STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

RAJASTHAN

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Content

Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011

Why in News?

In compliance with the directions issued under the Action Plan 2025–26 of the **Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority,** a meeting of the **Victim Compensation Scheme** was held in July 2025. The committee approved a total compensation amount of ₹14.25 lakh under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

Key Points

- **Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011**: It aims to provide financial assistance to victims of crime or their dependents for medical expenses, rehabilitation, and funeral costs.
  - Administered by the **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or State Legal Services Authority (SLSA)**, the scheme supports victims who have not received compensation under any other scheme.

State Legal Services Authority:

- The State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) is constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, to implement the mandate of **Article 39-A of the Constitution,** which ensures equal justice and free legal aid.
  - Each state government sets up an SLSA to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society and to organize Lok Adalats for speedy dispute resolution.
- The SLSA is headed by the **Chief Justice of the High Court as Patron-in-Chief,** with a sitting or retired High Court Judge as Executive Chairman (nominated by the Governor in consultation with the Chief Justice).
- It ensures that justice is accessible, inclusive, and affordable, regardless of economic or social barriers.

Lumpy Skin Disease

Why in News?

Fresh cases of **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** in cows have recently been reported in **the Sirohi district, Rajasthan,** three years after the region was devastated by the same disease.

Key Points About Lumpy Skin Disease

- **Causes:** LSD is caused by **infection of cattle or water buffalo** with the **poxvirus Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV).**
  - According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),** the mortality rate is less than 10%.
  - Lumpy skin disease was first seen as an **epidemic in Zambia in 1929**. Initially, it was thought to be the result of either poisoning or hypersensitivity to insect bites.
- **Transmission:** Lumpy skin disease is primarily **spread between animals** by biting insects (vectors), such as mosquitoes and biting flies.
- **Symptoms:** The disease is **marked by the appearance of lumps on the skin of infected cows** and can lead to a reduction in milk production and, in severe cases, death.
  - It primarily consists of **fever, fluid excretion from eyes and nose,** dribbling of saliva from the mouth and blisters on the body.
- **Prevention and Treatment:** Vaccination against these diseases is covered under the **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme of India.**
  - There are **no specific antiviral drugs available** for the treatment of lumpy skin disease.
    - The only treatment available is supportive care of cattle. This can include treatment of skin lesions using wound care sprays and the use of antibiotics to prevent secondary skin infections and pneumonia.
  - **Anti-inflammatory painkillers** can be used to keep up the appetite of affected animals.0
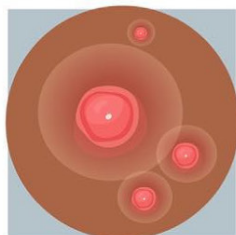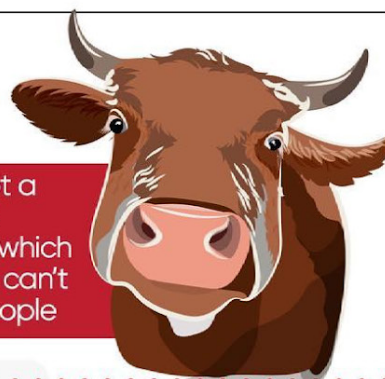
LUMPY SKIN DISEASE IN CATTLE

- Called LSD for short, it is caused by a poxvirus
- It is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito or tick
- It can spread through saliva & nasal secretions

LSD is not a zoonotic disease, which means it can't infect people

MAIN SYMPTOM

Skin nodules/lumps in one area or all over the body

THE EFFECT IN CATTLE

- Reduced milk production
- Reduced male fertility
- Weight loss
- Pregnancy loss

TREATMENT

- No specific remedy
- Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs & vitamins are prescribed to prevent a secondary infection

An outbreak of LSD has been reported in:
- India
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- China
- Vietnam
- Myanmar
- Thailand

In Malaysia, just 0.1% of 81,252 head of cattle tested at 9,108 farms have the disease

Bhilwara's Ashwini Vishnoi Wins Gold at U-17 WWC

Why in News?

Bhilwara's Ashwini Vishnoi made history by winning a **gold medal at the Under-17 World Wrestling Championship (WWC),** which took place in Athens, Greece (from 28th July to 3rd August 2025).

- 💡 In a spectacular display of skill and determination, she triumphed over **Uzbekistan's Mukayo Rakhimjonova** 3-0 in the final.
- 💡 This victory marks her as **Rajasthan's first female wrestler** to win this prestigious title, boosting her prominence internationally.

Key Points

- 💡 In her first match, **she defeated a wrestler Mukayo Rakhimjonova from Uzbekistan.**
  - 🏹 She then won her second match against a wrestler from Kazakhstan.
  - 🏹 Ashwini advanced to the **final, where she faced China's Jiaao** in the 65 kg category and **won the match easily, securing the gold medal.**
- 💡 In the last two years, **Ashwini** has not only gained **national recognition** but has earned **five international gold medals**, solidifying her place on the global stage.

✦ She has won multiple **gold medals**, including triumphs at the **Asian Wrestling Championship** and the **World Wrestling Championship**.

World Wrestling Championship (WWC)

💡 The WWC is **organized by United World Wrestling (UWW).** United World Wrestling (UWW) is the international governing body for the sport of amateur wrestling, both for **Greco-Roman wrestling (men only) and freestyle wrestling (men's and women's).**

💡 UWW is **headquartered** in Corsier-sur-Vevey, **Switzerland.**

Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS)

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has disbursed **₹765.78 crore in investment incentives** under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Key Points

💡 **About:** RIPS 2024 is the Rajasthan government's flagship scheme to **promote investments** across manufacturing, services, **renewable energy**, **MSMEs**, startups, and sunrise sectors.
   ✦ Launched at a **UK roadshow in October 2023**, the scheme operates until 31st March 2029, with potential revisions as needed.

