



Rajasthan Current Affairs  
*of*  
September 2021



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## PERSON in NEWS

### Persons on Important Posts: RAJASTHAN

Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (July 2021)
<b>Chief Justice of Rajasthan</b>	Kamal Kant Verma	Indrajit Mahanty (37th)
<a href="#"><u>Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)</u></a>	M. D. Kaurani	D B Gupta
<b>RPSC Chairman</b>	Sir Dr. S K GHOSH	Dr. Bhupendra Singh Yadav
<a href="#"><u>Advocate General of Rajasthan</u></a>	G.C. Kasliwal	Mahendra Singh Singhvi
<a href="#"><u>Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar</u></a>	Gopal Krishan Vyas
<a href="#"><u>Lokayukta of Rajasthan</u></a>	ID Dua (1973)	Pratap Krishna Lohra
<a href="#"><u>Chief Secretary</u></a> Rajasthan	K. Radhakrishnan	Niranjan Kumar Arya
<b>Pro-Term Speaker</b>	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
<b>Speaker Vidhan Sabha</b>	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
<b>Leader of Opposition</b>	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
<a href="#"><u>Governor of Rajasthan</u></a>	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Gurumukh Nihal Singh (Reorganised State 1956)	Kalraj Mishra
<b>Rajasthan Financial Commission Chairman</b>		Pradhyuman Singh
<b>Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan (CEO)</b>		Praveen Gupta
<b>State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan (SEC)</b>		Prem Singh Mehra
<b>Chairperson</b> <a href="#"><u>State Commission for Women</u></a>		-
<b>Chairperson Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights</b>		Sangeeta Beniwal
<b>DGP Rajasthan Police</b>		M L Lather
<b>Deputy Chairman -</b> <a href="#"><u>Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council</u></a>		Arvind Mayaram

## Persons on Important Posts: NATIONAL

Post (India)	First	Current (July 2021)
Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	V. Narahari Rao	Girish Chandra Murmu
Chief Justice of India	H. J. Kania	N. V. Ramana
Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Sukumar Sen	Sushil Chandra
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Wajahat Habibullah	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Nittoor Srinivasa Rau	Sanjay Kothari
UPSC Chairman	Sir Ross Barker	<a href="#">Pradeep Kumar Joshi</a>
RBI Governor	Osborne Smith	Shaktikanta Das
Lokpal of India	Pinaki Chandra Ghose	Pinaki Chandra Ghose
Financial Commission Chairman	K. C. Neogy	Nand Kishor Singh (15th) (2020-2025)
Speaker Lok Sabha	G. V. Mavalankar	Om Birla
Cabinet Secretary	N. R. Pillai, ICS	Rajiv Gauba

Post (India)	Current (July 2021)
Law Commission Chairman	Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
National Commission for SC	Vijay Sampla
National Commission for ST	Harsh Chouhan
Chairman - National Commission for Minorities	<i>Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura</i>
Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson	Arun Kumar Misra

<b>Chairperson, National Commission for Women</b>	Rekha Sharma
<b>National Security Adviser</b>	Ajit Kumar Doval
<b>Attorney General of India</b>	K.K Venugopal
<b>Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission</b>	Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
<b>Chairman, ISRO</b>	Kailasavadivoo Sivan
<b>Principal Scientific Adviser</b>	<a href="#">K. VijayRaghavan</a>
<b>Chairman, University Grants Commission</b>	D.P.Singh
<b>Chairman, Central Water Commission of India</b>	S K Haldar
<b>Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI)</b>	Ajay Tyagi
<b>Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India</b>	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
<b>Chairman, 7th Pay Commission</b>	Ashok Kumar Mathur
<b>Chairman, SIDBI</b>	Sivasubramanian Ramann
<b>Chairman, NABARD</b>	Govinda Rajulu Chintala
<b>Chairperson, State Bank of India</b>	Dinesh Kumar Khara
<b>Chairman, IDBI</b>	M R Kumar
<b>Chief Economic Advisor</b>	Krishnamurthy Subramanian
<b>Chief of Army Staff</b>	Manoj Mukund Naravane
<b>Chief of Air Staff</b>	V.R. Chaudhary
<b>Chief of Naval Staff</b>	Karambir Singh
<b>Chief of Integrated Defence Staff</b>	R Hari Kumar
<b>Chief of Defence Staff</b>	Bipin Rawat

### Sahariya Tribe

As per a recent report released by Mandsaur University, malnutrition, gender gap, poverty, poor access to healthcare and conservative mindset are among the main reasons behind the socio-economic backwardness of the Sahariyas.

#### Who are Sahariya tribe?

- Sahariya are an indigenous community from Shahbag and Kishanganj tehsil in the Baran district of Rajasthan.
- Sahariyas have the worst socio-economic indicators among the 12 notified Schedule tribes in the state.
- Sahariya is the only tribe to be included in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) list from Rajasthan. The list includes 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) from the 705 schedule tribal groups identified across the country.
- As per government records, the tribe dominates in 400 villages and as per the government records, they account for 1 lakh families.

### Kamla Bhasin

- Renowned feminist, author and alumni of Rajasthan University Kamla Bhasin (75) passed away in September 2021.
- She returned to work at Sewa Mandir in Udaipur and was known as 'motorcycle wali' in Udaipur as she rode a mobike.
- She played a vital role in shaping a national narrative against the glorification of Sati in Rajasthan in 1987 and participated actively in agitation of rape case of Bhanwari Devi that led to the Vishaka Guidelines.
- She championed the cause of gender equality in entire South Asia. The movement 'One Billion Rising' (OBR) resonated across the globe and is seen as one of the biggest movements in recent history.

### Shivani Meena

Shivani Meena from Sawai Madhopur has become the first woman to be appointed as the excavation engineer in an open cast mine in Coal India.

**60<sup>th</sup> National Open Athletics Championship 2021**

The National Open Athletics Championships 2021 was held from September 15 to 19 at Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

In the championship, Rajasthan won 5 medals including 3 gold, 1 silver & 1 bronze medal.

- **Gold:**
  - Majlu Bala from Churu - Hammer throw
  - Sonal Sukhwai from Rajsamand – 20 KM Walk
  - Yaman Deep - Decathlon
- **Silver**
  - Sonal Sukhwai – 35 Kms Walk
- **Bronze**
  - Vanam Sharma - Shotput



## Places in NEWS

### Central Park, Jaipur

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, CM Gehlot laid foundation stone of the structural construction of Gandhi Dharshan Museum at Central Park, Jaipur. The museum will be constructed in three phases. A 11-member committee constituted for the purpose will decide the structural design, content, artifacts and literature on Gandhi ji. The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has estimated Rs 11.90 crore for construction of the structure.

On the Central Park land in Kanak Bhawan, the state government also inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences. Following the Supreme Court of 5<sup>th</sup> May, the JDA had taken possession of Lakshmi Vilas Hotel, Kanak Bhawan and a horse stable at Central Park, spread across nearly 35,000sqm.

### Kankan Park Jodhpur

Rajasthan is developing infrastructure to promote the state as a textile hub, as part of the initiative, the Kankan park spread over 1,000 acre is being developed near Jodhpur. the area is part of the dedicated freight corridor and the state has other necessary infrastructure facilities like logistics, raw materials, and labour required for the sector.

### Rohat, Pali

The Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) has huge potential to develop technical textiles. To leverage the raw material, the state has also identified 100 acre zone at **Rohat in Pali** for manufacturing technical textile.

### Dhariyawad, Vallabhanagar

The Election Commission (EC) announced the dates for bypolls to the two assembly seats of Dhariawad (ST seat) in Pratapgarh district and Vallabhnagar in Udaipur district in the state. As per the election schedule, voting will be held on October 30 and counting of votes will take place on November 2.

Elections were necessitated to the seats after Congress MLA from Vallabhnagar Gajendra Singh Shaktawat died due to Covid-19 on January 20, and BJP legislator from Dhariawad Gautam Lal Meena died of the infection on May 19.

### Alwar & Dholpur

The Rajasthan State Election Commission has announced that election for the members of zila parishads and panchayat samitis of **Alwar** and **Dholpur** districts will be held in three phases on October 20, 23 and 26. The counting of votes will be done at district headquarters on October 29.

Elections in four other districts are pending due to the issue of delimitation of their panchayats being sub-judice.

Earlier this month, elections for 200 seats in six zila parishads and 1,564 seats in 78 panchayat samitis in Bharatpur, Dausa, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sawai Madhopur and Sirohi districts were held in three phases on August 26, 29 and September 1 and results were declared on September 4.

### MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur

The bill moved by the higher education minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati for upgrading MBM Engineering College to MBM University (Multi-discipline), Jodhpur was passed paving the way for the 28th state varsity in the state. It has become the first university to have its first vice-chancellor for a duration of five years.

### CIPET, Jaipur

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated CIPET: **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Technology, Jaipur** through video conference. The institute was previously known as Central Institute of *Plastics* Engineering & Technology (CIPET).

CIPET was initially established in Chennai in 1968 with the help of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Currently, it is a premier Academic institution for higher & technical education under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India. Additionally, CIPET is now present at 37 locations and 5 more are in the process of establishment.

### New Medical Colleges

PM Modi laid the foundation stone for four new medical colleges in the Banswara, Sirohi, Hanumangarh & Dausa districts of Rajasthan. Post 2014, 23 medical colleges have been approved by the central government for Rajasthan, out of which 7 medical colleges have already become operational.

### Jodhpur City Knowledge and Innovation Cluster

The Jodhpur City Knowledge & Innovation Cluster (JCKIC) has been established under the Aegis of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India. In September 2021, Vice-President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurated the JCKIC.

The main focus of the cluster is to provide a necessary platform to create synergy between all the stakeholders to make use of available knowledge as well as to develop advanced technologies, creative skills, state of the art infrastructure and innovative environment in an organized manner so as to ensure sustainable and systematic development of city of Jodhpur.

The Vice President also laid the foundation stone of the Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIOT) Hub at IIT-Jodhpur.

## Environment

### High Court directs State Government to Conserve all Lakes in State

Justices Sangeetraj Lodha and Vineet Kumar Mathur of Jodhpur bench of Rajasthan High Court has directed the government to take steps for the conservation of all lakes in the state. The court ordered all district-level committees of lakes to survey and study the lakes and make it a protected area. Additionally, the state government has been directed to release a separate budget in collaboration with the scheme of the central government for conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

Structured conservation of lakes in the state started after **Rajasthan Lakes (Protection and Development) Authority Act 2015** came into effect. Rajasthan government also formed the *Lake Development Authority* as per the provisions of the Act and also formed *district-level conservation and development committee under the chairmanship of the district collector*. The court ordered all district-level committees of lakes to survey and study the lakes and make it a protected area.

