



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

RAJASTHAN



**SEPTEMBER
2025**



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

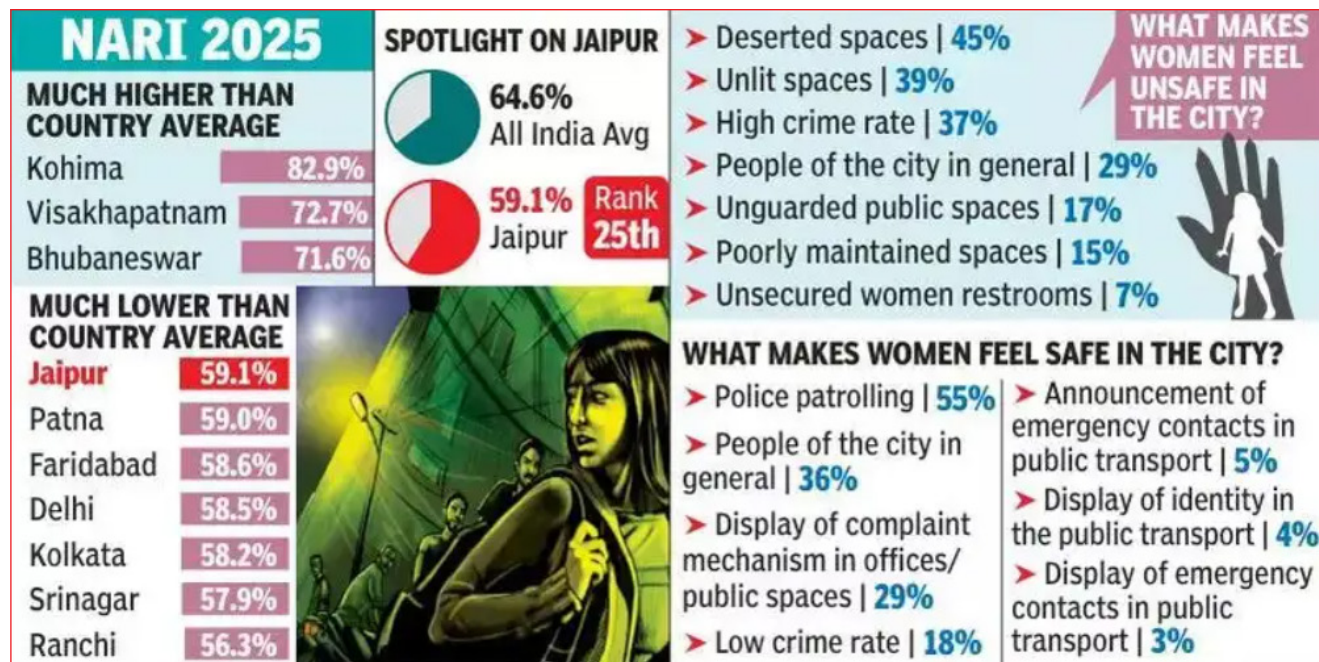
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Jaipur's Women's Safety Ranking in NARI 2025

Why in News?

Jaipur has ranked among the lowest-performing cities in the **National Annual Report & Index on Women's Safety (NARI) 2025**.



Key Points

- 🔦 **About:** NARI 2025, prepared by **Pvalue Analytics**, surveyed 31 major cities across India on **women's overall sense of safety**, experiences of **harassment**, and variations in safety between day and night.
 - ✦ The report was released by **Vijaya Rahatkar**, Chairperson of the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**, in **Delhi**.
- 🔦 **Key Findings:**
 - ✦ **Jaipur's Performance:** Jaipur scored **59.1%**, falling below the national average of **64.6%**. The city ranked **25th out of 31 cities**, placing it in the bottom group alongside cities like **Patna, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar**, and **Ranchi**.
 - ✍ **8% of women** in Jaipur reported facing harassment in the past year, which is slightly higher than the all-city average of **7%**.
 - ✍ **31%** of respondents considered the city highly safe during the day while only **10%** felt highly safe at night.
 - ✍ **17%** rated Jaipur's infrastructure as **"highly safe"**, and **11%** rated it as **"safe"**.
 - ✍ **24%** rated authorities as **"highly safe"**, while **12%** found authorities **highly unsafe**.
- 🔦 **Top Performers:** **Kohima, Visakhapatnam**, and **Bhubaneswar** ranked highest in terms of safety, performing well above the national benchmark.

