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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Prime Minister Lays the Foundation Stone of Various Development Projects worth about Rs 7,000 crore in Chittorgarh and Dedicates to the Nation

Why In News?

On October 2, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various development projects worth about Rs 7,000 crore in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- These projects include mehsana-Bhatinda-Gurdaspur gas pipeline, LPG plant of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) at Abu Road, additional storage at Ajmer bottling plant, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), railway and road projects, tourism facilities at Nathdwara and permanent campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology in Kota.
- To promote a gas-based economy, the PM dedicated the Mehsana-Bhatinda-Gurdaspur gas pipeline. The pipeline has been constructed at a cost of about Rs 4500 crore.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated HPCL's LPG plant at Abu Road. The plant will seal and distribute 86 lakh cylinders per year. This will reduce the operation of trucks carrying cylinders by about 0.75 million km per year, which will help reduce carbon emissions by about 0.5 million tonnes per year.
- He also inaugurated additional storage at IOCL's Ajmer bottling plant.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated a 4-lane road on the Darah-Jhalawar-Teendhar section on NH-12 (new NH-52). Its construction cost is more than Rs 1480 crore. The project will facilitate transportation of resources from mines from Kota and Jhalawar districts.
- Apart from this, the foundation stone for widening and widening of Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at Sawai Madhopur from two lanes to four lanes will also be laid. This project will facilitate the movement of vehicles.
- The Prime Minister dedicated to the nation, projects related to the doubling of the Chittorgarh-Neemuch railway line, and the Kota-Chittorgarh electrified railway

line. These projects cost more than Rs 650 crore. This will strengthen the rail infrastructure in the region and boost tourism to historical sites in Rajasthan.

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the tourism facilities developed in Nathdwara under the 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana'. Nathdwara is a major center of faith for millions of followers of The Confirmation Path propagated by Saint Vallabhacharya. A modern 'Tourist Interpretation and Cultural Centre' has been developed in Nathdwara, where tourists can experience different aspects of Shrinathji's life.
- The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the permanent campus of the Indian Institute of Information Technology in Kota.



Cabinet Approved Rajasthan Waqf Rules- 2023

Why In News?

On October 2, 2023, the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the Rajasthan Waqf Rules-2023. With the implementation of these rules, waqf work in the state will be done with more ease, clarity and transparency.

Key Points:

- Section 109 of the Central Waqf Act, 1995 empowers the state government to make rules for the operation of waqf. The state government has shown readiness and has taken steps towards implementing the rules.
- The Rajasthan Waqf Rules-2023 mention the mutavalli of waqf properties, managing committee and management plan as well as the educational qualification of Mutavalli. Along with this, provisions have been made related to the appointment of waqf survey commissioner, powers of investigation to survey commissioner and publication of list of waqf properties.

Note:

- Similarly, the rules provide for the appointment, tenure of office and service of the Chief Executive Officer of the Waqf Board, as well as the chief executive officer or the officer authorized by him to inspect records, registers or documents related to any Waqf property in any public office.
- The Chief Executive Officer may order inspection of the proceedings or records kept in custody of the Board, subject to prescribed fees and conditions. At the same time, a rule has been made to check the Waqf properties that do not exist. A provision has also been made to conduct an inquiry by the Board on receipt of a complaint related to the administration of Waqf property.
- The Rajasthan Waqf Rules-2023 also provide for auditing of accounts of Waqf properties, withdrawal of property transferred without permission of the Board, removal of encroachment from properties, authorizing the Waqf Board Chairman or Chief Executive Officer to pursue any suit against the Board and annual report of the Board.

Green Hydrogen Policy in the State got Approval from the Cabinet

Why In News?

The new green hydrogen policy was approved in the state cabinet meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence on October 1, 2023, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Key Points:

- According to the provisions of this policy, the approval of the Green Hydrogen Project will be issued by the State Level Competent Committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.
- The major objective of the Green Hydrogen Policy is to produce 2000 KTPA of green hydrogen in the state by the year 2030.
- Apart from this, the policy aims to establish at least one green hydrogen valley to meet the demand of refinery and fertilizer plants. With the establishment of at least one gigawatt electrolyser manufacturing unit, at least 20 percent of India's green hydrogen exports should be supplied from Rajasthan and up to

10 percent of the natural gas produced in the state has green hydrogen blending.

- According to the new green hydrogen policy, land for setting up renewable energy plants for green hydrogen production will be allotted as per the Land Revenue Rules 2007. The land for the hydrogen plant will be allotted by REICO in the industrial area. Apart from this, the plant can also be set up on private land.
- Green hydrogen policy will provide these incentives:
 - In the policy, benefits will be payable according to the Rajasthan Investment and Promotion Scheme. One-third of the availability of water and renewable energy generation will also be provided with banking facilities.
 - The renewable energy plant's capacity for green hydrogen will be allowed up to 2.5 times the contract demand.
 - There will be a discount of 50 percent in broadcast and distribution fees for 10 years on the establishment of the plant.
 - Additional and cross subsidy surcharge on purchase of renewable energy from third parties will be waived for 10 years.
 - Green hydrogen production from brine water or treated water will be given priority in state land allotment.
 - According to the Rajasthan Investment and Promotion Scheme, the benefit will be available for the unit of green hydrogen equipment manufacturing.
 - For setting up a research center, 30 percent of the cost (up to a maximum of Rs 5 crore) will be given.
 - The first 500 KTPA renewable power plant to be installed on RVNL's network will get special incentives (up to a maximum of 50 mw capacity of each plant).

Inauguration of the First Phase of Rajasthan Heritage Museum

Why In News?

