



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

**MAY
2024**

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

Inquiry (English): 8010-440-440

Inquiry (Hindi): 8750-187-501

Website: www.drishtias.com

Email: help@groupdrishti.in

Content

● Red Alert in Jaipur	3
● Auction of Mine Blocks in Rajasthan	3
● SC Halts All Mining Activities Around Sariska Tiger Reserve	4
● Rajasthan Mine Collapse	4
● Admissions of Poor Children on Priority in New Academic Session	5
● Semal Trees	6
● IMD Predicts Fresh Heatwave Over Rajasthan	7
● Rising Electricity Consumption in Rajasthan.....	7
● Rajasthan's Digital Healthcare Access System.....	7
● World Migration Report, 2024	8
● Jal Jeevan Mission Scam in Rajasthan	8
● Solar Energy to Meet Power Demand	10
● Rajasthan CM Felicitates Candidates Selected in Central Civil Services	10
● Kuno Cheetah Captured in Rajasthan.....	11
● Child Marriages in Rajasthan	13
● Illegal Mining in the Aravalli Range	13
● Vivekananda Scholarship.....	14
● Green Lynx Spider.....	15
● Investors' Summit 2024.....	16
● Great Indian Travel Bazaar	16
● Digital Water Distribution System	16

Red Alert in Jaipur

Why in News?

The Jaipur weather office has issued a red alert as temperatures are predicted to exceed 49 degrees in various parts of Rajasthan, emphasizing the importance of taking “extreme care for vulnerable individuals.”

Key Points

- According to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the **heatwave** will continue over the next few days. Severe heat wave conditions will be recorded in **Jodhpur, Bikaner divisions and Shekhawati region**.
 - To provide some relief from the scorching heat, the Bikaner district administration has started sprinkling water on the roads in various areas of the city.
 - Additionally, the **State government has cancelled the leave of officers and employees of the Water Department** to ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water.

India Meteorological Department (IMD)

➤ About:

- It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in **all matters relating to meteorology** and allied subjects.
- It is an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, Government of India.

➤ Objectives:

- To take **meteorological observations** and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To **warn against severe weather phenomena** like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To **provide meteorological statistics** required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To **conduct and promote research** in meteorology and allied disciplines.

Auction of Mine Blocks in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has decided to expedite delineation work for the **auction of minor and major blocks** in the state.

Key Points

- To combat **illicit mining activities**, the government will focus on getting ready and selling off numerous mining sites.
- The drilling for mineral exploration and analysis of reports will help combat illegal mining of valuable minerals, leading to **increased revenue and job opportunities in the state**.
- The government has asked officials to develop a **water harvesting system** in the offices and areas of the mineral department.
 - Additionally, officials were directed to ensure efficient operation of the e-filing system in department offices and reduce processing times.
- **Rajasthan is one of the richest states in availability and variety of minerals** in the country, producing over **57 different minerals**. The mines department earned a **revenue of over Rs 7,490 crores during 2023-2024**.
- The mines department has drawn out a plan aimed at ensuring daily monitoring by preparing a road map for exploration, drilling, preparing blocks and plots for auction, making an auction calendar, and revenue collection.

Illegal Mining

- Illegal mining is the **extraction of minerals, ores, or other valuable resources from land or water bodies without the necessary permits, licenses, or regulatory approvals from government authorities**.
 - It can also involve the **violation of environmental, labor, and safety standards**.
- **Laws Related to Mining in India:**
 - The entry at serial No. 23 of **List II (State List)** to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the **minerals located within their boundaries**.

Note:

- The entry at serial No. 54 of **List I (Central List)** mandates the central government to own the minerals within the **exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ)**.
- In pursuance to this **Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act of 1957** was framed.
- The power to frame **policy and legislation relating to minor minerals is entirely delegated to the State Governments** while policy and legislation relating to the **major minerals are dealt by the Ministry of Mines under the Union Government**.

SC Halts All Mining Activities Around Sariska Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Recently, **the Supreme Court** halted all **mining activities** being undertaken around the **Sariska Tiger Reserve** in Rajasthan.

