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Tonk Road,
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Jaipur,
Rajasthan


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


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

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Solar Project in Pokhran

Why in News?

The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy inaugurated a **1.3 GW peak power solar project** at Pokhran in Jaisalmer.

Key Points

🔦 About Solar Project :

- ✦ The project is built entirely of **Made-in-India modules**, with **90% of the solar modules manufactured by Jaipur-based ReNew company**.
- ✦ **Objective:** The main objective of this project is to increase **electricity production** through **solar energy** and save the environment from **carbon emissions**.
- ✦ **Power Generation:** The project will generate around 2490 million units of electricity annually which will meet the power needs of around 5 lakh households.
- ✦ **Reduction in Carbon Emissions:** The project will reduce **carbon dioxide emissions by 2.3 million tonnes**, contributing to **environmental protection**.
- ✦ **Geographical Location:** The project is located in **Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan and is spread over an area of about 3500 acres**. The area provides suitable conditions for solar energy, which further increases the chances of success of the project.
- ✦ **Development in the energy sector:** This project will help in meeting the energy demand in the future. Also, there is a possibility of rapid development in the energy sector.

Make in India Initiative

🔦 Introduction:

- ✦ **Launched in 2014**, Make in India aims to transform the country into a leading global manufacturing and investment destination.
- ✦ It is led by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

- ✦ This initiative is an open invitation to potential investors and partners from across the world to participate in the **growth story of 'New India'**.

🔦 Objective:

- ✦ To **increase the growth rate of the manufacturing sector** to 12-14% per annum.
- ✦ To **create 100 million additional manufacturing jobs** by 2022 (revised date 2025).
- ✦ To increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to **GDP** to 25% by the year 2025.

Solar Energy

🔦 Introduction:

- ✦ This is the energy that comes from the sun. It is a **renewable and pollution-free energy source**, one of the **most abundant and sustainable energy sources** available on Earth.
- ✦ **Solar energy is used mainly in two ways:**
 - 📌 **Solar Thermal Energy:** In this, energy is produced by **converting the sun's rays into heat**. This energy is used to prepare hot water, control temperature or in industries.
 - 📌 **Solar Photovoltaic Energy:** In this, **sunlight is directly converted into electrical energy using solar panels (photovoltaic cells)**. This energy is used to supply electricity to homes, industries and other areas.

🔦 Advantages of solar energy:

- ✦ It is a renewable energy, meaning it is **always available**.
- ✦ Environmental impact is low as it **does not cause pollution**.
- ✦ It is a **sustainable source** that provides energy for a long time.
- ✦ Serves as a **solution to the energy crisis**, especially in remote areas where power supply is limited.

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National Food Security Act

Why in News?

The 'Give Up' campaign has been launched by the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Rajasthan to voluntarily remove ineligible beneficiaries from the list under the **National Food Security Scheme (NFSA)**.

- Under which, at the state level, more than 17 lakh 63 thousand ineligible persons have given themselves up from the scheme.

Key Points

About GiveUp Campaign:

- The 'GiveUp Abhiyan' was launched by the Rajasthan government in November 2024, with the aim of motivating capable and ineligible people to voluntarily give up the benefits of the food security scheme.
- This campaign targets people who have risen above the poverty line and are no longer eligible for this scheme.

National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013:

- This marks a paradigm shift in the approach towards food security from a welfare-based approach to a rights-based approach.
 - The NFSA covers 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population through the following means:
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana** : It covers the poorest population who are entitled to receive 35 kg of food grains per family per month.
- Priority Households (PHH)**: Families included under the PHH category are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.
 - The NFSA covers 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population through the following means:
 - In case of issuing ration card, it has been made mandatory for the eldest woman of the family aged 18 years or above to be the head of the household.
 - Further, the Act makes special provision for children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years, where they are provided with

nutritious food free of cost through a wide network of **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** centres (also known as Anganwadi centres).

MNREGA Scheme

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has changed the work timing under **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** keeping in mind the convenience and health of workers during the summer season.

Key Points

About MNREGA:

- MGNREGA is one of the world's largest employment guarantee programmes launched in 2005 by the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- The scheme provides a legal guarantee of a minimum of one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do unskilled manual work related to public works at minimum wages.
- Active Employees:** 14.32 Crore (Session 2023-24)

Key Features:

- The cornerstone of MGNREGA's design is its legal guarantee**, which ensures that any rural adult can request work and should be provided with work within 15 days.
 - If this commitment is not fulfilled then "unemployment allowance" should be provided.
- This requires that women be given priority in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries who have registered and requested for work are women.
 - Section 17 of MGNREGA** makes social audit of all works executed under MNREGA mandatory.

Implementing Agency:

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Government of India is monitoring the entire implementation of the scheme in collaboration with the state governments.

Objective:

- This act was introduced with the aim of improving the purchasing power of the rural people, it mainly aims to provide semi or unskilled work to the people living below the poverty line in rural India.
- It attempts to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in the country.

Amer Fort

Why in News?

US Vice President JD Vance, during his four-day visit to India with his family, met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed India-US relations in Jaipur.

Key Points

About the Visit:

- The Vance family was welcomed at the **Amer Fort** in traditional Rajasthani style, which included Kaachi Ghor, Ghoomar and Kalbelia dances.
- At the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) in Jaipur, he discussed India-US relations and praised the cultural experience of India.
- Amer Fort:
 - Introduction:

- Amber Fort**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is located in the **Aravalli mountain range**, about 11 kilometers from Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan.
- It is one of the most famous Rajput forts in India and a major centre of attraction for international tourists due to its grand architecture, historical significance and cultural splendor.
 - History and architecture:
- Amer Fort is a great example of Hindu architecture and Rajput architecture. A blend of Rajasthani and Mughal styles can be seen in its structure.
- Amer Fort was once the capital of the Kachwaha Rajputs. Its construction was started by Raja Man Singh I in the late 16th century.
- Later, Mirza Raja Jai Singh I and Sawai Jai Singh II made many important changes and expansions in it.

- The fort was constructed in four phases and is mainly made of light yellow, pink sandstone and white marble.
- The fort is divided into four main sections and each section has its own courtyard.
 - Major structures and attractions:
- It consists of a 'Diwan-i-Aam' (hall of public audience), 'Diwan-i-Khas' (hall of private audience), a 'Sheesh Mahal' (mirror palace) and a 'Sukh Niwas'.
 - Sukh Niwas is known for its distinctive coolness which is produced by the winds blowing over the falls.

Kalbelia Dance

- Kalbelia dance is an expression of the traditional lifestyle of the Kalbelia community, which belongs to Rajasthan.
- It was included in the list of **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** in the year 2010.
 - UNESCO's prestigious list consists of intangible heritage sites that help showcase the diversity of cultural heritage and raise awareness of its importance.
 - The list was established in 2008 at the time of the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- This dance form involves spinning and graceful movements, which makes this dance worth watching.
- It is often performed on any happy occasion and is considered an integral part of Kalbelia culture.
- It is performed only by women, while men play the instruments and provide the music.

