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(CONSOLIDATION)

RAJASTHAN

**MARCH
2025**

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Content

● Spread of Karra Disease.....	3
● Rajasthan Democracy Fighters Honor Bill 2024	3
● Green Rajasthan Campaign	4
● Anasagar Lake.....	4
● Subsidies for Farmers in Rajasthan.....	6
● Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025	6
● Gambhiri River.....	7
● Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.....	9
● Give Up Abhiyan	10
● One Time Settlement Scheme	10
● RMSCL in Digitech Awards 2025.....	11
● Poverty Free Village Scheme	12
● Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary.....	13
● Cooperative Societies in Rajasthan	13
● Patli River.....	14
● Skill Development Policy 2025	15
● Rajasthan Coaching Center (Control and Regulation) Bill 2025	15
● The Poshan Abhiyaan	16
● IIFA Awards 2025	17
● Mahi-Luni Link Project.....	17
● Coalition of Cities for Circularity (C-3)	18
● Varun Sagar	19
● Udaya Gold Cup Football Tournament	19
● Arogya Mela-2025	20
● Dhanvantari Award.....	20
● Aaju Goja	21
● Exercise Desert Hunt 2025	21
● Kota Cares Initiative.....	22

Spread of Karra Disease

Why in News?

The Animal Husbandry Minister of Rajasthan held a meeting with departmental officials to prevent the spread of **Karra disease** in Jaisalmer district.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - The spread of **Karra disease (botulism)** has been observed in the western districts of Rajasthan – Jaisalmer, Barmer, Balotra and Phalodi . These districts are dry and semi-arid climate areas, where animal husbandry is the main basis of livelihood.
 - Recently **36 animals died in Jaisalmer and 2 animals died in Phalodi** due to this disease.
 - The objective of this meeting was to focus on **prevention of the disease, creating awareness among livestock farmers and ensuring availability of essential medicines** .
- **Karra disease:**
 - This disease is mainly caused by **deficiency of green fodder and calcium and phosphorus** .
 - Due to this, **animals start eating the bones of dead animals** , due to which **the germs of Botulism disease** enter the body and the infection spreads.
 - The main symptoms of this disease include **drooling from the mouth** of the infected animal , stiffness in the front legs and paralysis of the tongue hanging out of the mouth.
 - To prevent this, livestock owners are advised to **provide food rich in nutrients**.

Rajasthan Democracy Fighters Honor Bill 2024

Why in News?

On 21st March 2025, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the “**Rajasthan Loktantra Senani Samman Bill, 2024**” by voice vote.

Key Points

- **About the Bill:**
 - The Bill aims to **honour the fighters who fought to protect democracy during the Emergency** (June 25, 1975 – March 21, 1977) and their families.

- This Bill **recognises the sacrifice and martyrdom** of those who fought to protect democratic values.

➤ Main provisions:

- **Monthly Pension:** All eligible Loktantra Senani will be given Rs 20,000 monthly pension.
- **Medical Aid:** Each beneficiary will be provided with Rs 4,000 monthly medical aid.
- **Free Transport Facility:** Loktantra Senani will get free travel facility in government transport services.
- **Benefits to dependents :** After the death of a democracy fighter, his/her husband/wife will be given **honorarium and medical assistance for life** .
- **Special Invitation on National Festivals:** Loktantra Senanis and their families will be invited as special guests on national events like **Independence Day and Republic Day**.

➤ Importance:

- This bill reflects the government’s commitment to those who safeguard democracy.
- This will provide **economic and social support to those families** who were most affected during the Emergency.
- This initiative will also serve to inspire future generations to protect democracy.

Emergency

➤ Introduction:

- It refers to legal measures and provisions under the constitution or law of a country that enable the government to respond quickly and effectively to extraordinary situations, such as war, insurrection or other crises that threaten the stability, security or sovereignty of the country and India’s democracy .

➤ Constitutional Provisions:

- These provisions are mentioned in Articles 352 to 360 under Part XVIII of the Constitution .
- The emergency provisions in the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Weimar Constitution of Germany .

➤ Types of Emergencies:

- National Emergency (Article 352)
- State Emergency (Article 356)
- Financial Emergency (Article 360)

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Green Rajasthan Campaign

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government has set a target of **planting 10 crore trees in the financial year 2025-26** under the “**Hariyalo Rajasthan Abhiyan**”.

Key Points

- **About the campaign:**
 - The **Hariyalo Rajasthan campaign** was launched on **7th August 2024** on the occasion of **Hariyali Teej**.
 - The Chief Minister of the state launched this campaign by planting a **Peepal tree at Gahota in Dudu district**.
 - Inspired by the ‘**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**’ campaign, the state government has set a target of **planting 50 crore saplings** in the next five years under ‘**Mission Hariyalo Rajasthan**’.
 - Under this, **7 crore saplings** were planted in the year **2024-25**.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Making Rajasthan green and expanding the forest area**.
 - **Protecting the environment and maintaining climate balance**.
 - **Conservation of biodiversity and creating a better ecosystem** for wildlife.
 - To make tree plantation a mass movement by ensuring **participation of local communities**.
 - **Preventing desertification and promoting soil conservation**.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign

- **About:**
 - This is a special nationwide tree plantation drive, launched by the Prime Minister on the occasion of **World Environment Day on 5th June 2024**.
 - Under this campaign, people are encouraged to **plant a tree as a symbol of love**, respect and honour towards their mother and also take a pledge to protect the **trees and Mother Earth**.

- **Objective:**
 - The aim of this campaign is to **prevent land erosion and ensure ecological restoration of degraded lands**.
 - Apart from this, environmental protection and green cover have to be promoted.
 - It aims to plant **80 crore trees by September 2024** and **140 crore trees by March 2025**.
- **Strategy:**
- The campaign is based on the **concept of “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society”**, which encourages collective efforts to revitalize India’s green cover through active participation of citizens, communities and local administration.

Anasagar Lake

Why in News?