#### What lakes have been mentioned in order ?

While the order has been to conserve all lakes across the State, there has been mention of few lakes including:

District	Lakes
Jaisalmer	Gadisar , Kavod (Pokran)
Udaipur	Jaisamand, Fatehsagar, Pichola
Ajmer	Faisagar, Bisalsar, Gundolav and Annasagar
Rajsamand	Rajsamand
Alwar	Siliserh
Sirohi	Nakki (Mount Abu)
Jodhpur	Balsand, Ummedsagar, Kaylana, Phalodi, Takhtsagar
Bikaner	Gajner, Kolayat and Loonkaransar
Bundi	Kanaksagar
Sikar	Peethampuri, Varevas, Kachor
Dungarpur	Gapsagar
Nagaur	Khalda, Dugri, Gawane
Churu	Talchapar
Jaipur	Sambhar

**'Say No to Cheetah' Campaign**

In September 2021, wildlife experts, animal lovers and environmentalists from Rajasthan have initiated a **'Say No to Cheetah Campaign'** against the exercise taken by the state forest department to introduce cheetah in [Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve \(MHTR\)](#). In November 2020, the State Forest department had conducted rapid site assessment for cheetah.

As per environmentalist, this new program will jeopardise the tiger reintroduction programme started in 2018.

## Economy

### Land at Concessional Rate for Charging stations

To promote electric vehicles in the state, the urban development and housing (UDH) department will allot government land on concessional rates. As per the order dated September 28, land will be allotted at 50% concession for first 500 renewable energy based EV charging stations installed within five years.

The land at concessional rates will be given to applicants whose applications will reach the urban local bodies of the district concerned through Renewable Energy Corporation. These urban bodies will prepare a proposal for allotment of land and send it to the state government.

The State has released **Rajasthan Solar Energy policy, 2019** and **Rajasthan Wind and Hybrid Energy Policy-2019**. The provisions to allot land on the concessional rates are made under these policies.

There are types of charging stations—fast and slow, can be developed in the state. The fast-charging stations take 60 minutes and slow charging stations will take six hours to charge the vehicle. As per the calculations, for slow charging stations in urban limits minimum 800 square feet land is required where at least 10 vehicles can be charged at a given time. Similarly, fast-charging stations require a set-up on minimum 460 square feet land where it can have capacity of six vehicles.

Meanwhile, the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has also invited expression of interest (EOI) from private companies to install, operate and maintain charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) in the city. For the same, the civic body has identified nearly 75 locations.

### Rajasthan Ranks First in Installed Solar Energy Capacity

In a recently released report of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), [Rajasthan](#) has overtaken Karnataka to rank first in the country with an installed capacity of 7737.95 MW of solar power.

As per the DIPR NEWS, [Rajasthan](#) has registered unprecedented progress in all areas of solar energy including ground mount, roof top and off grid in the year 2021. Despite Covid-19 pandemic, 2348.47 MW of new solar power capacity has been installed in [Rajasthan](#) in the last eight months only.

The [State's Solar Energy Policy-2019](#) has been very important for the investors. Additionally, the provisions of [RIPS-2019](#) have also been instrumental in bringing a revolutionary change in the field of solar energy in the state. Under this policy, customized investment proposals worth Rs 34,200 crore

were approved in the hybrid energy sector in the state in April 2021. Most of these are related to solar energy.

#### Installed Solar Energy Capacity in States:

Rank	State	Installed Solar Capacity (MWp)
1	<a href="#">Rajasthan</a>	7737.95
2	Karnataka	7469
3	Gujarat	5708
4	Tamil Nadu	4675
5	Andhra Pradesh	4380

The state of Rajasthan has a solar generation potential of about 142 GW. The [State Government](#) plans to systematically harness this potential and has set for itself an ambitious target of 30 GW capacity by 2024-25 which will transform the energyscape of the state and the country.

#### Rajasthan SDG Index 2021 (Ver. 2.0)

Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of [Rajasthan](#) has released '**Rajasthan SDG Status Report-2021 (Ver. 2.0)**' in the month of March, 2021 on the lines of National Indicators Framework. To measure the performance of districts on the SDG's, *Rajasthan Sustainable Development Goal Index or Rajasthan SDG Index 2021* has been developed.

The *SDG Index* aims to measure the performance of districts on the SDG's. Additionally, SDG Index can be broken down into goal level score in order to help understand what goals have been achieved and where more effort is needed.

NITI Aayog's Methodology was used in computing these index and set of indicators chosen as per availability of district wise data in the state. Districts have been also classified into 4 categories: Achiever, Front runner, Performer and Aspirant, where the 'Achiever' category represents the highest rank and the 'Aspirant' category represents the lowest rank.

#### Rajasthan SDG Index 2021 Methodology

Department of Economics & Statistics, Government of Rajasthan selected the methodology and chose the set of indicators from the 55 indicators of NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals Index for developing a sustainable development goals index for the state of Rajasthan.

The Rajasthan's SDG Index 2021 has been developed using **55 indicators across 13 goals**. To develop this index, data were used from publicly available sources. These data were aggregated to develop individual SDG score for each district in Rajasthan, which was then used to develop the Sustainable development goals index for Rajasthan.

For each goal, the SDG score ranges between 0 and 100, where 0 being the worst among the group and 100 signifying that all the targets for that goal/all goals have been achieved.

Rajasthan SDG District-wise Ranking Overview:

Districts have been classified into 4 categories: Achiever, Front runner, Performer and Aspirant, where the 'Achiever' category represents the highest rank and the 'Aspirant' category represents the lowest rank. Details are given in the table below:

#### Category wise classification of Districts

<b>Aspirant</b> (Score is less than 50)	<b>Performer</b> (Score is less than 65 but greater than or equal to 50)	<b>Front Runner</b> (Score is less than 100 but greater than or equal to 65)	<b>Achiever</b> (Score is equal to 100)
Baran, Dungarpur, Dhaulpur Barmer, Jalore, Ptatapgarh Jaisalmer,	Karauli, Kota, Churu, Dausa, Jaipur, S.Madhopur, Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Nagaur, Jhalawar, Hanumangarh, Tonk, Alwar, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Sikar, Bharatpur, Baran, Ajmer, Sirohi, Pali,Dungarpur,Dholpur,Pratapgarh, Rajasmand Banswara , Bikaner, Ganganagar	-	-

#### Rajasthan: District wise SDG Score

Rank	District Name	Score
1	<a href="#">Kota</a>	59.3
2	<a href="#">Churu</a>	58.6
3	<a href="#">Jhunjhunu</a>	58.34
4	<a href="#">Sikar</a>	58.19
5	<a href="#">Ganganagar</a>	57.83
6	<a href="#">Karauli</a>	57.73



7	<a href="#">Ajmer</a>	56.91
8	<a href="#">Alwar</a>	56.76
9	<a href="#">Jaipur</a>	56.24
10	<a href="#">Hanumangarh</a>	56.09
11	<a href="#">Dausa</a>	55.87
12	<a href="#">Nagaur</a>	55.72
13	<a href="#">Bundi</a>	55.1
14	<a href="#">Bikaner</a>	54.75
15	<a href="#">Pali</a>	54.11
16	<a href="#">Jhalawar</a>	53.88
17	<a href="#">Tonk</a>	53-37
18	<a href="#">Sirohi</a>	53-34
19	<a href="#">Udaipur</a>	53.21
20	<a href="#">S.Madhopur</a>	53.05
21	<a href="#">Bhilwara</a>	52.74
22	<a href="#">Jodhpur</a>	51.65
23	<a href="#">Chittorgarh</a>	51.37
24	<a href="#">Rajsamand</a>	50.72
25	<a href="#">Banswara</a>	50.55
26	<a href="#">Bharatpur</a>	50.4

27	<a href="#">Dungarpur</a>	49.7
28	<a href="#">Dholpur</a>	49.65
29	<a href="#">Jalore</a>	49.56
30	<a href="#">Baran</a>	48.33
31	<a href="#">Pratapgarh</a>	47.64
32	<a href="#">Barmer</a>	44-51
33	<a href="#">Jaisalmer</a>	41.69
	<a href="#">Rajasthan</a>	50.63

### Review of Progress of Mumbai-Delhi Expressway

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari will be reviewing the progress of **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME)** on 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> [September 2021](#) covering the States of Delhi, Haryana, [Rajasthan](#), Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The new Delhi-Mumbai expressway is expected to halve the commute time between Delhi and Mumbai from nearly 24 hours to 12 hours and shorten the distance by 130 km. This will generate annual fuel savings of more than 320 million liters and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 850 million Kg which is equivalent to the planting of 40 million trees.

### What is Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME) ?

The **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway** is a **1,380 km long**, 8-lane wide (expandable to 12) under-construction access-controlled expressway connecting national capital New Delhi with its financial capital Mumbai. The expressway is being built at a cost of 98,000 crore and will be the longest expressway in India. The Foundation stone of the project was laid by union minister Nitin Gadkari in presence of [Sushma Swaraj](#) & Arun Jaitley on 8 March 2019. Out of the 1,380 kms, contracts for more than 1,200 kms have already been awarded and is under progress.

The Delhi-Mumbai expressway passes through the six states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra with:

S. No	State	Length of Expressway (in Kms)
1	Delhi	9
2	Haryana	160
3	Rajasthan	374
4	Madhya Pradesh	245
5	Gujarat	423
6	Maharashtra	171
	Total	1382

### Delhi-Mumbai Expressway & Wildlife Protection

Minimizing environmental and wildlife impact has been a cornerstone for Delhi Mumbai Expressway. The expressway is the first in Asia and only the second in the world to feature animal overpasses to facilitate unrestricted movement of wildlife.

The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will have 3 animal and 5 overpasses with a combined length of 7 km dedicated for unencumbered wildlife movement. The expressway will also include two iconic 8 lane tunnels which are a testament to the engineering prowess of the country, one tunneling through [Mukundra Wildlife National Park](#) without disturbing the endangered fauna in the region for 4 kms and the second 4 km 8 lane-tunnel will pass through the **Matheran eco-sensitive zone**.

### Overall Corridor Completion Schedule

The two sections of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, the Delhi – Dausa – Lalsot section which is part of the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway and the Vadodara-Ankleshwar Section which connects Vadodara to the economic hub of Bharuch are likely to be opened for traffic by Mar' 2022. The complete expressway is planned to be completed by **Mar' 2023**.