Mobile Veterinary Units

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has launched a special campaign to promote **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU)** and the associated **1962-MVU chatbot service** in Rajasthan.

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Key Points**About the Scheme:**

- Under the **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) Scheme**, medical facilities have been provided to **more than 41 lakh animals in the state in the last one year**.
- Chatbot number 9063475027** has been launched which is a **WhatsApp** based service and provides **tele-consultancy facility**.
- The scheme is being operated through Call Centre **1962**, which was started about **six months ago**.
- Call centre operating company **BFIL**, a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank, is funding the scheme under **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**.

A publicity campaign for the scheme has been launched, which includes:

- Information will be given to **10 lakh livestock farmers via SMS**.
- There will be digital wall branding at **180 locations**.
- Audio publicity through **e-rickshaw and tempo**.
- 7 lakh pamphlets** will be distributed.
- Signage will be installed in **100 veterinary hospitals**.
- Key-chains, calendars and other promotional material** will be distributed.

Objective:

- Providing **medical services** to livestock owners at their homes.
- To make the MVU scheme **accessible to more livestock farmers**.
- To **expand and strengthen** access to and usage of the Service.
- Bringing **transparency and efficiency** in the animal husbandry sector through **digital and AI technologies**.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** can generally be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for a company's impact on the environment and social welfare.

It is a **self-regulating business model** that helps a company become socially responsible. By practicing corporate social responsibility, companies can be mindful of the impact they have on economic, social, and environmental factors.

India is the first country to make CSR spending mandatory under **Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013** with a framework for identifying potential CSR activities.

- CSR is mandatory only for companies which are covered under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, such as those having a net worth of Rs 500 crore or more, turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or more or net profit of Rs 5 crore or more.
- Unlike India, **most countries have voluntary CSR frameworks**. Norway and Sweden have adopted mandatory CSR provisions, but they started with a voluntary model.

One Time Settlement Scheme**Why in News?**

The Rajasthan government has implemented **One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS)** with the aim of providing relief to farmers and small entrepreneurs and strengthening the financial position of land development banks.

Key Points**About the Scheme:**

- The Rajasthan government had announced it in the **budget for the financial year 2025-26** and its first phase will be effective from **1 May to 30 September 2025**.
- This scheme will be applicable to loans disbursed by **Rajasthan Minorities Finance and Development Cooperative Corporation Limited (RMFDCC)**, which were **overdue by 31 March 2024**.

- Eligible borrowers are required to make a **lump sum payment of the entire outstanding principal by September 30, 2025**.
- On making a lump sum payment, **100% waiver** will be given on simple interest and penal interest.
- The benefit of the **one-time settlement scheme** will be available to **36,351 loanee members associated with Land Development Banks**.
- The scheme aims to recover **overdue loans worth Rs 760 crore**.
- The loanee members will be eligible to avail re-loan with 5% subsidy** under the scheme.
- An expenditure of Rs 200 crore** has been proposed by the state government for this scheme.

Importance:

- The state government will get help in **recovering the outstanding loan**.
- The financial burden on the borrowers** will be reduced, which will encourage them to join other schemes.
- Confidence and participation in **government schemes will increase** among the minority community.
- This will develop a sense of **awareness and responsibility** towards loan repayment.

Land Development Bank**Introduction:**

- Land Development Banks (LDB)** are **co-operative banks** established specifically for **agriculture and rural development**.
- These banks provide **long term loans**, which are mainly given to farmers for **land improvement, irrigation, horticulture, purchasing agricultural equipment, animal husbandry** and other agriculture related activities.

History:

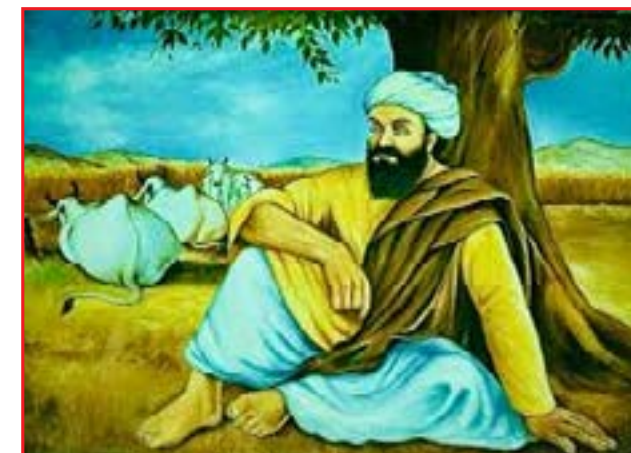
- The **first land development bank** in India was **established in 1920 at Jhang** in Punjab.
- After this, **another bank was established in Chennai in 1929**, with which the expansion of land development banks started.

Sources of Finance:

- Grants and assistance by Central and State Governments.
- Financing for agriculture and rural development.
- Issue of bonds to raise long term finance.
- Loans from various co-operative and commercial banks.

Saint Dhanna Bhagat Jayanti**Why in News?**

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan participated in the birth anniversary celebrations held at the birthplace of **Sant Dhanna Bhagat Ji**, located in Nokha-Nadi, Phagi area of Jaipur district.

Key Points**Dhanna Bhagat Ji:**

- He was a mystic poet born on **20th April 1415**, whose hymns are collected in the **Adi Granth**.
- The **gurudwaras** dedicated to him remain centers of faith, attracting devotees from Sikh communities.

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Key Highlights of the Celebration:

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced various religious, cultural, and social schemes of the state government, **emphasizing that the teachings of the saint remain relevant in today's times.**
- Saint Dhanna Bhagat Ji **chose the path of devotion and conveyed the message of the importance of selfless service** to humanity and the significance of karma.
- He **opposed casteism and made significant contributions through his literature and teachings** to eradicate the social evils prevalent in society.
- Dhanna Bhagat Ji is **equally revered and respected by both the Hindu and Sikh communities.**
- The Chief Minister described the saint as a symbol of **social equality, spiritual awareness and simple living.**

State Government Announcements and Initiatives:

- The state government has **increased the offering amount at temples to ₹3,000** per month and raised the **honorarium of priests to ₹7,500 per month.**
- Works worth **₹101 crore have been approved for the upgradation of religious places** and ₹60 crore for temples located outside the state under the Devasthan Department.

Soil and Manure Swaraj Campaign

Why in News?

Important initiatives are being taken towards improving **soil health** through “**Soil and Manure Swaraj Abhiyan**” in the southern region of Rajasthan, especially in the tribal dominated areas.