💡 **Priority Sectors and Categories:**
   ✦ Manufacturing, services, sunrise sectors, MSMEs, startups, industrial infrastructure, logistics, warehousing, R&D, and global capability centers.
   ✦ Special focus on women, youth, and startups; logistic infrastructure requires minimum investments ranging from ₹2 crore (warehouse or cold chain) to ₹50 crore (**multi-modal logistics parks**).

💡 **Key Incentives:**
   ✦ **Capital Subsidy:** Up to 28% of eligible investment for some sectors.
   ✦ **SGST Reimbursement:** Up to 75% of State **GST** for a defined period.

✦ **Stamp Duty Reimbursement:** Up to 75% exemption and reimbursement for the remainder.
✦ **Renewable Energy Focus:** 100% exemption of electricity duty, 75% exemption in stamp duty and conversion charges (remainder reimbursed), banking and transmission exemptions, and dedicated benefits for **green hydrogen** and energy storage.

💡 **Eligibility:**
   ✦ For new/expansion investments and for projects starting commercial production within the operative policy period or two years from entitlement, whichever is later.
   ✦ Eligible entities may access single-window clearance through the **Rajnivesh portal**, streamlining applications and approvals.

💡 **Implementation and Scale:**
   ✦ Rajasthan has signed MoUs worth ₹35 lakh crore as per the 2024 **Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit,** with over ₹4.12 lakh crore under implementation.
   ✦ Regular partnership conclaves and roadshows to attract both domestic and global investors.
     🖉 The Rajasthan government will host the Rising Rajasthan Partnership Conclave in Jaipur on 11-12 December 2025 to further strengthen partnerships with industry leaders, institutions, and multilateral bodies, **continuing the momentum of investment** and collaboration in the state.

Key Facts About Rajasthan

💡 Rajasthan is the **largest State** in the country in terms of area.
   ✦ It is spread over the geographical area of about 3.42 lakh square kilometres, which is **10.41% of India's total land area.**
💡 It is located in the **northwest part of the country** and is surrounded by the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
💡 The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2023-24 is USD 182.02 billion, with a **GSDP growth rate of 8.03%** at constant prices (2011-12).

Controversy Over Jaisalmer as Part of Maratha Empire

Why in News?

A historical controversy has erupted following a **claim in the NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training)** textbook where Jaisalmer is depicted as part of the **Maratha Empire**.

Historians' Arguments on Maratha Relations with Jaisalmer

- 💡 **Rajput's Arguments:** The **royal family of Jaisalmer, led by Chaitanya Raj Singh, the 44ᵗʰ Maharawal of Jaisalmer**, has strongly objected to this portrayal, calling it a grave historical error and highlighting that there is **no evidence of Maratha influence in Jaisalmer**—a region that remained independent throughout various invasions, including those by the Mughals and the British.
- 💡 Historical accounts reveal that the region's Rajput rulers defended their sovereignty, and there was **no Maratha intervention or taxation in Jaisalmer.**
- 💡 **Maratha's Arguments:** Maratha historians cite the **1752 Ahadnama** (a pact between Mughal Emperor Ahmad Shah Bahadur and Maratha commanders Malharrao Holkar and Mahadji Shinde) and argue that, while the **Marathas did not have direct day-to-day control, Rajput states**, including Jaisalmer, were **made to pay chauth and sardeshmukhi taxes.**
  - ✦ Pandurang Balkawade (historian from Pune) points to Peshwa administration records showing regular collection of **chauth from the Ajmer (Mewar) region.**

Jaisalmer

- 💡 **Location & Significance:** Jaisalmer, often referred to as the **"Golden City,"** is located in **western Rajasthan,** close to the **Pakistan border and the Thar Desert.**
  - ✦ Its prominent landmark is the **Jaisalmer Fort**, also known as **Sonar Qila** (Golden Fort), which is unique for **being a living fort**.

- 💡 **Historical Background:** Jaisalmer was founded in **1156** by **Rawal Jaisal**, a **descendant of the Yaduvanshi clan**. After being passed over for the throne of Lodurva, Jaisal sought a new capital, guided by the prophecy of sage Eesul (local hermit).

- 💡 **Cultural Heritage:** Jaisalmer's **cultural and architectural beauty** is shaped by its **Rajput heritage**, with influences from the **Bhati Rajputs**.

- 💡 **Geological Significance:** The **Wood Fossil Park (Aakal) in Jaisalmer** shows fossils from the **Thar Desert** for a glimpse into geological history, dating back 180 million years.

- 💡 **Post-Independence: Jaisalmer State** signed the **Instrument of Accession** with India on **7ᵗʰ April 1949**, merging with the Indian Union.

Marathas

- 💡 **Origin & Language:** The Marathas (speak **Marathi** language**)** are native to the Deccan Plateau, mainly present-day Maharashtra.

- 💡 **Shivaji Maharaj & the Rise of Maratha Power:**
  - ✦ **Born (1630):** Shivaji, from the Bhonsle clan, aimed to establish **Swarājya** (sovereignty).
  - ✦ **Military Campaigns:** At 16, he began capturing forts in the Pune region, growing his influence.
    - 🖉 Utilized guerrilla tactics against the Bijapur Sultanate, including defeating General Afzal Khan.
  - ✦ After Shivaji's death, Sambhaji **(Shivaji's son)** became the Chhatrapati. He was **captured and executed by Aurangzeb.**

- 💡 **Maratha Structural Transformation:**
  - ✦ **Decentralization:** After Shivaji's death, the Maratha power became more decentralized, with the **Peshwa gaining influence.**
  - ✦ **Expansion:** The **Marathas expanded across India**, briefly **controlling parts of Lahore, Attock, and Peshawar.**

Rajasthan's Government Hospital to offer CAR-T Cell Therapy

Why in News?