- No mining activity will be permissible within one-kilometre radius of a **Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)**.

Key Points

- The court asked the Rajasthan government to formulate a closure plan or take necessary steps for compliance with its orders.
- The Rajasthan government told the court that the prohibition on mining, as ordered in April 2023, was applicable to the **Eco-Sensitive Zone** (of 1 km) from **National Parks** and **Wildlife Sanctuaries** and it did not apply to **Tiger Reserves**.
- The judgment of April 2023 stated that mining within the national park and wildlife sanctuary and within an area of 1 km from the boundary of such national park and wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible.
- According to the court, **Section 38XA of Wildlife Protection Act 1972** shows that tiger reserves stand on a higher pedestal than wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

Sariska Tiger Reserve



➤ About:

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is **located in Aravali hills and forms a part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan**.
- Sariska was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978, making it a part of India's **Project Tiger**.
- The **Reserve houses ruined temples, forts, pavilions and a palace**.
 - Kankarwadi fort is located in the centre of the Reserve and it is said that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh at this fort in struggle for succession to the throne.
 - The Reserve also houses a famous temple of lord Hanuman at Pandupole related to Pandavas.

➤ Flora and Fauna:

- The Reserve is immensely rich in flora and fauna, and is famous for Royal Bengal Tiger.
- The park has **populations of leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc.**

Rajasthan Mine Collapse

Why in News?

Recently, all 15 officials from **Hindustan Copper Limited** who were trapped in a mine in Rajasthan were rescued on 15th May, 2024.

Note:



drishti

Key Points

- The incident happened at the **Kolihan mine** when a cage carrying the officials down the mine shaft collapsed after a rope snapped.
- Rescue efforts continued through the night, and all **14 survivors** were transported to a hospital in Jaipur for treatment.
- The **Kolihan Mine** are mechanised underground **copper mines** in Rajasthan owned by **Hindustan Copper Limited**.
- The mined ore is treated in the **Khetri Copper Complex's concentrator plant**.
- The **Kolihan mine** is located in the **Neem Ka Thana district** and is part of the **Khetri Copper Belt's northern tip**, covering 162.23 hectares.

Khetri Copper Complex

- Khetri is situated at the **foothills of the Aravalli Range**, which hosts **copper mineralisation**, giving rise to a 80 km long metallogenetic province from Singhana in the north to Raghunathgarh in the south, popularly known as **Khetri Copper Belt**.
- The belt comprises of tightly folded **Proterozoic metasediments** that rest over basement gneisses and is a part of the North Delhi fold belt.
- Prominent deposits of the belt are: **Khetri, Kolihan, Banwas, Chandmari, Dhani Basri, Baniwali Ki Dhani** (Neem Ka Thana, Rajasthan).
 - Other deposits are: **Dholamala, Akwali, Muradpura - Pacheri (Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan), and Devtalai (Bhilwara, Rajasthan)**.

Admissions of Poor Children on Priority in New Academic Session

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has taken up the **admissions of children from underprivileged sections in private schools** under the **Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009** on priority for the next academic session.

Key Points

- According to the sources, over **3.08 lakh children** had **applied for admissions** to 31,857 private schools in the State.

- **25% of the seats** in the private schools would be **filled up with** the students belonging to **weaker sections of society**.
- The **Directorate of Elementary Education** has made a provision for RTE admissions to the pre-primary classes and Class 1 in the schools, while fixing the age limit for the two categories.
 - The children from three to four years of age are admitted to pre-primary classes and those between six and seven years are eligible to get admission to Class 1.
- A large number of **private schools** in the State **have expressed concerns** about the admission of students to the pre-primary classes, as the category was added in 2023-24 **without any clear guidelines for payment of fees** by the government for three years until a student is promoted to Class 1.