On October 1, 2023, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 25 works worth about Rs 110 crore of tourism and art, literature

Note:

and culture department, including the inauguration of the first phase of the Rajasthan Heritage Museum, in an interaction program with the stakeholders associated with the tourism sector held at Jawahar Kala Kendra.

Key Points:

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that along with per capita income, the happiness index should increase in the state and the state should become a leader in every field. For this, the state government is preparing a vision document under Mission-2030, which will be released on October 5.
- The Chief Minister said that several important decisions have been taken by the state government with far-reaching thinking to promote tourism in the state. Tourism has been given the status of an industry, this has increased investment in the tourism sector. Also, urban tax has been reduced by 80 percent and electricity duty by 30 percent for units associated with this industry.
- The state government has increased the amount of the tourism development fund to Rs 1500 crore. It will be further increased in the coming time.
- He said that new areas of tourism are being developed in the state. The Rajasthan Heritage Museum established at Sawai Mansingh Town Hall is another new link in the tourism sector of the state. Historic work of Chambal River Front and Oxizone Park has been done in Kota. With this, a large number of domestic and foreign tourists will come to the Hadoti area.
- The Chief Minister said that the state is number one in north India and second in the country in economic development. In the last 5 years, the GDP of the state has increased by Rs 6 lakh crore and by the end of this financial year it will be Rs 15 lakh crore. By the year 2030, the target is to take it to more than Rs 30 lakh crore.
- Investors are preferring to come here due to the better environment in the state. At present almost all the reputed educational institutions exist in the state. The number of universities has also increased to more than 90. About 1.50 lakh km of roads are being constructed in the state.



Rajasthan Logistical Service Delivery Corporation (RLSDC) will be Formed.

Why In News?

In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on October 1, 2023, the proposal to set up Rajasthan Logistics Service Delivery Corporation (RLSDC) was approved to free the personnel engaged in placement agencies from exploitation .

Key Points:

- The state government is taking decisions with sensitivity to provide social security to every section. In this sequence, Rajasthan Logistics Service Delivery Corporation (RLSDC) will be formed to free the personnel engaged in placement agencies from exploitation.
- With the formation of this government company by the state government, the practice of hiring personnel from placement agencies in the state will be stopped, which will free the employees from exploitation.
- The RLSDC company, which will be formed on the lines of Rexco, will provide great relief to the employees appointed in government departments and semi-government institutions through placement agencies.
- Through the new company, the registration and selection of skilled and unskilled candidates will be done in a transparent manner and they will get proper remuneration without unnecessary deduction. With the availability of trained personnel, the work will gain more momentum.

Note:

- With the decision of the Cabinet, the personnel working before January 1, 2021, will be taken directly through RLSDC as per the requirement.
- RLSDC will be a 100% state government owned company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
- Established under the Department of Administrative Reforms, the company will be headed by Principal Government Secretary, Administrative Reforms Department. In addition, Principal Government Secretary of Personnel Department, Principal Government Secretary / Government Secretary of General Administration Department and Labor Department, Government Secretary of Finance Expenditure Department, Director of State Insurance and Provident Fund Department and persons nominated by the State Government will work as members.

Chief Election Commissioner Inaugurated the SVEEP Exhibition

Why In News?

On September 30, 2023, Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar, Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goyal inaugurated the SVEEP exhibition set up by the Election Department at the State Institute of Agricultural Management, Durgapura, Jaipur by cutting the ribbon.

Key Points:

- While Barmer's 200 feet long awareness voter craze caught everyone's attention at the exhibition, elc club cartoons and virtual reality were used especially to make the youth and new voters aware.
- Model polling stations run by differently-abled personnel, SVEEP's thematic panel exhibition, send art exhibition and painting gallery were the center of attraction.
- The inked fingerprints prepared by the weavers group of the Central Bureau of Communications to inspire voting caught everyone's attention.
- As part of the Satrangi Week, 7 thematic posters were released. Epic cards were distributed to new voters. Icons and best performing personnel of the Election Department were felicitated.

- At the event, the song 'Main Bharat Hoon' was launched in the Rajasthan backdrop and presented by differently-abled children in sign language. The Saharia tribals of Baran performed a 4-minute spectacular dance. The performance of Manganiyar from Jaisalmer and Kalbelia dance from Ajmer also captivated everyone.
- The exhibition beautifully depicted the SVEEP activities being conducted in various districts. Various promotional materials used in SVEEP activities were also presented in an attractive manner.



Note:



Rs. 18 crore Approved for Panorama in Jaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer and Jaisalmer.

Why In News?

On October 3, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had approved Rs 18 crore for the construction of panoramas in 4 districts – Jaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer and Jaisalmer.

Key Points:

- It is known that the state government is preparing a panorama to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the state and to make the new generation aware of the life ideals of great men.
- With the approval of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Swami Atmaramji Lakshya Panorama will be built in Jaipur and Rao Bikaji Panorama in Bikaner. These will cost Rs 4 crore each.
- Besides, Prithviraj Chauhan Panorama will be constructed in Ajmer and Indira Mahashakti Bharat Panorama will be constructed in Pokhran, Jaisalmer. Rs 5 crore each will be spent on this. All the work will be done by the Tourism Department with the Tourism Development Fund.
- In these panoramas, the new generation will get information about the personalities of Swami Atmaram ji, Prithviraj Chauhan and Rao Bikaji and the golden history of India. With this, they will be able to take inspiration from the lives of great men and also get acquainted with the glorious history and culture.
- It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had made an announcement in this regard in the Budget 2023-24.

Audio-Visual Recording Prepared by Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy Inaugurated

Why In News?

On October 3, 2023, Rajasthan's Art, Literature and Culture Minister Dr. B.D. Kalla inaugurated the audio-visual presentation (recording) of the entire code of Atharva Veda and Samveda by the Academy under the Veda Conservation Scheme under the aegis of Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy at his official residence.