SMS Hospital in Jaipur will become the **first government hospital in Rajasthan** to establish a dedicated Department of Clinical Haematology (DCH), offering **CAR-T Cell Therapy.**

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** SMS Hospital has established a **Department of Clinical Haematology (DCH)** for the treatment of all types of **haematological cancers** and blood disorders, including bleeding disorders and **bone marrow transplants**.
  - ✦ This new department will offer **CAR-T Cell Therapy,** an advanced treatment option that has been previously available only at private hospitals in the state.
  - ✦ While the department is currently based at SMS Hospital, it will eventually be moved to the **State Cancer Institute** for better infrastructure and facilities.

- 💡 **CAR-T Cell Therapy:**
  - ✦ **About:** CAR-T Cell Therapy, or **Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell Therapy**, is India's first indigenous **gene therapy** for cancer treatment.
    - 🖉 This innovative therapy is based on **genetic modifications** and offers a promising treatment for certain cancers, including **blood cancers.**
    - 🖉 It modifies a **patient's T-cells** (a type of immune cell) to fight cancer more effectively.
    - 🧑 A patient's T-cells are extracted from their blood and genetically modified (to recognize and attack cancer cells).

- These modified cells, known as Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cells, are **multiplied and reintroduced** into the patient to target B-cells and prevent relapses.
  - The therapy was developed in India at just a **tenth of the cost** compared to its international price, making it more accessible to Indian patients.
- **Importance:** India's CAR T-cell therapy provides an **additional, patient-specific treatment option**, as the modified T-cells remain in the body, offering long-term immunity against cancer recurrence.
  - It is a patient-specific treatment, making it **highly precise** compared to traditional chemotherapy.
  - Notably, an **82-year-old woman from Jaipur** became the oldest recipient of CAR-T therapy in the country.
- **NexCAR19:** In 2023, **NexCAR19** became India's first **approved indigenous CAR-T cell therapy,** developed through a collaboration between IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Centre, and ImmunoACT (a company incubated at IIT Bombay).
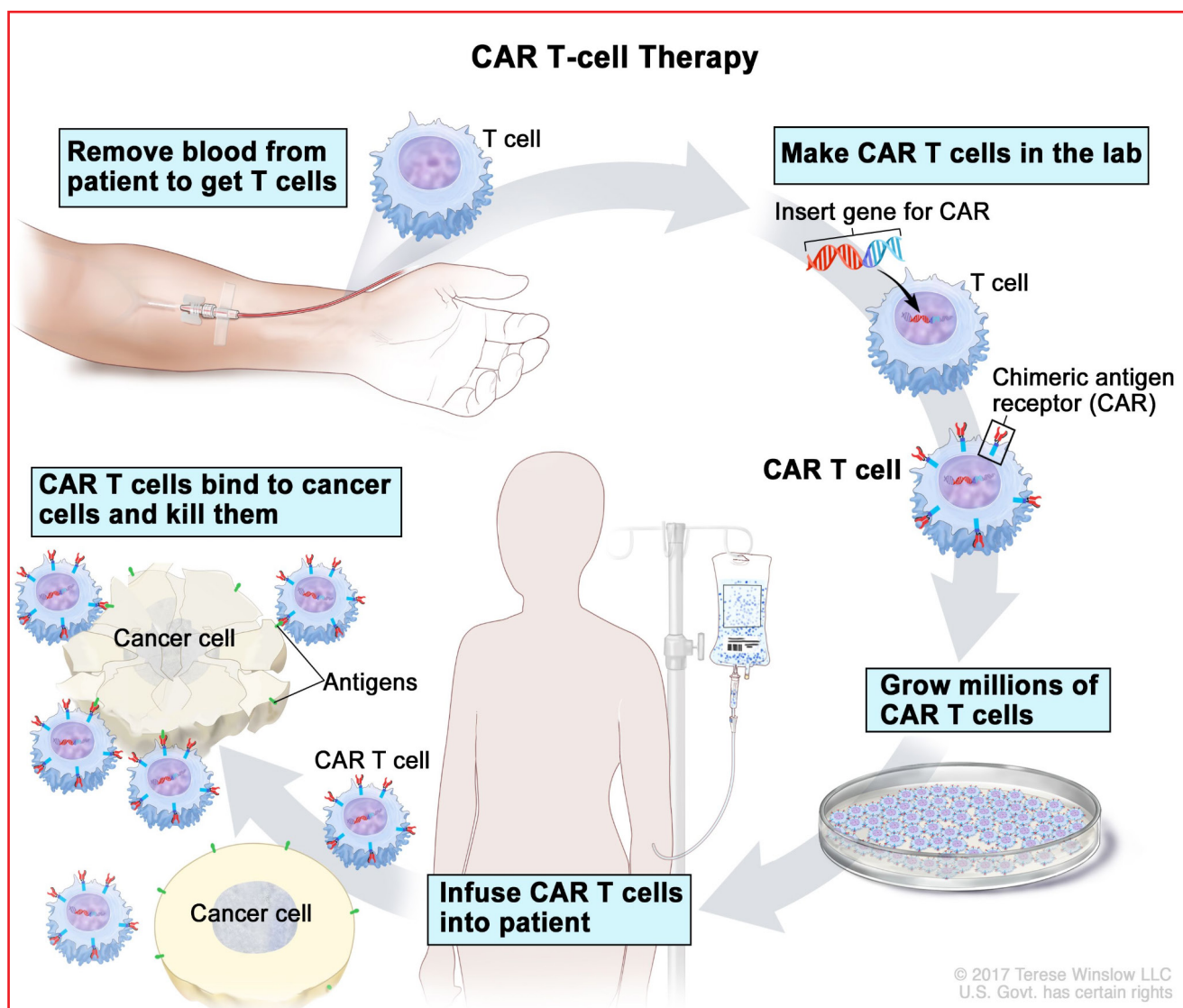
CAR T-cell Therapy

Remove blood from patient to get T cells

T cell

Make CAR T cells in the lab

Insert gene for CAR

T cell

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)

CAR T cell

CAR T cells bind to cancer cells and kill them

Cancer cell

Antigens

CAR T cell

Cancer cell

Grow millions of CAR T cells

Infuse CAR T cells into patient

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Rajasthan's First Sex-Sorted Semen Lab for Cattle

Why in News?

