



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

**JUNE
2023**

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State-Level Fairs will be Organized in Jaipur and Divisional Level fairs in Jodhpur and Udaipur

Why In News?

On May 30, 2023, in the meeting of Kisan Mela organized at Pant Krishi Bhawan under the chairmanship of Rajasthan's Agriculture and Horticulture Secretary, Dr. Prithvi, the Secretary told that state-level fairs will be organized in Jaipur and divisional-level fairs in Udaipur and Jodhpur.

key points

- The Government Secretary informed that a state-level fair is being organized at JECC Sitapura, Jaipur from June 16 to 18. Along with this, divisional-level fairs are being organized in Udaipur from 23rd to 24th June and in Jodhpur on 30th June and 01st July.
- 50 thousand farmers will participate in the state-level fair and 20 thousand each in the divisional-level fair.
- Dr. Prithvi said that the state government is organizing Krishak Melas in Rajasthan to increase agricultural productivity and introduce farmers to the latest technologies so that people can be brought on a single platform in the field of agriculture, technology and business.
- Agriculture Commissioner Kanaram said that in the three-day fair, new techniques will be taught to the farmers so that they can get more income at less cost and make the farmers financially strong.
- The Agriculture Commissioner said that the objective of the fair is to provide farmers a platform for information about the latest technology, promotion of modern agricultural practices, exhibition of new ideas and entrepreneurial solutions in the agriculture sector, as well as access to new business opportunities and avenues for development. have to provide.



Tobacco Free Youth Campaign launched in the state

Why in News?

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on 31 May 2023 a state-level function was organized at Rajasthan International Center in Jhalana, Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- In the program, tobacco control units of Jhalawar, Baran, Dungarpur, Alwar, Sikar, Churu, Hanumangarh and Ajmer districts were honoured for excelling in the field of tobacco control in the year 2022-23.
- Posters and brochures related to the theme of tobacco prohibition were also released on the occasion.
- Additional Chief Secretary Shubhra Singh said that this campaign is an important step towards realizing the vision of a healthy Rajasthan.
- He emphasized the active participation of various departments with education, and local rural and educational bodies in the 60-day action plan to be conducted for tobacco control & prevention.
- Apart from this, he underlined the need to conduct innovations like organizing competitions to make urban 7 rural wards, gram panchayats, and educational institutions tobacco-free in the state during this action plan.
- NHM Mission Director Dr. Jitendra Soni said that an action plan will be prepared to make educational institutions tobacco-free within a year and propose tobacco-free with the help of public representatives.



Note:

'Status Report of Drinking Water Quality in Urban Towns 2022-23' released

Why in News?

On 31 May 2023, Dr. Subodh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Rajasthan released the 'State Report on Drinking Water Quality in Urban Towns of Rajasthan 2022-23' at a state-level workshop of chemists of the Engineering Department.

Key Points:

- In the workshop, Additional Chief Secretary informed that in the year 2025-26, drinking water will be available through taps in 1 crore 7 lakh households of the state.
- A survey of 235 urban areas of the state has been done to prepare this report. In 89 towns, drinking water supply is based on surface water sources, in 70 towns based on both surface and groundwater and in 76 towns only based on groundwater.
- All 33 laboratories in the state are NABL accredited. Training for chemists and other personnel have been organized from time to time in collaboration with UNICEF and NEERI for the continuation of NABL certification of these laboratories.
- Technical support was provided to PHED by UNICEF in preparing the status report.
- Field engineers, chemists and officials associated with urban planning will get the benefit of the status report prepared on water quality.
- By the end of 2025, 90 percent of drinking water in Rajasthan will be available from surface sources and dependence on groundwater will be reduced to 10 percent after the completion of all the projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. At present, 75 percent of the schemes in the state have the availability of surface sources.
- In these mega projects approved under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the state government's share will be 60 percent while the Center's will be 40 percent. After the completion of these projects, 5739 villages of 11 districts of the state will be shifted from groundwater to surface water-based schemes.
- It is worth mentioning that recently 5 major surface water-based drinking water projects worth Rs 23 thousand crore have been approved in the SLSSC meeting.

- In the Jal Jeevan Mission, the objective of the central and state governments is to provide potable water to every household. Under the mission, the requirement of the existing 130 crore litres of water to be delivered to every household will increase to three times.
- UNICEF State Head Isabelle Birdum said that traditional water harvesting systems will be used along with modern technology for water harvesting. Through the workshop, a roadmap will be prepared to take necessary steps in the future regarding water quality.



Medal Winning State Personnel in sports competitions will get a special Increment

Why In News?

On 1 June 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a proposal to give special increments as personal salary to state employees who have excelled in national and international level sports events & competitions. This will encourage the personnel towards sports.

Key Points:

- For this, eligible personnel will have to apply for a special increment within a period of 6 months from the date of completion of the sports event.
- The personnel will be given 1 and 2 special increments as individual salaries at the rate fixed by the state government for their outstanding performance (winning medals) in national and international sports competitions respectively.
- The personnel will get a maximum of 5 special increments throughout the service period.
- The benefit of a special increment will be payable from the first date of the following month of the end of the sports competition.

Note:

Shilpgram to be built in Molela village of Rajsamand

Why In News?

On June 1, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been approved Rs 2.55 crore for the establishment of Shilpgram (Shilpbari) and other works in Molela village, located in Khamnor tehsil of Rajsamand district, which has international recognition in making idols of folk deities from clay.

Key Points:

- With this decision of the Chief Minister, the artisans of Molela village will be able to display and sell their artefacts. Here they will also be able to train future generations with their skills. This will increase the interest of the youth towards art.
- A seminar hall, exhibition hall, cafeteria and other facilities will also be developed in Shilpbari.
- It is known that the clay artisans of Molela village design folk deities in clay. Along with Mewar, people of tribal villages on the borders of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh buy them. They follow the religious tradition by installing them in the Deoghars of the village. Now they are also being bought for decoration in homes. In the changing environment, according to the wishes of art lovers, artists have started creating modern artworks.
- It is known that terracotta art is one of the famous handicrafts of Rajasthan. The art of making decorative items by baking red clay is called terracotta art.
- The production of musical instruments called Mitti ki Phad and Mandal is also done in Molela village.
- It is worth mentioning that the craftsmen of Molela village have left their mark on art in the country and the world. He has also been awarded Padma Shri and other national-international awards.

Rajasthan ranks 12th in the Jal Jeevan Mission connection

Why in News?

On 4 June 2023, Rajasthan Water Resources Minister Dr. Mahesh Joshi said that the total number of connections

in the Jal Jeevan Mission has crossed 42.14 lakh so far and Rajasthan has reached the 12th position in the country.

Key Points:

- The Minister said that the state has reached the second position in terms of expenditure by spending Rs 16 thousand 36 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission so far. A total of Rs 1521 crore has been spent under the Mission so far in the current financial year.
- Due to continuous monitoring and review at the highest level, the graph of the mission in the state is progressing rapidly. Rajasthan had made 27,470 connections in a single day on 31 March, breaking the record for the highest-ever water connection.
- In the financial year 2022-23, a total of 14 lakh 13 thousand 679 water connections have been made. In the first quarter of the current financial year, the target is 4.75 lakh connections, out of which 3.05 lakh connections have been done till May 31.
- Among the top 5 districts that achieved the targets set by the Jal Jeevan Mission for the financial year 2022-23, Jhalawar recorded 76 per cent progress, Bhilwara 71 per cent, Kota 69 per cent, Chittorgarh 66 per cent and Udaipur 66 per cent. A total of 7 districts in the state have achieved the target of more than 50 percent water connections.
- Water Resources Minister Dr. Mahesh Joshi said that when the Jal Jeevan Mission was started, only 10 percent of water connections were available in Rajasthan. In December 2019, the number of households with water connection to every household in the state was 11 lakh 74 thousand 131, which has now increased to 42 lakh 14 thousand.
- It is known that since 2019, 30 lakh 50 thousand new water connections have been given in the state, which is an achievement for the state with adverse geographical conditions.

Increased Domestic Grant of Chief Minister Free Electricity Scheme

Why in News?

According to the information given by the Information and Public Relations Department of Rajasthan on 2 June

Note:



2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has increased the scope of the Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme (Domestic Grant) to provide maximum relief to the domestic electricity consumers of the state.

