was honored as the best extension worker.
- During this, he also inaugurated the postgraduate girls' hostel and auditorium of Agriculture College.

Registration of Shops and Dog Breeders is now Mandatory

Why in News?

On 27 March 2023, K.C. Vishnoi said that taking effective steps for the safety and protection of pets in the state, the **Animal Welfare Board has made it mandatory to register dog breeders and pet shops operating in the state with the Animal Welfare Board.**

Key Points

- **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules 2017 and 2018** have been implemented in the state for registration.
- Chairman of the Animal Husbandry Board, K.C. Bishnoi told that it will be mandatory to apply in the prescribed form to the State Animal Welfare Board, for such pet shops and dog breeders organizations which are in the category of registration under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules) 2017** and **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Pet Shop Rules) 2018**.
- The license will be given by the local government department only after the registration in the board. The license will be valid for a period of five years, after which it will have to be renewed.
- During the registration process, the organization will be inspected by the officers authorized by the board and after registration, inspections will be done from time to time, so that quality work can be done in relation to breeding and maintenance of pet shops.

Note:



- The Chairman of the Animal Husbandry Board said that now the breeders will not be able to do the work of breeding in the state without registration. Breeders and pet shop owners can approach the office of the Joint Director of the Districts of the State and the State Animal Welfare Board.

Rs 2000 Crore Sanctioned for 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal' in Pratapgarh

Why in News?

On March 28, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 2000 crore for the construction of 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal' in Pratapgarh district. With this scheme, irrigation facility will be available in 5000-hectare area of the district.

Key points

- Under the 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal', irrigation facility will be provided in the Ankamand area of Pratapgarh district with surplus water of Mahi basin.
- The villages of Pipalkhunt, Rajhadi Chowki, Tamatia, Nalchowki, Nalda, Kelamela, Bori, Mahudikheda, Morwaniya, Thechla, Sobaniya, Jethalia etc. will be benefited from this scheme in the district's Pipalkhunt tehsil.
- With this approval of the Chief Minister, 3.72 TMC additional irrigation water will be available, the economic condition of the farmers will improve, and the development of the area will be ensured.
- It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had earlier announced the budget for the construction of 'Pipalkhunt High Level Canal'. This approval has been given in the implementation of the said announcement.

Panorama will be Made of Pannadhay, Amraji Bhagat and Kesari Singh Barhath

Why in News?

On March 28, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave financial approval of Rs 12 crore for the construction of

panorama of freedom fighter Kesari Singh Barhath, Mahabalidani Pannadhay and Lokdevta Amra Ji Bhagat in the state.

Key points

- With the approval of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, 'Pannadhay Panorama' will be built at Pandoli, the ancestral place of Pannadhay in Chittorgarh district, at a cost of Rs 4 crore. Pannadhay's work and personality will be shown through various mediums in Panorama. Common people will get information about their sacrifice, sacrifice, courage and self-respect.
- Panorama of Lokdevta Amra Ji Bhagat (Angarh Bavji) in village Daulatpura (Gram Panchayat Bagund) of Bhadesar Tehsil in Chittorgarh district will also be ready at a cost of Rs 4 crore. Here you will get information about the works of social concern.
- A panorama of freedom fighter Kesari Singh Barhat will be constructed at Shahpura in Bhilwara. It will cost Rs 4 crore. With this panorama, the youth will be educated and awakened about their rights.
- These three panoramas will have various works like main building auditorium, hall, library, statue, umbrella, inscription, sculptures, audio-video system. Construction work will be done at all three places from the Tourism Development Fund.
- Mahabalidani Pannadhay was born in a Gujjar family in the year 1501 AD in a village named 'Mataji ki Pandoli' near Chittor. For the protection of Maharana Sanga's son and Maharana Pratap's father Uday Singh, Pannadhay presented a unique example in the whole world by sacrificing his son Chandan. The saga of Pannadhay's self-devotion, Chandan's sacrifice and Kirat Bari's courage to save Uday Singh's life will come alive again in 'Mahabalidani Pannadhay Panorama'.
- Freedom fighter Kesari Singh Barhath was born on November 21, 1872. He was the Jagirdar of Dev Kheda of Shahpura area. He used to hold secret consultations at his mansion to decide the strategy of the freedom movement. He also gave full support to Mahatma Gandhi in the freedom movement. Kesari Singh had blown the bugle of revolution among the people through 13 Sorthes written in Rajasthani.
- He instilled a spirit of revolution among the youth. He put the whole family into the freedom movement. The heroic story of the great revolutionary Kesari Singh Barhat and his family in every particle of power, devotion and sacrifice echoes throughout the country.