Key Points:

- This recording will be broadcasted on social media websites for the general public. Its objective is to spread the spirit of public welfare contained in the Vedas to the people and to preserve the vanishing tradition of reciting the Vedas.
- On this occasion, Dr. Saroj Kochhar, President Sanskrit Academy, informed that the Academy will open Ved Ashrams in 10 new districts under Budget Announcement-23 this year for the preservation of the Guru tradition of the Vedas and also informed that at present there are 45 Vedashrams in the state. Are being operated by the Academy.
- Academy Director Dr. Rajkumar Joshi said that efforts are being made by the Academy to start the study of 11 branches of the four Vedas in Nimbahera at the academy level.



Note:

State Action Plan Launched for Rabies Eradication in the State

Why In News?

On October 4, 2023, Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health Shubhra Singh launched the State Action Plan for eradicating rabies in the state by the year 2030 at the Government Secretariat.

Key Points:

- According to a survey of the World Health Organization, about 20 thousand people die of rabies every year in the country. Of these, 91.5 percent are caused by dog bites. Keeping this in mind, the Rajasthan government has prepared a State Action Plan in collaboration with the Health Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Municipal Corporation and Technical Partner Institute PATH.
- According to this plan, a coordination committee of various allied departments will be formed under the chairmanship of administrative officers at the state, district and local level and various activities will be organized for the control and public awareness of the causes of rabies disease and rabies eradication will be done in a phased manner.
- Additional Chief Secretary informed that in the first phase (year 2023-25), social awareness, data collection, setting up of call centers, training of paramedical and paraveterans, making action plans at the district level, availability of vaccine and vaccination of dogs will be done.
- In the second phase (year 2025-27), surveillance systems will be strengthened for the investigation of rabies, registration of pets, counting of animals from which rabies occurs and rabies-free zones will be created.



- In the last phase (year 2028-30), the activities carried out in the first and second phase will be continued smoothly and the concerned districts will be declared rabies free.

Release of 127th Issue of Ravira

Why In News?

On October 4, 2023, Rajeshwar Singh, Chairman of The Revenue Board of Rajasthan released the 127th edition of Ravira magazine.

Key Points:

- In this important issue published by the Board of Revenue, special articles on the betterment of revenue courts, notifications related to newly formed divisions, districts, subdivisions and tehsils in the state, best decisions passed at the level of revenue board courts have been included in the subject matter.
- Along with this, articles written on important topics through revenue administration and revenue subject experts, important circulars and notifications issued by the government and revenue news have also been published prominently.



'E-Journey of Chief Minister's Office, Rajasthan' and 'Quotes Shri Ashok Gehlot' book Distributed

Why In News?

On October 4, 2023, the book 'E-Journey of Chief Minister's Office, Rajasthan' and 'Quotes Shri Ashok Gehlot' prepared by the Department of Information

Note:

Technology and Communication of Rajasthan have been circulated, in which information about the development work done in the IT sector has been shown with photographs.

Key Points:

- Along with this, information about various schemes and major institutions launched by the department has also been shared.
- In the book 'Quotes Shri Ashok Gehlot', the vision of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been compiled in the form of 'Quotes'.
- Along with this, the Chief Minister's views have also been compiled about the Indian Constitution, democracy, youth, women empowerment, IT, farmers, Dalits, education, health, environment, humanity, art and culture.



State Gets 100 New First Response Vehicles

Why In News?

On October 5, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off 100 First Response Vehicles (FRVs) from the Chief Minister's residence in order to continuously work towards modernization of police to maintain law and order in the state.

Key Points:

- These vehicles will be included in the police fleet of various districts.
- All these vehicles have been equipped with modern Mobile Data Terminal (MDT), camera, NVR, wireless set, GPS public address system, first aid box, stretcher, helmet and other emergency equipment.

- The said vehicles will be connected to ERS dial 112 in the command control centers and their actual location can also be tracked.
- All calls made by the public on dial 112 in case of emergency will be forwarded to the nearest FRV, thereby providing them prompt assistance and also ensuring better prevention of crimes.



Prime Minister Laid the Foundation Stone of Several Projects worth about Rs 5000 crore in Jodhpur

Why In News?

On October 5, 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of several projects worth about Rs 5000 crore in sectors like roads, rail, aviation, health and higher education in Jodhpur, Rajasthan and dedicated them to the nation.

Key Points:

- These projects include a 350-bed 'Trauma Center and Critical Care Hospital Block' at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur and seven Critical Care Blocks to be developed under the Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) across Rajasthan.
- An integrated center for 'Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care' will be developed at AIIMS Jodhpur at a cost of more than Rs 350 crore. It will include various facilities like triage, diagnostics, daycare wards, private rooms, modular operating theaters, ICU and dialysis rooms.