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009

- The Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009 provided free and compulsory education to children in 2009 and enforced it as a fundamental right under **Article 21-A**.
- The RTE Act, 2009 aims to provide primary education to all children **aged 6 to 14 years**.
- **Section 12(1)(c)** mandates that **non-minority private unaided schools should reserve at least 25% of seats in entry-level grades for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged backgrounds**.
- It also makes **provisions for a non-admitted child** to be admitted to an age appropriate class.
- It also states about **sharing of financial and other responsibilities** between the Central and State Governments.
 - Education in the Indian constitution is a **concurrent issue** and both centre and states can legislate on the issue.
- It lays down the **norms and standards** related to: Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), Buildings and infrastructure, School-working days, Teacher-working hours.
- It also **provides for prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work**, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.

Note:

- It provides for the **appointment of teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications.**
- It **prohibits**
 - Physical punishment and mental harassment.
 - Screening procedures for admission of children.
 - Capitation fee.
 - Private tuition by teachers.
 - Running of schools without recognition.
- It focuses on making the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety through a system of **child friendly and child centered learning.**

Semal Trees

Why in News?

Semal trees are **disappearing from south Rajasthan**, launching a cascade of adverse consequences for forests and people in the area.

Key Points

- Large quantities of semal are cut in southern Rajasthan, in places like Bhil and Garasia, and sold in Udaipur.
- The cutting violates many laws, from the **Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953** to the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.**
- Semal is an integral species that holds the forest ecosystem together. The rock bees nestle on its branches because the tree's spikes keep its predator, the sloth bears, away.
 - Members of tribal communities consume the tree's reddish root for food during the monsoons. Larvae of the moth ***Bucculatrix crateracma*** feed on its leaves.
 - The **golden-crowned sparrow** weaves the lining of its nests with white cotton from its seeds.
 - The **Dysdercus bugs**, the **Indian crested porcupine**, **Hanuman langurs**, and some other species feast on the nectar in its flowers.
- The **Garasia tribe** in the area also believe they are descended from semal trees. The **Kathodi tribe** use its wood to craft musical instruments while those of the Bhil use it to make utensils.

Semal trees



- Also known as the **silk cotton tree** and **Bombax Ceiba**, the Semal tree is a large, **fast-growing tree native to India.**
- It is known for its distinctive, spiky red flowers and its fluffy seed pods, which contain a cotton-like substance that was once used for stuffing pillows and mattresses.
- The tree is prized for its ornamental value and is often grown in parks and gardens.

Indian Crested Porcupine



- **Scientific Name:** *Hystrix indica*
- **Geographical Range:** It is found throughout **southeast and central Asia** and in parts of the **Middle East**, including such countries as India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Behaviour:**
 - Nocturnal creatures that spend around **7 hours foraging every night.**
 - Live in **natural caves or excavated burrows.**
 - Predators include **large cats, wolves, hyenas, and humans.**
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Least Concern (LC)
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule IV

Note:

IMD Predicts Fresh Heatwave Over Rajasthan

Why in News?

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has predicted a fresh **heatwave** over northwest India with conditions expected in **West Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh and South Haryana**.

Key Points

- As per the **Regional Met Centre (RWFC) Delhi**, a heatwave is also predicted at isolated places in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, East Uttar Pradesh, West Rajasthan and East Rajasthan.
- Amidst the **fourth phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2024**, the **Election Commission of India** stated that the weather forecast indicates that the **Parliamentary Constituencies** going for polls are likely to **experience normal to below normal temperatures** and there will be **no heat wave-like conditions** in these areas on the polling day.

India Meteorological Department

- **IMD** was established in **1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
 - It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation**.

Rising Electricity Consumption in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, Increasing temperatures are leading to a **rise in electricity usage** in Rajasthan, causing concern for the **state's power sector**.

Key Points

- To meet the increasing demand, **Rajasthan buys electricity from other states at increased costs annually**.

- With temperatures on the rise in India, failure by the energy department to make arrangements may lead to power shortages for consumers, impacting industrial output significantly.