Key Points:

- Under increasing the scope of the Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme (Domestic Grant), now the electricity bill of domestic consumers who consume electricity up to 100 units per month is zero, as well as all the domestic consumers, even if the consumption exceeds 100 units per month, the first 100 units of electricity will be given free of cost.
- Similarly, the first 100 units of free electricity for domestic consumers consuming up to 200 units per month, along with fixed charges up to 200 units, fuel surcharge and all other charges will also be waived off.
- Jaipur Discom Managing Director R.N. Kumawat said that the benefit of this scheme is to be given from the billing month of June 2023, for which necessary changes are being made in the billing software.
- As per the plan, it is likely to take 3 to 4 working days to make necessary changes in the billing software. Only after this, the billing of domestic consumers for June 2023 will be started.
- It is worth mentioning that necessary changes have been made in the billing software for providing free electricity to agricultural consumers consuming up to 2000 units. Therefore, apart from domestic consumers, billing for the month of June 2023 for all other categories like agriculture, industrial and commercial consumers has been started from 4 June.

E-inauguration of newly developed portal ERTI for Rajasthan High Court & District Judiciary

Why in News?

On 5 June 2023, Rajasthan High Court's Chief Justice Augustine George Masih inaugurated the newly developed e-RTI portal for Rajasthan High Court & district judiciary through video conferencing.

Key Points:

- Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice Augustine George Masih said the move will prove to be a milestone towards achieving a transparent, efficient and accessible judicial system. The portal will ensure that this important legal right of the common man is not entangled in complex paperwork and lengthy procedures.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice described the portal as a stepping stone in the campaign being undertaken by Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud to computerize and digitize the entire judiciary through the latest technology.
- Speaking on the occasion, Justice Manindra Mohan Srivastava, Executive Chairman, Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority said that the success of the portal will depend not only on technical skills but also on collective commitment to its effective use. He said that this portal will become an example for other institutions in the country.
- Justice Arun Bhansali, who joined the video conferencing from Jodhpur, said that this portal will not only streamline the process of filing RTI applications but will also increase the speed and accuracy of information dissemination.
- He said that it will work as a single & centralized platform where citizens can submit their applications online, submit online fees, get information about the status of the application and also get timely notifications.
- By digitizing the entire process, not only the hurdles of paperwork have been eliminated but also provided a safe & convenient channel to the applicants and the information provider authorities.
- It is worth mentioning that in the case of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1040/2019, Overseas Legal Cell v. Union of India & others, all high courts & subordinate courts had given instructions for the implementation of the e-portal under the Right to Information Act, in compliance with which the technical team of the Rajasthan High Court issued instructions to the e-RTI department before the period given in the instructions. The portal has been launched by giving a concrete shape to the portal and its related rules.
- The link to the e-RTI portal has been made available in the Right to Information tab on the home page of the official website of the Rajasthan High Court.

Note:



Forest Minister gifts 33 New Air Quality Monitoring Stations

Why in News?

On the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2023, Rajasthan Forest & Environment Minister Hemaram Chaudhary inaugurated 33 new air quality monitoring stations in the state through video conferencing and laid the foundation stone of integrated resource recovery park at Tholai in Jamwaramgarh.

Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Forest & Environment Minister flagged off a public awareness rally aimed at creating awareness among the general public towards environmental protection and also rewarded the winners of the 'Hack the Waste' Hackathon organized earlier by the Pollution Control Board.
- Forest and Environment Minister Hemaram Chaudhary said that single-use plastic has been banned for the safe future of the coming generation and pollution control. Along with this, the plantation has been promoted in the new forest policy issued in the state.
- On this occasion, the Forest Minister said that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has allocated Rs 40 crore for wetland & grassland development and Rs 10 crore for the development of the world-famous Sambhar Lake.
- He informed that the work of 2 Luv-Kush Vatika is in progress in every district to promote Eco-Tourism in the state.

- On this occasion, brochures of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board including Rajasthan e-Waste Management Policy, Rajasthan Climate Change Policy, Rajasthan Forest Policy 2023, Plastic Waste Inspection Report were released.



Collector appointed Incident Commander for flood control

Why in News?

District Collector Prakash Rajpurohit has appointed an Incident Commander to monitor the flood situation and waterlogging areas in view of the possibility of floods in the upcoming monsoon season in Jaipur, Rajasthan on 6 June 2023.

Key Points:

- Collector Prakash Rajpurohit said that 22 incident commanders in urban areas and sub-divisional officers in rural areas have also been entrusted with the responsibility of incident commander. The Incident Commander will coordinate with the officials of the concerned departments to ensure flood control and rescue work.
- In Jaipur Metropolitan Area, the Incident Commander will coordinate with Municipal Corporation Jaipur Heritage/Greater & Jaipur Development Authority to assess the resources and conduct relief activities in the event of floods.

Note:

- It will be the responsibility of the Incident Commanders to make arrangements for drainage in case of waterlogging, spray necessary medicines in the affected areas, identify school buildings, community buildings, shelters & buildings for rehabilitation in the flood-affected areas and rehabilitate the affected families.
- The Collector said that necessary arrangements will be ensured in coordination with the district administration, police department and army in the event of floods.

Important decisions in the Rajasthan Cabinet Meeting

Why in News?

On 6 June 2023, a meeting of the State Cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in which important decisions were taken regarding promotion, pension, special pay, and designation in the interest of the employees.

Key Points:

- The Cabinet has approved the proposal to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996. With this, the employees will be able to get the benefit of a full pension only after completing 25 years of service instead of 28 years of qualifying service.
- Also, pensioners/family pensioners of 75 years will be able to get a 10 percent additional pension allowance. In the event of the death of the employee/pensioner, his married disabled son/daughter and eligible members with income up to Rs 12,500 per month will also get the benefit of a family pension. The notification of this amendment will be effective from April 1, 2023.
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2017. This will increase the special pay of the employees.
- It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in this regard in the budget of 2023-24, according to which the special allowance and special pay currently payable to employees and officers were proposed to be increased as per the recommendation of the Pay Discrepancy Examination Committee.
- The Cabinet has now decided to forward the vacancies of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes for the next three years in case eligible candidates belonging to Backward Classes & Most Backward Classes are not

available in any recruitment year. This will enable more employment opportunities for the candidates of these categories.

- The Cabinet has decided to amend Schedule-5 of the Rajasthan Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2017 to give full benefit of advance increments to senior medical officers having a PG degree or equivalent diploma. In this, due to the provision of advance salary increases for higher posts from senior medical officers, higher officers will also be able to get benefits.
- While approving the Rajasthan Prosecution Services (Amendment) Rules, 2023, it has been decided to give an additional promotion opportunity to the officers of the Prosecution Service.
- It has been decided to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services (Revised Pay Scale) Rules- 1989, 1998, 2008 and 2017 to give pay scale and designation to the working personnel on the lines of regular employees.
- The Cabinet has decided to incorporate the Rajasthan Fisheries State and Subordinate Services Rules-2012, Rajasthan Subordinate Services (Recruitment and Other Conditions of Service) Rules-2001, Rajasthan Madarsa Education Assistant Subordinate Service Rules-2013 and Rajasthan School Assistant Subordinate Service Rules-2015 in a notification issued on 17.01.2013 regarding reservation of vacancies of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes of the Department of Personnel.
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal to rename Medical College Dausa as 'Pt. Naval Kishore Sharma College of Medical Sciences'.
- An announcement in this regard was made by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Pandit Naval Kishore Sharma on May 11, 2023. Pandit Naval Kishore Sharma has made an important contribution to the development of the Khadi Industry along with politics.
- The Cabinet has approved the proposal for allotment of land to Veer Gurjar Development & Charitable Trust, Bhilwara and Regar Samaj, Bikaner.

Chief Minister Folk Artist Promotion Scheme-2023

Why in News?

On 7 June 2023, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. BD Kalla, Minister of Art, Literature, Culture & Archeology of Rajasthan regarding the successful implementation of 'Mukhyamantri Lok Kalakar Protsahan

Note:

Yojana-2023', in which information related to the scheme was given.

Key Points:

- The Culture & Archeology Minister said that in the run-up to the budget announcement 2023-24, the department has prepared a draft of this scheme.
- According to the vision of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, under the 'Mukhyamantri Lok Kalakar Protsahan Yojana-2023', 100 days of employment will be given to local or indigenous art artists of Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan is perhaps the first state in the country to ensure 100 days of employment for local artists. These artists will be singing, playing, dancing, acting or dramatizing who will be able to demand 100 days of art performance in state government programs, and festivals.
- Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi has been made the nodal agency for the successful implementation of the scheme.
- Binaka Jesh Malu, president of Rajasthan Natak Sangeet Akademi, said that the academy is committed to the welfare of folk artists through the scheme. All preparations have been made for the successful implementation of the scheme from villages to towns.
- Principal Government Secretary of Art and Culture Department, Gayatri A Rathore apprised the Minister about the latest progress of the scheme and important information including application form, process & payment by folk artists in the format through a presentation.