The Supreme Court ordered the Rajasthan government to remove **the Seven Wonders and Food Court** built on the banks of **Ana Sagar Lake in Ajmer**.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - **The Supreme Court** has directed **Seven Wonders Park** to be demolished or shifted to another location within **six months**, while the **food court** has been ordered to be completely demolished by **7th April 2025**.
 - Additionally, the court clarified that the amount of new **wetlands** damaged in the **city area** must be developed.
 - **The National Green Tribunal (NGT)** had also taken a tough stand on damaging the wetland area of the lake.
- **Petition**
 - A former councilor of Ajmer had **raised objections regarding illegal construction** on the banks of Ana Sagar Lake.
 - He alleged that this **construction was done in disregard of the wetland area and the master plan**.
 - Regarding this, he had filed a petition in NGT, after which orders were issued to remove the construction in August 2023.
 - **The Ajmer Development Authority** appealed against these orders in the Supreme Court in January 2024.

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Anasagar Lake

- Located in Ajmer, it is an **artificial lake**, built by Prithviraj Chauhan's father **Arunoraj or Anaaji Chauhan** in the middle of the twelfth century (1135-1150 AD).
 - Due to being constructed by Anaaji, this lake was named **Aana Sagar or Ana Sagar**.
- The Ana Sagar lake is spread over an **area of about 13 km**.
- Later, the Mughal ruler **Jahangir built Daulat Bagh**, also known as **Subhash Udyan**, in the courtyard of the lake.
- **Shah Jahan** constructed a **marble Baradari (pavilion)** around it in **1637 AD**, which further enhances the beauty of the lake.
- Ana Sagar Lake, besides being **the main water source of Ajmer**, plays an important role in the conservation of **local biodiversity and migratory birds**.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

About

- ⑤ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ⑤ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ⑤ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ⑤ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

Structure

- ⑤ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ⑤ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ⑤ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
 - 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

Powers & Jurisdiction

- ⑤ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ⑤ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ⑤ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ⑤ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
 - Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ⑤ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ⑤ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ⑤ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
 - If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ⑤ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ⑤ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ⑤ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ⑤ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ⑤ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ⑤ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ⑤ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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Note:

Subsidies for Farmers in Rajasthan

Why in News?

Rajasthan Chief Minister announced new benefits and subsidies for farmers, including Rs 137 crore in grants for 30,000 agriculturists.

- He also introduced revised guidelines for agricultural schemes and livestock healthcare, emphasizing the welfare of small and marginal farmers for the state's progress.

Key Points

- Launch of New Initiatives:
 - The Chief Minister introduced new agricultural measures at a farmers' conference and farmer producer organisation (FPO) programme in Bikaner.
 - These include an increase in the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi, an expansion of the Mangala Pashu Bima Yojana, and new guidelines to promote organic farming and horticulture.
 - He distributed welfare scheme cheques to farmers and encouraged them to join FPOs for better income opportunities through collective farming.
- Food Security and Financial Support:
 - The state government has transferred Rs 1,400 crore to over 72 lakh farmers under the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, provided Rs 29,000 crore in interest-free crop loans to 47 lakh farmers, and disbursed Rs 3,000 crore in insurance claims under the PM-Fasal Bima Yojana.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
 - It was launched in February 2019.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- About:
 - Launched in 2016 and is being administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - It replaced the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
- Eligibility:
 - Farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025

Why in News?

The Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2025 was introduced in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly to control and regulate coaching centres.

Key Points

- About:
 - Objective:
 - The aim of this bill is to curb the commercialization of coaching institutes, ensure student welfare and prevent the increasing incidents of student suicide.
- Need:
 - Every year lakhs of students in Rajasthan, especially in Kota, prepare for various competitive exams but due to excessive pressure, mental stress and fear of failure, incidents of suicide are increasing.
- Key provisions:
 - Compulsory registration: Registration of all coaching institutes has been made mandatory. Notably, coaching centres with 50 or more students will come under the legal ambit.

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Note:

- **Penalty provision:** If a coaching centre violates the registration conditions, a **penalty of Rs 2 lakh** will be imposed for the first time and up to **Rs 5 lakh** for the second time. Repeated violations can lead to **cancellation of registration**.
- **Establishment of Regulatory Authority:** To effectively implement the new rules, '**Rajasthan Coaching Centre Control and Regulation Authority**' will be formed.
- **Fee control:**
 - **There will be a ban on arbitrary fee collection** by coaching centres and the fees will be made **reasonable and rational**.
 - It will be mandatory to provide receipts for all types of **fee payments**.
 - If a student **leaves the course midway**, the **remaining fee** has to be refunded on a pro-rata basis within 10 days.
 - Taking the entire fee in one go will be prohibited and students will be given the option to **pay in at least four installments**.
- **Prohibition on misleading advertisements:**
 - Advertisements that make **false claims or guarantee higher rankings** or points are prohibited.
- **Maximum class time limit:**
 - To **reduce fatigue** among students, the maximum duration of coaching classes has been fixed at **5 hours per day**. Also, **one day off in a week** will be mandatory.
- **Counselling System:**
 - Keeping in mind the **mental health** of the students, provision has been made to develop a **counselling system** in the coaching centres.
- **Grievance Redressal Committee:** A committee will be formed at the district level to redress the complaints of students, parents and teachers, which will provide a **solution within 30 days**.

Gambhiri River

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan High Court** has taken cognizance of the alleged encroachment in the floodplain of the **Gambhiri river** that supplies water to the **Ghana Bird Sanctuary** and sought a response from the state administration.

Key Points

➤ About the issue:

- The court has issued notice to the **Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner (Bharatpur), Principal Revenue Secretary, District Collector (Karauli)** and **SP (Karauli)** in this matter and directed them to file a reply within **eight weeks**.
- This order was given while conducting a preliminary hearing on the **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** filed by the petitioner.
 - The counsel for the petitioner informed the court that the water from **Pachna dam** reaches to the **Ghana Bird Sanctuary** through **Gambhiri river**, which was being obstructed due to encroachment.
 - Apart from this, about **230 bigha land of Sanent village of Karauli district**, which is a part of the river flow area, has been encroached upon for years. This is affecting the **biological balance** of the **bird sanctuary**.

Gambhiri River

- **Gambhiri River**, also known as **Utangan River**, is an **important seasonal river of Rajasthan**, which flows mainly during the **rainy season**.
- This river flows in the **north-eastern part of Rajasthan**.
- This river originates from the **Aravalli Hills** near **Hindaun in Karauli district** and flows from south to north.
- It forms the border between **Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** and merges with the **Yamuna River** in Agra. Its **total length** is approximately 288 kilometers.
- Its main tributaries are **Sesa, Kher and Parvati**.