- More than 2,450 lakh units of electricity were used in the state in April 2023. This number rose to over 2,700 lakh units in April 2024 and further increased to 2,900 lakh units in the first week of May 2024.
 - Expectations indicate an **8-10% rise in electricity consumption in 2024**.
- The state has a **total power generation capacity of over 24,000 megawatt (Mw)**, around 58% comes from **coal-fired power plants** and around 10-12% is generated by **solar plants**.

Rajasthan's Digital Healthcare Access System

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is set to implement a new **integrated health management system** with **digitalisation** to provide **easy access to healthcare services**.

Key Points

- The new online system will strengthen health services and **create the facilities of electronic health records** and single window procedures.
 - The project would be completed at the earliest and the departments and agencies concerned would work with full coordination to ensure its success.
- As part of the online system, the common people and patients approaching the health facilities would get the facilities of electronic health records, **digi-health locker, freedom from queue, unified digital survey, key performance indicators (KPI)-based dashboard, telemedicine intensive care unit, geotagging-based hospital map**, and single window procedures for **health-related licences and no-objection certificates**.
- The agencies involved in the new system's implementation include the **National Health Mission, Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation, State Health Insurance Agency** and the **Department of Information Technology**.

Note:



drishti

National Health Mission (NHM)

- It was **launched by the government of India in 2013** subsuming the **National Rural Health Mission (Launched in 2005)** and the **National Urban Health Mission (Launched in 2013)**.
- The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas for - **Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)**, and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.
- The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL)

- It was incorporated on **4th May, 2011** as a Public Limited Company under **The Companies Act, 1956**.
- It has been established as a centralized procurement agency for procuring generic medicines, surgical & sutures and medical equipments for the department of Medical, Health and Family welfare department, medical Education department and other departments.

World Migration Report, 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** launched the **World Migration Report 2024**.

Key Points

- The Report reveals significant **shifts in global migration patterns**, including a record number of displaced people and a major increase in international remittances.
 - With an estimated **281 million international migrants worldwide**, the number of displaced individuals due to **conflict, violence, disaster, and other reasons** has surged to the highest levels in modern-day records, reaching 117 million, underscoring the urgency of addressing displacement crises.
- In India, strong influence of climate impacts on internal migration from **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**.

- India hosts the **world's largest number of international migrants (18 million)** residing in UAE, USA and Saudi Arabia.
- In 2022, India remained the top remittance destination, receiving more than USD 111 billion, the first country to reach and surpass the USD 100 billion mark.

International Organization for Migration

- **About:**
 - It **originated in 1951** as the **Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME)** after World War II's upheavals.
 - It underwent name changes from PICMME to the **Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM)** in 1952, to the **Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM)** in 1980, and finally to the **International Organisation for Migration in 1989**, reflecting its evolution into a migration agency.
 - In **2016**, **IOM entered into an agreement with the United Nations**, becoming a related organization.
- **Members:** It currently has 175 Member States and 8 states with Observer status.
 - **India became an IOM Member State on 18th June 2008.**
- Its **headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland**.

Jal Jeevan Mission Scam in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has registered an **First Information Report (FIR)** in the centrally-funded **Jal Jeevan Mission scheme** scam case in Rajasthan.

Key Points

- According to the officials, Jaipur-based contractors used fake completion certificates purportedly issued by **Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON)** to get tenders from the Public Health Engineering Department of the state.

Note:

- The CBI action came after the conclusion of an eight-month-long preliminary enquiry registered in August 2023.



Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- It is the **premier investigating police agency** in India.
 - It provides assistance to the **Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal**.
- It functions under the superintendence of the Deptt. of Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India - which falls under the prime minister's office.
 - However, for investigations of offences under **the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988** its superintendence vests with the Central Vigilance Commission.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of **Interpol Member countries**.
- Its conviction rate is as high as 65 to 70% and it is comparable to the best investigation agencies in the world.

