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(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

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Content

● Churu District Ranks First	4
● ‘Clean Air Blue Skies’ Workshop.....	4
● ‘Rajeev-2021 Digital Quizathon’	4
● ‘Miliye Sarkar se’: A unique Virtual Series.....	5
● ‘Sustain by Artist’ Exhibition	5
● Avani Lakhera: Brand Ambassador of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’	5
● ‘Rescue campaign’ to Make Jaipur Beggary Free	6
● First Woman Mining Engineer of CCL.....	6
● District Level Honor to Land Record Inspectors and Patwaris	6
● ‘New Road to All-round Development – Two Years of Commitment’	7
● All District Courts Connected to VC Remote Point.....	7
● ‘Digital Campaign of Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan’	7
● Marwar Regional Tribal Development Board.....	7
● Vatsalya Yojana	8
● International Center of Excellence	8
● The Rajasthan Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021	9
● Inauguration of Singhdwar of Kekdi Gaushala	9
● Isarda Dam Project	10
● Various Bills Passed in Rajasthan Assembly	10
● Sixth Session of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Adjourned Indefinitely	10
● Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme.....	11
● Vanijya Utsav	12
● Agricultural College	12
● New Schemes Listed in State Flagship Program.....	12

- Reorganization of Commercial Taxes Department.....13
- Amnesty Scheme 2021.....13
- Rajasthan Ranked First in Solar Energy14
- ‘PM Kusum Component-A’ Scheme15
- Prof. Shyam Sundar Jyani Honored with UN Award.....15

Churu District Ranks First

Why in News

- Recently, the **combined district ranking** for the month of August was released by the **Education Department of Rajasthan**, in which **Churu district stood first in the state**.

Key Points

- Based on the data available on Shala Darpan, **Jaipur and Chittorgarh got the second and third place** respectively in this ranking.
- Additional Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Dr. Rashmi Sharma asked all the district education officers and ex-officio district project coordinators to analyze the ranking of their district and block and prepare an action plan for progress in the weak areas of the district and block and implement it effectively.
- He gave instructions to the education officers in the last three ranked districts (Pratapgarh, Kota, Dholpur) for the expected progress in the ranking by doing intensive monitoring on priority.

'Clean Air Blue Skies' Workshop

Why in News

- On the occasion of '**International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**' on September 7, 2021 an online workshop '**Clean Air Blue Skies**' was organized in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Alwar and Udaipur districts of the state by Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board and Center for Science and Environment, Delhi.

Key Points

- The event was organized to create awareness among individuals, communities, corporates and the government about the importance of clean air for health, productivity, economy and environment.
- The workshop also provided a platform to diverse groups including urban local bodies, industry associations, academia and a large number of schools, civil society groups and media representatives. Around 287 schools of Rajasthan were invited for the event.
- Anand Mohan, member of **Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board**, presented an overview of the **National Clean Air Program** and **five non-attainment cities of**

Rajasthan and shared his remarkable observations with CSEs and stakeholder agencies.

- It is noteworthy that to promote efforts to protect human health and improve air quality, '**International Day of Clean Air for Blue Sky**' is celebrated every year on 7 September.
 - This year's theme is 'Clean Air, Healthy Planet', which emphasizes the adverse health effects of air pollution, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Its aim is to prioritize the need for clean air for all.

'Rajeev-2021 Digital Quizathon'

Why in News

- Recently '**Rajeev-2021 Digital Quizathon**' was held in the state.
 - A record 14,000 participants participated in the final stage of this Quizathon.
 - More than 37,000 youths participated in all the three phases.

Key Points

- Digital Quizathon was started on 20th August under the joint aegis of **College Education Department** and **Information Technology and Communication Department of Rajasthan**.
 - Quizathon was started with the aim of acquainting the younger generation with the contribution of former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi and making them aware about the developments in the field of Information Technology.
- Under this, online examinations were organized in three phases for the students studying in all the colleges, universities, polytechnic and engineering colleges of the state and private sector.
 - In the first phase 12,846 students participated in the online test based on information technology.
 - In the second phase 10,273 students appeared in the examination held on September 3, 2021 on the topic '**Good Governance through Information Technology Innovations in Local Administration**'.
 - Similarly, 14,102 students participated in the final stage competition held on September 6, 2021 on the subject of General Knowledge and Current Affairs.

Note:



- The result of these competitions will be declared on September 10, 2021. It is proposed to distribute the prizes to the winners on September 15, 2021.
- In each of the three competitions, the best 25 participants will be given **one Tablet each as first prize** and next **30 contestants will be given second prize**. In this way a total of **75 first prizes and 90 second prizes will be given** in all the three competitions.