Rajasthan's first sex-sorted semen lab for cattle was inaugurated by Dairy Minister Joraram Kumawat on 11th August 2025 at Bassi, Jaipur, and aims to enhance livestock quality, breed improvement, and **milk production** in the state.

Key Points

- **Operation:** The lab will operate under the **Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF)** with support from the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB),** based in Anand, Gujarat.
  - A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by RCDF, **Rajasthan Livestock Development Board (RLDB),** and NDDB Dairy Services (NDS) for the management and operation of the Bassi Semen Station.
  - The MoU aims to enhance the production and supply of both **conventional and sex-sorted semen** doses for artificial insemination in Rajasthan.

- **Purpose & Impact:** The lab aims to **enhance cattle genetics** for improved milk production in the region by providing livestock farmers with affordable, high-quality semen doses for artificial insemination.

- **Production and Pricing:** The annual production capacity is **10 lakh doses of semen,** with varying pricing based on sex-sorted, indigenous conventional, and imported breed semen, and extra doses may be sold to other agencies at market rates.

- **Significance:** The Bassi Semen Station is set to become a key resource in Rajasthan, not only for semen production but also as an **educational and support center for livestock farmers,** driving forward both the **economic and environmental goals** of the **dairy industry** in the region.

BSF Launches 'Operation Alert'

Why in News?

The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has launched a week-long security operation called **'Operation Alert'** along the **Indo-Pak** border in Rajasthan.

Key Points

- **About:** The operation will run between 11th August 2025 to 17th August 2025 and is aimed at strengthening security and preventing any infiltration attempts ahead of **India's Independence Day.**

- **Objectives:**
  - **Strengthen surveillance** to prevent **infiltration and smuggling**, especially in the sensitive areas adjoining Sriganganagar and Bikaner.
  - Respond to intelligence reports suggesting potential disturbances orchestrated by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) leaders in Pakistan.
  - Focus on preventing **narcotic smuggling via drones**, particularly in areas prone to such activities.

- **Personnel Involved:** BSF soldiers and officers from all branches are participating in the operation, with additional soldiers deployed to sensitive areas.
  - The BSF will also **conduct outreach programs** with border residents to increase awareness and cooperation.

CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

The CAPF includes the seven security forces in India functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Assam Rifles (AR)

- **Origin:** 1835, as militia called **'Cachar Levy'**
  - **Erstwhile objective:** To protect British Tea estates
- **Current Objectives:**
  - Conducting anti-terrorist operations in NER
  - Ensuring security at India-China and India-Myanmar borders
- **Imp Role in:**
  - Sino-India War 1962
  - Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka (1987)

> *Due to long association with tribal belts, Assam Rifles are also called 'Friends of the North East'*

Border Security Force (BSF)

- **Origin:** 1965
- **Objectives:**
  - Securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
  - Also performing Anti-Infiltration in Kashmir Valley
  - Counter Insurgency in NER
  - Anti-Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- **Wings:** Air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units

> *BSF is India's First Line of Defence and the world's largest border guarding force*

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- **Pre-Independence Origin:** 1939 (Crown Representative's Police)
- **Post Independence:** 1949 - under CRPF Act, became Central Reserve Police Force
- **Objective:** Crowd control, riot control, counter militancy/insurgency operations, etc.

> *CRPF is the principle central police force for internal security*

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- **Origin:** 1962
- **Objectives:**
  - Deployed on border from Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh) (~3488 km of Indo-China Border)
  - Manning Border Outposts on altitudes 9000 ft - 18700 ft in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border

> *ITBP is India's specialised mountain force & the first responder to natural disasters*

National Security Guard (NSG)

- **Origin:** 1984 (came into being in 1986), following **Operation Blue Star**
- **Objectives:** Counter-terrorism unit/Federal Contingency Force
- **Task-oriented Force - Two complementary elements:**
  - Special Action Group (SAG)
  - Special Ranger Groups (SRG)

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- **Origin:** 1963
- **Objectives:**
  - Guarding Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders
  - Enhance border security, curb trans-border crimes, prevent unauthorised entry/exit, halt smuggling, etc.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- **Origin:** Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- **Objectives:** Ensuring security of major critical infrastructure installations

> *CISF is the sole CAPF unit with a specialised fire wing*

Drishti IAS

Aravali Green Development Project

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has launched the **Aravali Green Development Project** aimed at **ecological restoration** and **desertification** control across 3,700 hectares in 19 districts along the Aravali range.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** The Rs 250 crore project, spanning **five years,** aims to restore the **Aravali ecosystem**, combat land degradation and desertification, with the first year focused on plantation and the following year on maintenance.
  - ✦ The project is aligned with the **Aravali Green Wall Project**, which aims for massive plantations across the Aravalis, **from Delhi to Ahmedabad.**
- 💡 **Geographical Focus:** The project **spans 19 districts from Alwar to Sirohi,** covering approximately 550 kilometers (80% of the Aravali range in Rajasthan).
- 💡 **Monitoring and Oversight:** The project will be monitored by the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** using indicators like flora and fauna recovery, **groundwater** level changes, and microclimatic shifts.
- 💡 **Project Goals:**
  - ✦ Restoration of the deteriorating Aravali ecosystem.
  - ✦ Prevention of sandstorms from the **Thar Desert** reaching the National Capital Region (NCR) serving as an **ecological defense mechanism** for North India.
  - ✦ Combat **soil erosion**, **desertification**, and the adverse impacts of deforestation.
  - ✦ Helps in improving biodiversity, groundwater recharge, and **long-term ecological sustainability.**
- 💡 **Plantation Strategy:**
  - ✦ Indigenous and climate-resilient species, including **Khejri (state tree), Babool, Dhak,**

Neem, Ber, and native grasses like Sevan and Dhaman for soil stabilization.
- ✦ Species chosen for their adaptability to varying climates (dry zones in Sikar to humid areas in Dungarpur and Sirohi).
- ✦ **Plantation will occur exclusively on forest land**, avoiding areas with human habitation or encroachment.
- ✦ Long-term sustainability is emphasized with careful maintenance to ensure the survival of saplings in **arid zones like Jaipur and Sikar.**

Country's First Drone-Based Cloud Seeding Experiment

Why in News?