The key challenges during the pre-construction stage were extensive land acquisition and timely clearances such as environment, forest and wildlife. Land acquisition for an area of 15,000 ha. was completed in short span of time with land acquisition for Delhi to Vadodara section completed in less

than 1 year. In addition, the statutory clearances were obtained in parallel to save time during implementation.

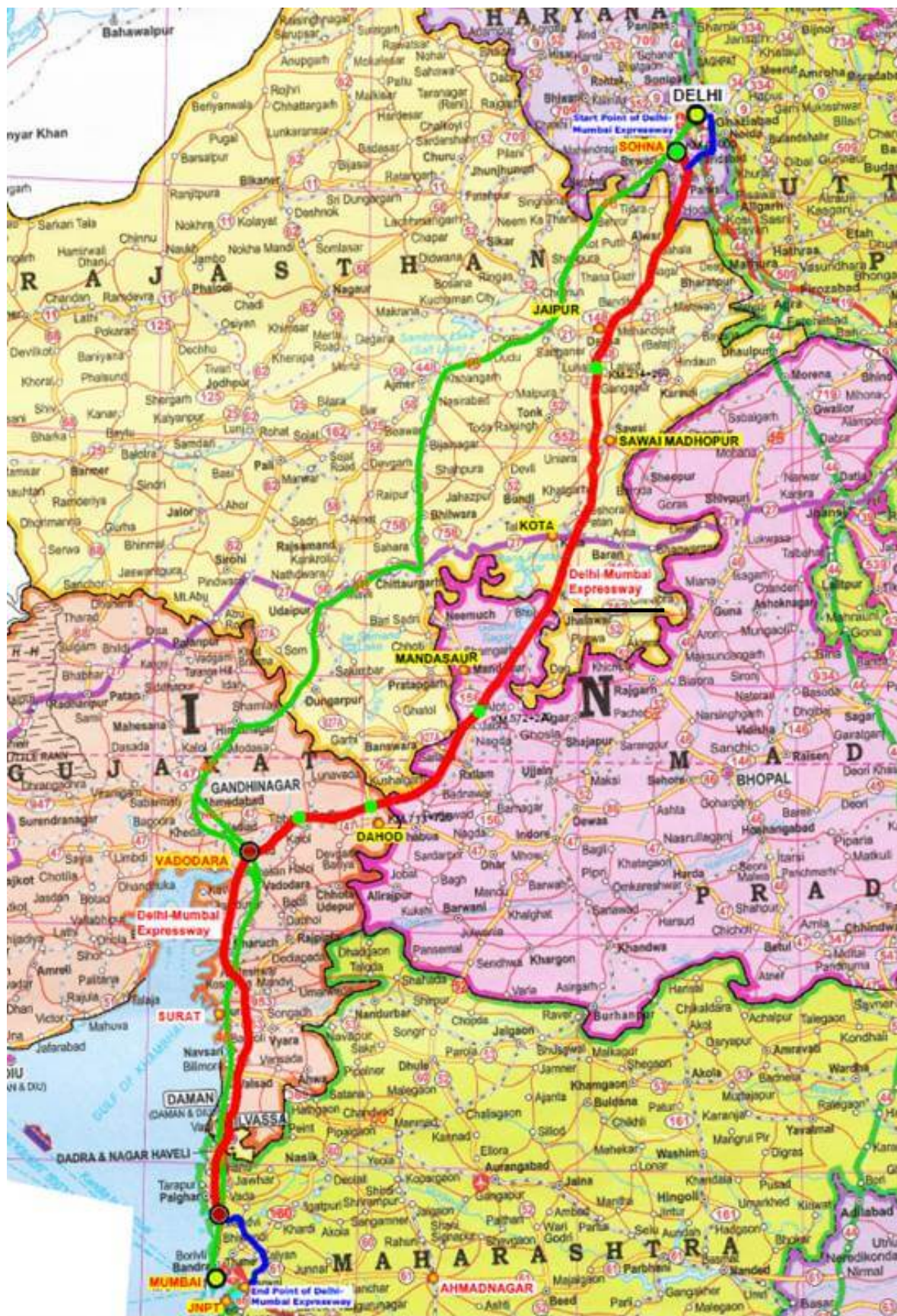
To ensure faster implementation, use of technology was promoted through-out the project lifecycle where advanced technologies such as LiDAR, GPR, Digital maps were used during the preparation of Detailed Project Report followed by use of Drone based surveys, Equipment telematics, pre-casting during the construction stage. Additionally, the packaging of the construction was also planned scientifically to minimize overrun of time through intelligent tendering processes which enabled simultaneous working at multiple stretches.

### **Rajasthan (Location 2 and 3)**

- Length in State: 374 km of the total expressway passes through the [state of Rajasthan](#) and the section is being built at a total capital cost of more than 16,600 crores with contracts for all 374 kms already awarded.
- Connectivity:
  - The corridor will pass through the districts of [Alwar](#), [Bharatpur](#), [Dausa](#), [Sawai Madhopur](#), [Tonk](#), [Bundi](#) and [Kota](#) to connect the state's growing economic aspirations.
  - Key interchanges have been planned along the corridor to enhance the connectivity of the corridor with existing highway networks through interchanges along the expressway. One such marquee interchange is situated near Dausa and will connect the expressway with the existing Agra-Jaipur Highway.
  - In addition, an additional spur from Bandikui to Jaipur is planned to complete the Delhi – Jaipur Expressway and reduce the commute time between delhi and Jaipur from 4 hrs to less than 2 hrs.
- Marquee Feature:
  - Rajasthan is a state rich with wildlife, flora and fauna. The expressway passes through some world-famous sanctuaries like [Ranthambore Tiger Reserve](#) and [Chambal sanctuary](#). Multiple steps have been taken to ensure minimal impact to the ecosystem. The expressway is the first in Asia and only the second in the world to feature animal overpasses to facilitate unrestricted movement of wildlife. The DME will have 3 animal and 5 overpasses with a combined length of 7 km dedicated for unencumbered wildlife movement. The expressway will also include India's first iconic 8 lane 4km tunnel which will tunnel through [Mukundra sanctuary](#) without disturbing the endangered fauna in the region.

- In addition, multiple bridges are being built across the rivers of the state like [Banganga river](#), [Banas river](#), Mez river and [Chambal river](#).
  - An iconic 1100 m long elevated stretch has been planned across the Chakan Dam which will be an engineering marvel.
- WSA: The state will also have 28 wayside amenities located at strategic locations to provide world class amenities to commuters while also generating employment opportunities in the state of Rajasthan.
- Completion Schedule: All the packages in the [state of Rajasthan](#) are under progress with the Delhi – Jaipur (Dausa)- Lalsot section of 214 km targeted to be completed and open to traffic by March 2022. The remaining section from Lalsot to Kota is targeted to be completed by March 2023.





## General

### State Cabinet approves proposal to establish Rajasthan Legislative Council

In [July 2021](#), the Cabinet of Rajasthan headed by CM Gehlot has approved a proposal to constitute Rajasthan legislative council. A proposal to constitute the Vidhan Parishad will be sent to Parliament after getting a nod of the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha.

### What is State Legislative Council or Vidhan Parishad ?

In the political system of India, there are two types of states with regard to state legislature. Most of the state in India have Unicameral system while few others have a bicameral system. Unicameral system has only one House and is known as the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), however, in Bicameral system, the State has two houses, the lower House is known as the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and the Upper House is known as the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).

Presently, only 6 States in India namely: Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have Bicameral system of state legislature.

According to the Constitution, any legislative council of a state cannot have more than one-third of members of the state assembly or less than 40. However, actual strength decided by Parliament. The council cannot be dissolved and its member's tenure is of six years.

In [July 2021](#), West Bengal passed a resolution supporting an ad hoc committee report that favoured the creation of a legislative council. After 2 days, the Rajasthan State cabinet also cleared a proposal in this regard.

### Previous attempts to Constitute Rajasthan Legislative Council:

In 2008, the proposal to constitute Rajasthan Legislative Council was sent for the first time. Later on 18th April 2012, the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the resolution for second time and the proposal was again sent to Parliament. However, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice had sought the opinion of the state government regarding the suggestions of the Standing Committee of Parliament on the proposal to constitute the Legislative Council. As per officials, after nine years, the state government is now submitting its opinion.



**Important Cabinet Decisions of September 2021:**

- The cabinet gave its approval for an additional long-term loan of Rs 500 crore from the Bank of India for the Farmers' Welfare Fund, constituted for various schemes.
- It decided to amend the Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Amendment) Rules, 2021, adopting new standards and procedures for the appointment of chairman and members of the commission as well as to make investigations more transparent and efficient.
- The cabinet gave its nod to issue caste certificates to children of single women belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, and income and property certificates in the name of the mother.
- The cabinet also gave its nod to upgrade the cell for peace and non-violence and establish it as a directorate to promote the principles of Mahatma Gandhi at grass-roots level.
- The cabinet also decided that government college in Bijolia will be renamed after Vijay Singh Pathik.
- The cabinet also approved Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana.

**Health Camps from 02 October:**

Scaling up the Covid-19 vaccination, health camps will be organised under **Prashasan Shehron ke Sang** and **Prashasan Gaon ke Sang** across the state from 2<sup>nd</sup> October. In the health camps, other facilities such as availability of doctors, Covid and other vaccines and some medicines will be made available. At the health camps, the patients will be able to get all medicines under free medicine scheme which is available at a primary health centre.

**Change in Name of Industry Department**

The name of the 'Industry Department' of the State Government will be changed to '**Industry and Commerce Department**'. Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has approved a proposal in this regard. Along with this, the designations of the officers of this department will also be changed according to the new name of the department.

**Rajasthan government approves revamp of commercial taxes department**

The state government has approved a proposal to restructure the commercial taxes department due to the changed scenario after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This is expected to



facilitate the registration and evaluation of complaints of dealers and the works related to revenue collection.

What is new?

- The number of zones, circles and wards will be increased for better administrative arrangements. A new zone will be created in Bhiwadi for the effective implementation of GST in the state. This will increase the number of administrative zones to 16. The number of regular circles will be hiked from 82 to 135. The number of regular wards will be increased from 296 to 320.
- The government has okayed the creation of 15 additional posts of Rajasthan Commercial Tax Service and Rajasthan Commercial Tax (Subordinate) Service.
- Appellate authority offices have also been sanctioned for the convenience of taxpayers. The office of the appellate authority has been approved in the Kota Zone. This will facilitate the taxpayers to appeal against the orders passed by the tax assessing officials at the local-level.
- Enforcement cell is being strengthened to check tax evasion.
- A business intelligence unit will be set up to strengthen the audit and anti-evasion work.