'Miliye Sarkar se': A unique Virtual Series

Why in News

- On September 5, 2021, **Rajasthan Foundation** started a unique **virtual series** called **'Miliye Sarkar Se'**.
 - Through this initiative migrants from different states of the country and abroad **will be able to interact directly with the ministers and other representatives** of the Rajasthan state government.

Key Points

- In the first episode of this series of conversations with the representatives of the state government, **State Urban Development and Housing Minister Shanti Dhariwal** gave detailed information about the development works and future plans of the state government to the migrant Rajasthanis through a webinar.
- In this first episode of 'Meet Sarkar Se' program, many expatriates from the country and abroad shared their views on various aspects of **medical, health, education, road and economic and social development in Rajasthan** in front of Minister Dhariwal.
- The **'Meet Sarkar Se'** program will not only provide an opportunity to the migrants to know closely about the development work being done in their state, but also it will outline the contribution of migrants in the investment opportunities being explored by the government in Rajasthan.
- Underlining the role of migrant Rajasthanis in dealing with the corona epidemic, the Foundation commissioner said that all kinds of support was provided to the state government by the migrants for setting up oxygen plants in the state, sending liquid oxygen, through Rajasthan Foundation.

'Sustain by Cartist' Exhibition

Why in News

- On September 5, 2021, the **Art and Culture Minister of Rajasthan, Dr. B.D. Kalla** inaugurated the 'Sustain by Cartist' art exhibition at **Alankar Gallery of Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK)**. The exhibition will be held till September 12.

Key Points

- This exhibition is a unique **display of art and decor items made using junk**. Cartist in association with Jawahar Kala Kendra has started this initiative to promote upcycling of auto parts using used car parts and automotive waste and curate designer furniture.
- This unique initiative named **'Sustain by Cartist'** will be **extended to 33 districts of Rajasthan** for a month. Workshops and exhibitions will be organized in all districts **in collaboration with local artisans**.
- In this unique initiative by Cartist, the **old vehicles**, which have become junk and which are thrown in the junk, have been fully utilized. **Every part of the vehicle** like tyre, grille, hood, seat etc. has been used to make furniture and decoration items in this exhibition.
- These scrap parts have been used to create artworks, so that all new artists can be inspired to use many such materials to give it an art form.

Avani Lakhera: Brand Ambassador of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'

Why in News

- **Avani Lakhera**, who won a gold medal in the **shooting competition at the Tokyo Paralympics**, has been announced as the **brand ambassador** of the **'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'** scheme **by the Rajasthan government**.

Key Points

- Avani Lakhera has won the **Gold Medal in the R2 Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1** event at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- Avani is a 19-year-old Paralympian from Jaipur, who is **the first female player to win a gold medal in Paralympics** for India.

Note:



'Rescue campaign' to Make Jaipur Beggary Free

Why in News

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Department has announced to run a **Rescue Campaign to make Jaipur city free from begging.**

Key Points

- This rescue campaign will be **started from September 7, 2021.**
- This campaign will be **run by Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Department**, with an aim to **make Jaipur city free from begging and to rehabilitate beggars.**
- Under this campaign, arrangements will be made for beggars' accommodation, food and rehabilitation by taking them to the four designated centers of the city.
- Workable beggars will be provided jobs for livelihood by providing them skills.
- Children indulging in begging will be sent to **Balika Griha and Bal Griha** and **monks above 60 years of age will be sent to Old Age Home.**

First Woman Mining Engineer of CCL

Why in News

- On August 31, 2021, **Akanksha Kumari**, a resident of Barkagaon, Hazaribagh, became the **first woman mining engineer of CCL.**

Key Points

- This is the first time in CCL's four-decade history that a woman mining engineer has contributed. Akanksha joined duty in the **Churi underground mine of North Karanpura area.**
- Akanksha is **Coal India's second and first woman mining engineer** to contribute to an **underground mine.** By choosing mining in his engineering course, she has not only broken the misconception that mining is only for men, but has also inspired more aspiring girl students like herself.
- It is noteworthy that Akanksha's father Ashok Kumar is a teacher in a school in Barkagaon and mother

Malti Kumari is a housewife. She did her schooling from Navodaya Vidyalaya.

- It is to be known that Akanksha Kumari completed her engineering studies from **BIT (Sindri) Dhanbad** in 2018. Before joining Coal India, she worked for three years at **Hindustan Zinc Limited's Ballanaria mine** in Rajasthan.

District Level Honor to Land Record Inspectors and Patwaris

Why in News

- On September 9, 2021, the Revenue Board, taking another innovative initiative, decided to honor **one Land Record Inspector and Patwari from each tehsil** for their significant **contribution in the discharge of state obligations** during the year 2020-21.