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Rare Caracal Cub Spotted in Jaisalmer Desert

Why in News?

Experts have confirmed a **rare caracal cub in the Jaisalmer desert**, making a significant wildlife discovery for Rajasthan.

- Following a photo-based sighting, authorities have launched population surveys and intensified patrolling in the border areas of Jaisalmer.



Key Points

- About:** The Caracal is a **medium-sized wildcat** found in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, **including India**.
 - In India, the population is estimated at around 50 individuals, mostly in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
 - It plays an **important role in local ecosystems** as a predator and is known for its distinctive physical features and **remarkable hunting abilities**.
- Habitat:** Adapted to savannas, semi-deserts, dry woodlands, rocky hills, arid hilly steppes, and dry mountainous regions.
- Taxonomy and Relation:** Caracal is more closely related to the **African golden cat** and serval than to true lynxes, despite often being called the “**desert lynx**”.
 - In India, it is called ‘**siya gosh**’, a Persian-derived term meaning ‘**black ear**’.
 - Its scientific name is *Caracal caracal*.

Physical Features:

- Caracals possess **slender bodies and long legs**, and are the largest among Africa’s small cats.
- Adults weigh between 8-18 kg and may reach up to a meter in length. Males are generally larger than females.
- The **fur is short, dense**, and ranges from tawny-brown to reddish-tan with lighter underparts.
- They have **distinct facial markings**, featuring dark lines and white highlights around the eyes.

Conservation Status:

- Least Concern** (globally) in the **IUCN Red List**.
- Listed under **Schedule I** of India’s **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** (maximum protection).

Threats:

- Habitat loss, shrinking prey base, and **human-wildlife conflict**.

Illegal Sand Mining

Why in News?

The **Supreme Court** has issued **notices** to the **Centre** and the **Rajasthan government**, asking them to respond to allegations of **large-scale illegal river sand mining and transportation** in the state.

What is Sand Mining?

- About:** Sand mining is the removal of natural **sand** and **sand resources** (like **mineral sands** and **aggregates**) from the **terrestrial, riverine, coastal, or marine environment** to extract **minerals, metals, crushed stone, sand, and gravel**.
 - Illegal river sand mining** refers to the **unauthorized and unregulated extraction of sand** from riverbeds, banks, and floodplains.
- Source of Sand:** In India, the primary sources of sand include **river floodplains, coastal sand, palaeo-channel sand, and sand from agricultural fields**.
- Factors Contributing to Illegal Sand Mining:**
 - Lack of regulation and weak enforcement** enable unchecked illegal sand mining.

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- ✦ High demand from the construction industry, driven by **urbanization** and **population growth**, increases pressure on **riverbeds** and **coastal areas**.
- ✦ **Corruption** and **sand mafia influence**, with **collusion of authorities**, sustain illegal mining practices.
- ✦ **Lack of sustainable alternatives**: Limited use of **manufactured sand** (M-sand) and poor promotion of **eco-friendly options** increase reliance on **riverbed sand**.

💡 Consequences of Sand Mining:

- ✦ **Erosion & Habitat Disruption**: Alters **riverbeds**, causes **erosion**, changes **channel morphology**, destabilizes **stream channels**, and disrupts **aquatic habitats**.
- ✦ **Flooding & Sedimentation**: Sand depletion increases **flooding**, **sediment loads**, and alters **flow patterns**, harming **aquatic ecosystems**.
- ✦ **Groundwater Depletion**: Formation of **deep pits** lowers the **groundwater table**, affecting **drinking water wells** and causing **water scarcity**.
- ✦ **Biodiversity Loss**: Leads to loss of **aquatic and riparian species**, with impacts extending to **mangrove forests**.

💡 Regulations on Sand Mining:

- ✦ **MMDR Act, 1957**: Sand is classified as a "**minor mineral**" under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957** (MMDR Act), with **state governments** overseeing its **administration**.
- ✦ **SSMG 2016**: The **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** issued the "**Sustainable Sand Mining Management (SSMG) Guidelines 2016**" to promote **scientific** and **eco-friendly sand mining practices**.
- ✦ **Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)**: The **Supreme Court of India** mandated that **all sand mining activities**, even those in areas **smaller than 5 hectares**, require **prior approval**.

Udaipur Receives Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation

Why in News?

Udaipur, often referred to as the '**City of Lakes**', has achieved a significant milestone by receiving the esteemed **Ramsar Wetland City accreditation**.