Keoladeo National Park

- **Introduction:**
 - Keoladeo National Park or **Keoladeo Ghana National Park** is a **wetland and bird sanctuary** located in **Bharatpur, Rajasthan**. It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the most important **bird sanctuaries in the world**.
 - **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** were recognised as **India's first Ramsar sites** in 1981.

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- Currently, **Keoladeo National Park** and **Loktak Lake (Manipur)** are listed in the **Montreux Record**.

- It is famous for its **rich bird diversity** and **abundance of water birds**. The park is home to **over 365 species of birds**, including many **rare and endangered species**, such as the **Siberian crane**.
- Various species from far flung areas of the Northern Hemisphere come to the sanctuary for breeding. The Siberian Crane is one of the rare species that can be seen here.

➤ Animal:

- Animals like jackals, sambar, nilgai, wild cats, hyenas, wild boars, porcupines and mongooses can be seen in the area.

➤ Vegetation:

- The predominant vegetation type is tropical dry deciduous forest mixed with dry grassland areas dominated by *Acacia nilotica*.

➤ Rivers :

- The **River Gambhir** and **Banganga** rivers flow through this national park.

International Forest Day

Why in News?

International Forests Day celebrations were organized on **21st March, 2025** at **Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur**.

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan launched **several programs related to forest conservation, tourism and climate change**.

Key Points

➤ About the programs:

- The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of **Forest Training and Management Institute in Jaipur**.
- Eco tourism** facilities were introduced in **Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary** and **electric golf carts** were introduced in **Keoladeo National Park**, **Bharatpur** and **Nahargarh Biological Park**.
- Soil Health Card and logo of **Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement (CRESEP)** in Rajasthan were unveiled.

- DG-Forest App** was inaugurated, which is based on **IT technology** to enhance transparency in the Forest Department.

- Kits** were distributed to **Vanmitras** and **women forest personnel working in the field** were honoured.

➤ International Forest Day:

- The International Day of Forests began as "**World Forestry Day**" established in **1971** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
- It was **formally recognised** by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **2012**.
- It aims to **raise awareness about forest conservation** and **sustainable management**.
- The theme of International Day of Forests 2025 is "**Forests and Food**".

Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary

➤ About:

- Situated in **the Aravalli hills**, approximately **20 kilometres** from **Jaipur**, Rajasthan.
- Named after **Nahargarh Fort**, an **18th-century fort** built by **Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II**, the founder of Jaipur.
- Covers an **area of 720 hectares**.
- Includes **Nahargarh Biological Park**, renowned for its **lion safaris**.

➤ Flora: Comprises **dry deciduous forests**, scrublands, and **grasslands**.

➤ Fauna:

○ Mammals:

- Common species include **leopards**, **wild boars**, **deer**, **lions**, **tigers**, **sloth bears**, and various small mammals.

○ Birds:

- A paradise for bird watchers, featuring species such as **peacocks**, **owls**, and **eagles**.

○ Reptiles and Amphibians:

- Home to reptiles like **Indian rock pythons** and **monitor lizards**.
- Amphibians such as **frogs** and **toads** are also found here.

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Note:

Keoladeo National Park

- Introduction:
 - Keoladeo National Park is a **wetland and bird sanctuary** located in **Bharatpur, Rajasthan**. It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the most important **bird sanctuaries in the world**.
 - **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** were recognised as India's first Ramsar sites in 1981.
 - Currently, Keoladeo National Park and **Loktak Lake (Manipur)** are listed in **the Montreux Record**.
 - It is famous for its **rich bird diversity** and abundance of **water birds**. The park is **home to over 365 species of birds**, including many rare and endangered species, such as the **Siberian crane**.
- Rivers:
 - The **Gambhir and Banganga rivers** flow through this national park.

Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve

Why in News?

Caracal, a medium-sized and locally threatened cat, was seen for the first time in **Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve** of Rajasthan.



Key Points

- About Caracal:
 - **Scientific Name:** *Caracal Caracal Schmitzi*

- The **caracal** is a **nocturnal cat species** found in **Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia**.
- It is identified by its **long, pointed and black tufted ears**. Its name is derived from the Turkish word '**karakulak**', which means **black ears**.
- It is an **extremely agile predator**, known for its **fast speed and long jumping ability**. Its main diet is **small hoofed animals and rodents**.
- Historical Importance:
 - The **caracal** has been an **important part** of Indian wildlife. It is mentioned in historical texts such as **Khamsa-i-Nizami and Shahnama**, indicating its usefulness in hunting. It was once found in various biological provinces across **13 states of India**.
- Distribution:
 - They are found mostly in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and are located in **Kutch, the Malwa Plateau, the Aravalli hill range**.
 - Besides India, the caracal is found in several dozen countries across **Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia**.
- Habitats:
 - It occurs in semi-deserts, steppes, savannah, scrubland, dry forest and moist woodland or evergreen forest.
 - It prefers open terrain and drier, scrubby, arid habitats and needs cover.
- Declination in numbers:
 - The number of Caracal in India has reduced to **less than 50**.
 - **Between 2001 and 2020, their population** has declined by more than 95%.
 - Their staple food has become scarce due to **habitat loss and urbanization**.
- Conservation status:
 - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - In **2021, the National Board for Wildlife** and the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** classified the caracal as a **critically endangered species**.

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Note:

Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the **Hadauti region of Rajasthan**, spread over an area of 759 square kilometres across **four districts of Rajasthan – Kota, Bundi, Chittaurgarh and Jhalawar**.
 - It consists of a core area of 417 square kilometres and a buffer zone of 342 square kilometres.
- It was **declared a protected area in 1955**. The trees in the forest here are very thick and dense.
- This tiger reserve is surrounded by **four rivers Ramzan, Aahu, Kali and Chambal** and is situated **between two parallel hills Mukundra and Gagrola**. It falls under the drainage area of the tributaries of **Chambal river**.
- Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve is the **third largest tiger reserve in Rajasthan** after **Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserves**.
- The Government of Rajasthan, in collaboration with **the National Tiger Conservation Authority**, declared it a Tiger Reserve in the year 2013 under **the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Give Up Abhiyan

Why in News?

Under the **'Give Up Abhiyan'** in Rajasthan, **more than 13 lakh** eligible beneficiaries **voluntarily** removed their names from **the food security scheme**, thereby reducing the financial burden on the government by **Rs 246 crore**.