#### 84 crores transferred to TB Patients in the state

Around Rs 84 crore had been transferred to patients undergoing treatment under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the state since April 2018. Nikshay Poshan Yojana - incentive-based scheme was introduced to ensure patients' adherence to medications that will ultimately help eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.

- TB patients are being given financial assistance of Rs 500 per month under the scheme.
- In tribal areas, they are given Rs 750 per month.

#### My Examination Center – App

The traffic police has designed & launched a mobile to help students find their examination centres, named as My Examination Center App.

#### Rajasthan Essential Services Maintenance Act (RESMA)

Ahead of REET on September 26, the state government invoked **Rajasthan Essential Services Maintenance Act (RESMA)** on organisations providing transport services.

In such a situation, any person related to roadways and private bus operators will neither strike nor participate in a strike. According to a late-night order by the transport department, district collectors can acquire all types of vehicles for free travel of candidates.

Private operators will provide 19,000 buses, the cost of which will be compensated by the state government. The committees constituted under the chairmanship of the collectors will take a decision on the route of the buses. Along with this, the number of buses will be counted from check-posts placed on designated routes.

### New Pension Rules

In September 2022, the state cabinet decided to provide pensions as per norms under the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013** and issued a notification for the same. The employees are currently receiving pension as per the Rajasthan Civil Services (Contributory Pension) Rules, 2005.

### Expansion in Scope in Compassionate Appointment

The cabinet also decided to extend the scope of compassionate appointment in government service to dependents of employees suffering **from diseases** by amending the Rajasthan Compassionate Appointment Rules, 1996.

As per the new rules, Divorced daughters and, in case of unmarried government employees, mother, father or unmarried brother, sister or, if none of them are available, married sister could be considered for appointment.

At present, only husband, wife, son or unmarried or widowed daughter, adopted son or unmarried adopted daughter are eligible for appointment.

### Sixth Finance Commission Interim Devolution

In the interim report, the sixth Rajasthan State finance Commission has proposed **6.75% of the state government's net own tax for the PRIs and ULBs against 7.18% during the 2015-20.**

Since funds of the state government can be released after the recommendations of the commission, an interim report was sought by the government for two years (2020-21 and 2021-22). The commission has cited the finance department's concerns over decline in tax revenues due to the Covid pandemic and rising revenue expenditure on account of social security pensions, salaries and wages, increasing interest payout and higher subsidies and grant-in-aid.

The funds are generally used for drinking water, creation of water reservoirs, providing services through e-governance, Indira Rasoi Yojana, LED lights, youth development, Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, carrying out initiatives for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, schools.

### Rajasthan's Mining Department increases 22%

The revenue of the mines department has increased to Rs 2,068 crore during April-September 12, 2021 against Rs 1,694.52 crore and Rs 1,751 crore during the same period in 2020 and 2019, respectively. The department attributed the rise in royalty collection and other incomes to curbing illegal mining and better mining activity during the period.

Besides the royalty revenue, the department has been able to collect more revenues for District Mineral Fund Trust (**DMFT**), Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (**RSMET**) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (**NMET**). Till September 12, DMFT has received over Rs 545.13 crore, RSMET Rs 15 crore and NMET Rs 27.49 crore, respectively.

### Crime in India-2020 report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- Rajasthan recorded the highest number of economic offences in the country last year, followed by Uttar Pradesh & Telangana.
- Rajasthan recorded the highest cases under forgery, cheating, and fraud.
- UP had the highest cases of crimes against SCs, followed by Bihar while Rajasthan stood third in the list.
- Rajasthan, however, had the second-highest number of cases of crimes and atrocities against members of ST communities in 2020, second only to MP.
- Rajasthan stood second in the country in prevention of corruption act cases. Maharashtra occupied the first place. After Maharashtra, Rajasthan reported maximum cases of arrests and organising traps. The ACB for the past several months have exposed multiple high-profile corruption rackets including the one under investigation involving two senior IAS officers posted in Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC).

### Two plug and play facilities

The industries department is setting up two plug and play facilities for young entrepreneurs in Sitapura industrial area and Jagatpura apparel park. These facilities will provide the young

entrepreneurs and startups to start their business without being worried about the land and infrastructure development. There will be common facility areas as well in the plug and play centres.

Fin Tech park being developed over 100 acre land near the Jaipur airport will give a fillip to the services sector in the state. The fintech park will be an integrated development of IT and finance that will offer large workspaces for both sectors. The park, aimed at attracting an investment of Rs 3,000 crore, will be developed with a project cost of Rs 106 crore that includes developing basic infrastructure.

### Registration (Rajasthan Amendment) 2021

The assembly passed an amendment to the Registration (Rajasthan Amendment) 2021 by making a provision of registering tenants at the sub registrar office (SDO) to reduce the disputes between the owner and tenant.

The move would help police in identifying the tenants in case of any dispute. It would be easier for either of the parties, tenant or owner, to exercise legal rights judiciously. The rate of stamp duty has been revised to Rs 200 for a property worth Rs 10 lakh.

### Registration of Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021

The Rajasthan assembly passed the Compulsory Registration of Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021. Section 8 of the Act provides that if parties to the marriage have not completed the age of marriage, the parents or guardians shall be held responsible to submit the application within a period of 30 days. It has been decided to incorporate the provision of registration of marriage in case of death of parties/party (husband or wife) also.

**Section 5** of Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2009, provides for the appointment of district marriage registration officer, the government by the amendment has decided to appoint additional marriage registration officer and block marriage registration officer for monitoring and reviewing the work of registration of marriages at the district and block level which was welcomed by all.

### Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2021

The assembly passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2021 to increase the punishment for food and medicine adulteration. Under the new amendment, the offence has been made cognizable and non-bailable and will invite a sentence ranging from three years to life term along with a penalty of Rs 50,000.

### Rajasthan Agriculture Universities' Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020

The assembly passed the Rajasthan Agriculture Universities' Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020 that specified the minimum qualification of a person for appointment as vice chancellors in agriculture universities and grounds of their removal in case of misconduct or irregularities.

As per the bill, "No person shall be eligible to be appointed as vice chancellor unless he is a distinguished academician in agriculture education having a minimum of 10 years experience as professor in a university or college or 10 years experience in an equivalent position in a reputed research and/ or academic administrative organisation and, of a highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment."

The vice chancellor will be appointed by the chancellor in consultation with the state government from among the persons included in the panel recommended by the search committee.

Additionally, there is no provision for removal of vice-chancellor in the agriculture universities' Acts if any unprecedented condition warrants it before the end of his tenure. Therefore, the provision relating to removal of a vice chancellor has also been incorporated.

Accordingly, If in the opinion of the chancellor, the vice chancellor wilfully omits or refuses to carry out the provisions of this Act or abuses the powers vested in him, or if otherwise appears to the chancellor that the continuance of the vice chancellor in office is detrimental to the interest of the university, the chancellor may, in consultation with the state government, after an inquiry as he deems proper, by order remove the vice chancellor.

### Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill

The assembly passed the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Amendment) bill, which empowers tehsildars to regularise encroachments on common facility land in villages for garbage dump, storing fodder, dumping cow dung etc by paying a premium and penalty.

With passage of time and increase of population in villages and towns, it is found that land granted for the purpose of common facilities were being used for residential purposes and permanent structures/ residential houses had come up on such land.

The dispossession of the people staying on such land would create hardship for such people. Keeping in view the above problem, "It has been decided that in case the land has been rendered of no use except for residential purpose, it would be allotted to the person to whom it has been granted, upon payment of premium therefore at the rate fixed under section 96 and on payment of penalty as may be prescribed.

### Rajasthan Panchayat Raj (Amendment ) Act

The posts of gram sewaks has been renamed as gram vikas adhikari through an amendment in the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Act

### Rajasthan Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021

An amendment bill was passed in the state assembly on Monday night to insert new section 27-A in the Rajasthan Tourism Trade (Facilitation and Regulation) Act, 2010. According to the amendment, misbehavior with tourists will now be a cognisable offence in Rajasthan and a non-bailable one if repeated.

According to the new section, the offence will be cognizable and bailable. At the same time, if the offence in sub-section 3 of section 13 is repeated, it will be non-bailable in subsection 4 of section 13.

### 50 Years of 1971 War

The Jaipur-headquartered South Western (**Sapta Shakti**) Command of the Indian Army organised a mega-event to mark the 50th anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war at various locations in the Jaipur city.

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the Bangladesh Liberation War in East Pakistan from 3 December 1971 to the fall of Dacca (Dhaka) on 16 December 1971.

### Prashasan Gaon ke Sang

As a part of Prashashan Gaon Ke Sangh Abhiyaan, which will be launched on October 2, the social justice and empowerment department will be organising camps in villages and cities to help differently abled people get disability certificates from medical officers so they can avail benefits under all the schemes meant for them.

### Genome Sequencing of All Covid-19 Samples in Rajasthan

Now, the sample of each Covid patient will undergo genome sequencing for identification of the variant. Earlier, only random samples were sent for sequencing. This will help in identifying the variant circulating in the state. Accordingly, the health department has ordered officials to send samples of infected persons to the SMS Medical College for genome sequencing.

The state has started its own genome sequencing laboratory at **SMS Medical College** in June 2021. Earlier, the health department had to send its samples for genome sequencing to a IGIB Laboratory in Delhi, which was allocated by the centre to the state for genome sequencing.

Through genome sequencing, the state government had come to know about the second wave caused by Delta variant of Covid-19 in which more than 6,000 people had died. The samples collected from Covid-19 patients from April-May Covid cases, showed that the main variant circulated in the state was Delta, which caused the damage.

### Health Vans

The state child commission along with an NGO has launched a van for health consultation of women and children in city slums. The van painted in bright yellow has been divided into three cabins for consultation, referral and medicines.

The van, which will have women health workers, is equipped with tools for check-up. The van would be parked for health checks in at least six places in the Jaipur city. The services will be free and all the women and children who come to the vehicle for preliminary health check-ups will be registered before consultation.

### Electric Highway

As per the Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari, ministry of Roads & transportation was in talks with a foreign company to construct an electric highway between Jaipur and Delhi. Like electric railway engines, buses and trucks will also be powered by electricity.

