



Rajasthan Current Affairs
of
June - July 2021



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Persons in NEWS

Persons on Important Posts: RAJASTHAN

Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (July 2021)
Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Indrajit Mahanty (37th)
Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	M. D. Kaurani	D B Gupta
RPSC Chairman	Sir Dr. S K GHOSH	Dr. Bhupendra Singh Yadav
Advocate General of Rajasthan	G.C. Kasliwal	Mahendra Singh Singhvi
Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission	Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar	Gopal Krishan Vyas
Lokayukta of Rajasthan	ID Dua (1973)	Pratap Krishna Lohra
Chief Secretary Rajasthan	K. Radhakrishnan	Niranjan Kumar Arya
Pro-Term Speaker	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
Leader of Opposition	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Governor of Rajasthan	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Gurumukh Nihal Singh (Reorganised State 1956)	Kalraj Mishra
Rajasthan Financial Commission Chairman		Pradhyuman Singh
Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan (CEO)		Praveen Gupta
State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan (SEC)		Prem Singh Mehra
Chairperson State Commission for Women		-
DGP Rajasthan Police		M L Lather
Deputy Chairman - Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council		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	Pradeep Kumar Joshi
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	Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi
Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson	Arun Kumar Misra

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

Diya Kumari

Member of Parliament (MP) from Rajsamand, Diya Kumari has been nominated as a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Standing Committee of United Nations (UN) Affairs. IPU is a permanent forum for multilateral political negotiations.

Munishwar Nath Bhandari

Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari from Rajasthan High Court has been appointed as Acting Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.

Virender Poonia

Rajasthan State Sports Council has appointed Dronacharya awardee athletics coach Virender Poonia at Chief Sports Officer.

Shyam Sundar Jyani

Rajasthan-based climate activist Shyam Sundar Jyani's environment conservation concept, **Familial Forestry** has won this year's prestigious United Nations' Land for Life Award. The announcement was made by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Sportspersons from Rajasthan Participating in Tokyo Olympics

Sportsperson	From	Sport
Divyansh Singh Panwar	Jaipur	Men's 10m Air-Rifle
Apurvi Chandela	Jaipur	Women 10m Air-Rifle
Bhawna Jaat	Kabra, Rajsamand	20 Km Walk
Nayab Subedaar Arjun lal Jat	Nayabas in Jaipur	Rowing

Inder Singh Kudrat

Padamshri Awardee Inder Singh Kudrat, artisan from Jaipur and Master Craftsman who specialised in kundan meenakari has been honored by genius world records.

Govind Singh Dotsara

Education Minister Govind Singh Dotsara was awarded ELets World Education Leader of the Year Award for excellent management & various innovations made in the field of education in Rajasthan during Corona pandemic.

Environment

Project BOLD

On 4th [July 2021](#), Member of Parliament from [Udaipur](#) - Arjun Lal Meena launched **Project BOLD - 'Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought'** in tribal village **Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur**.

As part of the project, Khadi and Village Industries Commission ([KVIC](#)) planted 5,000 bamboo saplings in the village. In the process, KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.

Later on 28th July, [KVIC](#) & BSF launched **Project BOLD** in [Jaisalmer](#) to Prevent Desertification and Support Rural Economy. In an effort to develop green cover in the Indian deserts of Rajasthan, KVIC planted 1000 bamboo saplings at Tanot village in Jaisalmer, in collaboration with the Border Security Force (BSF).

Project BOLD, seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones. The project combines national objectives of reducing desertification, providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.

As part of the project-BOLD in Udaipur, 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.

In Project-BOLD at Jaisalmer, the Bamboo saplings have been planted over 2.50 lakh sq feet of Gram Panchayat land near the famous Tanot Mata Temple which is located close to Longewala Post on the Indo-Pak Border.

The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "**Khadi Bamboo Festival**" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".