Old Pension Scheme will be implemented in RTDC

Why in News?

In the 192nd meeting of the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Board (RTDC) held at Paryatan

Bhawan, Jaipur on June 7, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to give benefits of the Old Pension Scheme to RTDC employees.

Key Points:

- RTDC Chairman Dharmendra Rathore said that the corporation management is committed to improving tourism facilities in the state and RTDC's hotel units and Palace on Wheels are running profitably.
- Renovation and upgradation works are in progress in 10 RTDC hotel units to compete with private hotels.
- Rajasthan has carved a niche for itself as one of the leading states in the country as a wedding and conference destination. With the establishment of MICE (Meetings, Incentive, Conferences and Exhibitions) centres, the state will get a new identity in this field.
- In the meeting, a decision was also taken on the proposal to include Rajasthan Ratna awardees in the category of a fee waiver for RTDC hotels. Along with this, there was a discussion on giving relaxation in the cases of compassionate appointments.



Rs 156.13 crore approved for Irrigation Projects in Jhalawar, Bundi & Banswara

Why in News?

On 8 June 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave financial approval of Rs 156.13 crore for 5 development works related to the Water Resources Department to strengthen the irrigation system in the state.

Note:

Key Points:

- With this amount, development work of the sprinkler system in the Rajgarh Medium Irrigation Project, construction work in the Ghughwa Minor Irrigation Project and necessary irrigation facilities in the Gagarin Irrigation Project will be done in the Jhalawar district.
- Along with this, construction work will be done in the Uttarana Micro Lift Irrigation Project in Bundi district and construction of Anicut (a masonry check dam that is constructed across a stream to impound water for maintaining & regulating irrigation) on Anas river in Kupra village of Banswara district.
- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had made an announcement in this regard in the state budget for the year 2023-24.

Churu's Ritu Kumari won Bronze Medal in the 66th National School Games

Why in News?

On 8 June 2023, Ritu Kumari of Churu district of Rajasthan won a bronze medal in the shot put event in the 66th National School Games being held in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points:

- Ritu Kumari won the bronze medal among 117 players from 19 states and union territories in the shot put event by throwing 13.28 meters
- Apart from this, five boxers from Jodhpur and Udaipur districts entered the semi-finals in different weight categories and raised hopes of more medals for the state.
- It is known that the players of the state have so far won two gold, two silver and one bronze medals in these games.
- It is worth mentioning that in the 66th National School Games, the players of the state are participating in individual and team events under the banner of the School Education Department of Rajasthan in various sports events being organized in Bhopal, Gwalior and New Delhi.
- In the ongoing boxing matches in Bhopal itself, in the 45-48 kg weight category for girls, Jaipur's Yamini Kanwar (Raja Ramdevi Poddar Government Higher Secondary

School, Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur), in the 52-56 kg weight category for boys, Amil Ali (Udaipur) Government Fateh Higher Secondary School, Udaipur), Sankalp Lavania (Shri KK Modern Higher Secondary School, Jodhpur) of Jodhpur in 60-64 kg category, Hrithik Siwach of Jodhpur (Vandana Public Academy, Pratap Nagar, Jodhpur) in 64-69 kg category) and Jodhpur's own Aman Ghitela (New Central Academy, Jodhpur) in the 69-75 kg category by entering the semi-finals raised the possibilities of medals for the state.

Rajasthan Housing Board got 4 More Prestigious Awards

Why in News?

On 10 June 2023, the Rajasthan Housing Board received 4 national level awards in a grand ceremony held at AP Shinde Symposium in Delhi.

Key Points:

- IBC (Indian Buildings Congress), a unit of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, awarded 4 projects of the Mandal for Excellence Inbuilt Environment.
- The state's city park, coaching hub, Chowpati and Shikshak Prahari Awaz Yojana have been well known nationally and internationally in the past. Despite the tickets, thousands of local and foreign tourists come to the city park every day to see its beauty.
- The people of the city are crazy about the delicious cuisine & cuisine of Chowpati set up in Pratap Nagar and Mansarovar. Chowpati has also received two international awards for maximum footfall in the first 5 months. The live band running on the Chowpatis has been the center of special attraction for visitors.
- The coaching hub built in Pratap Nagar is the first institute in the country where private coaching is going to operate simultaneously in a building equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Apart from these, there was a housing project for teachers and constables for the first time in the state, where residents were provided with a swimming pool, sports arena, community area, landscaping and other facilities.
- Under the leadership of Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora, the board has received a total of 21 awards in the last four years.

Note:

- These include World Book of Records in Housing Sales, Skoch Award-2021, Award of Excellence, Honor by National Real Estate Development Council, National Housing Award, IBC, 'Star of Governance-Gold Award' and 'Real Estate Conclave' given by NAREDCO.
- Established with the support of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, the body confers the IBC Awards every year for 'Excellence in Built Environment' in various categories of buildings.



In the 66th National School Games, Two Players from Rajasthan Won Gold Medals in Chess

Why in News?

In the 66th National School Games held at Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi on 10 June 2023, two players of the Rajasthan School Education Department team Pranay Chordia of Udaipur and Yukti Harsh of Bikaner made the state proud by winning individual gold medals.

Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that in Rajasthan, the School Education Department has implemented innovations of 'No Bag Day' and 'Chess in School' activities in government schools. On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (November 19, 2022), 38 lakh 21 thousand 9 students at government schools participated in the 'Chess in School Activity' across the state, which was also recorded in the World Book of Records.

- For the state team participating in the National School Games for the first time, Pranay Chordia and Yukti Harsh's golden moves in chess can be seen by linking these innovations.
- While Pranay Chordia represented the state on the first board and scored full six points by defeating his rivals in all six rounds, Yukti Harsh managed to win the gold medal at the individual level by winning three out of five games & earning 4 points with two draws.



Rajasthan Kisan Mahotsav will be Organized in Jaipur

Why in News?

On 10 June 2023, Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Lalchand Kataria informed that the state government will organize 'Rajasthan Kisan Mahotsav' at JECC in Sitapura, Jaipur on 16-18 June to increase agricultural productivity in the state and to make farmers aware of the latest technologies.

Key Points:

- Such fairs play an important role in bringing people on one platform in the field of agriculture, technology and trade, to ensure inclusive development in agriculture and allied sectors.
- Apart from 'Rajasthan Kisan Mahotsav', divisional level kisan fairs will be organized in Udaipur on June 23-24 and in Jodhpur on 30 June & 1 July. About 50,000 farmers will participate in the state-level farmers' fair and 20,000-20,000 farmers will participate in the division-level fair.

Note:

- The agriculture minister said that new farming Techniques will be taught to the farmers in the fair, so that they can get more income at a lower cost and the economic condition of the farmers can be strengthened.
- The Kisan Mahotsav will showcase world-class technologies of smart farms, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries and agricultural marketing. Along with this, a large exhibition of agricultural products, tools, seeds etc. will be organized, and state-of-the-art agricultural machinery will also be displayed.
- Jajam Chaupal has also been kept for farmers in the fair, in which farmers will be able to communicate with subject experts. Subject-wise seminars and farmers' seminars have also been organized for farmers in the program.
- In order to make the youth entrepreneurs in the fair, agricultural start-ups will be met, so that the youth can become entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and create new jobs. Special attention will be paid to entertainment in the fair. Film, literature & cultural programs will also be organized for this.

Upper High Level Canal Project

Why in News?

On June 12, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Siphon on the Anas River under the Upper High-Level Canal Project at Lankai (Bagidaura) in Banswara district of the state and the Rs 2500 crore Upper High-Level Canal Project at Magarda.

Key Points:

- Six tehsils of the district - Banswara, Bagidaura, Gangad Talai, Anandpuri, Kushalgarh and Sajjangarh - have related to the Upper High-Level Canal Project. This will provide irrigation facility in 42-thousand-hectare area of 338 villages.
- Here a 105 km long main canal will be constructed from the dam of Mahi project. Irrigation facilities will be provided through fountain method by constructing diggi by removing distributors and minors from the main canal. The work is to be completed by November 2026. It will also have 210 diggies and a 4 km long tunnel.