### Reservoirs under Jal Jeevan Mission

Four reservoirs will be constructed in **Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner** to meet existing and projected drinking water needs in nine districts of the state under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The union ministry has allocated Rs 1,275 crore to create sustainable water sources in the escape channels of Indira Gandhi Nagar Yojana (IGNP). The entire exercise will create an additional storage capacity of 1,100 cusec of water in three districts.

The Budget allocation for the scheme by the Centre has increased from Rs 2,522 crore to Rs 10,180 crore with the aim of providing tap connections. The state has 101.32 lakh rural household beneficiaries under the scheme.

### FHTR's Digital Campaign

Governor Kalraj Mishra launched the digital marketing campaign of the Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) at the Raj Bhavan. The campaign has focus on eco-tourism in Rajasthan.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Lok Adalat

This year's third National Lok Adalat was held in September 2021, both online and offline. Pre-litigation cases, matters related to Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery cases, labour and employment related matters, electricity-water, matters related to maintenance, matrimonial disputes, accident tribunal cases, land acquisition and revenue related matters were dealt with in the national lok adalat.

As per the directions of National Legal Services Authority, special focus is being given to cases of dishonour of cheques of less than Rs 2 lakh in this Lok Adalat.

**Justice Sangeet Lodha**, is the executive chairman of Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority.

### Emergency landing facility (ELF) on National Highway

In September 2021, a **Hercules C-130J** aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) touched down on a 3 km emergency landing facility (ELF) stretch on **NH 925A near Barmer** in a mock emergency drill. This India's first emergency landing facility (ELF) on a national highway.

NHAI had developed a 3km section of Satta-Gandhav stretch of NH-925A (part of Bharatmala Project) which is part of the newly-developed two-lane paved shoulder of Gagariya-Bakhasar and Satta-Gandhav section.

The mission also paved the way for 19 more ELFs that will come up on highways across the country. Two of them will come up in Rajasthan between Phalodi and Jaisalmer as well as Barmer and Jaisalmer.

While IAF has landed aircraft on national highways previously, including the Yamuna Expressway, this is the first time that NHAI has developed a strip keeping in mind the requirement for a landing facility on which transporter aircraft will also be able to land for the first time on a NH, apart from fighter jets.

Apart from the ELF, **three helipads** have been constructed in **Kundanpura, Singhania and Bakhasar** villages, which will be the basis for strengthening the defence forces and security network on the western international border of the country.



### Medium range missile defence system (MRMDS)

Later, in Jaisalmer, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inducted the medium range missile defence system (MRMDS) in the IAF. This missile unit has been made jointly by India and Israel and the first missile base has been set up at Jaisalmer Air Force station.

### SOP for Campaign against Child Begging in Rajasthan

The Rajasthan state commission for protection of child rights (RSCPCR) has drafted the SOP for an intensive campaign against child begging across the state and the same has been sent to the Chief Minister in a bid to ensure that all the nodal agencies can be asked to follow their roles as designated.

This was communicated by **Sangeeta Beniwal**, chairperson, Rajasthan state commission for protection of child rights (RSCPCR).

### Draft - Revised Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana Submitted to CM

Under the revamped Draft - Revised [Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana](#), the unemployment allowance will be increased from Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,500 for girls, specially abled persons and transgenders, and from Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 for boys.

However, as per the revised draft, youths will have to work for at least four hours a day to be eligible for the allowance. If they do not have any professional degree or diploma, they will have to undergo skill training for three months at RSLDC (Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods and Development Corporation).

Also, 2 lakh beneficiaries will be eligible for the scheme every year, an increase from 1.60 lakh.

### Governor returns Advocates Welfare Fund Bill

[Governor](#) Kalraj Mishra has returned the **Rajasthan Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2020** which was passed by the state assembly on March 7, 2020 for reconsideration based on objections raised by chairman of the Bar Council of Rajasthan and various district bar associations on the proposed hike in lifetime subscription and stamp duty.

As per **article 200 of the Constitution of India** (Assent to Bills), every bill, after it is passed by the assembly, is presented to the [Governor](#). There are four options before the Governor:

- May give his assent to the Bill

- He may withhold his assent
- May return the Bill to the Legislative Assembly for reconsideration.
- May reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President If the Governor gives his assent to the Bill then it becomes an Act.

If the Governor withholds his assent to the Bill then bill does not become an act. If the Governor returns the bill to assembly and the assembly again passes the bill, with or without amendments, then Governor has to give assent to the Bill.

### Vidhan Sabha Session to end on 18th September

The reconvened assembly session will continue till 18th September 2021. The decision was arrived at during the meeting of the **Business Advisory Committee (BAC) chaired by the Speaker (CP Joshi)**.

According to the recent news, a total of 12 bills may be passed in the current assembly session including 8 pending bills and the 4 bills tabled during the current session.

### Mandatory Recycling of Waste Water

The Urban Development and Housing (UDH) department has issued an order after making it a mandatory for plots measuring above 2,500 square metre to recycle and purify wastewater of kitchens and bathrooms. Provision is not meant for wastewater from toilets.

The department has also made a mandatory provision for constructing rainwater harvesting structure for houses up to or above the size of 225 square metre.

The State department has issued an order after making it a mandatory provision in the building bylaws.

### RERC increases Solar Net-Metering Capacity to 500 KWp

In September 2021, Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) has increased net metering load capacity up to 500 kilowatt-peak (KWp) from earlier provision of 10kW.

*As per the new order, "Net metering arrangement shall be applicable for loads up to 500 KW or up to the sanctioned load, whichever is lower, for all categories of the consumers. However, the Commission may take further view on other issues raised by the discoms in their response at a later stage by following the due procedure."*

### 400 applications under PMAY rejected

Applications of over 400 families belonging to Sahariya and Gadiya Lohar tribes in Baran district, for free housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), have been rejected by the local administration because of applicants possessing landline phones.

The PMAY scheme is for families that don't possess landlines, phones, fridges, bikes or own houses. The applicants for the scheme are recommended by their respective gram panchayats (GPs). It is scrutinised by the sarpanch and pradhan before it is sent to the zila parishad. Under the PMAY, the Central government provides the aid of Rs 1.5 lakh to the beneficiary for building a house on his/her own land.

### Road Accidents Analysis Scheme

The Rajasthan Transport Department has notified road accidents analysis scheme aimed to bring down the number of road accidents especially on national highways.

As per a recent department data, the percentage of accidents on national highways (NH) in 2019 was 37% out of the total crashes despite the fact that they comprise only 4% of the total road length.

According to the scheme, it shall be required by joint inspection team to inspect the accident site within 24 hours to carry out the scientific analysis of causes of the accident.

### Truck Trailer and Tyre Expo 2021

In September 2021, a three-day 'Truck Trailer and Tyre Expo 2021' was conducted in [Jaipur](#).

### 3D Light and Sound Show

**King Edward Memorial (KEM) in Ajmer** has now introduced 3D projection mapping light and sound show on the rich history of Ajmer. The new show is English and Hindi has been launched at a cost of Rs 3.22 crore under Ajmer smart city. The memorial was built in 1911.

In [July 2021](#), Ajmer ranked 13 in the list of India's 100 [smart cities](#) program.

### Rajasthan ranks top on Saathi Portal

[Rajasthan](#) has topped the list of the states for the number of hotels and restaurants registering on the **Saathi portal** of Union Ministry of Tourism which was created to ensure the compliance of [Covid19](#)-appropriate regulatory requirements.

The regulatory requirements cover all areas of operation of the hospitality and tourism units including cleaning, housekeeping, sanitisation, safety and health of employees and guests, identifying vulnerable areas, mitigating risks and mobilising resources for these activities.

More than 3000 units from [Rajasthan](#) has registered on the portal compared to over 1311 from Uttar Pradesh, 922 from Uttarakhand and 732 from Goa.

### Water Train

The State Government is contemplating running 'water trains' to Pali district by September-end as the water level in Jawai Dam is just at 10 feet due to deficit rainfall in the area this year.

Considered the lifeline of the area, Jawai Dam supplies water to Pali district, including Pali city, Sumerpur, Rani, Falna, Bali, Jaitaran, Sojat, Takhatgarh, Marwar Junction. Also, hundreds of villages are dependent on the dam for irrigation and drinking water.

As per recent new, the Water Resources and Public Health Engineering Department will send a report to the government after September 15 seeking budgetary approval to supply drinking water by train.

In 2019, water had to be supplied by train in Pali when monsoon activity in the area was below average.

### Govt. Working to make Rajasthan TB Free by 2025

Aiming to make [Rajasthan](#) free from tuberculosis (TB) by 2025 under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, the state health department will ramp up its TB testing across the state by organising health camps.

In September 2021, the health department launched programme to give pace to **active case finding (ACF) campaign** of TB and **Nikshay Poshan Yojana**.

ACF campaign is going on since 2017 to identify TB patients in the state. As many as 96,823 TB cases in the state were notified on Nikshay portal till now in 2021, whereas 1.37 lakh cases were notified in 2020. This year due to Covid, the identification of TB patients remained affected. Currently, 72,000 TB patients are undergoing treatment in the state.

TB patients during treatment are given Rs 500 per month under Nikshay Poshan Yojana.

### Shrinath Peeth campus

Governor Kalraj Mishra will lay the foundation stone of Shrinath Peeth campus on October 25 at Dabio Ka Guda village near Nathdwara, [Rajsamand](#). The campus will be the second campus of Mohanlal Sukhadia University.

## New Schemes & Policy

### Udaan Scheme for Sanitary Pads Distribution

On the birth anniversary of the country's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (November 19), the [Rajasthan](#) government is going to launch the '**UDAAN scheme**'.

Free [sanitary pads](#) will be distributed to the women of the state on day through schools, colleges, Anganwadi. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has decided to run this scheme to make women aware for better health and personal hygiene and to prevent diseases. This scheme was announced in the [state budget 2021-22](#).

A budget provision of Rs 200 crore has been made for '**Udaan Scheme**'. Along with girl students and adolescent girls, women of the state have also been brought under the ambit. Pads will be provided in different phases. In addition, a special awareness campaign regarding women's health will also be conducted through women's self-help groups, social and government organizations.

The nodal department of the UDAN scheme will be the Directorate of Women Empowerment. Its implementation will be done in collaboration with Medical-Health, School Education-College Education Department, Technical-Higher Education Department, Tribal Regional Development Department, Panchayati Raj Department, Rural Development Departments.

At the state level 2 brand ambassadors will be made and 1 brand ambassador will be selected at the district level. Awards will also be given to the NGOs and Brand Ambassadors associated with the scheme for doing good work. Complaints for napkins can be made on the helpline number 181.