The state agriculture department of **Rajasthan** launched the **first-ever drone-based cloud seeding experiment** to address the **water crisis** in the region and revive the **Ramgarh Lake**.

Key Points

- 💡 **Objective:** The experiment **aims to trigger rainfall** by dispersing **specialized chemicals** into **rain clouds**, potentially benefiting agricultural activities in the region.
  - ✦ This 60-day pilot project aims to **promote water droplet formation** in clouds to tackle the **area's water shortage,** as part of a larger, ongoing effort to address regional water scarcity.
- 💡 **Technology Used:** The cloud seeding process is powered by an **AI-driven platform** called **Hydro Trace**, which uses real-time data, **satellite imaging**, and sensor networks to target the right clouds at the right time accurately.
- 💡 **Approvals:** The technology received approvals from multiple bodies, including the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, the India Meteorological Department, district authorities, and the agriculture department.

Cloud seeding
Traditional method of rainmaking, in use since the 1940s

Silver iodide

1 An aircraft injects silver iodide or other substances into the atmosphere

2 The chemicals mimic the particles that serve as surfaces for condensation that creates water droplets

3 Once the condensation creates water droplets that are large enough, the rain will fall
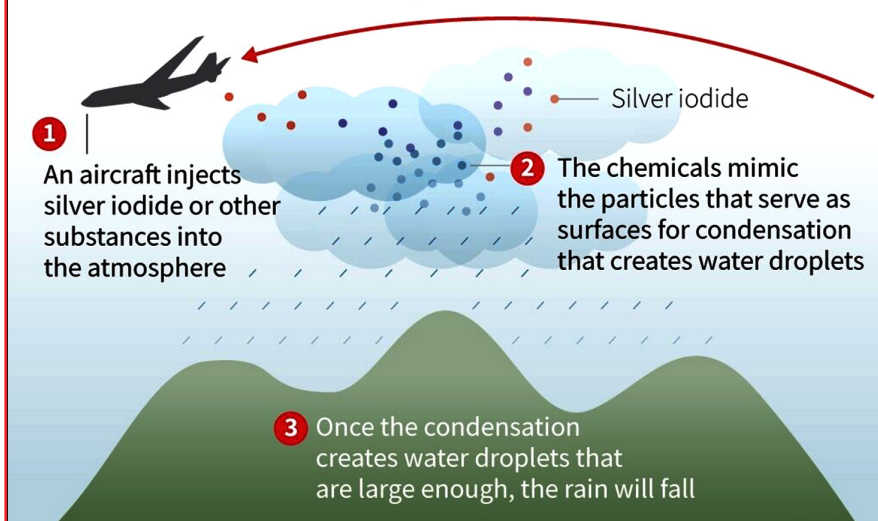
Cloud Seeding

- 💡 It is a **weather modification technique** that enhances precipitation by dispersing chemicals like **silver iodide, potassium iodide,** or **dry ice** into clouds, serving as nuclei for water droplet formation, leading to rainfall.
- 💡 It can help **combat air pollution,** especially during periods of high **Air Quality Index (AQI)** readings.
- 💡 Cloud seeding may **increase water availability** and result in economic, environmental, and human health benefits.

Cloud Seeding Techniques

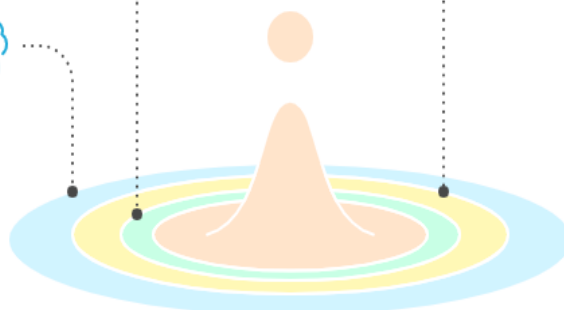**Dynamic Cloud Seeding**
Enhances vertical air currents to promote rain cloud growth.

Hygroscopic Cloud Seeding
Uses salt particles to increase cloud droplet size.

Glaciogenic Cloud Seeding
Induces ice formation in clouds to trigger precipitation.

Lesser Florican Conservation Crisis
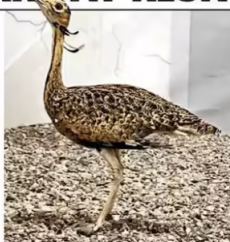
Why in News?

The unchecked release of stray dogs from Nasirabad and Ajmer into the forested expanse of **Arwar Conservation Reserve** has emerged as a grave threat to the **Lesser Florican.**

Key Points

- 💡 **Decline in Population:** The **Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*),** once common in Rajasthan's monsoon **grasslands**, has experienced a **catastrophic 97% decline.**
    - ✦ In the year 2025, **only one male was spotted in the breeding grounds** of Ajmer**,** Kekri, and Shahpura, a sharp decrease from 39 in 2020.
    - ✦ A landscape survey by the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)** highlighted the species' dwindling numbers, with the lone male observed near Bandanwara.