Key Points

- Chairman of Revenue Board, Rajeshwar Singh said that during the period under review, instructions have been given to all District Collectors to **select one best land records inspector and one best patwari** from every tehsil area of the state for the best work.
- Under this process, district level selection committees have been constituted in each district. In the committee, the **Additional District Collector (Administration) has been nominated as the Convenor** and the **Sub-Divisional Officer (Headquarters) and Tehsildar (Headquarters) have been nominated as members.**
- Such personnel **who have not been punished in the previous years and no departmental inquiry is pending against them**, will be selected for the honor on the basis of their quality and excellence in performance.
- The Chairman of the Board of Revenue said that the personnel who get the **highest marks in the table of 100 marks** based on flagship schemes, departmental recovery, aid cases, participation in various activities and contribution to various programs of the government will be considered worthy of respect.
- After completing this process by September 15, citations will be distributed to the selected personnel by organizing district level programs before September 30.

Note:

'New Road to All-round Development – Two Years of Commitment'

Why in News

- On the completion of 2 years of the tenure of Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra, the book '**New Path of All-round Development - Two Years of Commitment**' was launched at the Raj Bhavan.

Key Points

- The book released by **Governor Kalraj Mishra**, has a pictorial description of the new traditions started by the Governor for the development of Raj Bhavan and in Rajasthan.
- In this book, the historical introduction of the tradition of reading the preamble and duties of the constitution in the address of the assembly for the awareness of the constitution, the efforts made to improve the quality of higher education during the two years, the initiatives taken to implement the new education policy, etc. has been given in detail.
- In this book, tribal and tribal welfare, works done for their development by adopting villages, new traditions of development established by Raj Bhavan, continuous development works even in Corona crisis, soldier welfare, social welfare through scout guide, scope of **Governor's Relief Fund** Detailed information has been given on the work done through it and the social concerns of Raj Bhavan.
- It is noteworthy that Kalraj Mishra took over as the Governor of Rajasthan on September 9, 2019.

All District Courts Connected to VC Remote Point

Why in News

- On September 10, 2021, the judges of Bani Park Court, Jaipur and Ganganagar Court introduced the facility of recording the statements of witnesses in the court through video conference (VC).

Key Points

- The rules were notified on **August 2, 2021** regarding the statement to be made by the VC in the High Court.

The state **government has amended the CrPC for this.**

- In the **first phase**, all district courts have been made studios by connecting them with VC remote points and **court staff have been appointed as coordinators** on these studios.
- VC's hardware has been installed in 1242 courts of the state. Microsoft Teams license and fiber internet connectivity provided.
- In the second phase, VC remote points will be made in the taluka court. Government offices and hospitals will also be connected to it.
- He said that after notifying the rules of the VC by the High Court:
 - The statement of the witness would be done in time.
 - Government expenditure and time will be saved and trials will also be possible soon.
 - By completing the entire process with transparency, the pendency of court cases will come down.

'Digital Campaign of Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan'

Why in News

- Recently, the **Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra** launched the campaign by releasing the poster of '**Digital Campaign of Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan**' at Raj Bhavan.

Key Points

- The Governor said that Rajasthan is a prosperous state from the point of view of tourism. There are also **immense employment opportunities in tourism** here.
- He appreciated this campaign focussed on eco-tourism.

Marwar Regional Tribal Development Board

Why in News

- Recently, Minister of State for Tribal Area Development Arjun Bamania informed during Question Hour in the Vidhan Sabha that **Public Representatives would also be added as consultants in the Marwar Regional Tribal Development Board.**

Note:



Key Points

- For the purpose of promoting education in Jalore, Pali and other districts, hostels have also been sanctioned through the board.
- It is noteworthy that the Marwar Regional Tribal Development Board was **constituted on February 2, 2021**.
- The **objective** of Marwar Regional Development Board is **to develop the scheduled tribe community of Mada, Mada cluster and scattered tribal areas of Jodhpur division**.
- This board will work as a **permanent advisory body of the state government** regarding the upliftment and development of the scheduled tribe community in **Jodhpur Administrative Division**, to prepare special schemes in this regard and implement them through the **Tribal Regional Development Department** or other departments. The **state government has the right to make recommendations**.

Vatsalya Yojana**Why in News**

- Recently, the implementation of **Rajasthan Sarkar Vatsalya Yojana** was started by the District Child Protection Unit, Jaipur to ensure that children in need of care and protection are brought up in a family environment.