Note:

- It will bring a holistic approach in the management of trauma and emergency cases by providing multidisciplinary and comprehensive care to the patients.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the development of a state-of-the-art new terminal building at Jodhpur Airport. The new terminal building, to be built at a total cost of Rs 480 crore, will be developed over an area of approximately 24,000 square meters and will be equipped to serve 2,500 passengers during peak hours.
- It will cater to 35 lakh passengers annually as well as improve connectivity and will boost tourism in the region.
- The Prime Minister dedicated the IIT Jodhpur campus to the nation. This state-of-the-art campus, built at a cost of over Rs 1135 crore, is a step towards providing high quality holistic education and creating infrastructure to support cutting-edge research and innovation initiatives.
- To upgrade the infrastructure at the Central University of Rajasthan, the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation the 'Central Equipment Laboratory', Staff Quarters and 'Yoga and Sports Science Building'.
- He laid the foundation stone of the Central Library, hostel with capacity of 600 students and dining hall facility for students in the Central University of Rajasthan.
- In a move to improve road infrastructure in Rajasthan, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for several road development projects including four-laning of Karwar to Dangiawas section of Jodhpur Ring Road on NH-125A; Construction of seven bypasses of major urban parts of Balotra to Sanderao section via Jalore (NH-325); Laid the foundation stone of various projects including the project of four-laning of Pachpadra-Bagundi section of NH-25.
- These road projects will be built at a cumulative cost of approximately Rs 1475 crore. Jodhpur Ring Road will help in reducing traffic pressure and vehicle pollution in the city.
- All these projects will improve connectivity and boost trade in the region as well as create employment and help in economic growth.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister flagged off two new train services in Rajasthan. These include a new

train - Runicha Express connecting Jaisalmer to Delhi and a new heritage train connecting Marwar Junction to Kokhambli Ghat.

- Runicha Express will pass through Jodhpur, Degana, Kuchaman City, Phulera, Ringas, Shrimadhapur, Neem Ka Thana, Narnaul, Ateli, Rewari, improving connectivity of all cities with the national capital.
- The new heritage train connecting Marwar Jn-Khambli Ghat will boost tourism and generate employment in the region.



Note:

Rs 21 Thousand 613 Crore Approved for 7 Major Water Supply Projects in the State

Why In News?

On October 8, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a financial proposal of Rs 21,613 crore for 7 major water supply projects in different areas of the state.

Key Points:

- The state government is taking important decisions to provide drinking water to the last person in the state and to create a future full of water security. In this sequence, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the financial proposal for 7 major water supply projects.
- According to the proposal, through these 7 drinking water projects, functional domestic tap connections can be provided to 4,63,580 houses in the state.
- Under 'Kalitir Project', drinking water connections can be provided to 470 villages of Dholpur and Bharatpur districts by providing Chambal river water at a cost of Rs 709.41 crore. Also, drinking water can be supplied to 1,237 villages of Alwar and Bharatpur districts through Chambal river water under the Major Drinking Water Project at a cost of Rs 5374.15 crore.
- Apart from this, drinking water can be supplied from Chambal river water to 1,426 villages of Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts at a cost of Rs 3990.08 crore under the Major Drinking Water Project.
- A provision of Rs 3529.90 crore has also been made in the proposal to provide tap connections to 1,473 villages of Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand and Udaipur districts through Jakham Dam.
- Apart from this, a provision of Rs 229.73 crore has been made in the proposal to provide drinking water to 79 villages and 325 dhanis of Lohawat and Denchu of Phalodi district through Rajiv Gandhi Lift Canal under Indira Gandhi Canal Project.
- A provision of Rs 7583.15 crore has been made to provide drinking water through the Big Water Project to the villages not yet connected to the Indira Gandhi Canal Project in Sikar and Jhunjhunu districts.
- Apart from this, approval of Rs 196.68 crore has been given for providing drinking water connections to 123

villages and 244 hamlets of Nagaur district under 'Jayal Matasukh Project' under Indira Gandhi Canal Project.

- These large water supply projects will be implemented and financed by Rajasthan Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation.
- With this approval of the Chief Minister, drinking water will be easily available to the common people in large parts of the state. This will provide permanent solutions to various social, economic, health related and other problems in areas suffering from drinking water supply problems due to geographical conditions and other reasons.

Schools of the State will be Converted into Government Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools

Why In News?

On October 8, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave approval to convert 510 schools of various categories in the state into Government Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools and to upgrade 47 upper primary schools into higher secondary schools.

Key Points:

- With the approval of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, 44 schools of primary level, 294 of upper primary level, 13 of secondary level and 172 schools of higher secondary level will be converted into Government Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools. With this, students of urban and rural areas will get the facility to get education in English medium.
- It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister had announced the opening of one thousand Government Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools each in rural and urban areas in the budget year 2023-24. Earlier, approval has been issued for 709 schools.
- Similarly, as per the budget announcement of the Chief Minister, 47 upper primary schools will be upgraded to government higher secondary schools.
- The Chief Minister has also approved the proposal to open additional faculty/subjects in 72 government higher secondary schools of the state.

Note:



- According to the proposal, Science stream will be started in 41 schools, Arts stream in 8 schools, Commerce stream in 4 schools and Agriculture stream in 19 schools. Apart from this, the proposal for creation of 41 new posts of Lecturer in School Education and 11 new posts of Laboratory Assistant has also been approved for operation of new faculties/subjects.

Infectious Disease Institute, Jodhpur will be Upgraded

Why In News?

On October 8, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave financial approval of Rs 3 crore for various development works in the second phase of developing the Jodhpur-based Infectious Diseases Institute into a high-level research centre.

Key Points:

- It is known that the state government is continuously developing medical facilities in the state. In this series, the Chief Minister has given financial approval for the upgradation of the Infectious Disease Institute, Jodhpur.
- According to the proposal, an administrative block, new central drug store, central oxygen pipeline for pediatric cubicles and lift will be constructed in the institute at a cost of Rs 3 crore. 128 Slice CT machines will also be installed by PPP mode.
- It is noteworthy that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in the budget to develop this center into a high level research centre, for the implementation of which the said approval has been given.



'Rajasthan Talent Search Exam' will be held in the State

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Information and Public Relations Department of Rajasthan on October 8, 2023, 'Rajasthan Talent Search Exam' will be organized for the meritorious students of the state on the lines of 'National Talent Search Exam'.