Key Points

- **About GiveUp Campaign:**
 - It 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.
 - So far, under this campaign, **13 lakh 58 thousand 498 people** have voluntarily given up the benefits of the food security scheme.

➤ **National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA):**

- 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.
- In case of issuing ration cards, it has been made mandatory for the eldest woman of the **family aged 18 years or above to be the head of the household**.
- In addition, 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).

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- **'Antyodaya Anna Yojana'** was started in **December 2000**.
- The objective of this scheme was to meet the food shortage of the population living below the 'poverty line'.
- Initially, under this scheme, there was a provision to provide **25 kg of foodgrains per month to the beneficiary family**, which was increased to 35 kg in April 2002.

One Time Settlement Scheme

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has announced the implementation of **One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS)** for **farmers and small entrepreneurs**.

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Key Points

- About the Scheme:
 - Its main objective is to protect **farmers and small entrepreneurs** from **financial crisis** and to **ensure the stability of land development banks**.
 - Under this scheme, **borrowers repaying the full principal of overdue medium and long-term loans by 1st July 2024**, will receive a 100% interest rebate.
 - A facility of 5 % subsidy will also be provided, which will enable the eligible loan members to avail the loan again.
 - This scheme will benefit **36,351** defaulting loan members associated with **Land Development Banks**.
 - Due to various calamities, farmers could not repay the loan installments on time, due to which the **overdue loan of Cooperative Land Development Banks** has reached **Rs. 760 crores**.
 - To improve this situation, the government will spend **Rs 200 crore**, which will not only make recovery of loans easier but will also improve the financial condition of the banks.
- Importance of the Scheme:
 - This scheme will help the farmers in **getting new loans and increasing their production capacity**.
 - This scheme will provide **financial relief to small businessmen**, so that they can re-establish and strengthen their business.
 - This scheme will **improve the loan recovery rate of land development banks**.

Land Development Bank

- About:
 - 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 the year 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.
- Loan disbursement and repayment:
 - Land Development Banks provide **long term loans for a period of 20 to 30 years**.
 - The loan amount is usually up to 50% of the land value or 30 times the annual revenue.
 - Complete verification of land ownership, income and loan requirement is done before loan is provided.
 - The interest rates are usually 11-12% so that farmers can repay it easily.

RMSCL in Digitech Awards 2025

Why in News?

On 18th March 2025, Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL) was awarded the ET Government Digitech Award 2025.

Key Points

- About the Award:
 - This award has been given to **Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL)** for **strengthening oxygen resource management through digital technology**.
 - It aims to **promote innovation, digitisation and effective resource management in medical services**.
- Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL):
 - It is a **state government -run public sector undertaking**, established to **strengthen medical and health services in Rajasthan**.

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Note:

- It was established in the year 2011 by the Government of Rajasthan.
- Its main function is to ensure the supply of essential medicines, medical equipment and other health facilities in the state .

➤ **Government Digitech Awards**

- The ET Government Digitech Awards is supported by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology .
- These awards recognise pioneers who have played a key role in shaping the digital transformation in public services .
- 30 winners from across India were felicitated at the event . Several states including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Odisha, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and Haryana were also awarded in various categories.

Poverty Free Village Scheme

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has announced to make 5000 villages of the state poverty free under “Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Poverty Free Village Scheme” .

Key Points

➤ **About the Scheme:**

- Under this scheme, an amount of **Rs 300 crore** has been sanctioned with the aim of bringing all **the Below Poverty Line** families of the identified villages **above the poverty line** .
- Under this, **leases will be provided** to people living in **illegal colonies** .
- In the first phase of the scheme, the **government will cover 5,000 villages**, offering **development initiatives, self-employment opportunities, skill enhancement programs, and financial assistance**, along with support in **education and healthcare**.
- Additionally, **better transportation facilities will be provided** to the villages through **Major District Roads (MDRs)**, enhancing connectivity and livelihood opportunities.

➤ **Objective:**

- This initiative **will strengthen the rural economy** and will be an **important step** towards **making the state poverty free** .
- **The aim of the government is to make every citizen self-reliant and eradicate poverty.**

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya



➤ **About:**

- He was **born on 25 September 1916** and was an Indian politician, philosopher and ideologue or theorist of the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)** and **Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS)**.

➤ **Contribution:**

- He focused on **Antyodaya i.e. upliftment of every person in the society** and meeting the needs of the most deprived .
- He was the **pioneer of the philosophy of “Integral Humanism”** which emphasized welfare, social justice, economic equality, and self-reliance.

➤ **Recognition:**

- **Since the year 2014**, his birth anniversary is celebrated as **Antyodaya Diwas** in honour of his contribution to the nation .
- In the year 2015 , the name of **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** was **changed to Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM**.
- In the year 2018, Mughalsarai Junction in Uttar Pradesh was renamed after him.

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Sajjangerh Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

A **wildfire** that broke out in **Sajjangerh Wildlife Sanctuary** in Rajasthan is posing a serious threat to the existence of wildlife.

Key Points

- **About the Sanctuary:**
 - This sanctuary is located in **the Aravalli mountain range** in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan, which is famous for its rich **biodiversity** and the historical **Sajjangerh Palace**.
 - The sanctuary is spread over an area of **5.19 square kilometres** and a rocky wall called Kishan Pol was built to protect it.
- **Wildlife and flora:**
 - The sanctuary is the natural habitat of many wildlife including **chital, panther, nilgai, jackal, wild boar, hyena and sambar**.
 - **Apart from this, a wide range of birds and reptiles** are also found here.
- **Jiyan Lake:**
 - **The Jiyan Lake** (also known as **Tiger Lake** or **Bari Lake**) located here serves as a water resource for the sanctuary.
 - **Built by Maharana Raj Singh in 1664**, this lake is spread over **1.25 square miles** and has a **water storage capacity of 400 million cubic feet**.
- **Historical Importance:**
 - It is a part of **the Sajjangerh Palace (also known as the Monsoon Palace)** built in the year **1884**. The palace is named after Maharana Sajjan Singh, one of the rulers of **the Mewar dynasty**.
 - **In the year 1987, this area was converted into a wildlife sanctuary**.

Aravalli Range

- The Aravalli mountain range **extends from Gujarat through Rajasthan to Delhi**, its length is 692 km. and the width is between 10 to 120 km.
 - This mountain range **acts as a natural green wall**, 80% of which lies in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat.