- 💡 This recognition was conferred during the **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards and Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony 2025**, organized by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.

Udaipur's Efforts in Wetland Conservation

- 💡 **About**: Udaipur city is **surrounded by five major wetlands**, namely, **Pichola**, **Fateh Sagar**, **Rang Sagar**, **Swaroop Sagar**, and **Doodh Talai**.
- ✦ These wetlands are an **integral part of the city's culture** and identity, help maintain the city's **microclimate**, and provide a **buffer from extreme events**.
- 💡 **Recognition**: Udaipur earned this distinction for its exemplary wetland conservation practices, placing it among a **select group of cities worldwide** recognized for their comprehensive approach to wetland protection and management.
- ✦ Udaipur's efforts include **active community engagement** in lake and wetland protection, as well as the successful integration of wetland management into **urban planning**.

Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

- 💡 **About**:
 - ✦ The WCA is a voluntary accreditation system established by the **Ramsar Convention** during the **Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) 12, 2015**, to recognize cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
 - ✦ It is **awarded to urban centers** that exhibit exceptional efforts in safeguarding wetlands, promoting biodiversity conservation, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

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- ✦ The scheme aims to promote the conservation and **wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.

- ✦ The WCA is **valid for 6 years**.

Significance:

- ✦ **Encourages cities to develop positive relationships** with valuable ecosystems like Wetlands of International Importance.
- ✦ Aims to gain international recognition for cities valuing their natural or human-made wetlands.

Uranium Mining Project in Sikar District

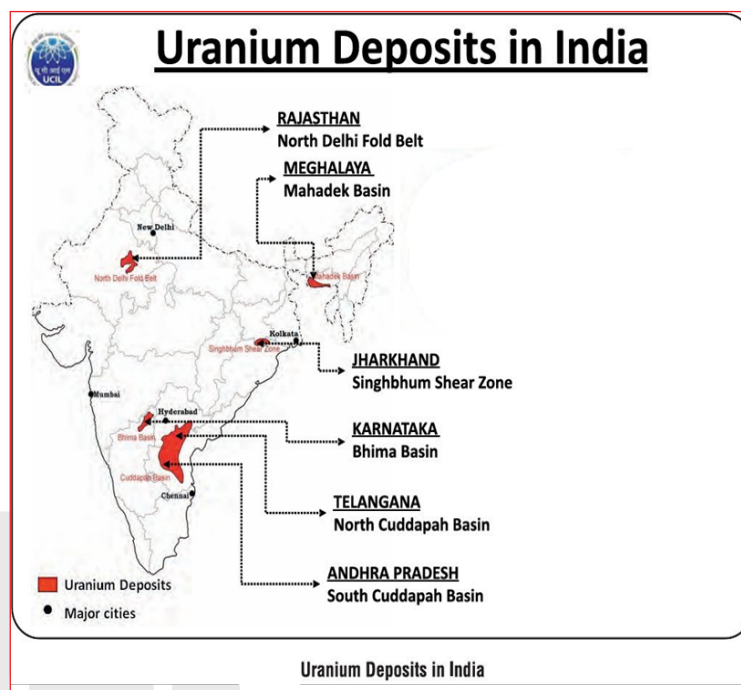
Why in News?

In a recent address to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, the Food and Civil Supplies Minister, Sumit Godara, revealed the details of a **uranium mining project** in Khandela tehsil, Sikar district.

Key Points

- 💡 **Investment:** The Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) will **invest nearly Rs 3,000 crore** in the **uranium mining project**.
- 💡 **Employment:** The development is aimed at **improving local employment rates** and enhancing the socio-economic status of the area.
 - ✦ This initiative is expected to **create 1,623 direct jobs**, with 80 percent of these positions reserved for local residents.
- 💡 **Collaboration:** The project is being carried out in collaboration with the **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)** and the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.

- ✦ These organizations are already conducting exploratory mining in the region, with decline mining and related operations underway.



Rajasthan's Millet Outlets Initiative

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan Government** has set up 152 millet outlets through **cooperative societies** in rural areas, surpassing its initial target of 34 by more than four times.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The opening of millet outlets was part of a larger strategy announced in the **2025-26 State Budget** to generate **employment opportunities** in the region.
 - ✦ The ambitious project aims to **popularize millets as a nutritious, affordable, and sustainable alternative** to traditional grains in everyday consumption.
- 💡 **Role of Cooperative Societies:** The outlets are set up through organizations such as the **Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumer Federation, District Cooperative Consumer Societies, and Kraya Vikray Sahakari Samitis**.