Key Points

- Rohit Jain, assistant director of the **District Child Guardianship Unit**, said that under this scheme in the district, applications have been invited for marking the prospective foster parents willing to nurture and take care of the children in the family environment under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**.
- Any interested prospective foster parent can submit an application to the office of the Assistant Director, District Child Protection Unit, Jaipur. Temporary family care (other than adoption) shall be provided to children in need of care and protection as defined in **Section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** through foster parents.
- The eligibility for foster parents under Vatsalya Yojana is as follows-

- In the case of an **individual** (male or female) **minimum age should not exceed 25 years and maximum age should not exceed 65 years**, they should not have any criminal record, **Single male should not be allowed to take a girl child** into foster care.
- Prospective foster parents will submit the prescribed application form along with proof of age, residence proof, income certificate, paramedical certificate of income tax return, police verification report and testimony of two eminent persons.
- It is noteworthy that Vatsalya Yojana was launched by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during the budget speech of the year 2020-21.

International Center of Excellence**Why in News**

- On September 14, 2021, Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** approved proposals worth more than Rs 49.71 crore for **Center of Excellence Lab** and various specialist services and facilities etc. in Ayurveda University.

Key Points

- To promote wellness tourism and Ayurveda in Rajasthan, facilities will be expanded at **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurved University**, Jodhpur.
- As per the proposal, an 'International Center of Excellence in Panchakarma' will be set up in Ayurveda University at a cost of over Rs 43.81 crore.
- Chemistry will be expanded along with setting up of an 'International Center of Excellence in Panchakarma' and a 'Drug Testing Lab' in the university.
- It is noteworthy that **in the state budget year 2021-22, an announcement was made for their establishment and expansion of facilities in the university**.
- With a view to promote wellness tourism, 100 beds facility will be available in this center to stay in the natural environment. In this sequence a total of 53 huts and 47 cottages including 9 super deluxe huts and 44 deluxe huts as well as huts for Panchakarma therapy will be constructed.
- An artificial lake and administrative building will be constructed in the wellness center. The center will be operated on PPP mode by world class companies and

Note:

institutions specialized in the field of Panchakarma therapy. Technical support for this center will be provided by the experts of the university.

- Construction work will be done for a drug testing lab in Ayurveda University at a cost of about Rs 1 crore and necessary furniture and fixtures will be installed at a cost of Rs 60 lakh.
- The total construction cost of the lab is around Rs. 5.10 crores with an expenditure of Rs. 3.50 crores on procurement of various equipment. For this lab, services of various personnel will be taken on contract basis through the service provider agency.

The Rajasthan Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021

Why in News

- On September 13, 2021, the state assembly passed the **Rajasthan Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021** by voice vote. With this, the old population in urban areas and the people occupied with rights on non-agricultural land will be able to get free hold pattas.

Key Points

- Autonomous Governance Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal said during the discussion in the house that there are many people in the state who are occupying old population and non-agricultural land in urban areas with rights, but they do not have their lease.
- This provision is already there in **Section 69-A of the Municipal Act**. By making some improvements in it, the leasehold is being made freehold in 69-A by amending the City Improvement Trust Act.
- According to this bill, if any person has a lease or order issued under any other law, in which land has been allotted, then after surrendering his rights on that land, a provision has been made to give free hold lease.
- Due to this, the landholder will be able to use the benefits that a free landholder has. In this view, amendments have been proposed in the Jaipur Development Authority, Jodhpur Development Authority and Ajmer Development Authority, City Improvement Trust and Municipality Act.
- In this Bill, by replacing section 43 of the UIT Act, a provision has been made that notwithstanding

anything contained in the Land Revenue Act, 1956, all the lands mentioned in section 103, such as roads, roads, etc., lands of public use, transit. Lands for community use, crematoriums, graveyards, etc., lands defined in section (5), (24) of the Tenancy Act shall be deemed to be included in the UIT, but the unclaimed land mentioned in section 103(a)(2) shall not be included in the UIT.

- These provisions will have an overriding effect on the Land Revenue Act, as in all the three Acts of the Authorities. This provision is already there in the Act of **Jaipur Development Authority, Jodhpur Development Authority and Ajmer Development Authority**.
- The bylaws and rules of boundary wall area, heritage and restricted area are made separately. The same rules would apply there.

Inauguration of Singhdwar of Kekdi Gaushala

Why in News

- On September 12, 2021, **Rajasthan's Medical and Public Relations Minister Dr. Raghu Sharma** inaugurated the newly constructed **Singhdwar of Kekdi Gaushala in Ajmer district**.

Key Points

- Dr. Raghu Sharma said that an amount of Rs 21 lakh would be made available for the development works of Gaushala through MLA Local Area Development Board.
- Similarly, the process **Foundation Stone of National Law University** of opening an Animal Sub Health Center in Gaushala will be started. The temporary arrangement for the treatment of cows will start with immediate effect till the new center is approved.
- A cattle vehicle will be purchased through the municipality to provide treatment to the animals injured in the accident. 10 lakh development works and 10 lakh roads etc. will be made by the municipality.
- This cowshed is almost a century old. Earlier Gaushala was located in Devgaon.
- It has been constructed by the **Crab Merchant Association of Agricultural Produce Market**. It consists of 4 rooms and a synagogue.