- The Aravalli range is **divided into two main ranges** - the **Sambhar Sirohi range** and the **Sambhar Khetri range** in Rajasthan, where it extends for about 560 km.
- It acts as an **ecotone between the Thar Desert and the Gangetic Plain**.
 - Ecotones are areas where **two or more ecosystems, biological communities or biological regions** meet.
- The **highest peak of this mountain range is Gurushikhar (Rajasthan)**, with a height of 1,722 metres

Cooperative Societies in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The four-member **Zambian delegation**, during its visit to the **Jaipur Central Cooperative Bank** and other institutions, observed efforts to make various **cooperative schemes** accessible to the general public.

Key Points

- Under the **International Cooperative Year, 2025**, delegations from various countries are visiting other countries and studying their cooperative systems.
- The **delegation visited Jaipur Central Cooperative Bank, Apex Bank, Bilwa Gram Seva Cooperative Society and Bad Ka Balaji Primary Milk Producers Cooperative Society** and understood the efforts made to make the **cooperative schemes**.
- The delegation was informed about the effectiveness of **cooperative movement** and the **role of cooperative institutions** in the state.
- The **recovery campaign of outstanding loans** of the **non-agricultural sector** being run by the **Primary Cooperative Land Development Bank of Rajasthan** was also discussed.
- On this occasion, **representatives from Zambia** also shared information on their country's **cooperative policies and programmes**, which made possible the **exchange of experiences in the cooperative sector** between the two countries.

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Co-operative Societies

➤ Introduction:

- **Co-operatives** are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and operated by their members to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations.
- Co-operatives unite people in a **democratic and equal manner**. Whether members are **customers, employees, users, or residents**, they operate under the **principle of democratic management**, following the **'one member, one vote' rule**.
 - Members have **equal voting rights** regardless of the **capital investment** made in the enterprise.

➤ Indian Perspective:

- At present, with a network of over **8.5 lakh co-operative societies** covering **90%** of the villages in India, these are important institutions for **socio-economic development** with the aim of **inclusive growth** in both rural and urban areas.

➤ Constitutional Provisions:

- Cooperative societies were given constitutional status by the **97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011**.

Patli River

Why in News?

On 13th March 2025, the Education Minister of Rajasthan inaugurated the restoration work of **Patli River** in **Kota**.

Key Points

➤ About Patli River:

- Patli River is a **37 kilometer** long river which originates from **Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh** and flows through **Neemthur hill** and enters **Ramganj Mandi (Rajasthan)**, where it has a flow area of about **12 kilometers**.
- Ultimately this river merges with the **Aahu river of Suket**.

➤ Restoration of the river:

- The extinct Patli river will be revived at a cost of **Rs 5 crore**.
- Under this project, **debris, glass, stone pieces and other waste** materials deposited in the river sediment will be removed.

- Its width will be around **40 metres** and its banks will be strengthened.

- Ghats will be constructed by selecting suitable places on the river banks and at some places beds will also be constructed for water filling.

➤ Importance:

- Due to the restoration of the river, irrigation facilities will be available to **about 7050 hectares of agricultural land in 40 villages**.
- **Natural water flow** will be restored.
- This will reduce **the problem of waterlogging in the surrounding fields**
- **Land erosion** and **soil degradation** can be controlled.

Kota

➤ About:

- It was named Kota after the **name of its initial ruler Kothia Bhil**.
- It is also known as **Kanpur of Rajasthan**, Industrial City and Educational City.
- This city is situated on the banks of **the Chambal River**.
- **Jawahar Sagar Dam** (Chambal River) and **Harishchandra Sagar** (Kali Sindh River) are located in Kota
- It is the **third largest city of Rajasthan** after Jaipur and Jodhpur.

➤ Literacy:

- According to the **2011 census**, it is the district with the **highest literacy rate (76.6%) in Rajasthan**.

➤ Major places of visit

- **Mukundwara Hills** - Located between Kota and Jhalawar.
- **Vibhishana Temple** - The only Vibhishana temple in India, located in Kaithun.
- **Mathuradhis Temple**- Main pilgrimage site of Vaishnav sect.
- **Shiva Temple of Kansua** – Built in the 8th century, here the first ray of the sun falls directly on the Shivalinga.
- **Geparnath Shivalaya**- It is a Gupta period Shiva temple.
- **Snake Park**- It is the only snake park in Rajasthan.

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Note:

Skill Development Policy 2025

Why in News?

On 9th March 2025, the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the **Rajasthan Skill Development Policy-2025** with the aim of promoting skill development of youth and employment generation in the state .

Key Points

- About the Policy:
 - The aim of this policy is to **train the youth according to modern industrial needs** and provide them **new employment opportunities**.
 - It seeks to accelerate industrial growth while preparing the workforce for global competition.
- Initiatives and features:
 - **Modernisation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI):**
 - The state government will **update the Industrial Training Institutes** as per the latest requirements of the industry.
 - This will include **new curriculum, training modules and on-the-job training**, giving the youth practical experience.
 - **Establishment of Model Career Centres:**
 - Model Career Centres will be established in all the divisional headquarters of the state, which will help connect the youth with **career counselling, internships and employment opportunities**.
 - These centres will act as an important link between students and industries.
 - **Training in modern technologies:**
 - Under this policy, youth will be trained in modern technologies like **Automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Smart Manufacturing and Cyber Security**.
 - **Local Industrial Cluster Training Centres:**
 - Local training centres will be set up in various industrial areas of the state **to train workers according to the specific industrial requirements**.
 - This will **provide skilled human resources to local industries** and also increase employment opportunities.

○ Reskilling and Upskilling:

- The policy will focus on **upskilling and reskilling of workers and employees** to enable them to adapt to the changing industrial environment and keep pace with new technological trends.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

- About:
 - Skill India Mission was **launched by the government in the year 2015**, under which **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** was introduced.
- Objective:
 - It **aims to train more than 40 crore people in India** in various skills by the year 2022 and to provide vocational training and certification to Indian youth for better livelihood and respect in the society.
 - PMKVY is implemented by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the guidance of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.

Rajasthan Coaching Center (Control and Regulation) Bill 2025

Why in News?

The Rajasthan Cabinet approved **the 'Rajasthan Coaching Center (Control and Regulation) Bill-2025'** to **regulate the coaching institutes** of the state and provide a **safe and friendly environment to the students**.