KVIC is set to replicate the Project at Village Dholera in Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Leh-Ladakh region by August this year. Total 15,000 bamboo saplings will be planted before August 21.

In the next 3 years, 1000 bamboo plants will multiply and produce at least 4,000 bamboo logs weighing about 100 MT of bamboo.

Why KVIC has planted Bamboo trees only?

[KVIC](#) has judiciously chosen bamboo for developing green patches. Bamboos grow very fast and in about three years' time, they could be harvested.

Bamboos are also known for conserving water and reducing evaporation of water from the land surface, which is an important feature in arid and drought-prone regions.

Bamboo can be used for making agarbatti sticks, furniture, handicraft, musical instruments and paper pulp while the waste can be used in making charcoal and fuel briquette.

World Environment Day 2021

This year, 5 June, World Environment Day, marks the official launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a 10-year push to halt and reverse the decline of the natural world. Consequently, the theme of this year's World Environment Day is **Ecosystem Restoration**.

This World Environment Day, join #GenerationRestoration to revive and protect our ecosystems. Pakistan will act as global host of the day.

Green Wall at International Border

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2021, BSF started intensive afforestation building a 'green wall' at the international border adjoining Rajasthan and Gujarat. As part of this green wall more than 5,000 fruit-bearing and medicinal plants were planted at various border outposts and battalion headquarters.

MoEFCC approves Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR)

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Bundi district has received all clearances to become the Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve. In July 2021, the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) approved the proposal to convert the Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary into Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR).

In 1982, a part of the forest in Bundi was declared as Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 5 of the Rajasthan Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act, 1951. The sanctuary has an area of 252.79 square kilometers and acts as the buffer area of Ranthambore National Park.

In October 2019 the Rajasthan State Government had declared its plan to upgrade the Ramgarh Vishdhari WLS and had sent proposal for approval to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). After deliberation, recently the sanctuary received a nod from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s technical committee.

Now after approval from MoEFCC also, the State government can issue a notification in this regard.

After being declared as tiger reserve, RVTR will have a statutory status as a land where tigers have to be protected under the Centrally-sponsored Project Tiger, which will enable it to get funds for tiger conservation and other Central assistance.

Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve

- The Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across 1,071 square kilometre, of which over 300 square kms area in the proposed reserve will be left as a critical habitat for the animals, while the rest will be a buffer zone.
- The sanctuary currently has leopards, sambhars, chitals, wild boars, smaller cats, caracals, chinkaras and nilgai.
- To strengthen the prey base, the state has already approved shifting of chital (spotted deer) from Ghana Bird Sanctuary (Karauli) to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Keoladeo National Park, and Ramgarh Vishdhari.

Why Rajasthan has created Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve

The Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve will help reduce tiger-human conflict. The new tiger reserve will link Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the Northeast & Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side.

According to a 2018 tiger census, there are 102 tigers in three reserves -- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hills Tiger

Reserve in Kota — in the state. According to experts, there is overcrowding at the Ranthambore reserve, which houses 77 tigers.

The rising number of tiger-human conflict in and around Ranthambore is also attributed to contracting spaces for tigers. Often, young or weak tigers leave Ranthambore and attack human beings and cattle in a bid to reclaim their lost habitat, which the NTCA and state government have now tried to facilitate by creating the RVTR.

In the past decade, tigers killed at least 14 persons, as compared to two in the 30 years preceding it. More space given to tigers of Ranthambore is likely to bring down such killings which not only creates resentment among locals against tigers, but also leads to revenge killing of tigers.

Governance

'Raj Kisan Organic App'

In July 2021, Rajasthan Agriculture Department has launched '**Raj Kisan Organic App**' or '**Rajkisan Jaivik**' through one can easily purchase and sale of organic products in the state online. The application has been developed by the Department of Information Technology & Communication, GoR.