Note:



Isarda Dam Project

Why in News

- On September 11, 2021, Minister of State for Labor and Indira Gandhi Canal Project, Tikaram Julie told that the work of the project has been started by issuing a tender for making the second page survey work and DPR of **Isarda dam project** to provide surface drinking water in Alwar district.

Key Points

- For Eastern Rajasthan, **this second major project of Rajasthan will benefit Alwar, Jaipur, Dausa and Sawai Madhopur** in the state.
- A total of 2547 villages and 11 towns will get drinking water from the second page of the project. It includes 1118 villages and 4 towns of Alwar district and remaining 1429 villages and 60 towns are included in Jaipur district.
- In the second page of the project, 110 villages of Umrain Panchayat Samiti and 90 villages of Malakheda Panchayat Samiti in Alwar Rural Assembly constituency, 163 of Thana Ghazi of Alwar district, 140 of Rajgarh, 147 of Bansur, 110 of Raini, 206 of Laxmangarh and Kathumar A total of 1118 villages including 152 villages and 4 towns of Alwar, Rajgarh, Khedli and Thana Ghazi have been included in this project.

Various Bills Passed in Rajasthan Assembly

Why in News

- On Sept 17, 2021, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed several bills including the Rajasthan Appropriation (No.3) Bill and the MBM University, Jodhpur Bill.

Key Points

- The bills passed include the Rajasthan Appropriation (No.-3) Bill, the MBM University, Jodhpur Bill, 2021, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and the Registration (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.-3) Bill, 2021 was introduced to authorize the payment and appropriation of certain amounts in the Consolidated Fund of the State for the services of the financial year 2021-22.

- With the passage of this bill, an amount of Rs.3163.26 crore can be paid and applied.
- Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that making MBM Engineering College Jodhpur a university would help in spreading higher education in the Marwar region. This university will be multi-disciplinary and engineering and technical education will continue to operate here as before.
- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal said that the **Rajasthan Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2021** has been brought due to the imposition of various conditions by the Central Government.
- In response to the discussion on the bill, Dhariwal said that according to the budget estimates for the year 2020-21, **the fiscal deficit of the Rajasthan government is 3.98 percent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)**. At the same time, the **fiscal deficit of the central government is more than 6 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP)**.
- Another important bill, the Registration (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2021 was also passed by voice vote.
- After its passage, now the misuse of the property of the giver of the power of attorney will stop in the event of his death. In this, on the day the power of attorney was given, the living certificate of that day will also have to be given at the time of the registry. This will determine whether this power of attorney is correct or not.
- Dhariwal said that the common man will no longer face any problem in the registration of leases for a period of less than one year. Such registration will now be done online as well. The general public will not have to go to the sub-registrar's office.
- The registration of tenancy will also automatically result in the registration of tenants. This will allow them to be identified. Disputes regarding immovable property in other ways including rental deed will also be reduced.

Sixth Session of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Adjourned Indefinitely

Why in News

- On 18 September 2021, **the sixth session of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly was adjourned sine die**.

Note:

Key Points

- Speaker of the Assembly Dr. C.P. Joshi said that this session started with the Governor's address on February 10, 2021. A total of 26 sittings were held in this and the assembly proceedings lasted for about 186 hours and 46 minutes till the end of the proceedings.
- He said that a total of 8763 questions were received in this session, out of which starred questions are 3941 and **unstarred questions** are 4822. A total of 447 **starred questions** were listed out of which 290 questions were asked orally and answered. Similarly 470 unstarred questions were listed.
- A total of 405 adjournment motions were received from the members under Rule 50 of the Procedure. Out of these 125 adjournment motions were given an opportunity to speak in the House and 116 members gave their views.
- 362 Special Mention proposals were received from the members under Rule 295 of the Procedure. Out of these, 52 notices lapsed due to absence of members in the House.
- Intimations of 890 proposals were received under Rule-131 of Procedure. A total of 4 calling attention motions were disallowed in the House.
- A total of 272 members participated in the discussions held on different days on the demands of 11 grants related to different departments.
- Information about 2682 cut motions was received on Demands for Grants, out of which 1929 cut motions were presented in the House and 753 cut motions were disallowed.
- Dr. Joshi informed that a total of 20 Bills were passed by the House, including 17 Bills introduced in the current session and the Bills introduced in the previous session.
- A total of 362 amendment proposals were received from the members on the bills, out of which 30 amendment proposals were inadmissible and 332 amendments were accepted at the secretariat level. 9 petitions were presented by the members in the House. A total of 41 reports of various committees were presented in the house during the session.

Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme

Why in News

- On September 20, 2021, Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya directed to issue a clear advisory under the '**Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme**' and strictly follow all the rules of the Forest and Environment Department on the buildings coming in eco-sensitive areas.

Key Points

- In a meeting organized in the Government Secretariat regarding '**Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme**', Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya said that due to promotion of tourism in rural areas, local handicrafts, dances and music would get wide publicity, besides giving wide publicity to the rural people. **Chances of getting more and more employment opportunities will increase.**
- Gayatri Rathod, Principal Secretary, Tourism Department, said that the **main objective of this scheme is to create investment and employment in rural areas** as well as **to protect and promote handicrafts and local products there.**
- Under the 'Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme', **four units - guest house, agro-tourism unit, camping site and caravan park** will be set up.
- Under the guest house, tourists will get temporary accommodation and food facilities from 6 to 20 rooms in rural areas. Here the housing owner or manager will be required to live with the family.
- Agro-tourism units can be established on agricultural, commercial and industrial land and a minimum 2 hectare area. Construction will be allowed on 20 percent of it, the remaining 80 percent of land can be used for camel-horse farm, cowshed, crop etc. rural environment.
- Camping sites will be allowed on agricultural, commercial and industrial land. Construction will be allowed on 10 percent of the minimum area of 1 hectare and 80 percent can be used for camel farm, horse farm, crop, livestock, garden, rural environment.
- Caraven parks will be set up for tourists to park mobile vans. It can be built on agricultural, commercial and industrial land of minimum 1 hectare area. Here cooking, eating and construction of facilities will be allowed for tourists. The presence of tourists in the van will be required while parking the Caravan vehicle.
- All these tourism units will be allowed only on a road of at least 10 feet wide.

Note:



Vanijya Utsav

Why in News

- On 21st September, 2021, Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena launched the '**Vanijya Utsav**' under the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi at **Jawahar Kala Kendra** and also visited the exhibition of handicraft products put up by **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**.

Key Points

- On this occasion, the Industries Minister said that the Industries and Commerce Department would lay the foundation stone of 75 industrial areas simultaneously to make the festival memorable.
- Meena said that the Mission '**Be an Exporter**' has been started by the **Industries and Commerce Department** with the aim of promoting exports from the state, under which people are being made aware about the activities related to exports.
- Ashutosh A.T., Secretary to the Government of Industry and Commerce and Managing Director of RIICO. Pednekar said that '**Vanijya Saptah**' is being organized across the country to increase the export activities under the **Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi**.
- He said that RIPS-2019 has been successful in attracting unexpected investments in the state. So far, investment proposals worth Rs 1 lakh crore have been received under the scheme.
- Chandrakant Mishra, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade said that after the '**Be an Exporter**' mission run by the Industries Department, the number of people taking new IEC codes has increased. He said that this is probably the first such mission in the country, under which the government itself is saying that '**you become an exporter, we will help you**'.

Agricultural College

Why in News

- On September 22, 2021, Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the Agricultural College, Dungarpur, established as a constituent unit of Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur.

Key Points

- Appreciating the steps taken by Maharana Pratap

University of Agriculture and Technology, patent work, innovations related to robotics, weather forecast from '**Mewar Ritu**' app, etc., the Governor and Chancellor called for making the university a center of excellence in the country's agriculture sector.

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on the occasion that in view of the dependence of the rural population on the agriculture sector, the State Government has decided to open 13 agricultural colleges in the last two years. The long-standing demand of the students of the tribal area has been fulfilled by the establishment of an agricultural college. Keeping in view the educational progress of the tribal area, Engineering College and Govind Guru Tribal University have been started in Banswara.
- He said that keeping agriculture on priority, the state government has decided to present a separate budget for agriculture and has implemented Agriculture Processing Policy-2019 and Agriculture Export Promotion Policy to improve the agriculture sector. Up to one crore rupees are being given to the farmers for setting up their own agro-processing units.
- Dr. Narendra Singh Rathod, Vice-Chancellor of Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, in his welcome address, informed about the online educational and non-teaching activities conducted by the university during the Corona period.
- On this occasion, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Lalchand Kataria said that Rajasthan is leading in the production of many crops including mustard, bajra in the country. Rajasthan also ranks second in the whole country in milk production. Rajasthan also has its own unique identity regarding the breeds of livestock.

New Schemes Listed in State Flagship Program

Why in News

- Recently, 7 schemes of 5 different departments including '**Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana**' related to skill development and employment of youth of the state have been included in the **State Flagship Program list**.

Key Points

- In this regard, the Planning Department has issued orders and directed the concerned departments to

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closely monitor the implementation of these programs and prepare the information of financial and physical progress and send it to the Chief Minister's Office and Planning Department by 7th of every month.