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✦ These societies have been instrumental in **promoting millets** and encouraging their inclusion in the diet, thereby helping improve **community health** and well-being.

- 💡 **Promotion of SHGs:** In addition to millet products from cooperative institutions, products from **women's self-help groups** are also available at these outlets, supporting women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Millet

- 💡 It is a collective term referring to several **small-seeded annual grasses** that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, **subtropical, and tropical regions**.
- 💡 Some of the common millets available in India are **Ragi (Finger millet)**, Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet).
 - ✦ The earliest evidence for these grains has been found in the **Indus civilization** and was one of the first plants domesticated for food.
- 💡 It is grown in about **131 countries** and is the traditional food for around 60 crore people in Asia & Africa.
- 💡 India is the **world's largest producer** of millets with a share of 38.4% of the world's production (FAO, 2023).
- 💡 Among all the states, Rajasthan has covered the largest area under millet cultivation, followed by Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Nuclear Power Plant in Banswara

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for the **Mahi-Banswara Nuclear Power Plant** in Rajasthan on 25th September 2025, boosting the state's **energy sector**.

- 💡 The Prime Minister's visit will also see the inauguration of **several other projects** worth over Rs 1.21 lakh crore.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The proposed nuclear power plant, set to be built on a 1,366-acre site, will have an **installed capacity of 2,800 MW**, with an expected completion by **2036**.
 - ✦ The project, valued at around Rs 50,000 crore, will feature four indigenous 700 MWe pressurized **heavy water reactors (PHWRs)** and is part of India's broader efforts to expand nuclear power capacity.
- 💡 **Current Status:** India currently operates **15 PHWRs of 220 MWe, 2 PHWRs of 540 MWe**, and a **700 MWe reactor at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan**.
 - ✦ **PHWRs** are a type of **nuclear reactor** that uses **heavy water (deuterium oxide, D₂O)** as both a **coolant and moderator**, while **natural or slightly enriched uranium** serves as fuel.
- 💡 **Regulator:** The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** is India's national regulatory authority responsible for ensuring the **safe use of nuclear energy** and radiation technologies in the country.
 - ✦ Established in **1983** under the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**, AERB functions as an **independent body** under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**.
- 💡 **Total Capacity:** India's **nuclear power capacity** is currently **8.18 GW (2024)**, with targets set at **22.48 GW by 2031–32** and **100 GW by 2047**.

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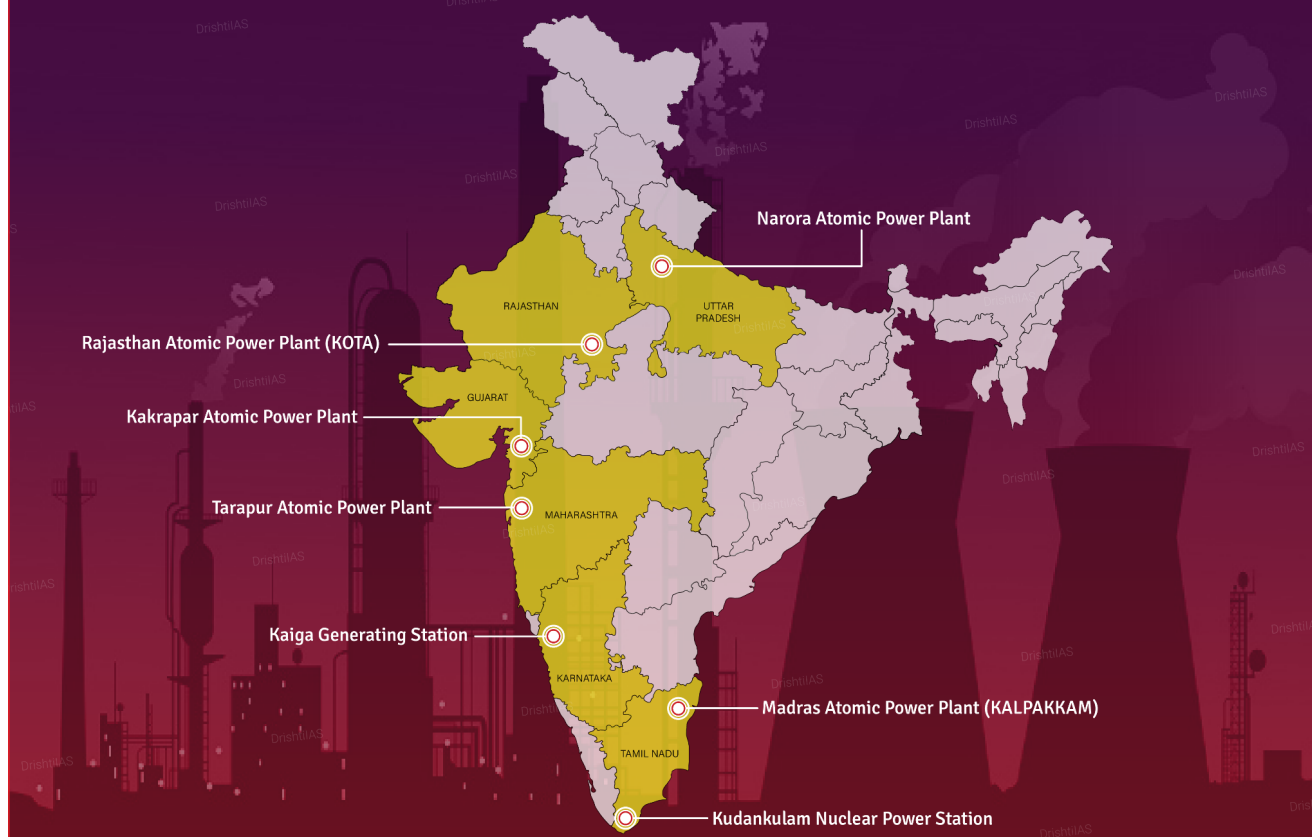
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Operational Nuclear Power Plants in India