Women to be Head of Family in Jal Jeevan Mission

CM Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal to treat women as head in the household for drinking water connections to be issued to rural families under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Apart from this, 50 per cent of the members of the village water and sanitation committee will be women. The remaining members will comprise 25 per cent of the elected members of the panchayat and 25 per cent of the village's weaker sections (ST-SC) in proportion to their population.

Rajasthan ranks 29th in Har Ghar Jal Scheme

As of 31st May 2021, Rajasthan ranked at 29th place among 33 states and Union Territories in tap water connections in rural areas under the Centre's flagship Jal Jeevan Mission – Har Ghar Jal scheme. The state state has added just 8.11 lakh tap water connections against 4.22 crore connections under the scheme since August 2019.

Mahatma Gandhi Museum at Lakshmi Vilas Palace, Jaipur

The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) is planning to set up a Mahatma Gandhi Museum and an institute of governance and social sciences at Lakshmi Vilas Palace, in the premises of the Central Park, Jaipur at a cost of Rs 100 crore.

The museum will be called as the Gandhi Darshan Museum and the institute will be named as the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences. CM Ashok Gehlot in the state Budget 2021-2022 announced the project.

No fuel pumps in 50-metre radius of schools, hospitals, Residential Areas

Following directions of National Green Tribunal (NGT), the urban development and housing (UDH) department of Rajasthan has framed new guidelines that prohibit setting up fuel pumping stations within 50-metre periphery of schools, hospitals and residential areas designated as per local laws.

Additionally, no high tension line shall pass over the retail outlet.

One time Financial Aid for poor Artists

In June 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced a one-time financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to artists who are facing financial problems due to the unforeseen circumstances arising out of the pandemic.

As per government release, about 2,000 artists, who are financially weak, will get relief by the decision. This assistance amount will be provided through the Artists Welfare Fund.

Committees to Ensure Proper Vaccine Utilisation

The Rajasthan government has issued an order for forming committees at the state, district and block levels to ensure proper utilisation of coronavirus vaccines. These teams will also conduct a detailed audit of disposal of vaccine doses that have been wasted.

Rajasthan Achieves Grade1+ in School Education

In June 2021, the Union ministry of education released the third edition of Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2019-20 in which [Rajasthan](#) got Grade1+ i.e., level 3. The state scored between 851-900 points in 2019-20 PGI, which is a significant improvement from the last two indices where state scored 751-800. Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Kerala occupy the highest grade (Grade A++) for 2019-20.

The PGI is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in states and Union Territories. The Union government introduced the Performance Grading Index (PGI) with a set of 70 parameters in aggregate with a total weightage of 1,000 points. The PGI for states and Union Territories was first published in 2019 with reference year 2017-18 with an aim to catalyse transformational change in the field of school education.

Rajasthan Tops Smart City Rankings

Rajasthan has secured the first place in online ranking of 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) under the Smart City Mission, released during July 2021. Among the 100 smart cities in the country:

Smart City of Rajasthan	Rank in India
Udaipur	5
Kota	10
Ajmer	22
Jaipur	28

The state has taken the first position beating Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. The rankings are based mainly on the implementation of the project, the financial progress made, utilisation of funds received and providing information to the Centre from time to time.

Nirbhaya Squad in Jaipur Buses

In a first, the all-women Nirbhaya squad of the Jaipur police will conduct decoy operations in public transports to check the safety of women passengers. The squad will also catch eve-teasers and detain them on the spot.

Tax relief on purchase of e-vehicles

As per the orders issued by the state transport department in July 2021, the buyers will get the benefit of reimbursement of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and lump sum grant.

Under this, the recharge of SGST amount is payable on all types of electric vehicles. At the same time, one-time grant will be given on two-wheeler and three-wheeler electric vehicles according to the battery capacity. This will boost the sale of e-vehicles and help in prevention of pollution and protection of environment.

Nutri gardens in schools, offices

The state's rural development department has issued new guidelines to develop nutri gardens schools, panchayat bhawans, government offices and anganwadis in the state.