Key Points:

- In this, 10 thousand students selected will get a scholarship of Rs 1250 per month for classes 11 and 12 and Rs 2000 per month for undergraduate and postgraduate classes.
- Students entering class 10th for the first time will be eligible for this examination. The examination will be in Hindi and English medium. Board of Secondary Education Rajasthan, Ajmer has been made the nodal agency for the examination.
- There will be two question papers in the examination. First, there will be a mental aptitude test and second, educational aptitude test. In this, students will be able to apply for free.
- It is noteworthy that an announcement in this regard was made by the Chief Minister in the year 2023-24 budget.

Chief Minister Approved the Formation of 8 Boards

Why In News?

On October 7, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved the formation of 8 different boards in the state.

Key Points:

- These newly formed boards include Rajasthan State Raja Bali Welfare Board, Rajasthan State Valmiki Welfare Board, Rajasthan State Meghwal Welfare Board, Rajasthan State Priest Welfare Board, Rajasthan State Kevat Welfare (Ma Puri Bai Keer) Board, Rajasthan State Jatav Welfare Board, Rajasthan State Dhanka Welfare Board and Rajasthan State Chitragupta Kayastha Welfare Board.

Note:

- All these boards will give suggestions to the state government regarding taking condition of the concerned sections, providing basic facilities to the sections on the basis of authentic survey reports and removing their backwardness.
- These boards are responsible for proposing various schemes for the welfare of the concerned class, coordinating with various departments regarding various schemes currently running for them, taking traditional business forward from the present methods, promoting employment and educational and economic upgradation.
- All these boards will have 5 non-government members including Chairman, Vice Chairman and three members and government members like Government Secretary, Commissioner, Director, Joint Director and Deputy Director level officers of various departments of the state.
- Apart from this, managing director level officers of Rajasthan State Scheduled Castes and Tribes Finance and Development Cooperative Corporation Limited or Rajasthan State Other Backward Classes Finance and Development Cooperative Corporation Limited will be part of this initiative.

AI Based Chest X-ray Application Launched in Raj-Silicosis Portal

Why In News?

On October 6, 2023, Dr. Samit Sharma, Government Secretary of Social Justice and Empowerment of Rajasthan said that Artificial Intelligence Tools/Application has been developed to make the silicosis identification and silicosis certification process more accessible, simple and technology based.

Key Points:

- Dr. Samit Sharma said that an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based application has been developed on Raj Silicosis Portal, which can be used in the silicosis certification process on the new Silicosis Portal at District Pneumoconiosis Board level.
- It was inaugurated by Rajasthan's Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Tikaram Julie.
- Benefits of AI based applications:

- The AI-enabled silicosis screening system is a testament to the government's progressive stance on using technology to accelerate delivery of medical care and economic support to the most vulnerable sections of the society.
- This application evaluates the chest x-ray on parameters, based on deep learning. This will help radiologists to identify silicosis patients through chest x-ray and will help in reducing human errors.
- Through this technology, the workload of radiologists will be reduced and it will be easier to weed out those who are not suffering from silicosis from the applications received.
- Rapid screening will enable prompt medical attention and reduce the burden on health care resources.
- Early detection of the disease will allow timely intervention and treatment, potentially preventing disease progression.
- Artificial Intelligence:
 - Artificial Intelligence means intellectual ability, developed artificially.
 - Through this, a computer system or robotic system is created, which is tried to run on the basis of the same logic on which the human brain works.
- How will AI based applications work?
 - Artificial Intelligence Application is a screening tool, which will analyze the findings of Chest X-ray using technology and will help in decision making for silicosis certification.
 - The core of this initiative is an advanced deep learning model, carefully developed and rigorously tested at every step using extensive datasets. For this, 40 thousand chest X-ray images obtained from across the state have been used. This effort is supported by the technical expertise of Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence.
 - Radiologists and silicosis certificate issuing officers will be able to take the same decisions as before for certification as per their clinical judgment.
- Rajasthan Pneumoconiosis Policy-2019
 - Pneumoconiosis Policy-2019 was implemented by the state government. Rajasthan is the first state in the country to implement silicosis policy for the welfare of mining workers including BOCW.
 - In this policy, apart from the assistance amount of Rs 3 lakh, there is a provision of pension of Rs

Note:



1.5 thousand per month and other benefits to the patients suffering from silicosis.

- For this, silicosis certification and payment is done by the special qualified person of the Directorate through Raj Silicosis Portal.
- In this process, after the application by the beneficiary, the chest X-ray is analyzed and examined by a radiologist and certified as suffering from silicosis.

Schedule for Assembly Elections-2023 Declared in the State

Why In News?

On October 9, 2023 Rajasthan Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta told in a press conference held at the Government Secretariat that the Election Commission of India has announced the assembly elections-2023 in the state. According to the election schedule, voting for all the two hundred seats in the state will be held on November 23, 2023 and counting of votes will take place on December 3.

Key points:

- Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta told in the press conference that a total of more than 5 crore 27 lakh voters in the state will be able to exercise their franchise. With the election announcement, the Model Code of Conduct has also come into effect in the state with immediate effect.
- With the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, there has been a ban on transfers and appointments in the state. In case of urgent need, the state government will be able to transfer election related officers and employees only after taking approval from the Election Commission.
- The work of filing nominations will start with the release of the notification on October 30 as part of the election process for all the 200 seats in the state. Nominations can be filed in the state till November 6. Nomination papers will be scrutinized on 7th November and names can be withdrawn till 9th November. Voting will take place on 23 November and counting of votes will take place on 3 December.
- The Chief Electoral Officer said that out of 200 assembly seats in the state, 34 are reserved for Scheduled Castes, 25 for Scheduled Tribes, while 141 seats are for the general category.
- He said that there will be a ban on the use of government vehicles, helicopters and planes for election purposes. During elections, the name of the publisher and printer must be published on any publication material such as poster, pamphlet etc. Action will be taken against printing press owners who do not do so under Section 127 (a) of the Representation of the People Act 1951.
- According to the final publication of voter lists, there are a total of more than 5 crore 27 lakh voters in the state. There are more than 2 crore 75 lakh male voters and more than 2 crore 51 lakh female voters. There are also 1 lakh 41 thousand 898 service voters.
- There are a total of 51 thousand 756 polling stations in the state, out of which 10 thousand 415 are located in urban areas and 41 thousand 341 are located in rural areas. About 22 lakh young voters aged between 18 to 19 years will exercise their franchise for the first time.
- It is noteworthy that as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, for the first time in the state, the initiative of home voting has been started in the assembly general elections for senior citizens above 80 years of age and specially abled voters with more than 40 percent disability category. In these elections, more than 18.05 lakh voters will be able to get this facility as an option.
- As per the instructions of the Commission, live webcasting will be done at 26 thousand polling stations, more than 50 percent of the total polling stations in all the polling stations located in important polling stations and sensitive areas or including auxiliary polling stations.
- The Commission has increased the use of IT applications to bring greater participation and transparency. Complaints regarding violations of the Model Code of Conduct can be made through the cVIGIL App. You can get information about the candidate through the KYC app. Similarly, related information and facilities can also be obtained from the comfort of home through Voter Helpline App, Saksham App and Suvidha Portal.
- To increase gender equality and constructive participation of women in the election process, a total of 1600 polling centers run by women, a total of

Note:

200 by disabled people, a total of 1600 run by youth and 1600 model polling centers will be established in the state.

- For the first time in the state, all the eligible persons of Sahariya tribe included under PVTG category have been included in the voter list. There are a total of 77 thousand 343 voters in this category in the state.

Caste Based Survey will be Conducted in Rajasthan

Why In News?

According to the information given by the Information and Public Relations Department of Rajasthan on October 7, 2023, the state government will conduct a caste-based survey in the state with its own resources. In the survey, information and data will be collected regarding the social, economic and educational level of all the citizens of the state.

Key Points:

- In compliance with the decision of the State Cabinet, an order in this regard has been issued by Dr. Samit Sharma, Government Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment Department.
- The state government will conduct a special study and implement special welfare measures and schemes to improve the condition of backwardness of the classes. This will improve the standard of living of all sections.
- The survey will be carried out by the Planning (Economic and Statistics) Department as the nodal department. Besides, all the District Collectors will be able to take the services of subordinate personnel of various departments at the Municipality, City Council, Municipal Corporation, Village and Panchayat level for the survey.
- A questionnaire will be prepared by the nodal department for this work. In this, all those subjects will be mentioned, from which complete information about the social, economic and educational level of every person can be obtained.
- The information and data obtained from the survey will be online. For this, a separate special software and mobile app will be created by the Information Technology and Communication Department.

For the First Time in the State, Media Workers are Included in the Category of Essential Services

Why In News?

On October 11, 2023 Chief Electoral Officer of the Election Commission of India Praveen Gupta said that in the Rajasthan Assembly General Election-2023, apart from the service voters, the Election Commission of India has also provided the facility of voting through postal ballot to the employees working in other eight departments. For the first time, media persons in Rajasthan have also been included in this category.

Key Points:

- The Election Commission has issued a notification in this regard. Employees of electricity-water, roadways-metro, dairy, fire fighter, medical education department and medical and health department are also involved in this.
- According to the orders issued by the Election Commission, doctors in the medical sector, para medical staff, ambulance workers, electricians in the energy department, linemen, pump operators in PHED, turners, employees working in milk committees of Rajasthan, driver-conductors in roadways and election officials. Media employees authorized by the Commission will be given the facility of voting through postal ballot from this year.
- For the first time, journalists have been included in the category of service voters. Till now, the facility of service voting was available only to the employees-officers posted on election duty, army or para military personnel.
- All these essential service personnel have been given the facility of postal ballot from now on. The concerned departments will tell how many employees they have who will be on duty on the day of voting and who may be deprived of voting on that day. On the basis of that list, the Returning Officer will issue Form 12-D to those employees and they will be given the facility of voting through ballot paper at the Facilitation Centre.

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Home Voting Facility to Eligible Voters for the First Time in Rajasthan

Why In News?

On October 12, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta informed that for the first time in Rajasthan, the Commission will provide home voting facility to eligible voters.

Key Points:

- According to the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the facility of home voting will be available as an option to 18.05 lakh eligible voters in the 2023 assembly general elections in Rajasthan. Under this, booth-level officers will go door-to-door and give information about the facility of home voting.
- This facility will be available to senior citizens above 80 years of age and more than 40% disabled category voters.
- This feature is there as an option. Eligible voters who wish to opt for this facility will have to fill up the 12-D form within 5 days of the issuance of the election notification and submit it to the BLO.
- The list of voters opting for home voting will be made available to the political parties recognised by the returning officer.
- The formed polling team will make these voters vote through postal ballot.
- It may be noted that there are 11,76,085 voters above the age of 80 years and 5,60,876 voters registered as special qualified people in the state.



'State One-Health Action Plan' will be made for Zoonotic Disease Control in the State

Why In News?

On October 13, 2023, Additional Chief Secretary of Medical and Health Department Shubhra Singh while addressing the inauguration ceremony of multi-sectoral consultation workshop organized in Jaipur said that action will be taken by preparing a 'State One-Health Action Plan' for the control and prevention of diseases with zoonotic infection.