Key Points

- About:
 - This bill will apply to **all government departments, autonomous bodies and institutions under the control of the state government** .
 - Under the **Rajasthan Coaching Centre (Control and Regulation) Bill-2025**, **registration has been made mandatory** for all coaching institutes.
 - Institutes with 50 or more students will come under legal scrutiny.
 - A special regulatory authority will be constituted to ensure compliance with the rules .

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➤ Objective of the Bill:

- The main objective of this bill is to **protect the rights of students and strengthen their mental health**.
- It focuses on ensuring **transparency and accountability in coaching institutes** as well as providing a safe and supportive environment for students.

➤ Transparency and Monitoring:

- To ensure transparency and monitoring of coaching institutes, a **state-level portal** and **24x7 helpline** will be set up to **provide mental health support and other services to students**.

➤ Penalties and Compliance:

- The rules impose strict penalties for violations, including a Rs 2 lakh fine for the first offence, Rs 5 lakh for the second offence, and registration cancellation for repeated violations.

The Poshan Abhiyaan

Why in News?

On 8th March 2025, Poshan Abhiyaan marked seven years of implementation, during which significant efforts were undertaken to **enhance nutrition levels and eradicate malnutrition across the country**.

Key Points

➤ About POSHAN Abhiyaan:

- Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8th March, 2018 on the occasion of International Women's Day from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- It focuses on meeting **the nutritional needs of adolescents, pregnant women, lactating mothers and children (0-6 years)** through a targeted and integrated approach.

➤ Objective:

- It aims to reduce **stunting, under-nutrition, anemia** (in young children, women and adolescent girls) and the incidence of low birth weight babies.

➤ Strategic Pillars:

- Its implementation is based on **four strategic pillars**:
 - **Quality Services**: Strengthening health services through **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)**, **National Health Mission (NHM)**

and **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** with a focus on the first **1,000 days** of the child.

- **Coordination between sectors**: Coordinating efforts across ministries such as **water and sanitation** for holistic nutrition.

➤ **The National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges**, under the guidance of **NITI Aayog**, guides policy and reviews nutrition convergence quarterly.

- **Technology**: Use of **Nutrition Tracker** for real-time data and monitoring and use of **ICDS-Common Application Software** for strengthening the delivery of **Anganwadi services**.

- **Jan Andolan**: Promoting **community-driven nutrition awareness and behaviour change**.

➤ Major achievements:

- According to **the Nutrition Tracker data** of December 2023, about **7.44 crore children below the age of six** were assessed, of which **36%** were stunted, **17%** were underweight and **6%** of children below 5 years were wasted.
- According to the recent report of **National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) 2019-21**, there has been an improvement in the nutritional indicators of **children under five years of age** as compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16):
 - **Stunting** decreased from 38.4% to **35.5%**.
 - **Malnutrition** decreased from 21.0% to **19.3%**.
 - **The prevalence of underweight** decreased from 35.8% to **32.1%**.

National Health Mission (NHM)

- NHM was launched by the government of India in 2013 subsuming **the National Rural Health Mission** (Launched in 2005) and **the National Urban Health Mission** (Launched in 2013).
- The main programmatic components include **Health System Strengthening** in rural and urban areas for - **Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)**, and **Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases**.
- The NHM envisages achievement of **universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services** that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

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Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- PMMVY is a **maternity benefit programme** being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme:
 - Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

IIFA Awards 2025

Why in News?

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2025 was held in Jaipur from 8th to 9th March 2025 .

Key Points

- **About the event:**
 - This grand event **celebrated its 25th anniversary** by honoring the best artists of Indian cinema.
 - **Kiran Rao's social drama film Missing Ladies won the most awards**, including Best Film and Best Director .
 - **Kartik Aaryan won the Best Lead Role (Male) award** for the film Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 while Raghav Juyal won the Best Negative Role award for the film Kill.

IIFA Awards

- The **International Indian Film Academy Awards , commonly known as IIFA** , is an annual awards ceremony for Hindi cinema.
- The **winners of the awards are decided by fans, who vote online** for their favourite actors from the Indian Hindi film industry .
- However, IIFA reserves the right to disqualify any submission or achievement.
- The **first IIFA ceremony was held in London , United Kingdom in the year 2000**. Since then, the awards have been held in various locations around the world, reflecting the international success of Hindi cinema.

Mahi-Luni Link Project

Why in News?

Rajasthan's Water Resources Minister informed the Assembly that **VEPCOS WAPCOS is preparing the feasibility report for the Western Rajasthan Canal Project** to connect the **Mahi River** with the **Luni River**.

- **WAPCOS Limited**, a "Mini Ratna-I" **Public Sector Enterprise** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, drives **technology-led consultancy and engineering solutions**, focusing on water, power, and infrastructure sectors in India and abroad.

Key Points

- **Objectives:**
 - The main objective of this project is to:
 - To utilize the **surplus water of Mahi river**.
 - To **provide water to** the water-scarce **Jalore district**.
 - Promote **water conservation** by recharging water sources.
 - To **improve agriculture and drinking water supply**.
- **Technical and implementation aspects:**
 - The **feasibility report of the project is being prepared by** the government through WAPCOS. Under this:
 - Studies are being conducted **to link the Mahi River with the Luni River**.
 - Various water supply options are being tested through **the Sujalam-Sufalam project** .
 - Recharging of dams is being planned under the **Run-off Water Grid Scheme**.
 - **DPR (Detailed Project Report)** and **PFR (Pre-Feasibility Report)** are being prepared.

Mahi River

- **About:**
 - Mahi River is **one of the major west flowing interstate rivers of India**, flowing through the **states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat**. Its total drainage area is 34,842 sq km.
 - Mahi is the only river in India which **crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice** .

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- Origin and flow path:
 - The river originates from an altitude of about 500 metres from the northern slopes of the **Vindhyachal range**, near Bhopawar village in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - For the first 120 kilometres, the river flows in a **southerly direction in Madhya Pradesh, after which it enters the south-eastern Vagad region of Rajasthan.**
 - It makes a **characteristic 'U' shaped bend in Rajasthan** while flowing through Banswara district.
 - After entering Gujarat, the Mahi River **merges into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.**
 - Its total length is 583 kilometers.