Note:

- Sant Shiromani Amra Bhagat's samadhi is situated at Bhadesar in Nabadiya tehsil in Badi Sadri assembly constituency of Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. When Saint Amra Bhagat was born, he did not drink his mother's milk for 9 days after his birth. After completing the ritual of sun worship, the discussion of this successful child spread in the whole area after drinking mother's milk. At that time, an epidemic named Plague and a disease named Lal Taav spread in the country, so to save them from this epidemic, they did severe penance on the Dhuni of Angarh Bavji and saved the people.

57th Meeting of State Geological Programming Board

Why in News?

The **57th meeting of the State Geological Programming Board** was held at the Jaipur Secretariat on 29 March 2023, which was presided over by **Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, State Mines Department.**

Key Points:

- Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Subodh Aggarwal said in the meeting that, with the discovery and exploitation of petroleum-natural gas as a result of planned mineral exploration and auction of mineral blocks in the state, now the country is going to develop as Jaisalmer Cement Hub on the world map.
- Apart from this, new deposits of uranium, rare earth elements, limestone, lignite, iron ore, copper, zinc, garnet etc. are being discovered daily in the state.
- Dr. Subodh Aggarwal said that in the year 2023-24, work will be done through 31 different projects for the exploration of mineral limestone, ferrous metal, decorative stone, industrial mineral and other minerals and the work of reserves of semi-precious stone is also to be speeded up.
- In the meeting, the works of the Geology Wing were underlined in the work of exploration and preparation of major and minor blocks. The aim of the state is to study the best practices of Odisha and adopt a practical process for the state, so that it can become

the country's leading state in revenue generation in the mining sector.

- The department is also progressing year by year in revenue generation; more and more auctions of major and minor blocks have encouraged legal mining and increased revenue and employment.
- Mr. Sandesh Nayak, Director of Mines said that along with the economic and industrial development of the state, the mineral sector is playing an important role in the agriculture sector. Along with abundant reserves of rock phosphate, mineral fertilisers are being prepared from gypsum etc., while now the search work of potash has been given more pace, so that the dependence on import from abroad can be reduced by starting the mining of potash in a planned manner.
- Commendable work is being done in the mineral sector in the state. Geophysical, geochemical, ground geophysical and aero geophysical work is also being done by GSI. Reserves of valuable minerals have been discovered in the state and the search work is going on and with the help of RSMET, exploration work is getting accelerated in the state.

Increase in Honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Crèche Workers of ICDS Department

Why in News?

On 29 March 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the **proposal to increase the state's share of honorarium by 15 percent to the honorarium workers working at Anganwadi Centers and childcare homes of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** in the state.

Key Points:

- The honorarium of workers working at Anganwadi centres of ICDS department – Anganwadi workers, mini Anganwadi workers, helpers and crèche workers has been increased by 15 percent.
- Presently the honorarium to these personnel is being paid by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40. This increase will be 15 percent of the total

Note:



honorarium being given by the state government to these personnel. Every year, the state government will bear a budgetary of Rs 70 crore.

- It is notable that the announcement was made by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in the Fiscal year 2023-24 for the increase in honorarium.

Announcement of Awards of Rajasthani Language, Literature and Culture Academy

Why in News?

On 29 March 2023, **Shivraj Chhangani**, President of Rajasthani Language, Literature and Culture Academy, announced the **Academy Awards and Honors for the year 2022-23**.

