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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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## CAG Report Raises Concern on Rising Pollution in Kshipra | Madhya Pradesh | 22 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

According to the report of the [Comptroller and Auditor general \(CAG\)](#) of India, despite interventions of several state government agencies, [Kshipra river](#) continues to remain polluted.

### Key Points

- It points out that because of the **mismanagement of the Kshipra sub-basin** and the **indiscriminate exploitation of groundwater**, the natural flow of the river has been reduced.
- The report states that **waste of local urban bodies has been flowing into the river**.
- **Insufficient treatment of industrial waste, pollution on the riverbed** have led to deterioration of Kshipra water quality and its tributaries.
- The CAG has recommended in its report that **Madhya Pradesh pollution control board** must ensure proper and sufficient watch on industries.
- The report on the public works department mentions **delay in completion of under-construction bridges in the state** and stated that out of 72 sample bridges which were examined across five divisions between October 2020 and September 2021 only nine had been completed on time.

### Kshipra River

- It is a **perennial river of Madhya Pradesh state**
- It **originates in the Vindhya Range** from a hill called **Kakri-Tekdi**, which is in the north of Dhar and situated at a distance of 11km from Ujjain.
- This river is 195 km long, out of which 93 km flow through Ujjain.
- It flows across the **Malwa Plateau to join the Chambal River**.
- **Religious Significance:**
  - The Puranas, or ancient Hindu texts, put forward that the **Kshipra originated from the heart of Varaha**, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as a boar.



- Also on the banks of the Kshipra is Sage Sandipani's ashram or hermitage, where Krishna, Lord Vishnu's eighth incarnation, had studied.
- It finds mention not only in ancient Hindu texts but also in Buddhist and Jain scriptures.
- The holy city of Ujjain is **located on the right bank of the Kshipra River**. The famous Kumbha Mela takes place in the ghats of this city, once every 12 years, a yearly celebration of the river goddess Kshipra.
- Its major tributaries are **Khan and Gambhir**.

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## ASI Excavates Gupta Era Site in Madhya Pradesh to Find Relics | Madhya Pradesh | 22 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) is excavating the site in Nachne village of Madhya Pradesh's **Panna district** to find relics of one of the oldest temples of India and to study the condition of ancient temples.

### Key Points

- The site is in close proximity to two ancient temples- a **Gupta-Era Parvati Temple**- and **Chaumukhi Temple**, built by the **Kalachuri Dynasty**.
- The excavation work is underway on Chaumukh Nath Temple premises, which houses an **8<sup>th</sup>-century four-faced Shiva Linga**.
  - As per ASI, the Shiva Linga has been carved out with remarkable vitality, especially the **fierce open-mouthed face of the god on its south side**.
  - As of now, ASI excavated two mounds and after brushing off centuries of earth, layers of bricks have been undiscovered.
- The **objective of excavation** in Nachna is to see the **condition of ancient temples in India** and how temples evolved and developed.
- The site has **eight archaeological mounds** and the **excavation team has got permission to dig two mounds**.

### Chaumukhi Temple



- It is located in the **Panna district** of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is dated to the **9<sup>th</sup> century Kalachuri Dynasty** era.
- These temples illustrate a North Indian style of Hindu temple architecture.

### Parvati Temple



- Parvati temple of Nachna is dated back to the **Gupta period**. It was built in the **5th century**.
- This temple is Constructed on a terrace, 35 feet wide, this temple is composed of a small square sanctum, 15 feet side.

### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the **Ministry of Culture**, is the **premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation**.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.
- It oversees all archaeological undertakings within the nation by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, of 1958.

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