Key Points:

- In this workshop organized under the joint auspices of the Department of Medical and Health, National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and US Center for Disease Control and Prevention Institute, national-level subject experts and representatives of technical partner institutions will brainstorm and prepare the outline of the first Rajasthan State One-Health Action Plan in the country.
- It was told in the workshop that 60 percent of the diseases in humans are natural and zoonotic due to infection, such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, parasites and others.
- Based on the discussions of various bodies, workplaces, their experience and natural conditions, action will be taken to control zoonotic diseases by implementing a one-health action plan.
- Shubhra Singh said that to face epidemics like Covid, it is necessary to prepare for basic resources and primary management and keeping this in mind, action is being taken by implementing a State Action Plan to eradicate rabies in Rajasthan.

Note:

- Additional Chief Secretary informed that preparations have already been made for many of the activities to be included in the One-Health Action Plan to be prepared for zoonotic disease control. For effective implementation, the cooperation of institutions like NCDs and CDCs of national and international level will be taken.



Rajasthan Excellence Received 'Tobacco Control Award' at National Level

Why In News?

Rajasthan was honored with the 'Tobacco Control Excellence Award' at the national level for its excellent work towards tobacco control and prevention in a program organized by the Union Health Ministry in Delhi on October 20, 2023.

Key Points:

- Additional Chief Secretary Medical and Health Shubhra Singh said that Additional Secretary Hekali Jimomi and Additional DDG Dr. L. Swasthicharan in the Union Health Ministry have given tobacco control

excellence award to Rajasthan for innovations in the field of tobacco control and excellent implementation of COTPA Act.

- State Nodal Officer, NTCP Dr. SN Dholpuria and Additional SPO Shri Narendra Singh received this award.
- Participation of youth has been ensured through Tobacco Free Youth Campaign in the state. Under this, a 60-day tobacco-free Rajasthan action plan was implemented and various activities including awareness programs, oath taking were conducted.
- It is noteworthy that Rajasthan has topped in all the activities of Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 2023. In the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign-2023, maximum challans were issued in Rajasthan under Section 4 and Section 6 of the COTPA Act. Similarly, under the campaign, Rajasthan has also topped in IEC activities, tobacco free villages, tobacco free educational campuses etc.



Chief Electoral Officer Launches "Sahaj Bhilwara" App

Why In News?

On October 23, 2023, 'Sahaj Bhilwara' app, developed as an innovation of Bhilwara District Election Officer, was launched by Rajasthan Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta.

Key Points:

- Through this app, the participation of the elderly in the age group of more than 80 years and more than 40 percent disabled category voters will be increased and supervision of the voting process will be facilitated.
- Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said during the app launch that the Election Commission of India, New Delhi is providing the facility of voting through

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postal ballot to senior citizens, specially abled people, Covid affected voters in order to ensure maximum voting in Rajasthan Assembly General Election 2023.

- Regarding the IT-based 'Sahaj Bhilwara' app developed for monitoring and effective supervision of the entire process related to home voting in Bhilwara district, he said that through this app, it will help in ensuring 100 percent participation of absentee voters of senior citizen and special eligible categories in Rajasthan Assembly General Elections 2023.
- This app will prove to be helpful for all the employees and officers related to the election like BLO, PO, RO etc. in the successful execution of their responsibilities.
- According to the instructions of the Election Commission of India, in order to make the election process smooth and simple, for the first time in the assembly general elections in the state, the initiative of home voting has been taken for senior citizens above 80 years of age and special eligible voters of more than 40 percent disabled category of the district.
- In these elections, eligible voters will get this facility as an option to go to the polling station and vote. As part of the innovation in Bhilwara district, this app will facilitate the supervision of the voting process by increasing the participation of the elderly in the age group of more than 80 years and voters with more than 40 percent disability.
- 'Sahaj Bhilwara' app has been launched as an innovation in Bhilwara district to facilitate and simplify the supervision of the voting process through Form 12D during the Assembly general elections.
- Features of 'Sahaj Bhilwara' App:
 - Sahaj Bhilwara App is an IT application developed to help in better monitoring of 'home voting' for AVSC and AVPD voters.
 - It will help the Returning Officer to fill Form 12D, real-time monitoring of voting.
 - For absentee voters, three separate logins have been provided for returning officer, polling officer and booth level officer involved in the entire process of voting.
 - This application will not replace the process already being done by the Returning Officer, Polling Officer and Booth Level Officer at their level, but will facilitate the Returning Officer in monitoring the entire process.

- This application will help the Returning Officer to make a better action plan and it will also make the schedule and deployment of polling parties easier.
- The app also includes the facility to inform eligible 80+ elderly and differently-abled voters about the date and time of voting through SMS. This will keep the voter aware when the polling party will come to their house for the voting process.
- At the level of BLO login, features like Form 12D details entry, filled in Form 12D along with voter's photograph, benchmark disability certificate, GPS location etc. have been included in the application.
- At the PO login level, polling party personnel can reach the voter's home using the GPS location facility provided in the app to reach the house of the concerned absentee voter and update the voting status on the Sahaj app.



Arun, Mundiari and Pareek of Rajasthan Patrika Received 'Laadli Media Award'

Why In News?

Recently, Arun Kumar, Senior News Editor of Rajasthan Patrika Jaipur, Kanaram Mundiari, Editorial In-charge of Rajasthan Patrika Bhilwara and Sikandar Pareek, Editorial In-charge of Magazine Ratlam, have been awarded 'Laadli Media Awards 2023' by 'Population First', a prestigious organization working in the field of gender equality.

Key Points:

- The 'Laadli Media Award' is given by 'Population First' organization to promote gender sensitivity. The 'Laadli Media Award' was announced by the organization on October 21 this year.