Key Points:

- In the meeting of the Academy Working Committee, President Shivraj Chhangani informed about the decision based on the recommendations of the judges of various awards.
- Various awards & honours and selected persons-
 - **Suryamall Meesan Shikhar Puraskar (Poetry) (Rs. 71,000)** - Bikaner's senior litterateur Madhu Acharya Ashavadi for his book 'Peed Aadi Pal Baadh'.
 - **Ganeshilal Vyas Ustad Poetry Award (51 thousand rupees)** - Om Naagar, resident of Baran, for his book 'Bapu: Ek Kavi Ki Chitar'.
 - **Shivchand Bhartia Prose Award (51 thousand rupees)** - Kamal Ranga of Bikaner for the book 'Alochana Rai Aabhai Solah Kalawaan'.
 - **Muralidhar Vyas Rajasthani Katha Sahitya Puraskar (Rs 51,000)** – Alwar District Collector and famous writer of Rajasthani and Hindi Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni for his book 'Bharkhma'.
 - **Bavji Chatar Singh Translation Award (Rs 31,000)** - Rajuram Bijaaraniyan of Lunkaransar for his book 'Jhokdi Khawto Bagat'.
 - **Saanwar Daiya Paili Pothi Award (31 thousand rupees)** - Mohan Puri of Bhilwara for his book 'Achpali Baatan'
 - **Jawaharlal Nehru Rajasthani Children's Literature Award (31 thousand rupees)** - Kiran Badal of Raisinghnagar for her book 'Taabaraan Ri Duniyaan'.
- **Premji Prem Rajasthani Youth Writing Award (Rs 31,000)** – Devilal Mahiya of Lunkaransar for his book 'Antas Ro Olmo'.
- **Rajasthani Women's Writing Award (Rs 31,000)** - Dr. Krishna Acharya of Bikaner for his book 'Naahar Sirkhi Naariyaan'.
- **Rawat Saraswat Rajasthani Literary Journalism Award (Rs 31,000)** - will be given to 'Rajasthali' magazine Shridungargarh.
- Secretary Sharad Kewalia told that Yogesh Vyas, a student of Government Dungar College, Bikaner, who got the first position under the Bhatmal Joshi College Award, received Rs 11,000 for his story 'Gari Needa' and Abhimanyu Singh Inda, a student of Jaynarayan Vyas University and a resident of Falna, who got the second position, will be given a prize of Rs. 7,100 for his satire 'Thanro-Mharo Bhavishya'.
- Arman Nadeem, a student of Government Sardul Higher Secondary School, Bikaner, who got the first position under the Manuj Depawat Award, received Rs 7,100 for his short story 'Khokho ni Hatsi'; and a student of Ekkis Academy for Excellence Gopaalyan & a resident of Mahajan, Kalpana Ranga, who got the second position, will be given a prize of Rs 5,100 for her story 'Kanwalai Man Ri Dungi Peed'.
- They will be Awarded-
 - **Rajasthani Language Award (51 thousand rupees)** - Senior litterateur Dr. Chandraprakash Deval (Ajmer)
 - **Rajasthani Sahitya Samman (51 thousand rupees)** - Senior writer Dr. Arjun Dev Charan (Jodhpur)
 - **Rajasthani Culture Award (51 thousand rupees)** - Brajratn Joshi (Bikaner)
 - **Rajasthani Pravasi Literary Award (51 thousand rupees)** - Rambakhsh (Mumbai)
- Academy's Aagivan Samman of Rs 31,000 each will be given to 14 senior litterateurs of the state. These include Nandkishore Sharma (Jaisalmer), Meharchand Dhamu (Parlika, Hanumangarh), Chandkaur Joshi (Jodhpur), Deendayal Ojha (Jaisalmer), Sohandan Charan (Jodhpur), Bhogilal Patidar (Dungarpur), Bhanwarlal Bhramar (Bikaner), Gaurishankar Bhavuk (Talchhapar, Sujangarh), Purushottam Pallav (Udaipur), Shyam Jangid (Chidawa, Jhunjhunu), Gopal Vyas (Bikaner), Mukat Maniraj (Kota), Bishan Matwala (Bikaner), Upendra Anu (Rishabhdev, Udaipur).

Note:

Information

Commission bench will be established in Jodhpur

Why in News?

On 30 March 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the setting up of an Information Commission bench in Jodhpur for the effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI).

Key Points:

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also approved 12 new posts and necessary financial provisions for the operation of the office. Of these new posts, one post is that of the Information Commissioner, whose appointment will be done as per the rules.
- Apart from this, one post for each Personal Assistant, Reader, Information Assistant, 2 posts of Senior Assistant and 3-3 posts of Junior Assistant and Class IV employee have been included.
- Rs 20 lakh has also been sanctioned for necessary resources etc. for the Bench of the Information Commission.
- It is notable that the Chief Minister had announced the establishment of the bench in the budget for the year 2023-24.