Key Points:

- About the campaign:

- It aims to improve soil health, promote **organic farming** and **empower rural women in farming and leadership.**
 - The campaign will cover **six tribal-dominated districts located at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.**
 - It is being mainly implemented in Banswara and surrounding areas of southern Rajasthan.**
 - This campaign involves **upgrading cow dung and farmyard manure using scientific methods** and increasing soil fertility by using **rock phosphate and bio-fertilizers.**
 - The women will be trained in the following tasks:
 - Soil Testing
 - Organic fertilizer production
 - Formation and management of co-operative societies
 - The campaign coordinates with programmes like the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** and **Soil Health Card Scheme.**
- Under this campaign:
- Agricultural productivity will be increased through pit construction, material distribution and organizing community events.**
 - Farmers’ **dependence on chemical fertilizers will decrease** and **input costs** will come down by 15-20%.
 - It is possible **to increase crop production by 20-30%.**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM):

- It is a **centrally sponsored** programme launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2011.
- It aims to eliminate rural poverty by **promoting a variety of livelihoods and improved access to financial services** for rural poor households across the country.
- This involves working with community institutions through community professionals in a spirit of self-help, **which is a unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.**

It affects livelihoods, such as:

- Organising rural households into SHGs.
- To organise one female member from **every rural poor family into self-help groups.**
- Assist in **training and capacity building of SHG members.**
- Providing access to financial resources from its own institutions and banks.

Soil Health Card Scheme

- On February 19, 2015, the nationwide ‘**National Soil Health Card**’ scheme was launched at Suratgarh in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan.
- The main objective of this scheme is to assist the states in providing soil health cards to farmers across the country.
- The theme of this scheme is: **Healthy Earth, Green Fields.**
- Under this scheme, rural youth and farmers up to 40 years of age can establish soil testing laboratory and do sample testing.
- It costs up to 5 lakh rupees to set up a laboratory, 75 percent of which is borne by the central and state governments. The same provision exists for self-help groups, farmers’ cooperatives, farmers’ groups or farmers’ producer organizations.
- Under the scheme, soil status is regularly assessed by the State Governments every 2 years so that nutrient deficiencies can be identified and corrections can be implemented.

Data Center Policy 2025

Why in News?

Keeping in view **the increasing importance of data centers**, the Rajasthan Government has implemented the “**Rajasthan Data Center Policy-2025**”.

Key Points

- About the Policy:
 - The objective of this policy is to make Rajasthan a major hub for data centers , attract investments and generate employment opportunities in the IT sector.**

- Under this policy, comprehensive concessions, environment-friendly incentives and modern infrastructure will be provided to the investors.
- There is a plan to attract investment of **Rs 20,000 crore** in the next five years.

Key provisions:

- Many attractive provisions have been made to promote **the data centre sector , which includes an annual asset creation incentive of Rs 10 to 20 crore for 10 years.**
- Private companies **investing more than Rs 100 crore in the state** will be given an additional **25 per cent sunrise incentive.**
- Under the policy, **5% interest subsidy** will be provided for 5 years, which will reduce the cost of setting up data centres.
- Data centres will be given **100% waiver in banking, transmission and wheeling charges.**
- Flexible payment arrangements have been introduced** to bring flexibility in land related processes , along with exemption in **stamp duty, land conversion fee and electricity charges.**
- Additionally, data centres will be exempted **from external development charges up to Rs 10 crore.**
- Environmental protection** has also been given priority in this policy , under which **50% of the expenditure incurred on green solutions will be reimbursed , up to a maximum of Rs 12.5 crore.**
- To enhance the efficiency of employees, **50% of the cost incurred on their training or efficiency improvement** will be reimbursed.
- The state government has also made provision to provide assistance on **intellectual property rights** such as **GI tag, patent, copyright and trademark registration** , which can be up to **50 per cent up to a maximum of Rs 1 crore.**
- The policy also includes provisions for relaxation in **building bylaws** and ensuring **uninterrupted power supply to ensure the operational efficiency and safety of data centres.**

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Intellectual Property Rights

- ⚡ The rights given to individuals in the context of their **intellectual creation** are called **Intellectual Property Rights**. In fact, it is believed that if a person creates any kind of intellectual creation (such as **writing a literary work , research , invention , etc.**), then first of all, that person should have exclusive rights over it.
- ⚡ The basic purpose of granting intellectual property rights is to encourage human intellectual creativity. Since the scope of intellectual property rights is wide, it was considered necessary that relevant rights and related rules etc. should be arranged for a particular area.

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

On 16 April 2025, a seven-year-old boy died in a **tiger attack** near the Trinetra Ganesh temple in **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve**, Rajasthan.



Key Points

- ⚡ **About Ranthambore Tiger Reserve :**
 - ✦ Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is located at the confluence of **the Aravalli** and **Vindhya mountain ranges** in Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts in the eastern part of the state of Rajasthan.
 - ✦ It includes Ranthambore National Park as well as Sawai Mansingh and Kailadevi sanctuaries.
 - ✦ The Ranthambore Fort, after which the forest is named, is said to have a history of over 1000 years. It is strategically located on a 700 feet high hill within the park.
 - 📌 It was constructed by a Chauhan ruler in 944 AD.
 - ✦ This isolated tiger-infested area represents the northwestern limit of the distribution range of the **Bengal tiger** and is an outstanding example of **Project Tiger's** conservation efforts in the country.
- ⚡ **Features:**
 - ✦ The reserve consists of highly fragmented forest areas, ravines, river channels and agricultural lands.
 - ✦ It is **connected to the Kuno-Palpur landscape of Madhya Pradesh** through parts of the Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, the ravine habitats of the Chambal and the forest areas of Sheopur.
 - ✦ The tributaries of the **Chambal River** provide an easy route for the tigers to move towards **Kuno National Park**.
- ⚡ **Flora and Wildlife:**
 - ✦ **Vegetation** includes grasslands on the plateaus and dense forests along the seasonal rivers.
 - 📌 The forest is predominantly **tropical dry deciduous**, with the most common tree species being '**Dhak**' (Butea monosperma), which is able to withstand long periods of drought.
 - 📌 This tree is also called '**forest fire**' and is one of the many flowering plants that add colour to the dry summers here.
 - ✦ The park is rich in **wildlife**, with tigers being at the top of the food chain among mammals.

- ✦ Other animals found here include **leopard**, striped hyena, common or Hanuman langur, **rhesus macaque**, jackal, jungle cats, **caracal**, **blackbuck**, blacknaped hare and chinkara etc.

Constitution Park in Kota

Why in News?

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inspected the site earmarked for the **proposed Constitution Park in Kota**, Rajasthan.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About Constitution Park:**
 - ✦ This park, to be **developed over 12,000 square meters**, will offer Kota city a **renewed cultural and intellectual identity**.
 - 📌 The entrance of the park will display the **preamble of the Indian Constitution** – "Justice, Equality and Fraternity".
 - 📌 A grand statue of **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar** made of gunmetal will be installed in the centre.
 - 📌 The historical events of the making of the Constitution will be depicted on a **20 feet high wall**.
 - 📌 Civil rights will be depicted through **crafts and sculpture in the Fundamental Rights Path**.
 - ✦ Information about the personalities who contributed to the making of the Constitution will be made available through **digital means** in the park.
- ⚡ **Objective:**
 - ✦ To convey the basic spirit of the Constitution '**justice, liberty, equality and fraternity**' to the general public.
 - ✦ To create an **inspiring hub** for **students, researchers, citizens and tourists**.

The Indian Constitution

- ⚡ The Constitution of India is the **longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world**.