First Information Report (FIR)

- It is a **written document** prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a **cognizable offence**.
- It is a report of information that reaches the police first in point of time and that is why it is called the **First Information Report**.
- It is generally a complaint lodged with the police by the **victim of a cognizable offence or by someone on his/her behalf**. Anyone can report the commission of a cognizable offence either orally or in writing.
- The term FIR is **not defined** in the **Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973**, or in any other law.
- However, in police regulations or rules, information recorded under Section **154 of CrPC** is known as First Information Report (FIR).
- There are **three important elements** of an FIR:
 - The information must relate to the **commission of a cognizable offence**,

Note:

- It should be given in **writing or orally** to the head of the police station,
- It must be written down and **signed by the informant**, and its key points **should be recorded in a daily diary**.

Solar Energy to Meet Power Demand

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is looking to **increase dependence on solar energy** from the current 12-14% to over 40% of consumption by 2030 to bridge the power gap.

Key Points

- With urbanisation and industrial growth, electricity demand in the state may increase by 8 to 10% every year.
 - In the next five years, the **scheme for promoting solar production centres** among the government and private sector and the **rooftop solar plants scheme** will be promoted.
 - These efforts will also **reduce dependence on coal-based plants**.
- According to the plan, **subsidised rooftop systems are to be installed at 500,000 houses** in the first phase of **PM Suryaghar Yojana** in the state.
 - In 2023-24, Rajasthan's commissioned **solar capacity was over 1,296 megawatt (Mw)**, according to the state's renewable energy website, with the best year being **2021-2022** when the commissioned solar energy was over **5,398 Mw**. The state had over **15,195 Mw** of aggregate **solar capacity till December 2023**.
- Rajasthan's **solar energy generation potential** has been assessed at **142 Gw**.
 - The state has vast untapped potential in terms of **intense solar radiation** with one of the highest number of sunny days in a year and availability of vast unutilised government and private land.
 - This has the potential to make **Rajasthan a highly preferred destination for solar energy production**.

PM Surya Ghar Yojana

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

Rajasthan CM Felicitates Candidates Selected in Central Civil Services

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan Chief Minister felicitated candidates from the State selected in the Central Civil Services after passing out the **2023 Union Public Service Commission's examination**.

- He **greeted the young officers** at a function in Jaipur by **dressing them in turbans and shawls, and presenting mementos to them**.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister called upon the youths to work with **honesty and dedication in all positions** where they are appointed.
- The young officers who attended the function at the Chief Minister's official residence shared their views on issues such as **women's empowerment**, **improving the education system**, **promoting tourism in Rajasthan**, and **improving the State's ranking in the Centre's Swachh Survekshan** or cleanliness survey.

Note:

Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2023

- It was **introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation** while encouraging large scale citizen participation.
 - Over the years, Swachh Survekshan has **emerged as the largest Urban sanitation survey in the world.**
- In SS 2023, **additional weightage has been given to source segregation of waste, enhancement of waste processing capacity of cities to match the waste generation and reduction of waste going to the dumpsites.**
 - Indicators have been introduced with **additional weightage on emphasizing the need for phased reduction of plastic**, plastic waste processing, **encourage waste to wonder parks** and zero waste events.
- **Ranking of Wards** within the cities is also being promoted through SS 2023.
- The cities would also be assessed on dedicated indicators on the issues of **'Open Urination' (Yellow Spots) and 'Open Spitting' (Red Spots)**, being faced by the cities.
- MoHUA will be promoting **cleaning of back lanes** of the residential and commercial areas.

Kuno Cheetah Captured in Rajasthan

Why in News?

One of the **Cheetahs** from **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh wandered around 50km and ended up in **Karauli, Rajasthan.**

- However, it was tranquilized and safely returned the same evening.

Key Points

- According to **forest department** officials, the cheetah may have followed a route along the **Chambal river**, which flows through Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan's Karauli.
 - Chambal river is one of the most **pollution-free rivers** of India.
 - It's 960 km. long river that originates at the **Singar Chouri peak** in the northern slopes of the **Vindhya mountains** (Indore, Madhya Pradesh). From there, it flows in the **North direction** in Madhya Pradesh for a length of about 346 km and then follows a **north-easterly direction** for a length of 225 km through Rajasthan.
 - It enters UP and flows for about 32 km before joining the **Yamuna River** in Etawah District.