WHY THEY ARE AT RISK

- ● Lesser floricans are critically endangered according to the IUCN
- ● They are shy and cannot tolerate human presence
- ● Loss of habitat due to declining grasslands
- ● Pesticide usage in breeding grounds
- ● Threat of destruction of eggs due to human activity

Lesser Florican (Sypheotides Indicus)

- 💡 It is one of **three bustard species** endemic to India, the others being the **Bengal florican** (Critically Endangered) **and the Great Indian Bustard** (Critically Endangered).
- 💡 It is the **smallest of the bustard family** and is renowned for its spectacular **leaping breeding display.**
- 💡 In the local language, the bird is known as **'tanmor' or 'kharmor',** derived from the root word 'mor' for peacock.
- 💡 It is mainly observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

- 💡 **Conservation status:**
    - ✦ **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
    - ✦ **Wildlife Protection Act,1972:** Schedule I
    - ✦ **CITES:** Appendix II

HIV-AIDS Awareness on International Youth Day

Why in News?

On **International Youth Day (12th Aug 2025)**, the **Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society** organized a state-level program in Jaipur, launching an **intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to promote HIV-AIDS awareness** among youth across the state.

International Youth Day (IYD)

- 💡 **Established by: UN General Assembly in 1999**
    - ✦ **Initial Proposal:** 1991 by young participants at World Youth Forum, Vienna
    - ✦ **Official Resolution:** World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Lisbon (1998)
- 💡 **First Celebrated:** 12th August 2000
- 💡 2025 Theme: "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond"
    - ✦ With over **65% of SDG targets linked to local governance,** youth engagement is a necessity.
- 💡 **Objectives:**
    - ✦ Draw attention to youth issues worldwide
    - ✦ Promote youth engagement in sustainable development
    - ✦ Celebrate youth contributions to society.

AIDS

- 💡 **AIDS** is a **chronic, life-threatening condition caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV),** which attacks the immune system, **targeting CD4 cells** (white blood cells, vital for the immune system).
    - ✦ It spreads through **unprotected sex, infected blood, and sharing needles.**

✦ While there is **no cure, antiretroviral therapy (ART) can suppress** the virus and help restore CD4 cells.

💡 The Global AIDS Update 2023 highlights a **decline in new infections, aiming to eliminate AIDS by 2030.**

✦ In India, over 2.5 million people live with HIV, with a 44% reduction in new infections since 2010.

National Youth Day

💡 **India celebrates the National Youth Day, on 12ᵗʰ January** every year on the occasion of **Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary**.

✦ Since 1984, the nation has marked the day by urging the youth **to live up to the values, principles and beliefs that Vivekananda embraced.**

✦ **Swami Vivekananda's born on 12ᵗʰ January 1863, Kolkata.**

💡 **Swami Vivekananda is considered one of the great Indian monks** who enlightened the **Western world about Hinduism.**

✦ As a **disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa,** he pushed for national integration in colonial India and is credited with reviving Hinduism in the nation.

PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme

Why in News?

A team from the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO) visited various schools in Jaisalmer** to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Scheme.

💡 The team aimed to **assess the ground-level implementation of the PM SHRI scheme**, engage with stakeholders and beneficiaries, **identify good practices, address regional challenges,** and collect inputs for evidence-based documentation to enhance the scheme's effectiveness.

Key Facts About PM SHRI Scheme

💡 **Launch: 7ᵗʰ September 2022 (Centrally Sponsored Scheme).**

💡 **Duration of Scheme:** From 2022-23 to 2026-27

💡 **Coverage: Development of over 14,500 existing schools** managed by Central, State, UT governments, and local bodies.

💡 **Objective:** Showcase National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation and act as model schools mentoring nearby institutions.

💡 **Funding Pattern:**

✦ **60:40** between the **Centre and States/UTs** with legislature (except J&K).

✦ **90:10** for **Northeastern and Himalayan** States and J&K.

✦ **100%** for **UTs** without legislature.

💡 **Key Features of PM SHRI Schools:**

✦ Focus on **holistic student development,** including communication, collaboration, and **critical thinking.**

✦ Experiential, inquiry-driven, and **learner-centred teaching methods.**

✦ Modern **facilities like labs, libraries,** art rooms, and "green" initiatives (water conservation, waste recycling).

✦ **Best-in-class facilities** such as Smart Classrooms, Computer Labs, Integrated Science Labs, and Atal Tinkering Labs.

✦ **Competency-based assessments** prioritizing real-life learning outcomes.

Divyansh M Bhardwaj: Best Sarpanch in Rajasthan

Why in News?

In a recognition of his **innovative leadership and community initiatives**, Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** awarded **Divyansh M Bhardwaj,** Sarpanch of **Awan Panchayat** in Tonk district, the title of **Best Sarpanch in Rajasthan** during the state-level Independence Day celebrations at **Mehrangarh Fort.**

💡 Divyansh is the **only awardee among 11,341 panchayats** across 41 districts.

Key Points

💡 **Building Supporting Infrastructure:** Under Divyansh's leadership, **Awan Panchayat** has witnessed transformative projects, including:

✦ Separate **air-conditioned libraries with internet access** for boys and girls.

✦ Construction of **two cremation grounds** and a **heritage panchayat building**.

✦ Development of a **marriage garden with a banquet hall** and a **ghat with a dressing room** at Rajkaleshwar Teerth.

💡 **Capacity Building:** An **MBA graduate from Switzerland**, Divyansh has implemented several **progressive initiatives**, such as:

✦ Sponsoring **air travel for students** for educational purposes.

✦ Appointing a **girl student as Sarpanch on Balika Divas**, promoting women's leadership.

💡 **Role Model:** Divyansh's projects have set **Awan as a model of excellence**, with the **Awan Panchayat model being considered for replication in Maharashtra**.

National Panchayat Awards 2025: The **2025 National Panchayat Awards** were presented by the Prime Minister on **National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April)** in **Madhubani, Bihar** to recognise top-performing Panchayats aligned with the **9 Local Development Goals (LSDGs)** covering all **17 SDGs**.