- Among the programs announced are '**Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana**' run by the Department of Skills, **Employment and Entrepreneurship**, '**Kalibai Bhil Meritorious Chhatra Scooty Yojana**' and '**Devnarayan Chhatra Scooty Scheme**' of the Higher Education Department, '**Indira Rasoi Yojana**' of the Department of Autonomous Government, **Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme**, '**Ghar-Ghar Aushadhi Yojana**' run by the Forest Department and '**Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Energy Scheme**' run by the Energy Department have been included in the State Flagship Program.
- The name of '**Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme**' of the Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare included in the flagship program list has also been modified as '**Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Swasthya Bima Yojana**'.

Reorganization of Commercial Taxes Department

Why in News

- On September 24, 2021, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the changed scenario after the implementation of **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** and the proposal for restructuring the Commercial Tax Department for its better and effective implementation in the state.

Key Points

- Under this, the number of zones, regular circles and wards will be increased for better administrative arrangements. Also, for the convenience of the taxpayers, the offices of the Appellate Authority have also been approved.
- Along with this, the Chief Minister has given the approval to create 15 additional posts of **Rajasthan Commercial Tax Service** and **Rajasthan Commercial Tax (Subordinate) Service**. With this, the number of cadres of the department will increase to 1833.
- Under the proposal, a new zone will be created in Bhiwadi for effective implementation of GST in the state. This will take the number of administrative zones to 16. Zones Jaipur-4 and Jodhpur-2 will be

made functional. The number of regular circles will be increased by one and a half times from 82 to 135. The number of regular wards will also be increased from 296 to 320.

- Special circle, works contracts and leasing tax have no relevance after the introduction of GST, hence they are being abolished.
- For the convenience of the taxpayers, the office of the Appellate Authority has been approved in the Kota Zone.
- The **Business Intelligence Unit** is being formed to strengthen the audit and anti-evasion work. This technically competent unit will also include departmental officers and this unit will effectively analyze the data of the GSTN database and e-way bill portal.
- The Anti-Evasion Wing is being renamed as Enforcement Wing. Also, a cyber cell is being set up to identify genuine persons involved in tax fraud activities.
- A three-tier audit structure will be created at the state, zone and regular circle level. Audit of large and complex cases will be ensured at the state and zonal levels.
- The Taxpayer Care Unit is being constituted to resolve the grievances of the taxpayers who discharge their tax obligation honestly. This will include qualified CAs and tax practitioners.
- A Central Registration Unit will be set up to ensure simple, easy and quick registration of dealers. The registration will be done as per the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**.
- To make **Rajasthan State Tax Academy (STAR)** a state-of-the-art training institute, it will be updated incorporating the current changes.
- The Commercial Taxes Department plays an important role in the collection of tax revenue of the State Government. Its contribution to the tax revenue of the state is about 50 percent. The tax revenue target for the financial year 2021-22 is more than Rs 60,000 crore. At present, **RGST Act-2017, Rajasthan VAT Act-2003 and Rajasthan Electricity (Duty) Act-1962** are implemented by this department in the state.

Amnesty Scheme 2021

Why in News

- To give impetus to industrial development in the state 'Amnesty Scheme 2021' was launched on September 25, 2021.

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- The scheme will be effective till March 31, 2022.

Key Points

- Under this, relief will be provided to those industrial units through the Industries Department, which have failed to comply with the provisions and conditions of the State Capital Appropriation Grant Scheme 1990 implemented earlier.
- Under this scheme, to provide support to the units which have failed due to financial crisis, natural calamity, technology change and unavoidable reasons, now the **outstanding principal grant and all interest will be waived off** on depositing 50 percent amount against recoverable principal grant amount.
- The main feature of this scheme is that a unit will get the benefit of this scheme even after depositing half of the original grant, including the amount which has been deposited earlier. Along with this, the entire interest of the units which have deposited half or more of the original grant in the past will be waived off. This will provide relief to the units which have become sick due to financial reasons.
- Industries and Commerce Commissioner Archana Singh said that about 565 units would be benefited from this scheme. The cases pending against these units in various courts for the last several years will not only give them relief, but will also open a new way for the revival of the closed units, which will give impetus to industrial activities in the state.
- It is noteworthy that under the **State Capital Appropriation Grant Scheme**, the State Government had given a grant of about Rs 308 crore to 13,413 units on the fixed capital investment made by them.
- In this scheme, there was a condition that the beneficiary unit would remain in production for a minimum period of 5 years. However, only 4 percent of these units could not fulfill this condition. Due to this, about Rs 25 crore as principal grant and till now about Rs 75 crore interest amount was to be recovered from them as per rules, but these units would be able to take advantage of this scheme by depositing 50 percent of the recoverable principal grant amount.
- After checking the eligibility and proposal received from the disbursing agencies, an order will be issued by the commissioner to waive off the remaining principal grant and the entire interest amount recoverable from the concerned unit.