- In this project, a siphon is being built on the Anas River. It is located in Lankai village of Gangad tehsil. This is an important structure of the Siphon project. In this, the main canal is proposed to be removed from the bottom of the Anas River through a pressurized pipeline.
- The canal project is an ambitious project of the tribal region. This will enable sustainable development in the region due to irrigation water assurance and increase employment opportunities. This project will play an important role in the socio-economic upliftment of the region.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also announced the upgradation of Gram Panchayat Chhoti Sarwa of Banswara district to Panchayat Samiti.



MoU between Haridev Joshi University & United Nations Population Fund

Why in News?

On June 12, 2023, at an event held at the administrative campus of Haridev Joshi University of Journalism & Mass Communication (HJU) in Jaipur, HJU and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) signed an MoU to enhance the understanding of issues related to health, gender and social concerns among students studying various fields of media.

Key Points:

- Andrea Voynar, Country Head, UNFPA and Prof. Sudhi Rajeev signed the MoU.
- UNFPA is a United Nations organization that works towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the field of gender, women & child rights and health. It participates in development works at the national level through its headquarters in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Note:

- Speaking on the occasion, Andrea Voynar, Country Head, UNFPA said, "The MoU with HJU will help produce the best journalists who understand gender-related issues. When these students become part of the media, they will be able to highlight these issues in a better way which will help in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The UNFPA Country Head informed that during its 10th National Program (2023-2027), UNFPA is striving to reduce maternal mortality, family planning, eliminate gender-based violence and improve other human conditions.
- Under the MoU, training sessions will be organized for students on gender issues, demographics and issues related to adolescent health.
- HJU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sudhi Rajeev said that it is the responsibility of the media to prominently raise issues related to social concerns in a democratic system. In such a situation, awareness among future journalists towards issues related to gender, women and child development is very important. This agreement of UNFPA and HJU will prove to be an important step in the direction of creating aware and responsible media personnel towards social issues.



Rajasthan won a total of 6 Gold, 12 Silver and 15 Bronze Medals in the 66th National School Games.

Why in News?

In the team & individual sports events of the 66th National School Games that ended on June 13, 2023, the players of Rajasthan made a splash with their performance and won 6 gold, 12 silver & 15 bronze medals Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- On the final day of the 66th National School Games, Sania Khan of Jaipur made the state proud by winning a silver medal in the individual event of team event in tennis in New Delhi. At the same time, Lavanya Arora of Sriganganagar district won the bronze medal in judo in Bhopal, which was Rajasthan's fifth medal in judo.
- In the National School Games, the state won the silver medal for the first time in the team event, securing second place in the country.
- In chess, Pranay Chordia of Udaipur and Yukti Harsh of Bikaner won gold medals by performing individually best on their respective boards, both of these medals are in addition to the 6 gold medals won by the state.
- Keshav Bissa of Bikaner won the gold medal for the state in weightlifting as well as became the best player in the competition.
- For Rajasthan, Kavita Dudi of Nagaur won gold medals in 3000 m Racewalk, Neetu Kumari and Sumit Kumar of Churu won Discus Throw, Maya Mali of Bhilwara won Wrestling and Tashree Menaria of Jaipur won gold medals in Boxing.
- Apart from this, the players of the state also impressed everyone with their performance in other sports including badminton, hockey, volleyball and taekwondo.



Inauguration of Nandishala in Rampura Patti of Nohar

Why in News?

On June 13, 2023, Rajasthan's Mines Petroleum & Gopalan Minister Pramod Jain Bhaya and local MLA Amit Chachan inaugurated the Nandishala built at a cost of Rs 1.57 crore at Rampura Patti Shri Gaushala in Nohar in Hanumangarh district of the state.

Key Points:

- It is known that in view of the problem of the strayed Nandis in the state, the panchayat level Nandishala scheme was announced and Nandi shalas are being run at the Panchayat Samiti level while implementing it.

Note:

- The Gopalan Minister said that in order to solve the problems being faced in Gopalan, the process of the grant was simplified on the basis of the suggestion of Gaushala operators under the leadership of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Where earlier 200 animals and 2 years' experience of operating a cowshed was necessary for registration, whereas, simplifying this process, 100 animals and 1 year of operating experience have been prescribed.
- The grant for small animals which was earlier Rs.16, has been increased to Rs.20 and for large animals, the grant which was earlier Rs.32 has been increased to Rs.40. Now grant for sick cows and Nandi cows is being given for 12 months.
- Listing the achievements of the state government in the last five years, Gopalan Minister said that in the last four and a half years, a 2700 crore grant amount has been paid to the Gaushalas. Rajasthan is the first state in the country where so much budget is being spent on Gaushalas.
- He said that Gaushalas would be provided a stability grant of Rs 1200 to 1400 crore per year. Giving support to the cattle rearers, where earlier there was a subsidy of Rs 2 on milk production, it has now been increased to Rs 5. So far, more than Rs 400 crore has been provided in the entire state.



District Level Road Safety Task Force will be Formed

Why in News?

On June 13, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the formation of a Road Safety Task Force at the district level comprising officials of various departments, taking an important step towards curbing road accidents in Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- The Transport and Road Safety Department will be the administrative department of the District Road Safety Task Force.
- A task force will be formed under the chairmanship of the District Collector of the concerned district. It will include the District Superintendent of Police, the Chief Executive Officer of the District Council, the Chief Medical & Health Officer, and the Commissioner of the Urban Body of the District Headquarters.
- Apart from these, the Superintendent Engineer of the Public Works Department, Secretary of Development Authority / Urban Development Trust of the District Headquarters, Executive Engineer of the Autonomous Government Department, Chief District Education Officer of Secondary Education, Superintendent / Chief Medical Officer of District Hospital, Members of NIC, Project Director of NHA and IRED/E-DAR representative will be the members.
- An expert representative of an NGO working in the field of road safety, two road safety consultants will be special invitees and district/regional transport officers will be member secretaries in this task force.
- The District Collector will be able to invite the representative of any concerned department to the task force meeting and direct the work of the force.

Task Force Functions:

- The task force will meet at least once every three months. The District Road Safety Task Force will ensure the effective implementation of the annual action plan and the implementation of the decisions of the committee to reduce road accidents & death rate in the district by 50% by the year 2030.
- Apart from this, it will carry out regular supervision, timely compliance of audit recommendations by conducting road safety audits, compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court Road Safety Committee, wide publicity of state schemes related to road safety, organizing public awareness campaigns and conducting special enforcement campaigns throughout the year.

Task Force Powers and Tenure:

- The task force constituted at the district level will coordinate the use of the services of experts from various reputed institutions for research, analysis, impact assessment, field survey, study etc.

Note:

- Along with this, services of road safety consultants will be taken for effective implementation and supervision of works related to road safety.
- The tenure of the District Road Safety Task Force will be for 3 years.

Rajasthan Literary Promotion Award will be Started

Why in News?

On June 14, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a proposal related to the procedure, guide and selection committee to honour the state's litterateurs with the Rajasthan Sahitya Protsahan Puraskar.

Key Points:

- In the encouragement, awards will be given in the name of Shri Kanhaiya Lal Sethia, Shri Komal Kothari, Dr. Sitaram Lalas and Shri Vijaydan Detha.
- Shri Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Literary Award in verse category, Shri Komal Kothari Lok Sahitya Puraskar in folk literature/art category, Dr. Sitaram Lalas Language & Research Award in language/research category and Shri Vijaydan Detha Sahitya Puraskar in prose category will be given.
- Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi, Udaipur has been made the nodal agency for these awards. The Department of Art, Literature, Culture & Archaeology will be the administrative department.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a citation and a shawl. These awards can also be given posthumously.
- These honors can be distributed among those individuals, institutions or organizations, whom the selection committee considers equally eligible. All the awards can be given on the Rajasthan Literature Festival, Rajasthan Day or other occasions organized by the state government.
- The standing committee constituted for the selection of the award will be headed by a non-state person nominated by the state government.
- Two Padma Shri/Sahitya Academy Awardees nominated by the state government, president of Rajasthan Sahitya Academy Udaipur, president of Rajasthani Language, Sahitya and Sanskriti Academy, Bikaner and Principal

Government Secretary of Art & Culture Department will be members in this committee where Deputy Government Secretary will be Member Secretary.

- After examining the applications received, the committee will form a panel of selected litterateurs in groups of three and submit it to the Chief Minister through the Administrative Department for a final decision with recommendations.

Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana

Why in News?

On June 14, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the draft of 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana-2023' to provide relief to active workers and identified street vendors registered under the Construction Workers Welfare Fund of the unorganized sector of Rajasthan during hospitalization.