Note:

- More than 850 journalists from 13 languages from across the country had submitted entries for this award, out of which 87 were selected and honored by the jury members. Apart from these, 31 journalists were given jury commendation letters.
- Arun Kumar, Senior News Editor, Rajasthan Patrika Jaipur, was awarded the award in the gender sensitivity category for a story titled 'Rs 40,000 crore unemployment', Kanaram Mundiwar, editorial in-charge of Rajasthan Patrika Bhilwara, for a story titled 'Phulia Kala Ki Beti Ka Kamal, Touching the Sky Every Year', and Sikandar Pareek, editorial in-charge of Ratlam magazine, was given the award for 'Taleem Se Progress' for the column related to girl education.
- The vice-chancellor of Baba Amte Divyang University, Jaipur, Prof. S.K. Singh was also present on the occasion. Dr Dev Swarup, Head of Policy and Partnerships, United Nations Population Fund, Jaideep Biswas, Programme Management Specialist, UNFPA, Anuja Gulati, Programme Management Specialist and Kalyan Singh Kothari, Secretary, Lok Samvad Sansthan felicitated Pandey.



Safe School Safe Rajasthan - Second Phase of Awareness on 'Unsafe Touch' on 28th October

Why In News?

On October 25, 2023, Rajasthan School Education Department Secretary Naveen Jain said that under the 'Safe School Safe Rajasthan' campaign in more than 65 thousand government schools of the state, the second phase of awareness about 'Good Touch Bad Touch' will be organized on October 28 on 'No Bag Day'.

Key Points:

- Government Secretary Naveen Jain said that under this, master trainers prepared at the school level will give special training to all the children in a fixed time period (between 8 am to 12 noon) on the same day.
- Under this specially designed training module, children are taught the 'No-Go-Tell' principle of 'No-Go-Tell' by shouting 'No' in a bad touch situation and carefully running away from the place or person and telling an elder or the person they trust the most without any fear or panic about it.
- Psychologists and experts believe that if children are trained on this sensitive subject in three phases at regular intervals, it becomes permanently part of their understanding and behavior.
- They can keep themselves safe by facing 'Unsafe Touch' with alertness and alertness. For this purpose, the outline of the training has been prepared by the School Education Department in a phased manner. After the second phase this month, the third phase of training will be held in January in the new year.
- In the first phase of this campaign, on August 26 (Saturday), more than 58 lakh children were made aware and trained about 'unsafe touch' in more than one lakh sessions under the 'No Bag Day' activity in 65 thousand 122 government schools of the state.
- The Government Secretary informed that under this innovative initiative of the department, special training has been given to 1200 master trainers at the state level. Through these, in the training sessions organized in the districts, a teacher from all the schools of the concerned district has been made a 'Master Trainer'.
- In the first phase, these 'Master Trainers' prepared at the school level were trained by all the children in their respective schools for unsafe touch and bad touch. On the same lines, the second phase will be held in more than 65 thousand schools of the state on October 28 under 'No Bag Day'.



Note:

Governor Honored 10 Influential Women from Different Fields

Why In News?

On October 26, 2023, Governor Kalraj Mishra presented the 'India Today' Award to 10 influential women who have done great work in various fields at the India Today Women Summit and Award ceremony - Shakti, Courage and Success Utsav organized by the India Today Group.

Key Points:

- The Governor honored Tara Ahluwalia (Social Service Sector), Indian equestrian athlete Divyakirti (Sports Sector), Santosh Devi (Farming Sector), Anita Paliwal (Environmental Conservation through innovation for 18 years in Piplantri village of Rajsamand), Preeti Chandra (Outstanding Administrative Service), Neeru Yadav (Rural Development), Dr. Kriti Bharti (For efforts to prevent child marriage), Dr. Meva Bharti (For Labor Women's Rights), Monica Jangid (For Disabled Children) and Vasundhara Chauhan for showing indomitable courage. Honored with India Today Award.
- Referring to the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Act', he said that this will give more opportunities to women to participate in democracy. Along with promoting women's education, he also stressed on the need for all to work together to remove the evils spread in the society.
- The Governor expressed the need to increase the opportunities for women equality in rural areas, effective work on female foeticide, prevent gender inequality as well as work should be done not only theoretically but also practically for women empowerment.
- On this occasion, the Governor also released the introduction book published in honor of the honored women.



Chief Minister Announced the launch of his 5 Big Guarantees for the Assembly Elections

Why In News?

On October 27, 2023, State Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the launch of his 5 big guarantees for the Rajasthan Assembly elections 2023 by holding a press conference in the Congress War Room.

Key Points:

- The first guarantee in this list of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will be the Old Pension Scheme. It may be noted that in 2022, Gehlot had implemented the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in place of New Pension Scheme in Rajasthan. Rajasthan was the first state in the country to do so. Now Chief Minister Gehlot will guarantee that if his government comes to power, OPS will continue.
- The second guarantee is a free laptop. Although the announcement of free laptops was part of the budget of this term of the Gehlot government, the scheme did not go beyond paper. Now Chief Minister Gehlot will guarantee that if the government comes, he will give free laptops to the students of government colleges.
- The third one is Go Dhan Pashu Guarantee. This guarantee has been launched by the Congress government of Chhattisgarh. Now the Gehlot government will also guarantee purchase of animal dung and cow urine in villages.
- The fourth is the guarantee of an English medium school. It is noteworthy that Gehlot government had launched the scheme to open English medium schools across the state. Now Chief Minister Gehlot will guarantee to take it forward and implement it at the Panchayat level.
- Fifth Chiranjeevi is a guarantee of disaster relief. The Gehlot government had launched Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme during this tenure. In this, each family is given health insurance of Rs 25 lakh. Now Gehlot will take this scheme forward and extend it to disaster relief.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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