Earlier, the department had issued an order to develop nutri gardens along with every house built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-(Grameen). It also listed the names of vegetables and fruits that could be planted in the nutri gardens.

The department is also planning a '**Nutri Garden Fortnight**' from July 30 to August 15 across the state which will promote developing such gardens in anganwadis, government schools, panchayat bhawans and office premises.

Chambal to be cleaned under Namami Gange Program

[Chambal River](#) will be conserved under the Namami Gange Programme. The river is home to critically endangered gharial and rare species of dolphins, crocodiles, nine species of turtles

and many others. Once the proposal is initiated, strong attention will be given to reduce pollution in the river. Also, there will be a crackdown on illegal mining in areas where these aquatic creatures are found in large numbers.

National Mission for Clean Ganga has been set up to keep the Ganga clean that passes through five states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. [Chambal river](#) is its important link.

State to have 2 primary English medium govt schools

Rajasthan's first two government primary English medium schools will be opened in Laxamangarh and [Sikar](#). They are part of the 34 primary schools that were opened in different parts of the state as announced by the state government in July 2021.

Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Prerak Yojana

The state's planning department will appoint 2,500 **Yuva Mitras** on a contractual basis for a period of two years under the **Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Prerak Yojana**.

In July 2021, the state cabinet decided to appoint 2,500 Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitras and 20,000 men and women **Rajiv Gandhi Yuva volunteers** at the village level to create awareness among people about the public welfare schemes of the state government and to apprise the government about the problems faced by the people.

Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card

In July 2021, the cabinet also decided to introduce '**Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card**' scheme to ensure self-employment for street vendors of urban areas, youths of service sector and unemployed persons. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide interest free loans up to Rs 50,000 to 5 lakh needy people.

First hockey academy for tribal kids

State Tribal regional welfare minister Arjun Singh Bamania has announced establishment of Rajasthan's first tribal children hockey academy in [Udaipur](#). Forty young tribal players will be selected for the academy.

NFSA: State Government to work with World Food Program

The state's food department will work in collaboration with World Food Program to monitor the transportation of food grains from FCI (food corporation of India) godowns to fair price shops in [Alwar district](#).

In the first phase, on a pilot project basis, the work of mapping ration card databases of NFSA members in the remaining 95 areas with Jan Aadhaar database has already started from 1 July 2021.

Stamp duty relaxation extended till September 2021

The state government has decided to extend relaxation on stamp duty till September 2021. During the budget, the state government announced to reduce stamp duty on housing units in multi-storey buildings from 6% to 4% until June 30, 2021. These benefits are provided to buyers purchasing flat worth up to Rs 50 lakh.

Rise of Solar Power destructing habitat for Camels

As per a recent news published in times of India, the installation of solar power projects is leading to habitat destruction & hazard for camels. As per the report, desert trees including 'kumut', 'khejari', 'rohida', 'kair', 'jal' and 'bordi', are fast disappearing from the desert as companies are cutting them down. There has also been incidents of camel death because sharp edged angles installed without any fence.

The region is purportedly home to the largest number of camels in the country. As per an estimate from the four villages of Sawata, Bhopa, Lala and Karda, there is a population of about 5,000.

National Lok Adalat 2021

The first national [lok adalat](#) for 2021 will be organised by the **Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority** in the high court and all the subordinate courts of the state through both online and offline modes on 10 July 2021. The national lok adalat will take up cases related to recovery of money, telephone, electricity and water bills. About 34,000 cases of pre-litigation and about 1.23 lakh pending cases in various courts have been identified.

City buses starts in Udaipur

After a gap of almost 14 years, in July 2021, **City bus services started in Udaipur**. The operator [Udaipur](#) Transport Service Limited (UTSL) announced free travel in the bus for all passengers for one month. However, every passenger will have to obtain a zero value ticket from the conductor. If any passenger is found travelling without this ticket, a fine of Rs 100 will be imposed.