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- ⚡ The Constitution of India was **handwritten in calligraphy font by Prem Bihari Narayan Raizada** and each page was **embellished by the artists of Shantiniketan** under the guidance of **Nandalal Bose**.
- ✦ It took **2 years, 11 months and 18 days** to create the Constitution.
- ⚡ The **basic structure of the Indian Constitution** is based on the **Government of India Act, 1935**.
- ⚡ The Constitution of India declares India a **sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic republic** which assures **justice, equality and liberty** to its citizens and seeks to promote fraternity.
- ⚡ The Constitution of India was made by the Constituent Assembly. **The Constituent Assembly of India formed a total of 13 committees** to deal with various tasks related to the making of the Constitution.
- ⚡ The Constitution of India was **drafted by a seven-member committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, who is considered the Father of the Indian Constitution.
- ⚡ The Constitution of India was inspired by several other constitutions, such as the **US Constitution, the UK Constitution, the Irish Constitution, the French Constitution, the Canadian Constitution, the Australian Constitution and the Japanese Constitution**.

Dhanush Leela

Why in News?

Dhanush Leela, an ancient folk tradition of Hadauti region, **was organised after 150 years** in Baran district of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About Dhanush Leela :**
- ✦ This three-day event was organised on the occasion of **Ram Navami** and the **drama of breaking of Shiva's bow by Lord Ram** was enacted.

- ✦ The program begins with the **Teej of Gangaur**, in which **Ganpati installation**, **formation of organizing committee**, and **distribution of arrangements** are done.
- ✦ A **procession** is taken out before the event, in which the rides of **'Sar Katya'** and **'Dhad Katya'** are prominent.
- ✦ **Tableaus depicting Tantra rituals** are brought to a special square where the performance takes place.
- ✦ All dialogues are written in the **vernacular language 'Bahi'**.

Major Folk Arts of Rajasthan

- ⚡ **Sanjhi:**
 - ✦ During the 15 days of Shradh Paksha, girls worship Sanjhi in the form of **Goddess Parvati**.
 - ✦ Women **observe Thumbudha fast** on the last day.
- ⚡ **Mandha:**
 - ✦ On **auspicious occasions**, **geometric pictures** are made with colours on the walls and courtyard of the house.
 - ✦ These pictures are in the shapes of triangle, hexagon, circle etc.
- ⚡ **Phad Art:**
 - ✦ The **stories of gods and goddesses are depicted on the cloth** which is called 'Phad'.
 - ✦ Its main centre is Shahpura (Bhilwara), and is made by the **Joshi caste**.
- ⚡ **Puppet:**
 - ✦ A **dramatic performance is given by operating wooden puppets** with the help of threads.
 - ✦ These are manufactured in **Jaipur, Udaipur and Chittaurgarh**.
- ⚡ **Bevad:**
 - ✦ A **throne made of wood** on which Thakurji is seated and taken to the pond on Ekadashi.
 - ✦ It is manufactured in Bassi (Chittorgarh).
- ⚡ **Chopda:**
 - ✦ A **spice container made of wood**, having 2, 4 or 6 compartments.

- ✦ In western Rajasthan it is called **'Hatdi'**, it is used in worship.
- ⚡ **Toran:**
 - ✦ At the time of marriage, an artistic wooden figure is placed by the groom at the entrance of the bride's house.
 - ✦ It has the **figure of a peacock or a suva on it**, which is touched with a sword or a green twig.

Utensil Bank Scheme

Why in News?

On 12th April 2025, the State Education and Panchayati Raj Minister launched the **Bartan Bank Scheme** to make Baran district of Rajasthan **plastic free**.

Key Points

- ⚡ This scheme is launched with the aim of **reducing the use of plastic** and promoting **environmental protection especially in rural areas**.
- ⚡ Under the scheme, **utensils sets will be available on rent for Rs 3**, which can be used for weddings and other social events.
 - ✦ Initially **24 Gram Panchayats** have been included and in future utensils banks will be established in all the Gram Panchayats.
- ⚡ The name of the Gram Panchayat and **'Swachh Bharat Mission'** will be inscribed on each utensil.
- ⚡ Special categories, such as **Below Poverty Line (BPL), SC, ST, and Divyangjan** will get a **50% discount** in fare.
- ⚡ The maintenance of the utensils will be the responsibility of **self-help groups** and the operation will be done through **Rajivika**.
 - ✦ Rajivika is a program under the **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)**, which **focuses on empowering women** in rural areas through self-help groups (SHGs) and other livelihood initiatives.
- ⚡ For the scheme, the state government has decided to provide an amount of **Rs 1 lakh to each Gram Panchayat**.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

- ⚡ This is a **massive people's movement** whose aim was to create a clean India by the year 2019. **Mahatma Gandhi** always emphasized on cleanliness because it opens the way to a healthy and prosperous life.
- ⚡ Keeping this in mind, the Government of India laid the foundation of the Swachh Bharat Mission on **2 October 2014 (Gandhi Jayanti)**. This mission covers all rural and urban areas.
- ⚡ The urban component of this mission is implemented by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and the rural component is implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

Thar Desert

Why in News?

According to a new study, India's Thar Desert has recorded an annual increase of 38% in greening per year during the last two decades due to increased monsoon rainfall and agricultural expansion.

Key Points

- ⚡ **About Thar Desert:**
- ✦ **Location of the Thar Desert (The Great Indian Desert):** It is an arid region of sand hills on the Indian subcontinent. It covers an area of 200,000 square kilometers in **northwestern India** (Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana) and **southeastern Pakistan (Sindh and Punjab provinces)**.
- ✦ **Geography and Climate:** It is bordered by the **Indus River** plains to the west, the Punjab Plains to the north and northeast, the **Aravalli Range** to the southeast, and the **Rann of Kutch** to the south.
 - 📌 This desert has a **subtropical desert climate**, with persistent high pressure and subsidence.
- ✦ **Soil Structure:** Desert soils include desert, red desert, sierozem, **red and yellow**, saline, lithosols and regosols.

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- These soils are **coarse textured, well drained and calcareous**, which supports specific vegetation and agriculture.
- ✦ **Biodiversity:** It supports relatively rich biodiversity, including the **Blue Bull (Nilgai)**, **Blackbuck**, **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** and **Indian Gazella (Chinkara)**.
- One of the **largest national parks in India**, the **Desert National Park (Rajasthan)**, is located here.
- ✦ **Mineral Resources:** It has one of the **world's largest lignite coal deposits** in the desert.
- It is rich in **gypsum** and salt (with saline lakes- **Sambhar** and **Kuchaman**).



Bisalpur Dam

Why in News?

Intense heat and high temperatures are rapidly depleting the **Bisalpur Dam** water, which supplies **drinking water** to Jaipur, Ajmer, and Tonk in Rajasthan. If this continues, the region could soon face a **severe water crisis**.