Note:

- It is a **rainfed river** and its basin is bounded by the **Vindhyan** mountain ranges and the **Aravallis**. The Chambal and its tributaries drain the **Malwa region** of northwestern Madhya Pradesh.
- **Tributaries:** Banas, Kali Sindh, Parbati.
- **Main Power Projects/ Dam:** Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and Kota Barrage.
- The **National Chambal Sanctuary** is located along river Chambal on the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It is known for **critically endangered gharial**, the **red-crowned roof turtle**, and the **endangered Ganges river dolphin**.

Cheetah


Common Name – Cheetah

Scientific Name – *Acinonyx jubatus*

- *Acinonyx jubatus jubatus* (African Cheetah)
- *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus* (Asiatic Cheetah)

Reintroduction of Cheetah to India:

- The "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India" was released by MoEF&CC at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (January 2022).
 - Such a plan was first proposed in 2009.
- In September 2022, eight cheetahs landed in India from Namibia.
 - The 8 cheetahs have been relocated to the Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- The relocation of cheetahs to India from Namibia is the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.



Slightly brownish and golden skin; thicker than the Asiatic Cheetahs

More prominent spots and lines on the face

Found all over the African continent

IUCN Red List Status – Vulnerable

African Cheetah



Slightly smaller than the African ones.

Pale yellowish fawn coloured skin – more fur under body, belly specifically.

Found only in Iran; the country claims there are only 12 of them left. Year 1952 – Asiatic Cheetah officially declared extinct from India.

IUCN Red List Status – Critically Endangered

Asiatic Cheetah

Drishti IAS

Note:

Child Marriages in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan High Court** directed the state government to ensure that **no child marriages are solemnised in the state** and that village heads and panchayat members would be held accountable if such marriages happened.

Key Points

- The court's order came ahead of the **Akshay Tritiya festival on 10th May 2024**, as several child marriages were solemnised on Akshay Tritiya in Rajasthan.
- The court, while hearing a **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** by **Just Rights for Children Alliance** seeking the court's intervention to prevent child marriages, noted that despite the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006**, child marriages are still taking place in the state.
 - Under **Section 11 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006**, Sarpanch and Panch will be held responsible if they negligently fail to prevent child marriages from being solemnised.
- As per **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules 1996**, a duty is cast upon Sarpanch to restrict child marriages.

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- This Act replaced the **Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929** which was enacted during the British era.
- It defines a child to mean a male below **21 years** and female below **18 years**.

Related Initiatives:

- **Dhanalakshmi Scheme:** It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for a girl child with insurance coverage.
 - It also aims to **eliminate child marriage by offering parents insurance** coverage of medical expenses and encouraging the education of the girl child.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** It aims to empower girls through education, health and protection, and discourage child marriage.

Illegal Mining in the Aravalli Range

Why in News?

Recently, The Supreme Court verbally stated that **illegal mining** in the **Aravalli range** in Rajasthan should be stopped.

Key Points

- According to the court's amicus curiae (impartial adviser), the Rajasthan government tried to deceive the court by **recognizing only mountains that were at least 100 meters high** as **belonging to the Aravalli Range**, while not including shorter hills in the range.
 - Aravalli is the **only geographical feature** that **stops dry winds** from coming to the **Gangetic Plains** that come from Afghanistan and Pakistan.
 - **Aravalli is a natural barrier.** Losing it will transform our weather into the arid, dry climate.
- The court in November 2023 had taken note of **palaeolithic findings in the Aravalli** and directed the **Archaeological Survey of India** to protect the site, which could even be part of **national heritage**.

Aravalli Range

- The Aravallis of Northwestern India, one of the oldest fold mountains of the world, now form residual mountains with an elevation of 300m. to 900m. They stretch for a distance of 800 km. from **Himmatnagar in Gujarat to Delhi, spanning Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, the 692 kilometre (km).**
- The mountains are divided into two main ranges – the **Sambhar Sirohi Range** and the **Sambhar Khetri Range** in Rajasthan, where their extension is about 560 km.
- These are fold mountains of which rocks are formed primarily of folded crust, when two convergent plates move towards each other by the process called **orogenic movement**.