Special Categories of National Panchayat Awards:

💡 **Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA):** For climate-responsive Panchayats.

💡 **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA):** For promoting self-reliance via Own Source Revenue (OSR).

💡 **Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP):** For excellence in capacity building and training of Panchayati Raj representatives.

Rajasthan's Career Guidance Portal

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan School Education Council** has introduced a new **career guidance portal** aimed at empowering students in **classes 9 to 12.** The portal is designed to provide career support, resources, and a roadmap to success for students.

Key Features of the Portal

💡 **Job Listings**: Over 600 job options across 23 fields like engineering, law, agriculture, media, IT, and more.

💡 **CV Creation**: Students can create professional CVs to present their skills and experiences effectively to prospective employers.

💡 **Internships**: The portal offers access to a variety of internship programs, allowing students to gain practical experience in their chosen fields.

💡 **Vocational Training**: Access to vocational courses and skill development opportunities to better prepare students for the workforce.

Career Counselling Calendar

💡 In addition to the portal, the **Rajasthan Education Department** has **issued** an **annual calendar for career counselling sessions** in government senior secondary schools.

💡 These **monthly sessions** will include **group and parent discussions, CV-making workshops**, seminars, interviews, **career planning, and skill development activities,** ensuring that career guidance is seamlessly integrated into the school system and providing students with valuable insights on their career options.

Sanskrit in Rajasthan's Pre-Primary Classes

Why in News?

Rajasthan is set to **introduce Sanskrit** as a **subject for pre-primary classes** in state government schools, **a first in the country,** aiming to teach the **ancient language to children aged 3 to 5.**

Key Points

- 💡 **Curriculum Development: Sanskrit books** tailored for pre-primary students have been developed by the **Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT)** and have been **approved by NCERT** and the **state government**.
  - ✦ These books are designed for use in both **Sanskrit** and **Hindi/English medium government schools**, demonstrating the initiative's inclusive approach.
  - ✦ Each book also includes a list of taught words in **Sanskrit**, **Hindi**, and **English**, along with space for children to write the words in their **mother tongue**.
  - ✦ The material includes **illustrations** of everyday items (**numbers**, **animals**, **birds**) with corresponding **Sanskrit** words.
- 💡 **State's Long-Term Vision:** Rajasthan currently has **2,369 Sanskrit schools**. The project will roll out in **three phases**:
  - ✦ **Phase 1**: **Sanskrit** will be introduced in **757 new pre-primary Sanskrit schools**, set to open within a month.
  - ✦ **Phase 2 & 3**: Sanskrit will be introduced in **962 Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools (MGEMS)** and **660 PM-Shree Schools** across Rajasthan by next year.
- 💡 **Alignment with NEP:** The books align with the **National Education Policy (NEP)** and include concepts such as **numbers**, **days of the week**, **body parts**, and **moral stories**.

Sanskrit Language

- 💡 It is an **Indo-Aryan language** and is considered to be **one of the oldest languages,** and is known as the **mother of most languages of India.**
- 💡 It is believed to have **originated in India around 3500 years ago** and is often referred to as **Dev Vani (the language of the deities).**
- 💡 It is divided into **two parts** which are **Vedic** and **classical.**
  - ✦ **Vedic Sanskrit** is the **older and more archaic form of Sanskrit**, which is attested in the Rig Veda, the Upanishads, and the Puranas.

- ✦ **Classical Sanskrit** is the later and **more standardised form of Sanskrit**, which is **based on the grammar of Panini** and used in literature, philosophy, science, and art.

Note
- 💡 Sanskrit is **among the 22 official languages** included in the **Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution.**
- 💡 It is also included **among 11 Classical languages** besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.
- 💡 In **2010, Sanskrit was declared the second official language of Uttarakhand.**
- 💡 In **Mattur village of Karnataka, everyone speaks in the Sanskrit language**.

Rajasthan to Set Up 'Language Lab'

Why in News?

Chief Minister **Bhajanlal Sharma** has announced the establishment of a **'Language Lab'** to offer foreign language training to the youth.

Key Points

- 💡 **Objective:** The **Language Lab** will be set up in collaboration with **English and Foreign Language University (EFLU)** and the **Ministry of Education**.
  - ✦ The lab will offer training in languages such as **English, French, Spanish, and Japanese** to help young individuals gain proficiency in these languages.
- 💡 **Benefits for Youth:** The **language training** offered at the lab will enhance the skillset of Rajasthan's youth, making them competitive for roles in **tourism, trade, IT, education, and services sectors** both within the country and abroad.
  - ✦ The project aims to equip the youth with language skills, enabling them to explore job opportunities in both **domestic** and **international** markets.

PM Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

Why in News?

Under the Prime Minister's Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME), entrepreneurs in Jaipur and Rajasthan are eligible for a 35% subsidy for setting up or expanding food processing industries.

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a centrally sponsored PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) Scheme for providing financial, technical, and business support to micro food processing enterprises in India.

Key Points

- Subsidy Details: The PMFME Scheme provides a subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost or ₹10 lakh, whichever is lower, for setting up new food processing units.
  - This financial assistance is aimed at industries related to fruits and vegetables, grains, dairy products, oilseeds, animal feed, bakery products, and other food products like sago and asafoetida.

- Application Process: Applicants must apply online through the PMFME-MOFPI Portal.
  - The State Nodal Agency for the scheme is the Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board based in Jaipur, with the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) serving as the district-level nodal agency.

- Support for Applicants: The government has appointed District Resource Persons (DRPs) to assist applicants with application procedures, including loan details and scheme-related guidance.

- Eligibility and Requirements: The project cost does not include land costs, and technical civil work should not exceed 30% of the total project cost.
  - The scheme is valid until 31st March 2026, and aims to establish 634 food processing units in Jaipur district alone.