Rajasthan Day 2023

Why in News?

On 30 March 2023, the 74th Foundation Day of Rajasthan was celebrated. On this day, 30 March 1949, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel inaugurated Greater Rajasthan at a function in Jaipur.

Key Points:

- Significantly, on 14 January 1949, in a public meeting in Udaipur, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel announced the merger of the princely states of Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer in principle.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel inaugurated Greater Rajasthan at a function in Jaipur on 30 March 1949, to give shape to this declaration, hence Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on March 30.

- Before independence, Rajasthan was known as 'Rajputana'. Historians believe that George Thomas gave the name 'Rajputana' in the year 1800 AD. Historians also claim that Colonel James Tod named this state Rajasthan. In the local literary language, the region where the kings lived was called Rajasthan.
- At the time of independence, there were a total of 22 princely states in Rajasthan. In present-day Rajasthan, kings used to rule in the then-19 princely states. Whereas, there was a chiefship in three princely states (Neemrana, Luv and Kushalgarh). The Ajmer-Merwara province here was ruled by British rulers.
- The process of merger of the erstwhile princely states lasted from 18 March 1948 to 1 November 1956. This process was completed in seven steps.
- The Government of India merged the British-ruled Ajmer-Merwara province with Rajasthan on 1 November 1956, on the recommendation of the States Reorganization Commission headed by Afzal Ali.
- During this period, the village Sunel Tappa of Mandsaur tehsil of Madhya Pradesh was also included in Rajasthan. Whereas village Sironj in the Jhalawar district of Rajasthan was included in Madhya Pradesh.
- On 7 September 1949, Jaipur was made the capital of the state of Rajasthan on the basis of the recommendations of the Rao Committee constituted by the Government of India.
- Rajasthan is the largest state in the country. Its area is three lakh 42 thousand 239 square kilometres. This is 1/10th of the country's land.
- According to the 2011 census, the population of Rajasthan is 6.89 crore, which is 5.66 percent of India's population. According to population, it is in seventh place in the country.
- Till now there were seven divisions and 33 districts in Rajasthan. On 18 March 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the

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formation of 19 new districts and three new divisions by merging two districts. Since then, there are now 10 divisions and 50 districts in Rajasthan. However, the notification of new districts and divisions has not been issued yet.

- Rajasthan is adjacent to the neighbouring country Pakistan. It shares an international border of 1,070 km with it. The Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar districts of Rajasthan share their international border with Pakistan. Kuldhara village is the oldest village in the Jaisalmer district, adjacent to the international border. It is believed that this village has been deserted for 200 years.
- Rajasthan's 4850 km border meets other states of the country, in which Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat are the border states of Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan has a special identity on the tourism map. There are dozens of tourist places here, where thousands of domestic and foreign tourists come daily. On the other hand, Jaisalmer, the land of Dhors, has its own distinct identity. There, hitchhiking tourists can be seen enjoying

Camel Rides. Be it the City of Lakes Udaipur or Pink City Jaipur, there are many places to visit from the point of view of tourism.

- There are many forts in Rajasthan, and 13 are the main ones. Among these, the Amer and Jaigarh forts of Jaipur, Mehrangarh fort of Jodhpur, Kumbhalgarh fort of Rajsamand, Ranthambhore fort of Sawai Madhopur, Junagarh fort of Bikaner, Lohagarh fort of Bharatpur have worldwide recognition. Other forts and palaces include Gaagraun Fort, Jaisalmer, Sirohi's Achalgarh, Nagaur's Ahichhatragarh, Jalore Fort, Sirohi's Khimsar Fort, Alwar's Nimrana Fort, City Palace etc. are also famous. Along with the impregnable forts, luxurious palaces were also built for the queens to live in.
- Rajasthan has preserved the history of warriors & heroes like Prithvi Raj Chauhan, Maharana Pratap, Rana Sanga, and Rana Kumbha. In the country and the world, Rajasthan is recognized as the land of heroes. The Battles of Haldi Valley, the battles of Chittor, Khanwa, Tarain, and Ranthambhore took place on the land of Rajasthan only.
- At present, the Indian Army has a large number of youths from the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan (Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu). To serve the country, a maximum number of youths from Shekhawati in Rajasthan go to the army.

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Key Points

Details

Blank area for Key Points.

Lined area for Details.

Summary

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