Key Points:

- Under the 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Shramik Sambal Yojana-2023', registered laborers and identified street vendors and their family members (registered active workers) aged 25 to 60 years will now get financial assistance for a maximum of 7 days during hospitalization.
- Under the scheme, in case the daily wages are exhausted at the time of recruitment, assistance of Rs 200 per day for the period of recruitment or 7 days (whichever is less) will be sent to the worker's account through auto DBT. This assistance will be given in case of hospitalization of the beneficiary himself or his family member for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Assistance can be obtained under the scheme even in case of death of the laborer in the hospital.

Folk Art Development Board will be Formed in the State

Why in News?

On June 14, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to set up a Lok Kala Vikas Board for the upliftment of various castes and classes associated with folk art of the state.

Note:



Key Points:

- Apart from the chairman and vice-chairman, the board will have 7 non-official members. Board secretary and executive staff will be separate. Nodal officer will be appointed for the proceedings of formation of the board.
- The purpose of formation of the board includes providing global recognition to folk art and artists, connecting them with employment, providing financial assistance to folk art institutions, providing a platform to artists, promotion of arts, supervision of institutions.
- Apart from these, the Board has to ensure cultural exchange, publication, review in relation to folk arts, organize folk art fairs, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, celebrations and protection and promotion of folk artists.

Rajasthan Awarded First Prize in the Field of Wind Energy by the Central Government

Why in News?

On June 15, 2023, Rajasthan was awarded the first prize by the Central Government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for its exemplary work in the field of wind energy compared to other states.

Key Points:

- The award was given at a function organized in New Delhi on the occasion of 'Global Wind Day' (June 15) under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Bhaskar A. Sawant, Chief Government Secretary, Energy Department, received the award on behalf of the State Government from BS Bhalla, Secretary, the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- State Energy Minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati said that due to the investment-oriented renewable energy policies issued by the Rajasthan government, Rajasthan is on top in solar energy, along with this, in the year 2022-23, by setting up the maximum number of wind power projects in the country, it has achieved the first position in the field of wind energy.

- On this occasion, Chief Government Secretary Bhaskar A. Sawant informed that in the year 2022-23, new wind power projects of 867 MW capacity were set up in the state, which is the highest in comparison to other states.
- In the year 2022, 4337 MW wind power capacity was set up in the state, which will increase to 5204 MW by March 2023.



Rs 9 Crore Approved for Protection of Wildlife

Why In News?

On June 18, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved Rs 9 crore for development works for wildlife conservation at three places in the state.

Key Points:

- Development works of Rs 2 crore will be taken up for the conservation of crocodiles at Palighat Sawai Madhopur (National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary), Rs 2 crore for the conservation of Kurjan in Jodhpur and Rs 5 crore for the protection of Godavans in National Maru Park.
- The Chief Minister announced this in the State Budget 2023-24.

Rajasthan Farmers Festival

Why in News?

On June 18, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot concluded the ongoing three-day Rajasthan Kisan Mahotsav in Jaipur.

Note:

Key Points:

- Through events like Rajasthan Kisan Mahotsav, farmers will get information about new farming techniques and agricultural equipment and their products will be widely publicised.
- On this occasion, 10 progressive farmers and animal herders, who made innovations in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry, were honoured with state-level farmer awards under 'Aatma Yojana'. Each farmer was given an amount of Rs 50,000 as a prize.
- Among them were Rukma Devi from Jaipur district, Bhuri Devi Meena from Tonk, Dharmaram from Barmer, Narayan from Dungarpur, Kamla Devi from Bhilwara, Puneet Chaudhary from Sriganganagar, Khushalaram from Jaisalmer, Balusinh from Rajsamand, Neeraj Kumar Tyagi from Dhaulpur and Bharatram from Tonk.
- During this, short films based on the theme '4 years dedicated to farmer welfare' and Rajasthan Kisan App were screened.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the state government has formulated policies and programs giving priority to agriculture and farmers. To fulfill the objective of making the farmers and animal herders prosperous and happy, 12 agricultural missions have been started and planning is being done at each point.
- He said that the loan of 15 thousand crore rupees of 21 lakh farmers of the state was waived off. A separate agriculture budget was presented for the first time in the country for the farmers. The budget for agriculture has almost doubled as compared to 2018-19.
- They have got great relief from the state government providing electricity to the farmers at the rate of 90 paise per unit and free electricity up to 2000 units. In the agro and food processing sector, a subsidy of up to Rs 2 crore is being given by the state government.
- MSME Act has been brought for the young entrepreneurs of the state. In this, a relaxation of 5 years has been given in the necessary permissions given by the government for setting up industries.
- The Chief Minister said that the state government has given financial assistance of Rs 175 crore to more than 40 thousand cattle herders suffering from lumpy disease. Rajasthan is the only state in the country to take such a decision.
- He said that two milch animals are being insured for Rs 40 thousand each. Milk producers are being given a subsidy of Rs 5 per liter of milk. Now Rajasthan has come first in milk production in the country.



New Sub Health Centers will be opened in 441 Villages of Different Districts

Why in News?

On June 17, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot decided to open new sub-health centres in 441 villages of different districts of the state in the direction of expansion of medical facilities in the state and to provide better treatment to the common man and one female health worker for each health centre. The proposal to create the post has been approved.

Key Points:

- With this approval of the Chief Minister, medical services will be expanded in the villages of the state and better medical facilities will be available to the local people in the area itself.
- According to the proposal, 39 of Barmer, 33 of Dausa, 25 of Jaipur-I, 25 of Sikar, 23 of Alwar, 22 of Jaisalmer, 20 of Nagaur, 20 of Jhunjhunu, 19 of Bharatpur, 17 of Ajmer, 15 of Dungarpur, Hanumangarh K15, Karauli K14, Churu K14, Jaipur-II K14, Baran 14, Bhilwara 12, Jodhpur 12 new sub-health centres will be opened.
- Apart from these, 12 from Tonk, 10 from Rajsamand, 9 from Kota, 9 from Bikaner, 6 from Dhaulpur, 6 from Bundi, 6 from Udaipur, 5 from Banswara, 5 from Chittorgarh, 5 from Sawai Madhopur, 5 from

Note:

Ganganagar, 4 from Sirohi. New sub-health centres will be opened in a total of 441 villages, including 4 in Jalore and 2 in Pali.

- The operation of the sub-health centres will be done in the available government building or rented building till the construction of the building. Also, 1-1 posts of female health workers (a total of 441 posts) will be created for each sub-health centre.
- It is worth mentioning that in the budget 2023-24, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced plans to open a new sub-health centre in the state.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited Commissions its First Rooftop Solar Power Project at IIT Jodhpur

Why in News?

According to the information provided by the Press Information Bureau, Government of India on June 16, 2023, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), has conducted its annual examination at IIT Jodhpur (Rajasthan) on June 14, 2023, has commissioned the first rooftop solar photovoltaic project.

Key Points:

- This 1 MW grid-connected solar project is implemented by NVVN under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model for a power purchase agreement period of 25 years.
- Under the RESCO model for the installation of rooftop solar installations, a Renewable Energy Services Company (RESCO) designs, builds, finances and operates the complete solar power plant (roof or ground-mounted) and the consumer receives assured monthly units per kWh of electricity generated. pays the developer for the same and the disco adjusts the electricity units generated in the electricity bill of the consumer.
- The project has been set up on the rooftops of 14 buildings on the IIT Jodhpur campus. The project will generate about 14.9 lakh units of electricity per year and will meet 15 percent of the electricity requirement of IIT Jodhpur.

- The project will result in a reduction of 1,060 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.
- It is worth mentioning that NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited was formed by NTPC in the year 2002 to harness the potential of power trading in the country. NVVN holds the highest category 'I' Electricity Business License as per the latest regulation of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- NVVN is trading Gypsum and is now expanding its operations in the areas of renewables, e-mobility, and waste to green fuel and providing complete business solutions across the power value chain.



Directorate of Handicrafts & Handlooms will open in Jodhpur

Why in News?

On June 19, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a proposal to open a Directorate of Handicrafts & Handlooms in Jodhpur for the upliftment of artisans and weavers of the state.

Key Points:

- According to the proposal, the Commissioner of Industries & Commerce Department will be the ex-officio director of this Handicrafts and Handloom Directorate. A new post of Additional Director of Industries & Commerce will be created for the Directorate.
- The services of experts will be taken for the work of marketing, e-commerce and design experts of the directorate. Other officers and employees for the directorate will be posted from the Industries & Commerce Department.
- The main task of the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handlooms will be to develop the handicrafts and handloom sector of the state.
- This directorate will work for the upliftment of artisans and weavers of the state, which will result in creation

Note:

of new employment opportunities in the state as well as increase in exports. Also, the Directorate will carry out various works as per the Handicrafts Policy-2022.

- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had announced the opening of this directorate in Jodhpur at the inauguration ceremony of the Rajasthan International Expo on March 21, 2023.

Rs 13.48 Crore approved for promotion of Religious Tourism

Why in News?

On June 19, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 13.48 crore to promote religious tourism at religious places of Nagaur, Jaisalmer and Alwar in the state.

Key Points:

- It is known that the state government is constantly working to promote religious tourism and to develop various facilities for travellers at such places. In Nagaur district, various tourism development works worth Rs 7.74 crore will be carried out at Butati, Ghateshwar Mahadev Temple, Harmal Das Ji Maharaj Temple and Dargah Hazrat Shamsuddin Saman Diwan Baba Badi Khatu.
- The Chief Minister has approved Rs 1.50 crore for the development works in the historical religious tourist spot Shri Kale Dungar Rai Temple complex in Jaisalmer.
- With this amount, various development works including marble tiles, solar power plant, new Dharamshala construction, repair of benches in the temple premises, CC road to reach the temple, upgradation of Jaisalmer-Jethwai-Kale Dungar road will be done in the temple premises.
- The Chief Minister has approved a financial proposal of Rs 4.24 crore for the development work of Mataji Temple at Bansur Fort and Ganga Mata Temple, Tal Vriksha in Alwar district.
- With the approved amount, the repair of stairs in Mataji Temple at Bansur Fort, construction of a new pathway in the fort, construction of steel railings, new halls, stone benches, installation of the solar power plant and various upgradation works in the temple premises will be done.

- Apart from this, various works including the construction of a new Dharamshala in Ganga Mata Temple, Tal Vriksha, solar light, parking in the temple premises, and construction of the boundary wall will be done.
- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had made an announcement in this regard in the budget for the year 2023-24.

Research Scholars to get Financial Support and Encouragement in the state

Why in News?

On June 20, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 62.30 crore to provide fellowships to about 6,000 research scholars of government colleges and universities of the state to provide them with financial support and encouragement.

Key Points:

- About 2200 research scholars from government colleges and state-funded universities will be given a fellowship of Rs 20,000 per month. An amount of Rs 52.80 crore has been approved for this.
- Also, 3800 research scholars studying in government colleges and universities will get financial assistance of up to Rs 25,000 for participation in internships, seminars, workshops, and conferences in prestigious higher education institutions and research institutes of the country. An amount of Rs 9.50 crore has been approved for this.
- This fellowship will be given for a maximum period of 2 years. The College Education Department will be its nodal department.
- The cooperation of these researchers can be taken in the implementation of public welfare schemes of the state government.
- Research scholars from medical education universities and research scholars who have received any other fellowship will not be eligible.
- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had made an announcement in this regard in the budget for the year 2023-24.

Note:

Leopard Conservation Reserve to be developed in Godwad Desuri

Why in News?

On 21st June 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal for the development of the Leopard Conservation Reserve at Godwad Desuri in the Pali district of Rajasthan and various development works at Vadakhera, a protected forest area of Sirohi.

Key Points:

- The Chief Minister has given financial approval of about Rs 5.15 crore for these works and this will be done to develop the Leopard Conservation Reserve at Godwad Desuri at a cost of Rs 2 crore.
- Along with this, development and strengthening works will be done in the protected forest area of Vadakhera at a cost of Rs 3.15 crore.
- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had announced these works in the budget year 2023-24.

Medical Minister launched PCTS mobile app

Why in News?

On June 21, 2023, Rajasthan Medical & Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena launched the PCTS mobile app for online tracking, reporting and monitoring of health services being provided to pregnant women, mothers & infants in the state where he also released a poster related to it.

Key Points:

- Through the PCTS mobile app, more than 53 thousand ASHAs of the state will be able to do day-to-day reporting of health services related to women & children of their area on mobile and effective monitoring of this work can also be done.
- The Health Minister said that through this app, ASHA workers of the state will be fully updated with the health services provided to children & women. They will know on which day children and women are to be vaccinated or given the benefit of any other service.

- This will further strengthen the health services for women and children and consequently improve the health indices.
- Through this app, the officials of the department can get the progress report by talking directly to any ASHA and ANM of the state. Online entry of other services including vaccination of women and children can be done through this.
- Mission Director NHM Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni said that this app is an innovative initiative of the department to make the work of ASHA associates of the state smooth and effective, which has been prepared through NIC Rajasthan and the Demographer section.
- He said that due to a lack of data entry facilities at sub-health centres, earlier ASHAs had to update the data of health services provided to pregnant women, maternity and infants by visiting the PHC/CHC/other medical institution in their area, leading to unnecessary delay in sending information online on time. Real-time information will be available through this app.
- On this app, Ashas will provide services related to monthly action plan, ANC, PNC/HBNC, vaccination, sterilization, name-wise list of services of interval means, antenatal check-up of pregnant women, post-partum care, infant vaccination, growth chart of children, infant and maternal mortality rate.
- Apart from these, HBYC services offered to children at 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 months, the facility to search the PCTS ID of the woman, suggestive videos, details of the incentive amount paid to ASHA through Asha Soft and information services will be available through geo-mapping of nearby institutions for a referral.
- The implementation and coverage of the app include 14 thousand 843 sub-health centres, 214 public clinics, 2 thousand 655 PHCs, 769 CHCs, 46 district hospitals, 67 sub-district hospitals, 13 satellite hospitals, 141 medical colleges/ city dispensaries and 47 other medical institutions.
- It is worth mentioning that PCTS software was launched in the year 2008 as part of innovation by the department earlier. It was observed that in the year 2008, the infant mortality rate of the state was 63 per thousand live births, which has come down to 32 per thousand live births in the year 2020 due to the effective implementation of health services and PCTS software. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate also declined from 318 to 113.

Note:



Rajasthan State Gold-Silver Art Development Board will be formed

Why in News?

On June 21, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the proposal to set up the Rajasthan State Gold Silver Art Development Board. Its headquarters will be in Jaipur.

Key Points:

- The Board will consist of the chairman, vice-chairman and five non-official members. Their tenure will be 3 years.
- In addition, additional chief secretary / principal government secretary/government secretary or their representative will be in the board as additional chief secretary / principal government secretary/government secretary or their representative of industries department, school education (primary/secondary) and Sanskrit education department, rural development and Panchayati raj department, labour department, social justice and empowerment department.
- Joint Director level officers of the social justice and empowerment department will work as secretaries.

- The Managing Director of Rajasthan State Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation Limited or his representatives will be special invitees in the Board.
- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment will be the administrative department of the Board.

Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora received LifeTime Achievement Award

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, 'The Asia HRD Congress' honoured Rajasthan Housing Board Commissioner Pawan Arora with LifeTime Achievement Award along with 4 awards for Coaching Hub, AIS Residency, Jaipur Chowpatty and Mukhyamantri Jan Awaz Yojana built by the Board.

Key Points:

- Pawan Arora was honoured with the Life Time Achievement Award in the category of individual awards at a grand ceremony held at a 5 star hotel in Jaipur.
- The Asia HRD Congress has awarded the coaching hub the Innovative Project of the Year, the AIS Residency the Best Innovation in Product Design, the flats under the Mukhyamantri Jan Awaz Yojana, the Developer of the Year(Affordable Housing) and Jaipur Chowpatty the developer of the Year(Retail).
- It is worth mentioning that the Coaching Hub, Jaipur Chowpatty, AIS Residency and Mukhyamantri Jan Awaz Yojana, which were appreciated at the function, have been well-known at the national & international level even before this.
- The residents of the city are crazy about the delicious cuisine and dishes of Chowpatty established in Pratap Nagar & Mansarovar. Chowpatties have even received two international awards for maximum footfall in the first 5 months. The live band playing on the square is a big fan of the visitors.
- The coaching hub built in Pratap Nagar is the first such institute in the country, where private coaching institutes are to be operated simultaneously in a building equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.

Note:



- The houses built under the Mukhyamantri Jan Awas Yojana also come true at every level in terms of quality and facilities. Apart from this, the All India Service (AIS) Residency is the only residency in the country with state-of-the-art facilities, which has been appreciated at the national level many times.
- It is worth mentioning that in the last four years under the leadership of Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora, the board has received a total of 27 awards. These include prestigious awards such as World Book of Records, Skoch Award-2021, Award of Excellence, National Real Estate Development Council Award, National Housing Award, IBC and Star of Governance-Gold Award and Real Estate Conclave by NREEDCO.