FACTS

- Presently, India has 22 nuclear power reactors operating in 6 states, with an installed capacity of 6780 MegaWatt electric (MWe).
- Activities concerning the establishment and utilization of nuclear facilities and use of radioactive sources are carried out in India in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) regulates nuclear & radiation facilities and activities.
- **Newest & Largest Nuclear Power Plant:** Kudankulam Power Plant, Tamil Nadu.
- **First & Oldest Nuclear Power Plant:** Tarapur Power Plant, Maharashtra.



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Rajeshwar Singh Appointed as SEC of Rajasthan

Why in News?

On 17th September 2025, Rajasthan **Governor** Haribhau Bagde appointed **Rajeshwar Singh** as the new **Chief State Election Commissioner (SEC)** of Rajasthan, succeeding Madhukar Gupta.

- 💡 Rajeshwar Singh, a **retired IAS officer** with a distinguished 35-year career, will now oversee the State Election Commission's role in **ensuring free and fair panchayat** and municipal elections, leveraging his extensive experience in governance and election management.

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Key Points About State Election Commission

- 💡 **About:** The State Election Commission (SEC) of Rajasthan was constituted in **July 1994** under **Article 243K** of the Constitution of India.
 - ✦ The **73rd and 74th constitutional amendments** act of 1992, along with Articles **243K** and **243ZA**, mandate the creation of **State Election Commissions (SECs)** to oversee the conduct of elections for Panchayats and local urban bodies in each state and union territory.
- 💡 **Responsibilities:**
 - ✦ **Electoral Rolls:** Preparing and maintaining updated electoral rolls.
 - ✦ **Conducting Elections:** Holding free and fair elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipal bodies.
 - ✦ **Supervision:** Ensuring the transparency and fairness of elections to local bodies across Rajasthan.
- 💡 **Role of SEC:** The State Election Commissioner (SEC) is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting elections under the direct superintendence, direction, and control of the SEC, ensuring a **free and fair election process** at the local level.
- 💡 **Obligation:** State governments are required by law to provide **necessary funds, staff, and assistance** to the SECs for the effective conduct of elections, as requested by the SEC.
- 💡 **Appointment:** The State Election Commissioner is **appointed by the Governor** of the state. The conditions of service and tenure are determined by the Governor, and the position is held with autonomy and authority.
- 💡 **Powers:** Under Article 243K(1), the SEC has the **exclusive responsibility** for the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections for Panchayats (and Municipalities under Article 243ZA).
- 💡 **Tenure:** Article 243K(2) ensures that the **tenure and appointment process** of the State Election

Commissioner is governed by laws made by the **state legislature**, providing a clear legal framework for the role.