In the first phase, 11 city buses will ply on Rampura-Dabok and Badgaon-Titardi routes.

First ODF+ Village in Rajasthan

Jahota village located in [Jaipur's](#) Jalsu panchayat samiti has been declared as the state's first "ODF plus" village in the state.

ODF plus is an extension of the ODF programme under [Swachh Bharat Mission](#). Its objective is to sustain the ODF programme and to take up solid and liquid waste management.

Solar Net-Metering deadline extended

In July 2021, Rajasthan State electricity regulator - RERC has extended the implementation date of new net metering norms for solar rooftop projects in Rajasthan till 15th September 2021. The new norms were to kick off from 1st July 2021.

As per the news rules, net-metering benefits were allowed only for solar projects upto 10 KWp. In the meantime, the Union ministry of power also increased the threshold for rooftop solar projects up to 500 KWp instead of 10 KWp for net metering benefits.

Jaipur Airport ranks second in ACI category based rankings

Jaipur airport has been ranked second out of 13 airports which get between 20-50 lakh passengers per year.

Goa Airport has topped the ranking. The ranking was done by Airports Council International (ACI) on the basis of 33 parameters for the first quarter of the year from January-March 2021.

New Welfare Fund for Employees

In July 2021, the state government approved the formation of an employees' welfare fund of Rs 3,000 crore for the well-being of serving and retired government employees. The main objective of the fund is to arrange finance through loans at low interest rates for various needs of the employees.

The announcement of formation of the fund was made in 2021-22 budget. According to the order, finance will be arranged for various welfare schemes from employees' welfare fund.

These schemes include health scheme, housing loan scheme, loan scheme for higher studies, personal and vehicle loan scheme, crèche scheme for working women and meritorious scholarship scheme for children of low-salaried employees.

Chunav Pathshalas

The state's election department has started an initiative to establish 'Chunav Pathshalas' in all the 52,009 polling booths. Under this initiative which is part of its SWEEP activities, the department will focus on tracking missing names from the voters' list in villages, tehsils and towns.

In the villages, gram sevaks and patwaris will be responsible for creating awareness among people about voting, the facilities that are given during elections, voter registration, online registration facilities and facilities available for specially abled persons as part of Chunav Pathshalas.

The booth level officer (BLO) is the coordinator for each chunav pathshala and they will be required to register these with the state's election department.

[New Schemes & Policy](#)

Rajasthan Eco-Tourism Policy 2021

In July 2021, the Rajasthan State Government released the Rajasthan Eco Tourism Policy 2021 with an aim to generate economic benefits after conserving natural areas and attracting tourism in Rajasthan.

Background:

The State Government had released the first eco-tourism policy in 2010 and there was need to update the policy to create synergy between forest and local communities who will manage these sites and earn their livelihood from the resulting growth in tourism activities.

Definition of Eco-Tourism:

Rajasthan Eco Tourism Policy 2021 defines Eco-Tourism as a form of sustainable tourism within a natural or cultural heritage area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, culture, indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental education and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host community and satisfaction of visitors.

Further, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) describes Ecotourism as 'responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people'.

Characteristics of Eco-Tourism:

The Policy also defines characteristics of Eco-Tourism based on **World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)** as:

- Tourism where the main motivation of the tourists is the conservation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas.
- Contains educational and interpretation features.

- Minimises negative impacts upon the natural and sociocultural environment.
- Supports the maintenance of natural areas which are used as ecotourism attractions by generating economic benefits for host communities, providing income opportunities for local communities and increasing awareness towards the conservation of natural and cultural assets.

Salient Features:

- Considers communities as the most vital pillar of ecotourism in the state.
- Identifies that carefully designed ecotourism initiative shall have the potential to contribute both to ecological conservation and local community development.
- The forest department will be the nodal department for implementing the ecotourism policy.
- The Rajasthan Eco Tourism policy 2021 will remain in **operation for a period of 10 years** from the date of notification.