Status of the Food Processing Industry in India

- About: Food processing is a type of manufacturing in which raw materials are processed into intermediate foods or edible items using scientific knowledge and technology.
  - It improves the storability, portability, palatability, and convenience of the finished product.

- Significance:
  - As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2019-20, 12.2% of persons in the registered manufacturing sector were employed in the food processing sector.
  - The value of agri-food exports, including processed food exports, was about 10.9 % of India's total exports during 2021-22

- Government Initiatives:
  - 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approval under automatic route has been permitted for the food processing sector
  - A Special Food Processing Fund of Rs. 2000 crore was set up with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide affordable credit for investments in setting up Mega Food Parks (MFP) as well as processing units in the MFPs.

Discovery of Fossils in Jaisalmer

Why in News?

Workers excavating a pond in Fatehpur, Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan, may have uncovered fossils of a winged reptile from the Jurassic period, potentially 180 million years ago, which could redefine the fossil landscape of western India.

Key Points

- About: Villagers discovered a "large bone-like structure" and stone fossils as hard as wood, with geologists estimating the creature to be 8 to 10 feet long, and the structure itself measuring 6 to 7 feet.

- Experts believe these remains might be **vertebrate fossils,** possibly from a **flying herbivorous dinosaur.**
- 💡 **Significance:** The fossils may represent the **first flying reptile** discovered in the **Lathi Formation of Jaisalmer.**
    - The Lathi Formation is renowned for its **abundant fossil deposits,** providing valuable insights into life during the Jurassic period (around 180 to 200 million years ago).
    - This discovery would **add a new dimension** to the region's fossil map, complementing previous findings from **Akal and Thaiyat,** which are also believed to be from the dinosaur era.
    - Teams from the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** and **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** are set to examine the fossils in detail to determine their exact age and species.

First Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas

Why in News?

The **first Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas** will be observed on **10th December 2025 in Jaipur,** alongside the **Rising Rajasthan Partnership Conclave**, to recognize the contributions of Rajasthani migrants to other states and countries.

Key Points

- 💡 **About:** It is a **two-day conclave** organized as a follow-up to the **2024 Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit,** with investor roadshows to be held at key domestic and international locations beforehand.
- 💡 **Objective:** It aims to **promote partnerships across various sectors** and strengthen the state's relationships with key international and multilateral organizations.
- 💡 **Events:** The state government will present the **Pravasi Rajasthani Samman Awards** to **Non-Resident Rajasthanis (NRRs)** for their global achievements in business, science, art, industry, philanthropy, social service, and music.

- 💡 **Significance:** The event will serve as a platform to celebrate the achievements of the Rajasthani diaspora and promote **strategic industrial alliances.**
    - It will provide Non-Resident Rajasthanis (NRRs) an opportunity to reconnect with their roots and invest in the state's growth and development.
    - The event aligns with the state government's **NRR Policy 2025**, aimed to ensure sustained engagement with the diaspora and create a supportive environment for investment.
- 💡 **Other Measures:** The Government of Rajasthan (GoR) had established the **'Rajasthan Foundation (RF)'** in March 2001, under the **Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958** for a sustainable and meaningful connection with the NRRs.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

- 💡 **About:** **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** is observed biennially on 9th January, to celebrate the contributions of the **Indian diaspora** to their homeland.
    - The 18th PBD Convention was organised by Odisha from 8th to 10th January 2025, with the theme 'Diaspora's Contribution to a **Viksit Bharat'** (Developed India).
- 💡 **Background & History:** This bi-annual celebration commemorates the day in 1915 when **Mahatma Gandhi,** the greatest Pravasi (migrant), returned to India from South Africa to lead the country's **freedom struggle**.
- 💡 **PBD Conventions:** The PBD Convention was first established in 2003 under the government of then Prime Minister Late **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee,** as a platform to recognise and engage with the overseas Indian community.
- 💡 **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA):** The award, given out as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya programme, is the highest honour conferred on a **Non-Resident Indian (NRI),** Person of Indian Origin (PIO); or an organisation or institution established and run by them.

> ✦ The award is to commemorate the contribution of the Indian diaspora to create a better understanding of India abroad, support India's causes and work for the welfare of the local Indian community

Eradication of Vilayati Babool

Why in News?

The Panchayati Raj Minister of Rajasthan directed officials from the **Panchayati Raj** and **Forest Department** to **conduct a study** and issue guidelines for the complete removal of Vilayati Babool (*Prosopis Juliflora*), including its roots.

Vilayati Babool (Prosopis juliflora)

- 💡 **About:** Locally known as Vilayati Kikar or Gando Baval, it is an **invasive alien plant species** native to Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean, now prevalent in India's arid and **semi-arid regions.**
- 💡 **Impact**:
  - ✦ The rapid spread of *Prosopis Juliflora* **hampers vegetation growth** and depletes **soil fertility**, reducing agricultural productivity.
  - ✦ Its expansion **destroys pasturelands,** creating difficulties for livestock grazing and facilitating the spread of more plants.

Invasive Alien Species

- 💡 **About:** Invasive Alien Species are **non-native organisms** (plants, animals, fungi, or even microbes) introduced beyond their natural range, forming self-sustaining populations.
  - ✦ They outcompete native species, disrupt ecosystems, and cause **significant ecological,** economic, and social impacts.
  - ✦ According to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),** IAS are species that can "arrive, survive, and thrive", often outcompeting native species for resources.
  - ✦ In India, the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972** defines IAS as non-native species that threaten wildlife or habitats.
- 💡 **Other Invasive Alien Species in India:** Animal species like African catfish, Nile tilapia, red-bellied piranha, alligator gar, **Red-eared Slider** (a North American turtle) and plants like Lantana and **Water Hyacinth** are among the most widespread invasive species in India.

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Key Points

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