Neeraj Tambolia honoured with 'National Florence Nightingale Award-2022'

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, the President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, awarded the National Florence Nightingale Award-2022 for her dedication & outstanding service in the nursing sector to Neeraj Tambolia, Senior Nursing Officer, J.K. Lone Hospital, Jaipur, at a function in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu has given the National Florence Nightingale Award to a total of 30 nurses for the years 2022 and 2023 at the function.
- Neeraj Tambolia, Senior Nursing Officer, working in J.K. Lone Hospital has done excellent work in health services during his 31 years of service. He has been conferred the National Florence Nightingale Award 2022 for his relentless cooperation in the field of health education along with his selfless service and courage to save those injured in road accidents, evacuation of patients from short circuit fire in ICU & to save patients during corona.
- It is known that the National Florence Nightingale Award, instituted by the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare in 1973, is given to nurses & nursing professionals in recognition of their meritorious services rendered to the society.



Social Justice & Empowerment Minister launches 'Palanhar Face Recognition Renewal' Mobile App

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Juli launched the 'Palanhar Face Recognition Renewal' Mobile App under the Palanhar Scheme of the directorate's auditorium at Ambedkar Bhawan.

Key Points:

- He said that the facility of self-verification and educational renewal of children will be available at their own level (door step service delivery) through mobile, which will also save time.
- It is known that the Palanhar scheme is the flagship scheme of the state government. More than 7 lakh beneficiaries are being given the benefit of the scheme by the state government.
- In order to make the process of annual verification/renewal easier, simpler and faster under the scheme, Palanhar mobile app has been developed using technology in addition to the existing verification/renewal methods.
- To do annual physical verification/renewal through the App, Palanhar Mobile App and Face RD App have to be installed on Android mobile, Android tablet, mobile.

Note:



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- On starting the Palanhar mobile app, first of all, you have to enter the mobile number and get the OTP. Once the OTP received After the registration, the process of physical verification of the keeper will start, during which more than one keeper can also be verified during a session.
- Provision has been made for annual verification through data available on Palanhar's Aadhaar portal through face recognition on Palanhar mobile app and annual academic renewal of children being registered in anganwadi center / studying in school.
- At present, annual physical verification/renewal of parents/children is conducted by the department every year under the Palanhar Scheme, which is a regular process. At present, annual physical verification / renewal is being done by linking the Palanhar portal to the portals run by the departmental and other concerned departments while matching the aadhaar number of parents & children through online web service (API).



50% discount for Women in Roadways Buses Fares

Why in News?

On June 22, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has now approved the proposal to give 50 percent concession to women and girls for travelling in all categories of Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation buses within the state limits.

Key Points:

- According to the proposal, women and girls will be charged half the fare for travelling in all categories of

corporation buses. At present, 50 percent concession was being given to women and girls only for travelling in ordinary class buses.

- It is worth mentioning that in the budget 2023-24, the Chief Minister had announced to increase the concession given to women from 30 to 50 percent for travelling in ordinary roadways buses.
- This announcement was also being implemented from April 1, 2023. Thereafter, on May 25, 2023, at the inauguration ceremony of the new bus terminal at Sindhi Camp, Jaipur, the Chief Minister announced the implementation of this concession in all categories of roadways buses. The Chief Minister has given this approval in the implementation of the said announcement.

'Green Lungs' to be developed in 13 Cities

Why in News?

On June 25, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved a financial proposal of Rs 19 crore to develop 'green lungs' in 13 cities of the state.

Key Points:

- Forest areas around 13 cities will be developed with the said amount.
- According to the approval, forest areas will be developed and opened for the common people at a cost of Rs. 2 crores each in Moongaska of Alwar, Rajgarh in Churu, Mangalwar in Chittorgarh, Nathdwara & Ganesh Tekdi in Rajsamand, Risala in Udaipur. Forest areas will be developed and opened to the public at a cost of Rs 1 crore each in Khairkhedi of Baran, Shyampura of Banswara, Qila Block of Chittorgarh, Neelkanth Mahadev of Dausa, Kanota Dam of Jaipur, Bandaria Magara of Rajsamand and Kacha Dam area of Tonk.
- With this decision of the Chief Minister, the common people in these cities will get a pure environment & greenery and the environment will also be protected.
- It is worth mentioning that an announcement in this regard was made by the Chief Minister in the budget for the year 2023-24.

Note:

'Chief Minister Folk Artist Promotion Scheme - 2023'

Why in News?

On June 24, 2023, Rajasthan's Minister of Art, Literature, Culture & Archaeology, Dr. B.D. Kalla said in the first meeting of the State Appellate Policy Making & Supervision Committee organized by the Department at the Government Secretariat in Jaipur that under the 'Mukhyamantri Lok Kalakar Protsahan Yojana-2023', folk artists of the state will be given the opportunity to perform 100 days of art in their local areas by honouring their art.

Key Points:

- Minister Dr. B.D. Kalla said that as per the intention of the Chief Minister, folk artists would be given employment for 100 days per family every year through the performance of folk arts.
- He said that if the art of the folk artist is protected and he gets 100 days of assured employment, then he can easily raise his family.
- At the same time, the art of the artist will also go to the general public and they will get more work and these artists will be given opportunities to perform in government programs, festivals, fairs, festivals, ceremonies, schools and colleges etc.
- A web portal for online registration of folk artists will also be launched soon. All the folk artists of the state will be able to register themselves on the web portal through their Jan Aadhaar card.
- Under the scheme, folk artists will be given folk artist incentive cards. This card will be the primary document of artists to get an art performance opportunity, which will identify an artist.
- Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur has been made the nodal agency for the operation of 'Mukhyamantri Lok Kalakar Protsahan Yojana-2023'.



Jungle Safari started in Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

On June 23, 2023, Ashok Chandna, Rajasthan's Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sports and Information & Public Relations, flagged off the first Jungle Safari at Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Dalelpura, Bundi, to take forward Bundi district in the tourism sector in the State.

Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Minister of State said that the launch of Safari in Tiger Century is a lifeline for the entire district. In the coming times, employment opportunities will open for the youth.
- Along with this, new dimensions of development will be established. Tourists coming from every corner of the country will be happy and the people of the area will get employment.
- 4 foreign and 14 native tourists were taken on a jungle safari in Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.
- Tiger Reserve Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary has many features. It is about 1500 sq km with a core area of 500 sq km.
- Various species of animals live in it. With all these features, this sanctuary will emerge as a major centre of attraction for tourists in the coming days.
- Tiger, panther, chitli, deer, bear, wild cat, chital, sambhar, fox, nilgai, chital, swamp deer, monkey, langur, mongoose, squirrel, porcupine etc. will be seen on the route of jungle safari.



Note:

- Apart from this, around one hundred birds including peacock, quail, pigeon, heron, eagle, vulture, owl, sparrow, parrot will be seen.
- To enjoy the jungle safari, domestic tourists will have to spend Rs.780 per tourist, foreign tourists will have to spend Rs.1150 per tourist and students will have to spend Rs.700 per student.

Rajasthan got JAM Excellence Award

Why In News?

On June 26, 2023, Rajasthan was given the JAM Excellence Award at the Buyer Seller Gaurav Samman ceremony held at Vanija Bhawan, New Delhi. The State was awarded the Silver Award for the better work of getting purchase orders for their products from SC-ST entrepreneurs through JAM portal.

Key Points:

- Union Industry and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Industry Anupriya Patel gave the Silver Award to Rajasthan at the felicitation ceremony. Additional Director S.S. Shah received the award on behalf of Rajasthan Industries and Commerce Department.
- Expressing happiness on receiving the award, Industries and Commerce Minister of Rajasthan, Shakuntala Rawat said that it is a matter of pride for the state to get this award for the commendable work done on the Government e-Marketplace portal.
- Commissioner of the department Om Kasera said that it is the priority of the department to develop



a better industrial environment in the state and the department is continuously working in this direction. He said that all possible help is being provided by the department to the new entrepreneurs to set up and operate the industry easily in the state as per the industrial policy.

Chief Justice released the book 'RSLSA (RALSA) at a Glance'

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, a book titled 'RSLSA at a Glance' was released by the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court and Chief Patron of RSLSA (RALSA) Augustine George Masih at The Rajasthan High Court Main Bench (Jodhpur).