Luni River

- origin and flow path
- About:
 - The Luni River **originates from the Nag Mountain of the Aravalli mountain range** located in **Ajmer district of Rajasthan.**
 - At its source it is **first called Sagarmati**, then **Saraswati and finally Luni**. This river **flows only during the rainy season.**
 - Traveling for about 320 kilometres, the river flows through Nagaur, Pali, Jodhpur, Barmer and Jalore districts of south-western Rajasthan and finally disappears in the Rann of Kutch.
- Other names:
 - This river is known by various names such as **Sakri, Lavanavati, Lavanadri and Khari-Meethi River.**
- Tributaries:
 - Lildi, Sukdi, Bandi, Meethri, Jojri, Jawai, Sagai etc. The only tributary river joining from the right is Jojri.

Coalition of Cities for Circularity (C-3)

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs announced the **Coalition of Cities for Circularity (C-3).**

Key Points

- **About the Coalition (C-3):**
 - It is a **multinational alliance for city-to-city collaboration**, knowledge-sharing and private sector partnerships for **sustainable urban development**.
 - It aims to support cities in **the Asia-Pacific region** in addressing challenges related to waste **management and resource efficiency**.
 - The Prime Minister of India proposed the formation of a **working group of member countries** to finalise the **structure and operational framework of the C-3 Alliance** to ensure effective implementation of the initiative.
- **Announcement:**
 - This was announced during **the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum on Asia and the Pacific in Jaipur**.
 - At the inaugural ceremony held in Jaipur, a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed for **CITIIS 2.0**, which will mark a milestone in urban sustainability initiatives.
 - Under this initiative, agreements worth **Rs 1,800 crore** were announced for **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0)**, which will benefit **18 cities in 14 states**.

12th Regional Forum Meeting

- **About:** It is a regional platform that promotes **3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)** principles and circular economy practices across the Asia-Pacific region.
 - It brings together **policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and partners** to advance resource efficiency strategies.
- **Historical Context:** It was **launched in 2009** to promote **3R principles** and resource efficiency.
 - The **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)** set **33 voluntary goals** for a resource-efficient and circular economy.
- **Theme: Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific.**
- **Objectives:** Discuss and agree a **voluntary, non-binding "3R and Circular Economy Declaration (2025-2034)"** for a resource-efficient, low-carbon, and resilient Asia-Pacific.
 - Discuss and pave way towards realization of a **Circular Economy Alliance Network (CEAN)** towards **Zero Waste Cities and Societies**.
 - Discuss circular economy strategies to achieve **net-zero targets and SDGs**.

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Circular Economy

- A circular economy is a system where materials never turn into waste and natural resources are regenerated.
- In this system, products and materials are kept in continuous circulation through processes such as maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, manufacturing, recycling and composting .
- The aim of the circular economy is to promote economic growth free from overexploitation of limited resources .
- It proves helpful in effectively dealing with global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste management and pollution .

Varun Sagar

Why in News?

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker changed the name of the famous Foy Sagar Lake in Ajmer to 'Varun Sagar'.

Key Points

- **About the issue:**
 - According to the speaker the name of Faisagar in Ajmer was a **symbol of slavery**. This lake was built by the people of Ajmer and religious and social faith of all communities including Sindhis is attached to it.
 - **Lord Varun** has been revered by all communities, including the **Sindhi community**. Therefore, this lake will now be known as "Varun Sagar."
- **About the lake:**
 - This lake is an **artificial lake** located in **Ajmer district**.
 - This lake was **constructed in the year 1891-1892** under the direction of **Foy** , an English engineer **of the British Raj**, as part of **the flood and famine relief project**.
 - This is the **second famine relief lake of Rajasthan**, first being **Rajsamand Lake**.

Rajsamand Lake

- **About:**
 - It is a popular tourist destination in Rajasthan. It was built in **the 17th century** by **Maharana Raj Singh**.
 - The lake is also known as **Rajsamudra Lake**.
- **Construction:**
 - Construction of the lake **began in 1662** and was **completed in 1676**.
 - It was the **oldest famine relief work** in Rajasthan.
 - The lake was **built across the Gomati, Kelwa, and Tali rivers**.
 - It has a **catchment area of about 196 square miles**.
- **Features:**
 - The lake is 4 miles long, 1.7 miles wide, and 60 feet deep.
 - The **white marble embankment** at the southern end is **called Nauchowki**.
 - The Ghats, or stone steps leading to the lake, have inscriptions about the history of Mewar.
 - **The Raj-Prashasti viewpoint** atop the dam has the **world's longest and largest stone inscription in Sanskrit**.

Udaya Gold Cup Football Tournament

Why in News?

The 4th state level **Uday Gold Cup Football Tournament** is being organized in **Bikaner** from 1 March to 7 March 2025 .

Key Points

- **About the tournament:**
 - The tournament is **being organised by Master Udaya Club** at **Pushkarna Stadium** under floodlights.
 - A total of **11 matches** will be played in this tournament.

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- So far 12 teams have entered this tournament.
 - These include **two teams each from Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaipur and one team each from Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Kota, Ajmer, Nagaur and Karauli.**

Bikaner

- About:
 - Bikaner was founded in **1488 AD** by **Rathore prince Rao Bikaji**.
 - Located at latitude 28.01°N and longitude 73.9°E.
- Geographical Feature :
 - Desert district located in north-eastern Rajasthan.
 - There is **no river in Bikaner**.
- Scenic Spots:
 - **Karni Mata Temple** : Famous as the Temple of Rats.
 - **Mukam Temple** : The main religious place of the Bishnoi sect.
 - **Junagarh Fort** : One of the most beautiful forts in Rajasthan.
 - **Bhandshah Jain Temple** : Ancient Jain temple located within the city wall.
 - **Lunkaransar** - Salt water lake.
 - **Gajner Sanctuary** - Famous for Butbat (Imperial Sandgoose, Sand Partridge) bird and wild boar.
- Civilizations:
 - **Sothi, Poongal, Dadhatora** ancient civilizations are in Bikaner.
- Camel Research Centre:
 - The **world's largest camel research and breeding centre** is in Bikaner (1984).
 - **Camel festival** is organised in Bikaner every year in January.

Arogya Mela-2025

Why in News?

A 4-day state level Arogya Mela was organized by the Government of Rajasthan from **1st to 4th March 2025** in Jaipur .