### Green Rating of Industries in Rajasthan - RSPCB, CII Scheme

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), will jointly promote Green industries in [Rajasthan](#) through the use of GreenCo Rating, as a voluntary tool for enhancing the environmental performance of Industries in the state.

#### What is GreenCO Rating System

GreenCo Rating is a framework that evaluates companies on the environmental friendliness of their activities using life cycle approach. Till date over 700 companies in India are working on GreenCo rating of which 335 units are rated that includes several leading private sector companies, PSUs and SMEs. The rating system evaluates green features of a facility against the following performance parameters:

S No	GreenCo Parameter	Maximum Points
1	Energy Efficiency	150
2	Water Conservation	100
3	Renewable energy	100
4	Green House Gas mitigation	100
5	Waste management	100
6	Material Conservation, Recycling and Recyclability	100
7	Green Supply Chain	100
8	Product Stewardship & Life Cycle Aspects	125
9	Innovation for Environment	50
10	Green Infrastructure and Ecology	75
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>

### Benefits of Green Rating

To ensure maximum participation of the industries in the scheme and to provide financial and other benefit to the green rated industries, the State Board has decided to provide the following incentives and recognition to the Green Rated industrial units:

**a) Reduction in consent fee will be provided as per the table below:**

Sr. No	Green Rating Category	Reduction in Consent Fee
1	Certified	-
2	Bronze	5%
3	Silver	10%
4	Gold	25%
5	Platinum	50%

**b) Extension in consent period:** Extension in consent period for one year beyond the prescribed period for industries securing rating in Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum categories will be provided subject to the condition that no non-compliance is reported within the consented period.

**c) Use of Green Rating Logo by the Project Proponent:** The Project proponent will be permitted to use Green Rating Logo for promotion of his products/services or any other use. However, the Project Proponent will inform the State Board about the use being made.

**d) Exclusive mention of Green Rated Companies on the website of the State Board and CII:** State Board and CII will prominently feature all the Green Rated Projects on its website to provide them wide publicity and recognition.

### Rajasthan Heritage Property Guidelines 2021

The Rajasthan State Government has issued new guidelines to enable conversion of heritage properties to heritage hotels.

#### **What is a heritage property in Rajasthan?**

Heritage property means a fort, a fortress, a palace, a castle, hunting lodge, residence or a building with heritage features built **prior to 1.1.1950**.

#### **Guidelines:**

In a heritage property, the facade, architectural features and general construction should have the distinctive qualities and ambiance in keeping with the traditional way of life of the area. The architecture of the property to be considered for this category should not normally be interfered with.

Any extension, improvement, renovation, change in the existing structures should have been done in keeping with the traditional architectural styles and constructional techniques harmonizing the new with the old.

The newly built up area added should not exceed 50% of the total built up (plinth) area including the old and new structures. For this purpose, facilities such as swimming pools, lawns, common toilets, kitchen area etc will be excluded.

As per the new guidelines, a **Certificate of Heritage property** shall be issued, signed by the Commissioner/Director, Department of Tourism, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur on submission of requisite documents.

Local tehsildar or local body or Archaeology & Museum department will issue the proof of age of heritage property.



## Shahar – 2021

The state government will launch a six-month special campaign, christened '**Shahar-2021**' in the urban areas to resolve citizens' problems after organising camps in the urban local bodies.

A special website — '[shahar2021.rajasthan.gov.in](http://shahar2021.rajasthan.gov.in)' — has been developed containing the online application facility. Training has been imparted to officers of local bodies to run the online system. Also, to render technical assistance to the citizens, 600 '**Nagar Mitras**' have been registered for all towns of Rajasthan.

### Activities planned under Shahar-2021

➤ Issuing lease deeds to old 'abadi' (population) areas, Walled Cities, colonies settled on agricultural land without permission, state Grant Act	➤ 10 lakh lease deeds will be distributed in 213 urban local bodies, development authorities, 14 urban improvement trust and Rajasthan Housing Board
➤ Approval of building layout plan	
➤ Land conversion, 90 (A)	
➤ Name transfer	
➤ Subdivision and reconstitution of plots	
➤ Facilitate in depositing lease money	
➤ To issue free-hold lease deed	
➤ To issue death/birth certificate	➤ Helpdesk number 18001806127

The state government's aims to issue 10 lakh lease deeds during the campaign. It has been majorly emphasised to provide lease deeds in old areas of the Walled City. In 2015, an amendment was carried out in the Rajasthan Municipal Act, 1959 enabling issuance of title deeds to these residents by urban local bodies in lieu of their surrendering of the editing rights by them. However, this provision was scarcely used and remained on paper. The present government has decided to revisit the relevant provisions, rules and circulars to issue the lease deeds and benefit the residents.

The second plank of the campaign is the regularisation of colonies on agriculture land. It is estimated that about 7-8 lakh houses partially or fully constructed on agriculture land need title deeds. During the campaign, the local bodies will also issue free-hold pattas by replacing the lease hold pattas.

## Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme 2021

On September 20, 2021, Chief Secretary Niranjana Arya directed to issue a clear advisory under the '**Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme**' and strictly follow all the rules of the Forest and Environment Department on the buildings coming in eco-sensitive areas.

- The main objective of this scheme is to create investment and employment in rural areas as well as to protect and promote handicrafts and local products there.

- Under the 'Rajasthan Rural Tourism Promotion Scheme', **four units - guest house, agro-tourism unit, camping site and caravan park** will be set up.
- Under the guest house, tourists will get temporary accommodation and food facilities from 6 to 20 rooms in rural areas. Here the housing owner or manager will be required to live with the family.
- Agro-tourism units can be established on agricultural, commercial and industrial land and a minimum 2 hectare area. Construction will be allowed on 20 percent of it, the remaining 80 percent of land can be used for camel-horse farm, cowshed, crop etc. rural environment.
- Camping sites will be allowed on agricultural, commercial and industrial land. Construction will be allowed on 10 percent of the minimum area of 1 hectare and 80 percent can be used for camel farm, horse farm, crop, livestock, garden, rural environment.
- Caravan parks will be set up for tourists to park mobile vans. It can be built on agricultural, commercial and industrial land of minimum 1 hectare area. Here cooking, eating and construction of facilities will be allowed for tourists. The presence of tourists in the van will be required while parking the Caravan vehicle.
- All these tourism units will be allowed only on a road of at least 10 feet wide.

### Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana

On the occasion of World Tourism Day (27<sup>th</sup> September), CM Gehlot launched 'Mukhyamantri Paryatan Udyog Sambal Yojana-2021' to provide relief to the entrepreneurs of the tourism and hospitality sector affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

Under tourism units will get 9% interest subsidy on loans up to Rs 25 lakh. These loans will be for three years and applications will be allowed up to March 2022. The scheme will be part of the existing Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog Protsahan Yojana (MLUPY) and will be governed by the norms of MLUPY. The scheme will be operational till March 2024.

In MLUPY, maximum interest subsidies are up to 8%. But keeping in view the difficulties faced by tourism units, 1% extra interest subsidy has been given by the government.

### Other Reliefs for Tourism Industry:

According to a finance department order, hotels and tour operators will get refunds for state GST (SGST) paid by them from October 2020 to June 2021. The beneficiaries will be entitled to reimbursement of 50% of SGST during the October 2020-March 2021 and 75% during April-June 2021.

However, the order shall be applicable to registered taxable persons in the category of hotels, heritage hotels, resorts and tour operators. This order shall not be applicable for standalone restaurants and clubs.

Additionally, no reimbursement will be available for SGST leviable and paid on rental or leasing services including own or leased non-residential property.

### Rajasthan Upgrades 7 Schemes to Flagship Programmes

In September 2021, the State Government of Rajasthan has decided to declare 07 schemes and programmes across 5 departments as **flagship programmes**. The Planning Department, GoR has released a [notification](#) regarding the same. The updated Schemes upgraded to flagship programmes include:

S. No.	Department	Program
1	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	Shudh Ke liye Yudh (Campaign against adulteration)
2	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	Nirogi Rajasthan
3	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	CM Free Medicine Yojana
4	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	CM Free Janch (test) Yojana
5	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	Cheeranjivi Yojana
6	Food and civil supply department	Rs.1 kg wheat
7	School Education	Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School
8	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhyamantrik Kanyadaan / Hathleva Yojana
9	Social Justice and Empowerment	Benefits under <a href="#">Rajasthan Silicosis Policy 2019</a>
10	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhyamantri ekalnari Samman pension Yojana
11	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhyamantri Vradhjan Samman pension Yojana
12	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyjan Samman pension Yojana
13	Social Justice and Empowerment	Palanhaar Yojana
14	Agriculture	<a href="#">Rajasthan agriculture processing, business and export promotion scheme 2019</a>
15	MSME	Chief Minister Small Scale Industries Promotion Scheme
16	MSME	MSME Act - Self Certification

17	Industrial Department	<a href="#">Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) - 2019</a>
18	Information & Technology Department	<a href="#">Jan Soochana portal</a>
19	Planning Department	<a href="#">Jan Aadhar Yojana</a>
20	Skill, Employment & Entrepreneurship Department	Mukhya Mantri Yuva Sambal Yojana
21	Local Self Government	Indira Rasoi Yojana
22	Local Self Government	Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme
23	Forest Department	Ghar Ghar Aushadhi Yojana
24	Energy Department	Mukhya Mantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana
25	Higher Education Department	Kali Bai Bhil Meritorious Student Scooty Scheme
26	Higher Education Department	Devnarayan Girls Scooty Scheme

### Benefits of being upgraded to Flagship programmes

Upgradation of schemes to flagship programmes of Rajasthan Government may have following benefits:

- Flagship schemes mean that selected schemes or programmes will be of higher priority than others.
- Collectors might hold weekly review and the chief minister's office will conduct monthly review of the schemes.
- A daily update of their implementation will be tracked by the administration.
- The status of flagship schemes (like RIPS 2019 etc.) will boost the confidence of the investor.

### Clusters under Van Dhan Vikas Yojana

The state tribal development department has formed over 392 clusters with every cluster consisting of 300 women in the notified tribal areas under the Centre's ambitious scheme of Van Dhan Vikas Yojana. The scheme is to promote entrepreneurial skills among tribal women in the state.

The target given to the state was to form 479 clusters which are called **Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK)** and are eligible to receive a low-interest loan of Rs 15 lakh to start their own enterprise or start-up.