Note:

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the premier organisation for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
 - **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958** governs the functioning of ASI.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham-the first Director-General of ASI**. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the "Father of Indian Archaeology".

Vivekananda Scholarship

Why in News?

Rajasthan has chosen to reduce the funding for the **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Academic Excellence**, originally established by the former government as the **Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence**.

Key Points

- Students with a **yearly family income exceeding Rs 8 lakh** will now need to pay a part of the **tuition fee** starting from the next **academic session**.
- The scholarship covered the full tuition fees for 500 talented students from different income groups. It consisted of 300 scholarships for students studying overseas and 200 scholarships for those joining the top 50 institutes in the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings**.
 - Even though the higher education department suggested that students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds should pay **10% of the tuition fee**, the finance department rejected this proposal.

- Instead, students falling into the higher income brackets, with family earnings **ranging from Rs 8 lakh to Rs 25 lakh**, and **those exceeding Rs 25 lakh**, will now have to pay **15% and 30% of the tuition fee**, respectively.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings

- **About:**
 - The NIRF is a methodology to rank institutions across the country based on various parameters.
 - NIRF was approved by the **Ministry of Education (Erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development)** and launched on **29th September 2015**.
 - It is the **first-ever effort by the government to rank Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** in the country.
- **Parameters for NIRF Ranking:** The weightage for each parameter varies depending on the category of the institution.



Fig. 1: NIRF Parameters for Ranking of Institutions

Note:

QS World University Rankings

- **About:**
 - The NIRF is a methodology to rank institutions across the country based on various parameters.
 - NIRF was approved by the **Ministry of Education (Erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development)** and launched on **29th September 2015**.
 - It is the **first-ever effort by the government to rank Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)** in the country.
- **Parameters for NIRF Ranking:** The weightage for each parameter varies depending on the category of the institution.
- QS World University Rankings are released annually by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**.
- The rankings evaluate the **performance and quality of universities worldwide**.
- The methodology considers indicators such as academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, employer reputation, sustainability, employment outcomes, international research network, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio.
- They provide **rankings by subject, region, student city, business school, and sustainability**.

Green Lynx Spider

Why in News?

Recently, **Green Lynx Spider** was discovered in **Tal Chhappar, Rajasthan**. The spider species has been named **Peucetia chhapparajnrvin**.

Key Points

- The spider was found in **Tal Chhappar Wildlife Sanctuary in Churu district** during fieldwork by Nirmala Kumari.
- The specimens have been deposited in the **entomology lab at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur**.
- The species was **identified and described** in the **Spider Research Lab at JD Patil Sangludkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur**, in the Amravati district.

- This spider is found on the green leaves of the **Vachellia nilotica (babul) tree**. Their green hue aids in blending within surroundings and ambushing prey, while their long legs allow them to move quickly.
- This spider is **nocturnal and feeds on small insects**. The climatic conditions in the sanctuary area are extreme, with very hot summers and very cool winters.
- They are significant **insect predators in low shrubs and herbaceous plants**, being crucial for controlling plant-damaging insects and forest ecosystem pests.
- The spiders **prey on various types of moths and their young**, such as bollworm moth, leafworm moth, and looper moth.

NEVER SEEN BEFORE

➤ Green lynx spider species spotted in **Tal Chhappar Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Churu district of Rajasthan**

➤ It was discovered by **Nirmala Kumari** during fieldwork



➤ Species identified by **Atul Bodkhe** in the **Spider Research Lab** at **JD Patil Sangludkar Mahavidyalaya, Daryapur**



➤ It is found on the green leaves of the **babul tree**

The Tal Chhappar Sanctuary

- It is situated on the **border of the Great Indian Thar Desert**.
- Tal Chhappar is a **distinctive shelter** of the most graceful Antelope seen in India, **"the Blackbuck"**.
- It was given **the status of a sanctuary in 1966**.
 - Tal Chhappar was a **hunting reserve of the erstwhile royal family of Bikaner**.
- The **"Tal"** word is a Rajasthani word meaning **plane land**.
- This Sanctuary has **nearly flat territory and a combined thin low-lying region**. It has open and wide grasslands with spread **Acacia and Prosopis plants** that offer it a **look of a characteristic Savanna**.