Key Points

- ✦ **About the Issue:**
 - Due to **evaporation**, about **15 centimetres of water** has been lost in the last one month.
 - It also affects the livelihood related to the dam. Fishermen facing difficulty in hunting can have an adverse effect on their economic condition.
- ✦ **About Bisalpur Dam:**
 - Bisalpur Dam is a **gravity dam** on the **Banas River at Bisalpur in Tonk district** of Rajasthan.
 - A gravity dam is a dam made of concrete or masonry and withstands the pressure of water by its own weight. Its stability is entirely based on gravity.
 - It was constructed in **1999** for the purpose of **irrigation and drinking water supply**.
 - This dam was **named in honour of Bisaldev IV**, the **Chauhan ruler of Ajmer**.

Ramgarh Dam

Why in discussion?

On April 11, 2025, the Water Resources Minister of **Rajasthan** laid the foundation stone for various **repair and beautification works of Ramgarh Dam**.

Key Points

- ✦ **About the issue:**
 - Rs 252.93 lakh** has been sanctioned for the restoration of **Ramgarh Dam under the budget announcement year 2024-25**. This work will be completed in the next 12 months.
- ✦ Under the **Ram Jal Setu Link Project**, a plan has been made to **bring water from Isarda Dam** to Ramgarh Dam.
- ✦ Under this project, water will be supplied over a distance of **120 km** (**35 km** through canal and **85 km** through pipeline).
- ✦ **Around 3.50 lakh people** will be able to get water from this project.

- ✦ **Repair operations include:**
 - repair of damaged road of pal
 - Construction of Parapet Wall and Control Room
 - Beautification of stairs and umbrellas of submerged area
 - Stone pitching etc.
- ✦ This project will prove to be a **milestone** in providing relief from water crisis to **farmers, animal herders and villagers**.
- ✦ **This will accelerate the development of Ramgarh region** in the coming years as well as strengthen the **overall and balanced development of the state**.

Ramgarh Dam

- ✦ This dam was constructed in **1904** during the reign of Sawai Madho Singh II, the then ruler of Jaipur.
- ✦ Located near the Banganga River, **the total catchment area of this dam** is 841.14 square kilometers.
- ✦ This dam is spread over **many areas of Jaipur** such as **Shahpur, Amer, Viratnagar**. Built with a maximum water holding capacity of **75.04 million cubic meters**, the government took an important decision in **1978** regarding this dam, according to which its water will be used only for drinking water supply.

Ramjal Setu Link Project

- ✦ This is an **interstate river linking project**, which aims to **balance the water resources between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**. It has now been renamed as **Ramjal Setu Link Project**.
- ✦ The project will divert **surplus water** of the **Chambal river** and its tributaries — **Kunnu, Kool, Parvati and Kalisindh** to the **Banas, Morel, Banganga, Ruparel, Parvatni and Gambhir river basins**.
- ✦ **17 districts of Rajasthan** will benefit from this.

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Ramdevra Great Indian Bustard Conservation Center

Why in News?

For the first time, a chick has been born through artificial breeding at the **Ramdevra Great Indian Bustard Conservation Centre** located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the chick :**
 - ✦ With this birth, the total number of Great Indian Bustards born through **captive breeding** has reached **51**.
 - ✦ The chick was born through a **natural mating process** involving the **female Jerry** and the **male Salkha**.
 - ✦ The programme is being run in collaboration with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, the **state forest department**, and the **Abu Dhabi-based International Fund for Houbara Conservation**.
 - ✦ **Ramdevra Conservation Centre**, established in **2022**, is located near the **Desert National Park**, the **natural habitat of the Great Indian Bustard**.
- 💡 **Great Indian Bustard:**
 - ✦ **The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is the state bird of Rajasthan** and is considered the most **critically endangered bird of India**.
 - ✦ It is considered a key grassland species, representing the grassland ecology.
 - ✦ These are mostly found in Rajasthan and Gujarat. This species is found in small numbers in **Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ✦ Protection status:
 - 📎 **International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List**: Critically Endangered
 - 📎 **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**: Appendix-1
 - 📎 **Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**: Appendix-I
 - 📎 **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**: Schedule-1

Desert National Park

- 💡 It is located in **Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan**.
- 💡 Great Indian Bustard, Rajasthan's state animal- **Chinkara**, state tree- **Khejri** and state flower- **Rohida** are found naturally in this park.
- 💡 It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1980** and a **national park** in **1992**.

Chittaurgarh Fort

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** informed the **Supreme Court** it is actively considering a total ban on **mining activities** within 10 km of **Chittorgarh Fort**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the fort:**
 - ✦ It is located in **Chittorgarh of Rajasthan** and is one of the largest forts in India. This fort is situated on a hill about 180 meters above sea level.
 - ✦ This fort was built in the 7th century AD by **Chitrangada Mori, the ruler of the local Maurya dynasty**.
 - ✦ Later, in the year 728 AD, the **rulers of Mewar** took over and made it their capital. Chittorgarh has been the center of power and pride of Mewar in medieval India.
 - ✦ According to **Malik Muhammad Jayasi's** famous poem '*Padmavat*', **Alauddin Khilji** attacked this fort with the aim of acquiring **Queen Padmini of King Ratan Singh of Mewar**.
 - ✦ This fort has also been associated with the heroic tales of many famous warriors like **Badal, Gora, Maharana Pratap, Rana Kumbha, Patta, Jaimal**.
 - ✦ The fort was listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **2013**.
 - ✦ It is one of the **seven hill forts** that have been given the collective heritage status as '**Hill Forts of Rajasthan**'.
 - ✦ The major features of the fort include its **seven gates** – **Padan Gate, Ganesh Gate, Hanuman Gate, Bhairon Gate, Jodla Gate, Laxman Gate** and the main gate '**Ram Pol**'.

- ✦ The fort complex houses **four major palaces**, **19 temples** (both Hindu and Jain), **20 water sources** and **four major monuments**.

India's First Sickle Cell Hub

Why in News?

Recently, **India's first sickle cell wellness hub** was established at the **Sickle Cell Excellence Center** located at **Bal Chikitsalaya** in **Udaipur district** of Rajasthan. It was **inaugurated** by the **Tribal Minister of Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Wellness Hub:**
 - ✦ This hub is the **country's first digital active centre**, which provides facilities ranging from screening to consultation for sickle cell patients.
 - ✦ Its main objective is to ensure prevention, timely detection and effective treatment of serious disease like **sickle cell** which is widely spread in tribal communities.
 - ✦ This center will provide **screening, counselling, and OPD (Outpatient Department) services** to patients at one place through digital medium, so that even remote areas can be connected to health services.
 - ✦ This initiative will act as a **model system** in the field of health, through **joint efforts of the State and Central Governments** and collaboration with **social organizations**.

Sickle cell disease (SCD)

- 💡 **Introduction:**
 - ✦ SCD is a group of inherited **red blood cell** disorders. The disease involves abnormalities in **hemoglobin**, a protein in red blood cells that transports oxygen. In SCD, the **red blood cells become stiff and sticky and look like a C-shaped agricultural tool called a "sickle."**
- 💡 **Symptoms:**
 - ✦ The symptoms of sickle cell disease can vary, but some common symptoms include:
 - 📎 **Chronic anemia**: It causes fatigue, weakness and paleness in the body.