Five districts—Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pratapgarh and Chittorgarh are covered under the scheme providing livelihood opportunities, skill training, marketplace based on forest and its produce. It has helped over 57,000 tribals in the five districts by providing them with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### Navjeevan Yojana

The state government will implement a new action plan for the expansion of Navjeevan Yojana for the *rehabilitation of persons and families who are addicted to liquor and are involved in the manufacture of hooch.*

- The 'Navjeevan Yojana' was launched 2009 to rehabilitate the families associated with hooch making in the state.

### Salient features of 2021 Scheme

- A massive public awareness campaign against drug addiction will also be launched in the memory of former MLA Gurusharan Chhabra.
- Chief minister Gehlot has approved the proposal of social justice and empowerment department in this regard and approved an additional budget provision of Rs 25.74 crore.
- Under the new action plan, Rs 22.60 crore will be spent for various activities through Navjeevan Yojana for identification and rehabilitation of persons and families suffering from drug addiction. Under this, skill training will be given to 5000 persons of the target group, which will cost a total of Rs 11.2 crore.
- There is a budget provision of spending 10 crores for infrastructure.
- Rs 70 lakh will be spent for distribution of 2000 cycles to school children of respective families, Rs 60 lakh for survey of target persons and families and Rs 10 lakh for hostel for 500 students.

Apart from this, the families suffering from drugs will be benefited on priority basis from grant of loan under Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Scheme, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and Rajivika Yojana and fee reimbursement under Right to Education Act.

### Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Jeevan Raksha Yojana

CM Ashok Gehlot has started Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Jeevan Raksha Yojana. Under this scheme, the government will honor the people who take the injured to the hospital at the earliest with Rs 5000 and a citation.

However, this reward would be given only in the case when the condition of the person injured in the accident is critical. Ordinarily, the one who helps a person with a common injury will be awarded with a citation only.

Government ambulances staff, private ambulance staff, PCR van and police personnel on duty and the relatives of the injured person will not be given reward money under this scheme.

If the person helping the injured person wishes to take the reward amount under this scheme, then he/she will have to give his/her complete information to the Casualty Medical Officer (CMO) posted in the hospital. There that person has to give his name, address, mobile number and bank account number. It will be decided on the report of the CMO whether the person was seriously injured or not and whether he needed immediate treatment or not? The CMO will prepare the report and send it to the Director (Public Health), on this basis the award will be given.

Further, now the police will not interrogate the person helping the injured person. Also, no money will be taken from the person helping for the treatment of the injured person in the hospital.

The funds for the scheme will be provided through Road Safety Fund and an advance of rs 5 crore will be made to director, public health department for implementation of the scheme.

Notably, Rajasthan has one of the highest casualty rates in road accidents. It was ranked fourth with 28,697 deaths in road accidents. While the latest report of the National Crime Record Bureau tells that 8574 deaths were recorded in 2020 due to negligence relating to road accidents in the state.

### Rajasthan Bans Firecrackers

**Rajasthan Bans Firecrackers** | Anticipating the third wave, the state government on 30<sup>th</sup> [September 2021](#), banned the sale and bursting of firecrackers. The decision was taken in view of its adverse impact on Covid patients and those suffering from heart and respiratory diseases. The **ban would be applicable from October 1 to January 31, 2022**.

As per the [latest Advisory order](#) released by Principal secretary (home) Abhay Kumar to Licensing Authority, the authorised licensing authority has been advised **not to issue** any temporary licenses under **Explosives Act 1884 & Explosives Rules 2008**.

## S&T

### Scrub Typhus Cases

So far in 2021, the state has reported 804 cases, with Jaipur reporting 201 cases of scrub typhus cases (till September 20). Along with Rajasthan, the cases have also been reported in UP.

#### What is Scrub Typhus ?

Scrub Typhus is caused by the bite of a specific kind of a mite. The mite, which causes scrub typhus, is commonly found in grassy and bushy areas. It is a preventable & a non-communicable disease.

Symptoms: patient complains of high grade fever with chills, bodyache, muscle pain with rashes. There is usually a small mark that looks like cigarette burn anywhere on the body, especially on legs and hands. The place where the mite bites turns black just like a cigarette leaves a mark.

This disease has been named “scrub” after the type of vegetation that harbours the vector. Typhus is a Greek word with meaning “fever with stupor” or smoke. This disease took the form of an epidemic during World War II in some countries while during the Second World War, it emerged as the most dreaded disease among soldiers of the Far East. In India, this fever out in an epidemic form during Second World War in Assam and West Bengal.

Scrub typhus fever is caused by a **bacterium called Orientia tsutsugamushi**. The name of the bacterium is of Japanese origin. The word “tsutsuga” means illness and “mushi” means insect. This disease spreads through bites of infected chiggers or larval mites. Bite marks are found on the armpit, genitalia or neck.

### mRNA vaccine for Influenza

On September 28, 2021, Pfizer Inc. announced that the first batch of participants have been dosed with the single dose quadrivalent mRNA vaccine in a Phase 1 clinical trial. mRNA influenza vaccine program of Pfizer is the first in a planned wave of programs to leverage mRNA technology for influenza. mRNA-based influenza vaccine is developed through genetic sequence of the virus.

### Metaverse

Facebook Inc is set to invest \$50 million to partner with organizations in order to build metaverse.

**What is Metaverse ?**

Metaverse is a set of virtual spaces where one can create and explore with other people who aren't in same physical space. Using this virtual space, one would be able to hang out with friends, play, work, learn, shop and create. It is a digital world where people can use different devices to communicate and move in a virtual environment.

**Dark Energy**

Recently, an international team of researchers directly detected the dark energy with the help of advanced technologies and XENON1T experiment. XENON1T experiment is the most sensitive dark matter experiment in the world. It was operated deep underground at INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso, Italy.

**What is Dark Energy & Dark Matter ?**

Dark energy makes up about 68% of the universe. 27% of the universe is made up of dark matter while planets, moons & massive galaxies make up only 5% of the universe. Dark matter attracts & holds galaxies together on the other hand, dark energy repels & causes the expansion of universe.

**Ubreathe Life**

World's first Plant-based smart air-purifiers called "Ubreathe Life" has been developed by the scientists of Indian Institutes of Technology, Ropar & Kanpur, and Faculty of Management Studies of Delhi University. This product is being developed by **Urban Air Laboratory**, which is a start-up company of IIT Ropar.

The Ubreathe Life technology works by air-purifying natural leafy plant. In it, air of the room interacts with leaves and goes towards soil-root zone where maximum pollutants are purified. Technology used in this product is called as 'Urban Munnar Effect' and patent-pending "Breathing Roots". These technologies amplify the phytoremediation process (process by which plants effectively remove pollutants from the air).

**Digital Population Clock**

On September 10, 2021, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Bharati Pravin Pawar, inaugurated "Digital Population Clock" of India. The was inaugurated at the Institute for Economic Growth inside the University of Delhi. The clock will also capture data on Total Fertility Rate, Infant



Mortality Rate as well as Maternal Mortality Rate in India. It will help in raising awareness in young generations and conducting research.

### Colexion

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, formal public lunch largest licenced NFT (non-fungible tokens) platform Colexion was announced.

### UPI & PayNow

India and Singapore have announced the linking of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and PayNow, in order to enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers. The project to link the fast payment systems of both the countries was announced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). This linked payment interface is expected to be operationalised by July 2022.

PayNow is the fast payment system of Singapore, enabling peer-to-peer funds transfer service. It is available for retail customers with the help of participating banks & Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NFI) in Singapore.

### Project UDAAN of IIT-Bombay

On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, IIT-Bombay launched its “Project Udaan”. Project Udaan enables the translation of textbooks and other study material of the engineering and other streams from English to Hindi & other Indian Languages.

### Space Related

#### Solar Conjunction

American Space Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently decided to stop sending active commands to its missions on the MARS for next few weeks till the time Mars solar conjunction remains in effect.

As per NASA, during the Mars solar conjunction period, **Earth and the MARS will be on opposite sides of the Sun**. This position of both the planets will affect any communication attempt made by NASA for connecting with its Mars missions because Sun radiates hot & ionized gas from its corona.

### Lucy Mission

American Space Agency, NASA, is set to send its first spacecraft to study Jupiter's Trojan asteroids. Mission Lucy will be launched with the objective of investigating the group of rocky bodies that are circling the Sun in two swarms- one preceding Jupiter and the other trailing behind it.

The spacecraft has been named as Lucy. It was named after an ancient fossil, which provided insights into the evolution of human species. Spacecraft will be launched from "Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida" on October 16, 2021.

### What are Trojans (in context of space)

Trojans are small celestial body or asteroids, sharing the orbit of larger one. They remain in a stable orbit, nearly 60° ahead or behind the main body. Most of the known trojans in solar system share the orbit of Jupiter.

### Lunar Crater

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named a Lunar crater at the south pole of the moon after the Arctic explorer Matthew Henson.

### Chandrayaan-2

Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft of India has completed more than 9,000 orbits around the Moon.

Chandrayaan-2 was launched to the Moon on July 22, 2019 by a GSLV Mark III-M1. It is the second lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), after Chandrayaan-1. It comprises of indigenously developed lunar orbiter, Vikram lander and Pragyan lunar rover.

### Reusable GSLV Mk-III

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it is working on technologies in order to develop reusable GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle.

## Covid-19 related

### Mu Variant

Mu Variant' of the coronavirus was first identified in Colombia in January 2021. Mu variant is scientifically known as B.1.621 and has been classified as a "variant of interest" recently by WHO. Cases of the Mu variant were reported in South America and Europe.

### Molnupiravir

Pharmaceutical company "Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics" announced the early results of Phase-3 trials of its anti-viral drug called molnupiravir. As per the results, Molnupiravir has reduced the chances of hospitalisation by half among COVID-19 patients with mild or moderate symptoms.

Molnupiravir drug has been named as 'EIDD 2801' by the company, where 'E' indicates it was developed at Emory University. The antiviral drugs work by inhibiting a process by which the virus replicates. In case of molnupiravir drug, when tested on cultured cells, it works by altering critical enzymes which are necessary for virus to start replicating the host cells of body.

### Bal Raksha Kit

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the AYUSH ministry, has developed "Bal Raksha Kit" which is an immunity boosting kit. This kit has been developed with the aim of amplifying the immunity of children in order to help them fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes covid-19 disease.

Bal Raksha kit contains a syrup made up of basil, giloy, liquorice, cinnamon and dry grapes, which are have amazing medicinal qualities. The kit also comprises of Annu oil, Sitopaladi and Chyawanprash. These products help in boosting the immunity level with regular consumption.