Key Points

- About:
 - The Minister of State for AYUSH said that in order to realize the concept of '**Nirogi Rajasthan**', the state

government is continuously promoting **Ayurveda and Indian medical system** in the state , as a result of which people's interest in **AYUSH system** has increased and it is emerging as a strong alternative to allopathy. This is an exemplary initiative of the state government in front of other states.

➤ Objective:

- The objective of this fair was **to increase public awareness about Ayush medical systems**, provide **free medical consultation and treatment** and promote **healthy lifestyle** by highlighting the importance of **yoga and naturopathy**.

➤ Treatment and counseling:

- Free medical consultation and treatment was provided by experts of **Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Yoga and Naturopathy medical systems**.
- In the fair, treatment facilities were provided through special **Ayush treatment methods** like **Jalouka Chikitsa, Agnikarma Chikitsa, Osteopathy, Marma Chikitsa, Cupping Therapy** etc.
- **Beauty experts** provided information on **maintaining beauty** through **herbal treatment** and **natural means** at the **beauty clinic**.

➤ Information about the courses:

- Information regarding admission process and eligibility for **MD, MS, Graduate Degree and Diploma** courses regarding **skill development and educational opportunities** in the field of **Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga and Unani medicine** was provided.

Dhanvantari Award

Why in News?

Rajasthan's **Nadi Vaidya Tarachand Sharma** has been honoured with **Ayurveda's highest 'Dhanvantari' award** by the Government of India.

Key Points

➤ About the Event:

- This award was given by the **Union AYUSH Minister** during the **Dhanvantri Award distribution ceremony** on 20 February 2025 in Mumbai.
- It is given to those individuals who have made **exceptional contributions in the field of Ayurveda**.

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- He was honoured with a **prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, a shawl and a coconut.**

➤ **About the winner:**

- Tarachand Sharma is a **resident of Bissau town of Jhunjhunu district.**
- He has been honored with many awards and titles in the field of Ayurveda.
- He is a **renowned pulse doctor.**
- Many books written by Tarachand Sharma are also included in the curriculum of various Ayurveda universities.

Ayurveda

- The word Ayurveda derived from **AYU and VEDA**. AYU means life, VEDA means **science or knowledge**, Ayurveda means the science of life.
- Ayurveda embraces all living things, human and non-human.
- It is divided into three main branches
 - **Nara Ayurveda:** dealing with human life.
 - **Satva Ayurveda:** dealing with animal life and its diseases.
 - **Vriksha Ayurveda:** dealing with plant life, its growth and diseases.
- Ayurveda is **not only a system of medicine** but also **a way of life** for complete positive health and spiritual attainments.

Aaju Goja

Why in News?

On 22-23 February 2025, the **first Children's Festival 'Aaju Guja'** was organized in **Bikaner, Rajasthan.**

Key Points

- **About the Festival:**
 - The festival was organised **by the district administration**, in which **more than 50 artists from across the country participated.**
 - During the festival children were introduced to **dance, music, painting and many other art forms.**
- **Arts and Crafts Activities:**
 - The festival captivated children with a **vibrant array of performances**, including **puppetry, storytelling,**

theatre, painting, mime, clown acts, magic shows, ventriloquism, Kavad, bioscope, and folk music and dance.

- An exhibition of children's literature books was **also organised** by various publishers, prominent among them being **Pratham, National Book Trust, Eklavya, Amar Chitra Katha, Adidev, Raj Comics, and Callastic.**

National Book Trust (NBT)

- NBT, India is an apex body established by the Government of India (**Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development**) in the year 1957.
- The **objectives** of the NBT are:
 - to produce and encourage the production of **good literature in English, Hindi and other Indian languages.**
 - to make such literature available at **moderate prices to the public.**
 - to bring out **book catalogues, arrange book fairs/ exhibitions and seminars** and take all necessary steps to make the people book minded.

Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

Why in News?

The Indian Air Force conducted an integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise, **Exercise Desert Hunt 2025**, at **Air Force Station Jodhpur** from February 24 to 28, 2025.



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- Participation of Special Forces:
 - This exercise brought together **elite Para (Special Forces) of the Indian Army, Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Indian Navy, and Garud (Special Forces) of the Indian Air Force.**
 - These units operated in a **simulated combat environment**, executing joint missions.
- Objectives and Key Focus Areas:
 - The exercise aimed to **enhance interoperability, coordination, and synergy** among the three Special Forces units.
 - It focused on ensuring a swift and effective response to emerging security challenges.
 - The exercise featured a range of high-intensity drills, including:
 - Airborne insertion
 - Precision strikes
 - Hostage rescue operations
 - Counter-terrorism missions
 - Combat free falls
 - Urban warfare scenarios
 - The **Special Forces operated under realistic conditions** to test their combat readiness.
- Supervision and Strategic Significance:
 - Senior military officials supervised the exercise to validate joint operational doctrines.

The exercise **reinforced the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to national security** by promoting seamless inter-service cooperation.

Kota Cares Initiative

Why in News?

To address stress among students preparing for competitive exams and the **rising cases of suicides**, the **Kota district administration recently announced a comprehensive set of reforms** for student welfare across the city.

Key Points

- About Kota Cares Initiative:
 - 'Kota Cares' is a **joint initiative of the** district administration, coaching institutes, hostel associations and local communities, **launched in December 2024.**
 - It is a **significant step towards improving the educational ecosystem of the city.** This initiative can serve as a model for other educational centres **not only in Kota but across the country.**
- New Guidelines and Features:
 - Housing and Financial Aid:
 - Security and caution money will be removed from 4,000 hostels.
 - Maintenance charges will be limited to Rs 2,000 per year.
 - Parents will be given receipts for all payments.
 - Defined guidelines for room change and leave policies.
 - Safety and Security Measures:
 - Compulsory gate-keeper training for all hostel staff.
 - Installation of modern security systems including CCTV surveillance and biometric systems.
 - Special provisions for women's hostels, which will also include women wardens.
 - Mandatory certification for anti-hanging devices and No Objection Certificates (NOC) for fire hazards.
 - Regular night attendance checks through personal room visits.
 - Student Welfare Initiatives:
 - Free access to Chambal Riverfront and Oxygen Zone
 - Designated spaces for recreation in all hostels.
 - Availability of food services during mid-term holidays.
 - **Kota Cares Help Desk** at Railway Stations and Bus Terminals.
 - A citywide network of student support centers.



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Summary

Key Points

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Summary

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