Note:



drishti

Investors' Summit 2024

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan** government is planning to host a **three-day Investors' Summit in December 2024**. The state government plans to organise these summits annually to speed up **industrialization**.

Key Points

- The **business sector in the state** believes that the regular occurrence of such incidents could potentially draw attention, effort, and funds away from the industries department's other responsibilities, as organising these events involves extensive year-round planning and preparation.
- The task of providing an industry-friendly environment rigorous engagement starting from **policymaking to implementation, infrastructure development, administration and monitoring, dispute resolution and host of other responsibilities**.
- The main emphasis should be on developing an attractive industrial policy to attract investments from other states to the region.

Great Indian Travel Bazaar

Why in News?

The **tourism department of Rajasthan** will host the **13th Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB)** in **Jaipur** from 5th to 7th May, 2024 to promote **tourism** in the state.

Key Points

- The department is organising the event jointly with the **Centre's tourism ministry** and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci)**.
 - The state would showcase cultural events based on **art, tourism and history of Rajasthan**.

- A '**Wed in India Expo**' will take place on the first day of the event with the objective to **encourage tourists from India and abroad to get married in Rajasthan**.
- On the second and third day of the event, **business-to-business meetings** will be organised with **foreign tour operators**. They will also be offered tours across Rajasthan.
- According to the general secretary of **All Wedding Industries Federation, Rajasthan**, **1.5 to 2 million weddings** take place **every year in Rajasthan**.
 - If efforts are made by the tourism industry and the state government collectively, **Rajasthan can be promoted as a destination wedding spot**. This may **increase destination weddings by 5-10%**.
 - This will provide **new employment opportunities** to lakhs of people. The government will also get revenue and people associated with the **hotels and tourism sector** will get good business.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

- FICCI is a **non-government, not-for-profit organisation established in 1927**.
- It is the **largest and oldest apex business organisation in India** whose history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies.

Digital Water Distribution System

Why in News?

A unique **digital water distribution system** for **agricultural fields** has been launched in Rajasthan's **Sriganganagar district** to facilitate the **supply of irrigation water**.

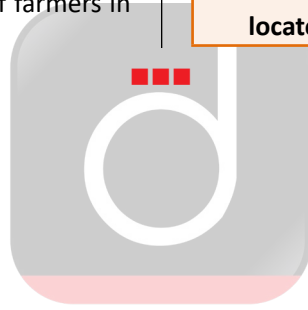
Note:

Key Points

- The new system, evolved by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**, Jaipur, will enable the farmers to know of the **status of water** reaching their fields and **minimise the scope for human error** often reported in the manual system.
 - The digital platform would **enhance transparency** in distributing water from Gang Canal and Indira Gandhi Canal to all farmers in the district, **resolving issues related to water** availability.
- According to the **Water Resources Department**, the heads of water user associations would enter the information about farmers in their respective areas on the portal only once. After this, the farmers will automatically get their irrigation turn slips online.
 - The **online 'barabandi' (fixed turn)** could be expanded and implemented as an equitable water distribution system for the benefit of farmers in other districts of the State as well.

National Informatics Centre (NIC)

- NIC provides **network backbone and e-Governance** support to the Central Government, State Governments and UT Administrations.
- NIC has been closely associated with the Government in different aspects of Governance besides establishing a **Nationwide State-of-the-Art information and communication technology (ICT) Infrastructure**.
- It has also built a large number of digital solutions to support the government at various levels, making the **last-mile delivery of government services to the citizens a reality**.
- It is under the aegis of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- It was **established in 1976** and its **headquarters is located in New Delhi**.



drishti

Note:



drishti