- 📎 Acute pain (also known as sickle cell crisis): This can cause sudden, unbearable pain in the bones, chest, back, arms, and legs.
- 📎 Delay in puberty and physical development.

Treatment:

- ✦ **Blood transfusions**: These can help relieve anemia and reduce the risk of acute pain.
- ✦ **Hydroxyurea**: This medication can help reduce the frequency of pain episodes and control long-term complications of the disease.
- ✦ It can also be treated by bone marrow or **stem cell transplantation**.

Save Shahabad Forest Movement

Why in News?

Activists protest against the plan to cut trees for a **pump storage project** in **Shahabad forest of Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Project:**
 - ✦ **Shahpur Pump Storage Project** is an off-stream closed loop pump storage project. Under this, two reservoirs will be constructed. At the same time, water will be pumped from the nearby **Kuno river** to fill the proposed lower reservoir.
 - ✦ The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has approved Hyderabad-based company **Greenko Energies Pvt Ltd** to set up **Shahpur Pumped Storage Project** in **Shahabad tehsil of Baran district**.
 - ✦ The project covers 624.17 hectares of land in **Kalauni, Baint and Mungaoli villages**. Of this, 408 hectares of area is forest.
 - ✦ The project area falls within the **Shahabad Conservation Reserve**, which is home to wildlife species protected under Schedule-I of the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act (WPAA) 2022**.

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Reasons for protest:

- ✦ Under this project, there is a plan to cut more than 4 lakh trees, which will destroy the forest.
 - ✦ Cutting down trees on such a large scale would have an adverse effect on the climate, and would also **stop the absorption of 22.5 lakh metric tons of carbon dioxide** that the region absorbs every year.
- ✦ The local **ecology** will be deeply affected and the livelihood of the local residents may also be in danger due to this project.
- ✦ Environmentalists say this could cause serious damage to **wildlife, flora and rare medicinal herbs**.
- ✦ Additionally, cutting down trees will lead to soil erosion and may also obstruct important environmental benefits.
- ✦ This hydropower project will also adversely impact the movement and welfare of **cheetahs** introduced **from Namibia and South Africa under the Kuno Cheetah Project**.

Shahabad Forest:

- ✦ The Shahabad forest is rich in biodiversity and is home to protected wildlife species.
- ✦ This forest is located in Baran, Rajasthan, very close to the designated habitat for cheetahs in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ The forest area of Shahabad lies between the **Madhav National Park** and the **Cheetah corridor**, which would be disrupted by the proposed project.

Kuno River

- ✦ The Kuno River **flows through the middle of the Kuno National Park** and flows from south to north in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ This river **originates from the Vindhya mountain range** and passes through various districts of Madhya Pradesh like Guna, Shivpuri, Sheopur and Morena.
- ✦ The Kuno River area is also part of **India's famous Cheetah Project**, which is located in the Kuno National Park.
- ✦ The river supports regional biodiversity and plays a vital role in maintaining environmental balance.

Kuno National Park

- ✦ Kuno National Park (Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh) was **established as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1981** and was upgraded to a **national park in the year 2018**.
- ✦ **Geography:**
 - ✦ It consists mainly of **dry deciduous forests** and the Kuno River, a major **tributary of the Chambal**, flows through the park.
 - ✦ It is situated in the Vindhya mountain range.
- ✦ **Fauna:**
 - ✦ **Leopard, striped hyena, Indian wolf, blackbuck, sambar deer, gharial** (Kuno River).
 - ✦ It was selected under the **action plan for the introduction of cheetah in India**.
- ✦ **Flora:**
 - ✦ The primary tree species are **Kardhaai, Khair and Salai**.

108 Kundiya Rudra Mahamrityunjaya Mahayagna

Why in discussion?

The Union Minister of Home Affairs participated in the Maha Purnahuti of **108 Kundiya Rudra Mahamrityunjaya Maha Yagya and Sanatan Sammelan in Kotputli, Rajasthan**.

Key Points

About Maha Yagya:

- ✦ The main objective of the Mahayagna conducted by **Baba Nastinath for a year** was **to connect every section of the society and spread religious awareness in the society**.

Spiritual and Life Philosophy Principles:

- ✦ The Minister praised the four foundational principles advocated by Baba Nastinath — truth, penance, detachment, and selfless service — urging that these be embraced as guiding values in life.
- ✦ These principles serve as vital steps toward inner purification, righteous living, and meaningful contribution to society.

- ✦ In addition to spiritual values, Baba Nastinath also stressed the importance of protecting nature and caring for animals and birds, reflecting a holistic approach to spiritual and ecological well-being.

Importance of Nath the Sect:

- ✦ The Union Home highlighted the **Nath sect's vital role in strengthening Sanatan Dharma**—from Mahaprabhu Adinath to the nine gurus and their successors.
- ✦ He noted that in the Nath tradition, the **Dhuni is a key spiritual medium**, symbolizing **self-realization through the harmony of the five elements**—earth, water, fire, sky, and air.

Nath Sect

- ✦ Nath Sampradaya is a **major Hindu religious sect that emerged in the medieval period** and in which a unique synthesis of **Shaivism, Buddhism and Yoga traditions** is seen.
- ✦ This sect is **based on the practice of Hatha Yoga**, which provides guidance towards the **highest experience of the soul and physical control**.
- ✦ The **founder of this sect** is believed to be **Matsyendranath**, a great Indian yogi and sage of the 9th century.
 - ✦ Matsyendranath **laid the foundation of the Nath sect** and gave it an important place within the Shaiva tradition.
- ✦ Due to his contribution, the Nath sect gained widespread recognition and became an important religious tradition in India and Nepal.
- ✦ Additionally, Matsyendranath is also **revered as a Mahasiddha in Tibetan Buddhism**.
- ✦ **Gorakhnath**, a great 10th century master, was a **disciple of Matsyendranath**.
- ✦ Gorakhnath further developed the Nath sect and made it popular in different parts of India.

Meenakari Art

Why in News?

During his visit to Thailand, Prime Minister Modi gifted tiger enamelled cufflinks to Pitak Suksawat, husband of Thai Prime Minister Shinawatra.

Key Points

About Meenakari Art:

- ✦ Meenakari art is especially prevalent in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- ✦ It is the art of decorating metal surfaces by mixing minerals on them.
- ✦ In this, dramatic motifs of birds, flowers and leaves are painted or embellished on various types of metals with bright colours. This art originated in Persia (Iran) and came to India with the Mughal rule in the 16th century.
- ✦ In this art, fine glass powder is used to create colors and designs on metal, stone and clothes.
- ✦ Among the leading artists of **Meenakari art**, Kudrat Singh is considered the magician of this art and he was honored with the Padma Shri Award in the year 1968.

Features of cufflinks

- ✦ These show the richness of this art.
- ✦ These cufflinks feature the majestic tiger face motif symbolizing courage and leadership.
- ✦ They are crafted from high quality silver with gold plating and vibrant enamel work, showcasing the rich jewellery traditions of India.