Ecotourism activities to be permitted:

The policy defines, **Eco Tourism activities** as nature-based activities exclusively performed to sensitize people about the beauty, richness and fragility of the state's natural and cultural heritage, and shall not just focus on creating destinations in natural area or using natural environment for outdoor activities.

Ecotourism activities have to be coordinated by a qualified nature and cultural interpreter trained to entertain and educate the visitors.

Permitted activities include:

- Trekking, nature walk, bird and wildlife watching, hiking, flora and fauna observation, photography, etc.
- Boating / River Cruising to view wildlife and experience wilderness.
- Overnight Camping / Star Gazing in designated sites / forts / other monuments.
- Any travel focussed on experiencing Rajasthan's fairs and festivals which promote ecotourism and sustainability of local traditions.

- Lodging in campsites, eco-lodges, homestays and guesthouses that are located in an area of natural and / or cultural beauty, and involves local specificities and
- Activities in specified areas of the forests such as jungle safari in vehicles or elephant / camel safari, trekking / nature walk, overnight camping in designated sites, bird watching and study of flora & fauna, etc

As per the policy, all ecotourism activities will be in conformity with the existing environmental laws of the country, including:

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,
- The FCA 1980, the Environment Protection Act, 1986,
- The Environment (Protection) rules 1986 and rules for Eco sensitive zones,
- NTCA guidelines,
- Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2020,
- Directives of Supreme Court of India and National Green Tribunal.

Policy Implementation:

Rajasthan Ecotourism Policy 2021 shall be implemented by **Rajasthan Forest Development Corporation** and administered by the **Forest Department Government of Rajasthan**.

Marketing: However, for the purposes of branding, promotion, marketing Rajasthan Ecotourism Policy 2021 shall be considered to be a part of Rajasthan Tourism Policy and shall be **promoted by the Rajasthan Tourism Department**, Government of Rajasthan.

The **Rajasthan Ecotourism Development Society (REDS)** registered under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act 1963 shall be reconstituted and will act as an advisory and oversight body for the Rajasthan Ecotourism Policy.

District Level:

- To implement the policy at the district level, a **district ecotourism committee (DLEC)** will be constituted under the **chairmanship of the district collector** with deputy conservator of forests (territorial) as member secretary.

- It will also have members from other stakeholder departments such as revenue, tourism, tribal development, rural development etc. to promote, manage and regulate ecotourism sites.
- The DLEC will be free to invite opinion from the experts in the field of tourism and hospitality sectors operating in their district.

Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Yojana for EWS Students

In June 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced the implementation of '**Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Yojana**' for students hailing from economically weak backgrounds.

Anuprati Coaching Yojana - helps students who cannot afford coaching classes to crack competitive exams and entrance exams.

Now under the Chief Minister Anuprati Coaching Yojana for EWS Students, the scheme will also be applicable for families whose annual income is below Rs 8 lakh.

Salient Features of Anuprati Coaching Yojana for EWS Students:

- The coaching assistance is available for one year.
- The scheme is intended to have at least 50% girls as beneficiaries.
- The selection of the candidates will be made on the merit list based on their academic scores in classes 10 and 12.
- Every district will be given a quote under the schemes and accordingly they have select students.
- The coaching assistance will be given for exams under UPSC, RPSC, constable exam, engineering, medical and CLAT exam.

Rajasthan govt launches health scheme for state employees

The state government has launched the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS) for its employees with effect from July 1 on the lines of the Central Government Health Scheme

(CGHS). Under the scheme, employees appointed after January 1, 2004 will get cashless treatment up to Rs 10 lakh.

In all around 13 lakh beneficiary families will be provided indoor, outdoor and cashless medical facilities for tests in all government hospitals, approved private hospitals and private test centres. Employees and pensioners appointed before January 1, 2004, will get unlimited outdoor facility.