Key Points:

- Along with this, two public welfare schemes were launched for the benefit of especially deserving people to ensure their identity cards and to provide various welfare schemes such as artificial limbs & other benefits.
- Justice Manindra Mohan Srivastava, Judge of Rajasthan High Court and Executive Chairman of RALSA said that the book 'RSLSA at a Glance' will be released to provide UDID training to persons with disabilities. To get the benefit of certificates and other government schemes, the scheme and the scheme of Model Legal Service Center have been launched in the Remote Taluka Legal Service Committee in every division.
- With this scheme launched in the direction of identification of specially disabled people, every specially-abled person will be able to get a disability certificate i.e. UDID, where in the absence of UDID, no person will be deprived of getting the welfare schemes or artificial limbs of the state.
- By organizing legal awareness programs in the model talukas identified by RALSA, the general public will not only be made aware of the law but they will also be informed about the government schemes and their benefits will be ensured.
- Chief Justice Augustine George Masih said the book 'Ralsa at a Glance' gives a glimpse of the commendable

Note:

achievements of RALSA and its unwavering commitment towards providing legal aid to the underprivileged.

- This scheme of identifying specially-abled persons and providing UDID to them is definitely a progressive step. This will enable the specially-abled people to join the mainstream of society as well as get equal rights and opportunities.
- The Model Legal Services Centres started by RALSA will provide legal aid to needy people irrespective of their social and economic status, thereby empowering them to deal with the legal scenario.



Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers to be set up in 36 jurisdictions

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the setting up of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres at the headquarters of 36 jurisdictions in the state.

Key Points:

- With the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposit Centers, victims of child & sexual offences and other sensitive witnesses in the state will be able to testify in a safe environment.
- The Chief Minister has approved Rs 9.56 crore for the establishment of the centres.
- It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister had announced in this regard in the budget year 2023-24.

'Dial Future'

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, the School Education Department of Rajasthan started the 'Dial Future' program, taking a unique initiative to prepare the path for a golden future for the future generation with the beginning of the new academic session in the state.

Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that under the Dial Future & Future Steps (Road to Future) initiative, one teacher each from all the higher secondary schools of the state has been selected as a guide, who will guide and counsel the children who have passed class X in the school in faculty selection.
- Also, 20 help desk numbers have been issued by dividing the entire state into 4 zones Jaipur Zone (Jaipur and Bharatpur Division), Kota Zone (Kota and Udaipur Division), Jodhpur Zone (Jodhpur and Pali Division), and Bikaner Zone (Bikaner, Churu and Ajmer Division).
- Apart from this, a detailed video related to career counselling has been prepared and released on YouTube.
- Education Minister Dr. B. D. Kalla released the logo, brochure, booklet and video of the program through video conferencing from Bikaner.
- More than 15,000 path-breaking teachers of higher secondary schools of the state and more than 500 officers of the department joined the program through video conferencing.
- On this occasion, the Education Minister said that with the new academic session starting from June 26 in the state, the School Chalo Campaign (Praveshotsav) is being run to connect the drop-out children with education and now the children who have passed class X from June 28 to April 5 will be guided in subject selection.
- He said that the guiding teachers will also give information about vocational education after class X along with the right faculty selection to the children so that they can become part of the working population.
- This program will make the path of career selection of students easier. Apart from arts, commerce and science, students will also be given information about fine arts, music, literature, vocational training, and technical training.

Note:

- In the 'Dial Future' program, along with guiding the faculty selection, information about the nearest school will also be given.
- Through this program, the Department of Education along with the Directorate of Secondary Education, Bikaner, Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research & Training (RSCERT), Udaipur has played an active role in brightening the career path of about 9 lakh students in this session.



Industries & Commerce Minister inaugurates Rajasthani Sangh Bhawan in Coimbatore

Why in News?

On June 28, 2023, Rajasthan Industries and Commerce Minister Shakuntala Rawat inaugurated the newly constructed Rajasthani Sangh Bhawan in the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu state at a function organized under the aegis of Rajasthani Sangh.

Key Points:

- Speaking on the occasion, the Industries and Commerce Minister said that this building will prove useful

for the common people living in the Coimbatore district. With the construction of the building, Rajasthani migrants living in the city and travelling Rajasthanis will get a home-like environment away from home.

- It is known that Rajasthan Foundation Commissioner Dhiraj Srivastava is continuously doing better work for overseas Rajasthanis in the country and abroad.
- With the construction of this building, various facilities will be available to the migrant Rajasthanis living in Coimbatore city. Along with this, programs, and exhibitions related to Rajasthani art and culture will also be organized, which will promote cultural exchange.



Youth Co:Lab, a Rajasthan Start-Up, wins the National Innovation Dialogue 2022

Why in News?

On June 27, 2023, Akashdiya Bansal's start-up from Jaipur, Rajasthan was declared the winner at the 5th edition of Youth Co: Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.

Key Points:

- Twelve top start-ups from 9 Indian states working in agriculture, ed-tech, women's livelihood, circular economy and biodiversity were declared winners in the 5th edition of Youth Co/Lab National Innovation Dialogue India.
- Under the theme 'Digital and Financial Literacy for Youth', Rajasthan's Akashdeep Bansal's start-up 'Edubuild - Experiments for Youth' was declared the winner.

Note:

- Winners from each thematic area received seed grants of \$5,000; The runner-up received \$3,000. This funding will help the winners to mold their ideas into tangible products or services.
- It is worth mentioning that Youth Co:Lab India 2022-23 has focused on 6 thematic areas - digital and financial literacy for youth, gender equality and economic empowerment of women, developing fintech solutions focused on biodiversity conservation, through technology solutions in finance. The focus was on promoting biodiversity-friendly lifestyles and accelerating the circular economy through upcycling innovation.
- Youth Co:Lab was launched in India in 2019 in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). The 2022-23 edition received 378 applications from 28 states across the country.
- Out of the applications, 47 selected start-ups were given direct expert consultation and capacity-building sessions for 2 months through the Youth Co/Lab Springboard Programme, a start-up support platform for SDG innovators. These start-ups then presented their ideas before an eminent jury in May 2023, from which 12 winners were selected.
- About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):
- AIM is the Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, including self-employment and talent utilisation (SETU).
 - It aims to act as a platform to promote world-class innovation hubs, big challenges, start-up businesses and other self-employment activities, especially in technology-driven sectors.
- **About UNDP India:**
 - UNDP has worked in almost all areas of human development in India since 1951, ranging from system and institutional strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods as well as sustainable energy, environment and resilience.
 - UNDP's programmes fully integrate the global vision of catalytic transformation with India's national priorities. With over 30 projects in almost every state, UNDP India works to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by adapting traditional models to develop differently.
- **About Citi Foundation:**
 - The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve people's lives in low-income

communities around the world. They invest in efforts that enhance financial inclusion, catalyze employment opportunities for youth and envision new approaches to building economically vibrant communities.

- Citi Foundation's 'More than Philanthropy' approach leverages the abundant expertise of The City and its people to accomplish the mission and advance thought, leadership and innovation.
- About Youth Co:Lab
 - Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, the Youth Co-Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youths to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - Since 2017, Youth Co: The Lab has supported young aspiring and inspiring social entrepreneurs in 28 countries and regions across Asia and the Pacific.

Psychological Counselling Centres to be established in Jodhpur & Kota

Why in News?

On June 28, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the establishment of psychological counselling centres in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota medical colleges of the state.

Key Points:

- Along with setting up a psychological counselling centre, approval has also been given to purchase the necessary furniture and equipment for this.
- According to the proposal, these centres will be operated on the available space in the medical college/hospital. Approval has also been given to hire the services of 3 Clinical Psychologists, 6 Counsellors, 4 Ward Boys/ Security Guards/ Attendants and 2 Machines with a Man on contract for each institute.
- It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced in this regard in the budget year 2023-24.

Note:

Soldiers decorated with Tatrakshak Medal will also get the facilities in the state

Why in News?

On June 28, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also given the necessary approval to give the benefit of facilities provided by the state government under the Rajasthan Shaurya Puraskar (Cash Award and Land Grant) Rules 1966 to the soldiers awarded the Coast Guard Medal in the state.

Key Points:

- According to the proposal, the President's Coast Guard Medal holders will be given Rs 6 lakh in cash along with Rs 25 lakh in cash in lieu of 25 bighas of irrigated land or land.
- Similarly, Rs 30,000 cash will be given to coast guard medal holders and Rs 25 lakh in cash in lieu of 25 bighas of irrigated land or land. These benefits will be payable to the medal holders from January 26, 1990.
- It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced this regard in the budget year 2023-24.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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