Rajasthan Leads in Solar Power Installation at Railway Stations

Why in News?

According to the statement of the Union Railway Minister in the Lok Sabha, the Indian Railways is making all endeavors to promote solar energy in line with the Government policies and Rajasthan has the highest number of Installations Units Among All States and UTs.

Key Points

- ✦ Solar power plants have been installed at 275 railway stations in Rajasthan – the highest in the country: 73 stations between 2014-15 to 2019-20 and 200 more were added between 2020-21 to February, 2025.

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Renewable Energy Plan of Indian Railways:

- ✦ Indian Railways has set a target of achieving 100% electrification by 2025–26.
- ✦ Railways aims to become **net-zero** carbon emitter by 2030.
 - 📌 To achieve this target, Railways will meet its energy requirements through renewable energy, which will be a mix of solar energy and wind energy.
- ✦ Railways will install solar power plants on the rooftops of its stations and utilise its vacant land.
- ✦ Indian Railways aims to set up 20 GW of solar power plants on its vacant land by 2030.

Solar Power Plants at Railway Stations –Top 5 States (as of February 2025):

- 📌 Rajasthan - 275
- 📌 Maharashtra – 270
- 📌 West Bengal - 237
- 📌 Uttar Pradesh - 204
- 📌 Andhra Pradesh -198

Solar Energy

Introduction:

- ✦ Solar energy is a renewable and clean energy source obtained from the sun by directly converting sunlight into electric energy. Through solar panels and solar thermal plants, it is used to generate electricity, heat and power appliances.

Benefit:

- ✦ Solar energy is available throughout the day especially when the demand for electrical energy is highest.
- ✦ Devices that convert solar energy into electrical energy have longer life and also require less maintenance.
- ✦ Unlike conventional thermal power generation (by coal), solar energy does not cause pollution problems and promotes the production of clean electrical energy.
- ✦ There is an abundance of free solar energy in almost all parts of the country.
- ✦ There is no need to use electrical wires and transmission in the use of solar energy.

Chief Minister's Free Electricity Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government has announced that people will get **free electricity up to 150 units**. For this, changes have been made in the rules for installing solar plants under the **PM-Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme**.

Key Points

About the Scheme:

- ✦ Under the Chief Minister Free Electricity Scheme in Rajasthan, **up to 100 units of free electricity is being provided so far**, benefiting 1.04 crore beneficiaries of the state.
- ✦ Under the **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**, consumers **will be able to consume 150 units of free electricity** by installing solar plants on the roof of their houses.
 - 📌 Consumers using up to 150 units of electricity under the scheme can get free solar plant installations at their homes.

Objective:

- ✦ The aim is to provide additional benefits to beneficiary families by connecting them to affordable and accessible **solar energy**.

Provision

- ✦ Consumers using **less than 150 units per month will receive free electricity up to 150 units** in a phased manner through community solar plants installed at nearby substations or suitable locations.
- ✦ Households consuming **more than 150 units will get free electricity up to 150 units** through a 1.1 kW rooftop solar plant installation.
- ✦ Each rooftop solar plant costs Rs 50,000 (excluding metering), with Rs 33,000 covered by central financial assistance and up to Rs 17,000 provided by the state

PM-Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme

- 📌 PM Surya Ghar Free Bijli Yojana, **launched in February 2024 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, aims to provide free electricity to one crore households by installing solar panels on rooftops.

- 📌 The **outlay of this scheme is Rs 75,021 crore** and it is to be implemented by the financial year 2026-27.

- 📌 Under this, up to 300 units of free electricity per month is provided and up to 40% subsidy is provided on installation cost, thereby promoting widespread adoption of solar energy across the country.

- 📌 **Eligibility:** Indian citizen, house owner, valid electricity connection, family should not have availed any other subsidy related to solar panel.

- 📌 **Implementation:** The implementation of PM Surya Ghar Free Electricity Scheme is done by **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and **State Implementation Agencies (SIA)** at the state level.

Gangaur Festival

Why in News?

In Rajasthan, **Gangaur Festival** is celebrated every year on **the Tithiya Tithi of Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month**. This time Gangaur Festival was celebrated on **31 March 2025**.

Key Points

About the Festival:

- ✦ Gangaur is a major festival celebrated in different forms in Rajasthan, celebrated every year in the **month of Chaitra (first month of Hindu calendar)**.
 - 📌 “Gan” refers to Lord Shiva and “Gauri” or “Gaur” refers to Goddess Parvati.
- ✦ This festival is mainly celebrated by women, in which they **worship Goddess Gauri and Lord Shiva to attain a happy married life**, unbroken good fortune and the happiness of children.
- ✦ This festival reflects **Rajasthani culture and the devotion of women towards their husbands**.

Gangaur Dance:

- ✦ This is a famous **folk dance** of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, in which girls hold each other's hands and move around in a circular circle, praying to Goddess Gauri for the long life of their husbands.

- ✦ The songs of this dance glorify and praise Shiva-Parvati, Brahma-Savitri and Vishnu-Lakshmi.

Hindu Solar Calendar (Shaka Samvat)

- 📌 The **zero year of Shaka Samvat is 78 AD**.
- 📌 It was **started by the Shaka rulers to mark their victory over the Kushans**.
 - ✦ It is a solar calendar, with its **date system based on the time it takes the Earth to complete one revolution around the Sun**, a seasonal year of approximately **365 1/4 days**.
- 📌 It was **adopted as the official calendar by the Government of India in 1957**.
- 📌 It has **365 days every year**.

Judges Appointed in Rajasthan High Court

Why in News?

Four new judges were appointed in the **Rajasthan High Court**, taking the number of judges in the court to 38.

Key Points

About the Judges:

- ✦ Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava administered the oath to the Judges at a formal ceremony held in the court.
- ✦ The new judges include Anand Sharma from Jaipur and Sunil Beniwal, Mukesh Rajpurohit and Sandeep Shah from Jodhpur.

Appointment of Judges of the High Court:

- ✦ **Article 217 of the Constitution:** It says that the Judge of the High Court shall be appointed by the **President** in consultation with the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, **the Governor** of the State.
 - 📌 In the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of the High Court is consulted.
- ✦ **Consultation process:** High Court judges are recommended by a **collegium** consisting of the CJI and two senior-most judges.

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- ✎ The proposal is made by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
- ✎ The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Union Law Minister to send the proposal to the Governor.
- ✎ The Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed on the basis of the policy that the Chief Justice of a State will be from outside the concerned State.

Rajasthan High Court

- 💡 The Rajasthan High Court is located in **Jodhpur and was established on 29 August 1949** under the **Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949**.
- 💡 At present the sanctioned strength of judges in this court is 50, while the number of serving judges till March 2025 is 38.
- 💡 Before the unification of Rajasthan, five different High Courts were functioning in different units of the state. The Rajasthan High Court Ordinance, 1949 abolished these different courts and provided for a single High Court for the entire state.
- 💡 Initially the Rajasthan High Court was headquartered in Jaipur and was inaugurated by **Rajpramukh Maharaja Sawai Man Singh** on 29 August 1949.
- 💡 Later, after the **complete integration of Rajasthan in 1956**, it was shifted to Jodhpur on the recommendation of the **Satyanarayan Rao Committee**.
- 💡 The **first Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court** was **Kamla Kant Varma**.