Rajasthan Ranked First in Solar Energy

Why in News

- In a recently released report of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, Government of India, Rajasthan has overtaken Karnataka to rank first in the country with an installed capacity of 7737.95 MW of solar power.

Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that in the MNRE report, **Gujarat has been ranked third with 5708 MW capacity, Tamil Nadu fourth with 4675 MW and Andhra Pradesh with 4380 MW.**
- Despite the adverse circumstances of Covid-19, 2348.47 MW of new solar power capacity has been installed in Rajasthan in the last eight months only.
- Rajasthan has registered unprecedented progress in all areas of solar energy including ground mount, roof top and off grid in the year 2021.
- In the direction of making Rajasthan a leader in the field of green energy-clean energy, the **state's Solar Energy Policy-2019** has been very important for the investors. Also, the provisions of **RIPS-2019** have brought a revolutionary change in the field of solar energy in the state. Under this policy, customized investment proposals worth Rs 34,200 crore were approved in the hybrid energy sector in the state in April 2021. Most of these are related to solar energy.
- As a result of the policies to promote solar energy, Rajasthan has become the preferred destination for investors in this sector from across the country and the world. During this period, a record investment of Rs 10 thousand crores has been made in this sector.
- Considering the favourable geographical conditions of Rajasthan from the point of view of solar power generation, 142 GW of solar power generation has been estimated in the state. To achieve this goal, an effective plan has been prepared by the state government. Under the plan, an ambitious target of 30 GW of solar power generation has been set by 2024-25, which will completely change the energy scenario of the country.

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'PM Kusum Component-A' Scheme

Why in News

- On Sept 29, 2021, the Chairman and Managing Director of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation, Dr. Subodh Agrawal informed that solar energy production has been started from the eighth power plant in Bagher village of Khanpur tehsil (Jhalawar district) under the '**PM Kusum Component-A**' scheme operated by **Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation** in the state.

Key Points

- Dr. Subodh Agrawal told about the project that **a power purchase agreement has been signed between Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam and local farmer Ram Hetar Nagar for a period of 25 years** for the establishment of the project.
- With this, an estimated 9 lakh units of electricity will be produced annually, which will be purchased by Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam at the rate of **Rs 3.14 per unit for 25 years**, due to which the concerned farmer will get **revenue of about 28 lakhs per annum**.
- The project has been constructed on about 1 hectare of land and the construction cost of this 0.5 MW project is about Rs 2 crore.
- He was informed that this is **the first solar power plant in Kota division and Jhalawar district under PM Kusum Component-A scheme**.
- In the budget announcement 2019-20, a target was set for setting up solar power plants of 2600 MW capacity in the state under this scheme, out of which letters of award have been issued for 722 MW capacity projects.
- It is worth mentioning that **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha and Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM Kusum Yojana)** is an ambitious scheme of the **Government of India**, whose **component-A is being implemented in the state by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation**.
- In the first phase of this scheme, 623 solar power producers have been selected for setting up projects of a total 722 MW capacity. Under this scheme, a maximum capacity of 9.5 MW in the country and a maximum 8 projects have been established in Rajasthan.

Prof. Shyam Sundar Jyani Honored with UN Award

Why in News

- On September 28, 2021, **Prof. Shyam Sundar Jyani** was awarded the **World's highest award for land conservation - 'Land for Life Award'**.
 - He was given this award for family forestry, under the international category, at the online global ceremony held in **Boon, China**.

Key Points

- Prof Jyani was declared the winner for his outstanding contribution to land conservation at the global event of **World Desertification Day in Costa Rica on June 17, 2021**.
- In May 2022, at the **Global Conference of Member States** in the African country of Ivory Coast, Prof. Jyani will be invited for a special address and will be presented with this trophy.
- It is noteworthy that this award is given every two years by **UNCCD**, the unit on land conservation of the United Nations, **to a person or organization** from all over the world **for their outstanding contribution to land conservation**.
- The **United Nations** rewards organizations and individuals on the international stage for innovation in land restoration and conservation methods that promote well-being of the environment and communities and improve relationships with them.
 - The **Saihanba Forest of China** was given the **award under the national category**.
- Prof Shyamsunder Jyani **hails from village 12 TK in RaisinghNagar** tehsil of Sriganganagar district and is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at Government Dungar College, Bikaner.
- Professor Jyani has been doing excellent work for the last 20 years by going from village to village and explaining people, school students and teachers about trees and environment and planting lakhs of trees in the desert land of western Rajasthan with his salary.



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Key Points

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