- 💡 **Removal:** The State Election Commissioner holds the same status, salary, and allowances as a **High Court judge**. They can only be removed from office following the same procedure and grounds as a judge of the High Court, ensuring their independence and security of tenure.

History of Elections in Rajasthan:

- ✦ **First Election:** The **first Panchayat election** in Rajasthan was conducted by the Panchayat Department in **1960**, followed by the first Municipal elections in 1963, which were organized by the Election Department.
- ✦ **SEC's Role:** The SEC assumed responsibility for conducting PRI elections from the 6th general election in 1995 and has been organizing general elections for Municipal bodies since 1994.
- 💡 **Structure of Panchayati Raj:** Rajasthan follows a **three-tier** Panchayati Raj system consisting of:
 - ✦ **Zila Parishads (District level):** 33 Zila Parishads, with 1014 constituencies.
 - ✦ **Panchayat Samities (Block level):** 352 Panchayat Samities, with 6995 constituencies.
 - ✦ **Panchayats (Village level):** 11,307 Panchayats, with 108,924 wards.
- 💡 **Structure of Municipal Elections:** Urban local bodies in Rajasthan consist of Municipalities, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations.

Rajasthan's 1st Transgender Lawyer

Why in News?

Raveena Singh has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the **first transgender lawyer** to register as a woman with the **Bar Council** of Rajasthan.

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Key Points

- 💡 **About:** Raveena Singh, born Ravindra Singh in a conservative family in Rajasthan's Pali district, **defied societal norms** and familial expectations to embrace her true gender identity.
 - ✦ Her achievement not only marked a personal victory but also **set a precedent** for the inclusion of transgender individuals in professional spaces.
- 💡 **Legal Initiatives:** Raveena also filed a **writ petition** at the Rajasthan High Court to further the cause of transgender rights, pushing for comprehensive recognition and representation of transgender people in educational and employment systems.

Transgender Persons

- 💡 **About:** According to **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**, a transgender person is someone whose gender identity does not align with the gender assigned at birth.

- 💡 **Population:** In India, the total population of transgender is around **4.88 Lakh** as per the **Census 2011**.
 - ✦ The top 3 states with the largest transgender population are **Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.
 - ✦ It includes trans-person with intersex variations, gender-queer, and people having such socio-cultural identities as kinnar, hijra, aaravani, and jogta.
- 💡 **Part of LGBTQIA+:** Transgender individuals are part of the **LGBTQIA+** community, represented by the "T" in the acronym.
 - ✦ **LGBTQIA+** is an acronym that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual.
 - ✦ The "+" represents the many other identities that are still being explored and understood.
 - ✦ The acronym is constantly evolving and may include other terms like non-binary and pansexual.
- 💡 **Key Milestones in Transgender Rights Reforms:**
 - ✦ **Election Commission's Directive (2009):** The registration forms were updated to include an "others" option, enabling transgender individuals to avoid male or female identification.
 - ✦ **Supreme Court Ruling (2014):** In the **National Legal Services Authority vs. Union of India case, 2014**, the Supreme Court recognized transgender people as the "Third Gender," framing it as a human rights issue.
 - ✦ **Legislative Efforts (2019):** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, was enacted to safeguard the rights of transgender individuals.

Fishing Cat Sighting in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

The **first-ever sighting** of a **Fishing Cat** in **Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR)** marks a significant

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addition to its small cat population, underscoring the reserve's ecological importance and the health of its wetland habitats.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The Fishing Cat was captured on camera during routine tiger monitoring by RVTR's biologist and Dalelpura tracking team in the Ramgarh Range, Bundi, confirming its presence.
- 💡 **Existing Species:** Before this discovery, RVTR was home to **four small cat species**, namely, Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Rusty-spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*), Asiatic Wildcat (*Felis lybica ornata*), and Caracal (*Caracal caracal*).
 - ✦ The addition of the Fishing Cat brings the total to five small cat species, further enriching the **reserve's carnivore population**.
- 💡 **Habitat:** Typically found in **wetlands and riverine environments**, its presence in RVTR highlights the health of the reserve's aquatic ecosystems, essential for the species' survival.
- 💡 **Diet:** The Fishing Cat primarily **preys on fish and aquatic invertebrates**, making wetlands essential for its survival.
- 💡 **Protection Status:**
 - ✦ **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - ✦ **CITES:** Appendix II
 - ✦ **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- 💡 **Significance:** The discovery contributes to the growing recognition of RVTR as a **biodiversity hotspot** in Rajasthan, home to **apex predators** such as tigers and leopards, as well as smaller carnivores that play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance.