Rajasthan's First International AI Robotics Institute

Why in News?

On 1 April 2025, a dedicated Institute of **Artificial Intelligence**, **Robotics**, and **Cybernetics** was inaugurated at **NIMS University, Jaipur**.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Institute:**
 - ✦ This institute is an important part of the agreement between the Government of Rajasthan and NIMS University under the 'Rising Rajasthan' initiative.

- 💡 **Objective :**
 - ✦ Its main objective is to make Rajasthan a global hub of digital innovation and **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
 - ✦ The institute will have 15 state-of-the-art laboratories, equipped with over 500 high-performance computers.
- 💡 Moreover, the Institute has been recognised as **the Indo-Pacific European Hub for Digital Partnership (INPACE)**, which will promote digital cooperation between India and Europe.
- 💡 The institute will promote cutting-edge research and development in the fields of AI, robotics and cybersecurity in collaboration with **the European Union (EU)** and other global organisations.

Artificial Intelligence

- 💡 **Introduction:**
 - ✦ AI refers to the **ability of computers or computer-controlled robots to perform tasks that are normally performed by humans** because such tasks require human intelligence and judgment.
 - ✦ Although there are currently no AI systems that **can perform a wide variety of tasks that a normal human can perform**, some AI may be able to perform certain specific tasks that humans perform.
- 💡 **Features and components:**
 - ✦ **Deep learning (DL) technology** enables automatic learning through large amounts of unstructured data such as text, images, or videos.
 - ✦ The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is its ability to take rational actions that achieve a specific goal. **Machine learning (ML)** is a type of AI.

European Union

- 💡 **Establishment:** It was founded by six countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) in 1951 after the **Second World War (1939-45)**.
- 💡 **Current member countries:** Currently it comprises 27 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia,

- Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden).
- ✦ **Britain** joined the European Union in 1973 and **left it in the year 2020 (Brexit)**.
- 💡 **Demographics:** In the European Union, **Germany has the largest population and France is the largest by area** while the **smallest country is Malta**.
- 💡 **Open borders:** The Schengen Area allows free movement of most EU members, except for Cyprus and Ireland.
 - ✦ Four non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) are also part of Schengen.
- 💡 **Single market :** free movement of goods, services, capital and people within the EU.
- 💡 **Climate Goals:** It has set a target of **being climate-neutral by 2050** and **reducing emissions by 55% by 2030**.

Rajasthan Day

Why in News?

Recently, **the Rajasthan government** has announced to celebrate **Rajasthan Foundation Day on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada** instead of 30th March 2025.

Key Points

- 💡 **An age-old demand:**
 - ✦ The **Nav Varsh Samaroh Samiti, formed in 1992** had been demanding from **the state government for years that Rajasthan Foundation Day be celebrated on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada (Nav Samvatsar)** instead of 30th March.
 - ✦ The committee argued that the true significance of Foundation Day lies in the fact that Rajasthan was established on this day during an auspicious time according to the Hindu calendar.
- 💡 **Importance of Chaitra Shukla Pratipada:**
 - ✦ **Chaitra Shukla Pratipada** is the day of the year when the Earth completes **a full cycle around the Sun , making day and night equal**.

- ✦ It symbolizes balance and **new beginnings**.
- 💡 **Establishment of Rajasthan**
 - ✦ On 14th January 1949, in Udaipur, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had announced in principle the **merger of the princely states of Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer**.
 - ✦ He inaugurated Greater Rajasthan in a ceremony **held on 30 March 1949 in Jaipur**, hence Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on 30 March.
 - ✦ At the time of independence, there were a total of 22 princely states in Rajasthan. In present-day Rajasthan, 19 of the then princely states were ruled by kings. Whereas, there was chiefship in three princely states (Neemrana, Luv and Kushalgarh). The Ajmer-Merwara province here was ruled by British rulers.
 - ✦ The Government of India merged the British-ruled Ajmer-Merwara province into Rajasthan **on 1 November 1956** on the recommendation of **the States Reorganisation Commission** headed by Afzal Ali.
 - ✦ During this period, Suneltappa village of Mandsaur tehsil of Madhya Pradesh was also included in Rajasthan. Whereas, Sironj village of Jhalawar district of Rajasthan was included in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✦ On the basis of the recommendations of the Rao Committee constituted by the Government of India, Jaipur was made the capital of Rajasthan state on 7 September 1949.
 - ✦ **Rajasthan is the largest state in the country.** Its area is 3 lakh 42 thousand 239 square kilometers. This is 1/10th of the country's land area.

National Award for TB Elimination

Why in News?

On the occasion of **World Tuberculosis Day** on 24th March 2025, Rajasthan has been awarded **the National Award** for its special efforts towards TB elimination.

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Key Points

- 💡 About the issue:
- ✦ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare presented this award to Rajasthan for securing the third position in the country in **the TB Free Gram Panchayat Campaign, at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.**

✦ Rajasthan has made **significant contribution** in realizing initiatives like **TB Free India Campaign** and **TB Free Gram Panchayat.**

✦ **The Principal Secretary to Government** informed that under **the TB Free Gram Panchayat Campaign, 3,355 Gram Panchayats of Rajasthan were declared TB free in the year 2024** , whereas **this number** was 586 in 2023.

✦ Apart from this, **more than 19,000 Nishchay Mitras** (community supporters) have been added so far in Rajasthan under **the Prime Minister TB Free India Campaign.**

Prime Minister’s TB Free India Campaign

- 💡 Introduction:
- ✦ It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** to accelerate the country’s progress towards TB elimination by the year 2025.
- 💡 Objective:
- ✦ Providing additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes for TB patients.

✦ To enhance community participation in meeting India’s commitment to end TB by 2025.

✦ Taking advantage of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** activities.
- 💡 Ingredients:
- ✦ **Ni-Kshaya Mitra Initiative:** It ensures additional diagnostic, nutritional and professional support for TB treatment.

📎 Ni-Kshaya Mitras (Donors) support health facilities (for individual donors) at Block/Urban Wards/ Districts/State levels to supplement Government efforts to accelerate the response against TB.

✦ **Ni-Kshaya Digital Portal:** It will provide a platform for community support for people suffering from TB.
- 💡 Tuberculosis (TB):
- ✦ **Introduction:** TB or Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called ‘Mycobacterium tuberculosis’,

📎 It usually affects the lungs, but can affect other parts of the body too.

📎 It is a **treatable and curable disease.**

✦ **Transmission:** TB disease spreads from one person to another through the air. When a person suffering from ‘pulmonary TB’ coughs, sneezes or spits, he or she spreads the TB germs into the air.

✦ **Symptoms:** Common symptoms of ‘pulmonary TB’ include cough with sputum, sometimes blood, as well as chest pain, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

✦ **Vaccine:** Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is a vaccine for TB disease.



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