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## Trade Bodies Urge Rajasthan Government to Make Changes in Investment Policies | Rajasthan | 22 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, trade bodies in Rajasthan requested the state to change policies like the **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS)** and **Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog Protsahan Yojana (MLUPY)** to make the state investor-friendly.

### Key Points

- In the RIPS policy, investors get subsidies on **state goods and services tax (SGST)**, electricity fee, land tax, stamp duty, etc.
- The MLUPY scheme provides concessional bank loans to facilitate establishment of enterprises in the state and create employment opportunities.
- A delegation of **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham)** met Rajasthan's principal secretary, industries & commerce.
  - In this it is pointed out that interest benefits under RIPS were **available on term loans but not on working capital loans**.
  - The delegation requested for **industry-wide awareness programs** about the schemes.
  - It also requested that the **warehousing sector be covered under the preview** of industries.

### Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS)

- To promote rapid, sustainable and balanced industrial development in the state, 'Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2019' was implemented from **17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019**.
- In this, **75% recharge of 7 years SGST**, electricity tax stamp duty is also being recharged for new investment in manufacturing and service sector industries.
  - Along with this, concessions like 100% in market fee are being given.

### Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog Protsahan Yojana (MLUPY)

- This scheme has been launched with the objective of **providing subsidized loans through Financial institutions** to facilitate the establishment of enterprises in the state and to **provide new employment opportunities to all sections of society**.
  - Under the scheme, loans will be provided for manufacturing, service and business enterprises through financial institutions like ([Nationalized Commercial Bank](#), **Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Bank**, [Scheduled Small Finance Bank](#), [Regional Rural Bank](#), **Rajasthan Financial Corporation**, **SIDBI** and [Urban Cooperative Banks](#)).
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# Rajasthan Communities at Risk of Losing Land | Rajasthan | 22 Mar 2024

## Why in News?

Recently, a Rajasthan state government notification has sparked fear among [community dwellers](#) in **western Rajasthan**, who are concerned about potential **loss of access to forest produce and livelihood**.

## Key Points

- The community is apprehensive about the state's proposal to recognise **orans (sacred groves)** as deemed forests.
- The government notification declares that, in compliance with directives from the Supreme Court (SC), **orans, dev vans (sacred forests) and runds (traditionally conserved open forests)** will be categorised as [deemed forests](#).
  - The community through representation of the organisation **“Gochar Oran Sanrakshak Sangh Rajasthan”** has raised objection to the decision.
  - The village residents also depend on the forest for **gum, timber, forest produce and wild vegetables**, crucial for their livelihoods and daily needs.
  - If orans are declared as deemed forests, the people fear they will **lose access to forest produce and grazing land** for their herds and sheep.
- According to the officials, to prevent further degradation of such lands, the SC, in the **TN Godavarman case, 1996**, directed state governments to identify them and stipulated that all forests, including deemed forests, would be covered under **section 2 of the [Forest \(Conservation\) Act, 1980](#)**.
  - The provisions in this section **prohibit non-forestry activities** such as mining, deforestation, quarrying, or infrastructure projects on such forest land without permissions from the central government.
    - However, this does not restrict individuals or communities from accessing the forest for grazing or worship.

## Deemed Forests

- Deemed forests, **comprising about 1% of India's forest land**, are a controversial subject as they **refer to land tracts that appear to be a “forest”, but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records**.
- The concept of deemed forests **has not even been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act 1980**.
- In the **T N Godavarman Thirumalpad case 1996, SC accepted a wide definition of forests** under the Act and held that the word ‘forest’ must be understood according to its dictionary meaning.
  - This description **covers all statutorily recognised forests**, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of **Section 2 (1) of the Act** and also includes any **areas recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership**.
- The **provisions for the conservation of forest and the matters connected therewith applies clearly to all forests** irrespective of the ownership or classification.
- The **freedom to define which tracts of forest qualify** as forest has been the **prerogative of States since 1996**.
  - However, this only applies to forest land that has not already been historically classified as “forest” in revenue records, or categorised so by the government as “protected” or “reserve forest”.

## Forest Conservation Act, 1980

- The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 stipulated that the **central permission is necessary to**

**practice sustainable agro-forestry in forest areas.** Violation or lack of permit was treated as a criminal offence.

- It is targeted to limit deforestation, conserve biodiversity and save wildlife. Though this Act provides greater hope towards forest conservation it was not successful in its target.

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## SC Considers Lifting the Ban on Transmission Lines through GIB Habitats | Rajasthan | 22 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to **release over 67,000 sq km area** for setting up lines for **transmission of solar power generated in Rajasthan and Gujarat** but said **13,000 sq km area must remain undisturbed** as it's the core habitat of the **endangered bird**, [Great Indian Bustard](#).

### Key Points

- The Union government order banning overhead power cables for transmission of solar energy plants in 80,000 square km area is **unimplementable**.
- Further suggested **a balance** between **encouraging solar energy generation** to reduce emissions from coal-fired thermal power plants and all-out steps to do everything possible **to save the GIB from getting extinct**.

### The Great Indian Bustard



- Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) , the **State bird of Rajasthan**, is considered **India's most critically endangered bird**.
- It is considered the **flagship grassland species**, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to **Rajasthan and Gujarat**. Small populations occur in **Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Threat:**
  - The bird is under constant **threats due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines, hunting** (still prevalent in Pakistan), habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc.
- **Protection Status:**
  - **International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List (IUCN):** Critically Endangered
  - **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Appendix 1
  - **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):** Appendix I
  - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/12-02-2014/rajasthan/print>