This kit has been developed under the strict guidelines of ministry of Ayush and manufactured by Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) in Uttarakhand.

Apart from Bal Raksha Kit, AIIA has previously developed 'Swasthya Raksha Kit', 'Arogya Raksha Kit' as well as 'Ayu Raksha Kit'.

### CORBEVAX

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave approval to another indigenous COVID-19 vaccine candidate called CORBEVAX for two clinical trials.

This vaccine is also called as **BioE** COVID-19 vaccine. This COVID-19 vaccine candidate has been developed by Indian biopharmaceutical firm Biological E. Limited (BioE) in collaboration with the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston in United States and American company Dynavax Technologies (DVAX).

### Delirium

According to a study, published in the journal BMJ Open, out of 150 patients hospitalised for Covid in the United States in the initial phase of the pandemic, 73 per cent had delirium. The patients with delirium tended to be sicker, with other comorbidities like hypertension and diabetes. They appeared to have more severe Covid-related illness.

Delirium is a serious disturbance in mental state in which a person is confused, agitated and unable to think clearly.

### Trojan Malware

According to India's federal cyber security agency, CERT-In, a banking Trojan malware has been detected in Indian cyberspace that is posing as Income Tax Refund. This trojan is lurking to attack bank customers using Android phones.

### Industrial Transfat Free

As per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) study, India is all set and is on the right track to become industrial trans fat-free by 2022. India has mandated to reduce the limit of industrially produced trans fats to 2 per cent in order make India free from the industrially produced trans fats by 2022, one year ahead of the WHO guidelines.

Trans fat or trans-fatty acids increases bad cholesterol and lowers the good cholesterol. A diet comprising of trans fat increases the risk of heart disease.

### Akash Prime

On September 27, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has tested a new version of Akash Missile called 'Akash Prime'.

- It was launched from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) of Chandipur, Odisha.
- It is a medium-range mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- It is equipped with an improved active radio-frequency (RF) seeker.
- It is optimized for low temperature and high-altitude operations with the modified ground system.

### **S.jaisalmerensis, a new Jurassic era shark from Rajasthan**

In a rare discovery, teeth of new species of **hybodont shark of Jurassic age** have been reported for the first time from **Jaisalmer** by a team of officers comprising Krishna Kumar, Pragya Pandey, Triparna Ghosh and Debasish Bhattacharya from the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, Western Region, Jaipur.

This finding has been published in *Historical Biology*, a Journal of Palaeontology of International repute, in its August, 2021, 4<sup>th</sup> issue. Prof. Dr. Sunil Bajpai, Head of the Department, Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, who is a co-author of this publication, played a significant role in the identification and documentation of this important discovery.

According to Shri Krishna Kumar, Senior Geologist, Palaeontology division, Western Region, hybodont sharks have been reported for the first time from the Jurassic rocks (approximately, between 160 and 168 million-years-old) of the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan. Hybodonts, an extinct group of sharks, was a dominant group of fishes in both marine and fluvial environments during the Triassic and early Jurassic time. However, hybodont sharks started to decline in marine environments from the Middle Jurassic onwards until they formed a relatively minor component of open-marine shark assemblages. Hybodonts finally became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous time 65 million years ago.

Significantly, the newly discovered crushing teeth from Jaisalmer represent a new species named by the research team as *Strophodus jaisalmerensis*. The genus *Strophodus* has been identified for the first time from the Indian subcontinent and is only the third such record from Asia, the other two being from Japan and Thailand. The new species has recently been included in the Shark references.com, an international platform operating in association with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Species Survival Commission (SSC), and Germany.

This discovery marks an important milestone in the study of Jurassic vertebrate fossils in the Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan, and it opens a new window for further research in the domain of vertebrate fossils.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways. Over the years, GSI has not only grown into a repository of geo-science information required in various fields in the country but has also attained the status of a geo-scientific organisation of

international repute. Its main functions relate to creating and updating of national geo-scientific information and mineral resource assessment. These objectives are achieved through ground surveys, air-borne and marine surveys, mineral prospecting and investigations, multi-disciplinary geoscientific, geo-technical, geo-environmental and natural hazards studies, glaciology, seism tectonic study, and carrying out fundamental research.

GSI's core competence in survey and mapping is continuously enhanced through accretion, management, co-ordination and utilization of spatial databases (including those acquired through remote sensing). GSI uses latest computer-based technologies for dissemination of geoscientific information and spatial data, through cooperation and collaboration with other stakeholders in the Geo-informatics sector.

Headquartered in Kolkata, GSI an attached office to the Ministry of Mines has regional offices in Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad and Shillong. GSI also has unit offices in almost all States of the country.

## Important Days

### 05<sup>th</sup> September : Shikshak Parv

Shikshak Parv-2021 was celebrated by Ministry of Education (MoE) from September 5 to 17, 2021. It will be organised to recognise the valuable contributions of teachers and to take National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 ahead.

5 September – Teachers day.

### 05<sup>th</sup> International Day for Charity

September 5 was chosen to celebrate the day because it is Mother Teresa's death anniversary. She devoted her life for charity and helping people in need. Her compassion and giving nature had made her a revered figure worldwide.

September 5 was declared as the International Day of Charity, by a resolution adopted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on December 17, 2012. The resolution was co-sponsored by 44 UN member nations.

### 07<sup>th</sup> September: International Day for Clear Blue Skies

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) has taken the initiative to celebrate the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, 2021. The theme for the day this year is “**Healthy Air, Healthy Planet**”, which emphasises the health effects of air pollution, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and aims to prioritise the need for healthy air for all.

### 08<sup>th</sup> September: International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day is observed on September 8 every year in a bid to remind the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies. The theme of the day for 2021 is “Literacy for a human-centred recovery: Narrowing the digital divide”.

The day was proclaimed by UNESCO on October 26, 1966 at the 14th session of UNESCO's General Conference. First International Literacy Day was celebrated in 1967.

**09<sup>th</sup> September: World EV day**

World EV Day is observed on September 9 every year in order to mark the celebration of e-mobility.

**09<sup>th</sup> September: International Day to Protect Education from Attack**

First ever 'International Day to Protect Education from Attack' was observed by United Nations on September 9, 2020. This day was established by the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 74/275. The resolution was presented by the State of Qatar and 62 co-sponsoring countries.

**10<sup>th</sup> September: World Suicide Prevention Day**

It was first marked on September 10, 2003, as an initiative by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

**12<sup>th</sup> September: International Day for South – South Cooperation**

The International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed on 12 September every year by the United Nations.

**14<sup>th</sup> September: Hindi Diwas**

Hindi Diwas is observed every year in India on 14<sup>th</sup> September to remember and honour the adoption of Hindi language as one of the official languages in India.

**15<sup>th</sup> September: Engineer's day**

Engineers Day 2021 is being observed on September 15, to mark the birthday of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. His birthday is celebrated as Engineers' Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

**15<sup>th</sup> September: International day for democracy**

International Day of Democracy was observed on 15<sup>th</sup> September to review the state of democracy across the globe. Theme of International Day of Democracy for year 2021 is "Strengthening democratic resilience in the face of future crises". The day was established in 2007 by a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



**16<sup>th</sup> September 2021: World Ozone Day**

This day is celebrated every year and is dedicated to a cause which might not be visibly relevant but is important for the protection of the ozone layer. The theme of World Ozone Day 2021 is Montreal Protocol – keeping us, our food and vaccines cool.

According to UN's website, this year's World Ozone Day seeks to highlight, the Montreal Protocol does so much more – such as slowing climate change and helping to boost energy efficiency in the cooling sector, which contributes to food security.

On September 16, 1987, the United Nations together with 45 other countries signed the Montreal Protocol, to limit and ultimately phase out the production of manmade chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and 95 other ozone-depleting materials.

On December 19, 2000, The United Nations General Assembly designated September 16 as World Ozone Day in the memory of the date of inking of Montreal Protocol. Since then, September 16th has been celebrated as the #WorldOzoneDay.

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2021: World Patient Safety Day**

The World Patient Safety Day was marked worldwide on 17 September to raise global awareness regarding the patient safety. This year the day was observed with the theme "Safe maternity and newborn care. On the occasion, WHO also encourages all stakeholders to "Act now for safe and respectful childbirth!".

**18<sup>th</sup> September: Coastal Cleanup Day**

The 36th International Coastal Clean-up Day was celebrated on 18 September 2021, for the tenth consecutive year. The day is traditionally held on the third Saturday of September. In 2021, this day is being observed on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

International Coastal Clean-Up Day 2021 is being celebrated under the theme: "Keep trash in the bin and not in the ocean".

**21<sup>st</sup> September: World Alzheimer Day**

World Alzheimer Day is observed across the world on 21 September with the objective of raising awareness of the disease, common symptoms and risk factors. Alzheimer disease is a prevalent kind of dementia which gradually causes memory loss & loss of cognitive capacity.

**21<sup>st</sup> September: International Day of Peace**

The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, is observed by United Nations on 21 September every year. Theme of International Day of Peace in year 2021 is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”. The theme focuses on how to help everyone in recovering better, how to build resilience and how to transform the world into a place which is more just, equal, equitable, inclusive, sustainable & healthier.

**23<sup>rd</sup> September: International Day for Sign Languages**

The International Day of Sign Languages was observed on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to raise awareness regarding the importance of sign language. The day is observed every year by the UN General Assembly. It is observed with the objective of raising awareness on the importance of sign language in full realisation of human rights of deaf people.

**27<sup>th</sup> September: World Tourism Day**

World Tourism Day is observed by the United Nations Organisations (UNO) on September 27, every year. In the year 2021, world tourism day was observed under the theme- ‘Tourism for Inclusive Growth’. This theme was designated by World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**28<sup>th</sup> September: International day for Universal Access of Information**

International day for Universal Access of Information is observed on 28 September every year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In the year 2021, the day was observed under the theme- “The Right to Know – Building Back Better with Access to Information.” This theme highlights the fact that need of public for accurate and reliable information has never been stronger than now, amidst struggle by countries to overcome COVID-19 pandemic rebuild communities and institutions.

**30<sup>th</sup> September: International Translation Day**

International Translation Day was observed on September 30, honouring the work of Language specialists who contributes significantly on developing the international understanding.

**Last Thursday: World Maritime Day**

World Maritime Day is observed on the last Thursday of September month. This year, it was observed on September 30, 2021. World Maritime Day is an annual celebration, which was founded by the United Nations (UN) in association with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

This day also marks the day of adaptation of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) convention. IMO was adapted in 1958.