 Meet the Fishing Cat (<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>)	Region  South and Southeast Asia	IUCN Listing  Vulnerable
	Aquatic Adaptations  Partially-webbed feet  Long, protruding claws  Can fully submerge underwater	Threats  Human encroachment into habitat  Human-conflict due to food competition  Overfishing and pollution to aquatic habitats

India's Largest Battery Storage Project

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for **India's largest battery energy storage project in Bikaner, Rajasthan**, alongside a 1,560 MW solar power plant, a key milestone in enhancing renewable energy and energy security.

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- ⚡ The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Avaada Group's **282 MWp solar power project** at a different site in Bikaner, further advancing the region's **solar energy infrastructure**.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About:** The Avaada Group's project integrates a **2,500 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** with a 1,560 MW-peak (MWp) solar power plant, which is located in **Pugal, Bikaner**. The combined investment for these initiatives exceeds **₹9,200 crore**.
 - ✦ The solar power plant and BESS occupy 4,000 acres of land and will be equipped with **cutting-edge technology**, including Avaada Electro's ALMM-certified, **Made-in-India TOPCon N-Type bifacial solar PV modules**, designed to maximise energy efficiency and stabilise the grid.
 - ✦ The 1,560 MWp solar plant will provide electricity even outside typical solar hours, further enhancing its contribution to grid stability.
- ⚡ **Shri Dungargarh Solar Project:** The 200 MW **Shri Dungargarh Solar Project**, covering 777 acres in Bikaner, will supply **power to Rajasthan Discoms**. This initiative ensures a cleaner and more cost-effective energy supply to the state.
- ⚡ **State's Support:** The project's rapid execution—operational in under a year—was made possible by a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed during the **Rising Rajasthan event**, reflecting the state's commitment to advancing renewable energy.
- ⚡ **Significance:** The project will ensure continuous green power, enhance **grid resilience**, and set new standards for India's energy security.
 - ✦ Together, the projects will generate over **1,600 green jobs in Rajasthan**, cut CO₂ emissions by 20 lakh tons annually, and **conserve 600 lakh litres of water** each year through **robotic cleaning techniques**.

Child Marriages Decline in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Rajasthan, once regarded as a child marriage hotspot, has witnessed a dramatic decline, with **cases falling by 67% among boys** and 66% among girls, according to a study released at the **United Nations General Assembly in New York**.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About:**
 - ✦ The study titled **"Tipping Point to Zero: Evidence Towards a Child Marriage Free India"** was conducted between 2022 and 2024 in five states by **Just Rights for Children (JRC)**, a network of over 250 child protection NGOs, in collaboration with the **Rajasthan Directorate of Child Rights**. The initiative was also supported by the Government of India and various civil society organisations.
 - ✦ The report highlights that **awareness campaigns** were the **most effective tool** for reducing child marriages, with 99% of respondents in Rajasthan identifying them as crucial.
 - ✦ It also notes that **82% of respondents considered arrests and prosecutions** as the second most impactful factor in deterring the practice.
 - ✦ Despite these improvements, the study underscores that **poor financial conditions (91%)**, cultural and traditional practices (45%), and the belief that early marriage ensures "purity" (45%) remain **persistent drivers of child marriage**.
- ⚡ **Recommendations of the Report:** The report calls for **stricter enforcement of child marriage laws**, better reporting mechanisms, **compulsory marriage registration**, and village-level awareness regarding the **Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat portal**.
 - ✦ It also recommends declaring a **National Day Against Child Marriage** to mobilise collective action across the country.

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Child Marriage

- 💡 **About:** UNICEF categorises child marriage as a human rights violation due to its adverse impacts on the development of both girls and boys.
 - ✦ Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 states that Child marriage elimination is pivotal in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5, aiming for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030.
 - ✦ According to the UN, 1 in 5 young women worldwide (19%) were married in childhood in 2022.
- 💡 **Legislative Framework:** India enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act in 2006, establishing the legal age for marriage at 21 for men and 18 for women.
 - ✦ **Section 16** of the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** allows State Governments to appoint 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' for specific areas.
 - 📎 CMPOs are responsible for preventing child marriages, collecting evidence for prosecutions, counselling against promoting or aiding such marriages, raising awareness about their harmful effects, and sensitising communities.



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