Cashless IPD treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh for employees appointed after January 1, 2004, additional medical facility up to Rs 5 lakh for critical illnesses and outdoor medical facility up to an annual limit of Rs 20,000 have been provided. The employees who are presently receiving only IPD facility within the limit of sum insured up to Rs 3 lakh have the option of availing this facility free of cost under RGHS.

Science & Technology

AI for All

Intel is collaborating with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Ministry of Education to announce the launch of the 'AI For All' initiative. This initiative has been launched with the aim of creating a basic understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) for everyone in the country.

Intrinsic

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has announced of the launch of a new company named 'Intrinsic' that will be solely focused on software developing for robots.

Self Repairing Bipyrazole organic crystal

Researchers working at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata in association with IIT Kharagpur have developed self-repairing piezoelectric molecular crystals called as - bipyrazole organic crystals.

India's First Green Hydrogen Plant

India's largest oil firm Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) will build the nation's first green hydrogen plant at its **Mathura refinery**. The hydrogen will be used to replace fuels consumed at the refinery while converting crude to transport fuels.

IOCL will use the 250 MW of electricity it produces from renewable sources like solar & wind power and produce absolutely green hydrogen through **electrolysis**.

Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station

National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary is going to set up India's first Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station in Leh, Ladakh.

More Power Islanding Systems

To protect the critical infrastructures from potential attacks on the electricity grid of the nation, India plans to create more power islanding systems in several cities of the country.

As per news, Cities including Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, and Jamnagar, which has two of India's largest oil refineries, are among cities being assessed for an islanding system and existing systems in cities such as New Delhi and Mumbai are being revamped.

Islanding systems feature generation capacity and can isolate automatically from the main grid in the event of an outage.

SWASTIHK

CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune has launched a new technique called SWASTIHK to disinfect water by using natural oils. It was launched because, water-borne diseases have increased India's disease burden.

Medicine from Sky Project

E-commerce giant, Flipkart, has partnered with Telangana government to lead "Medicines from the Sky" project. Under the partnership, Flipkart will deploy drones and will enable deliveries of vaccines & medical supplies.

Drone delivery of supplies will be complemented with technologies like geo mapping, trace of location and routing of shipments.

Jivan Vayu

Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar has developed a device 'Jivan Vayu' as a substitute for CPAP (Continuous positive airway pressure) machine. This device functions even without electricity. It is adapted to both kinds of oxygen generation units namely, O₂ cylinders and oxygen pipelines in hospitals.

Cassava

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) have found Cassava as a raw material for bioethanol production to meet Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) programme target of 2025 by India.

As a biofuel crop, cassava has several advantages over sugarcane. Cassava is having a high starch content and ability to grow under low management conditions. It has been globally recognised as a potential candidate for bioethanol production.

However, economic viability to scale-up production from cassava varieties has to be ascertained because of failure of an alcohol plant set up in Palakkad in 1990s.

e-PGS

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched a centralized web-based workflow-based IT platform called "e-PGS".

Itat e-dwar

Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched a e-filing portal of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) called 'itat e-dwar' on June 25, 2021.

OTT Platform by Kerala Government

Kerala government has proposed to have its own over-the-top (OTT) platform similar to Netflix and Amazon prime video by 01 November 2021. The platform will ensure that data and content be with government rather than with third party by using existing platform.

Database on Oral Cancer

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) & National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) has created a first of its kind database of genomic variation in oral cancer. NIBMG made this database accessible to public. Database is being called as dbGENVOC.

Covid Related

COVID BEEP

COVID BEEP is the India's first cost effective indigenously made wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for the patients who are suffering from COVID-19. COVID BEEP has been developed by the ESIC Medical College Hyderabad in association with the Department of Atomic Energy and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL).

COVID BEEP - stands for 'Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod'. The latest version has featured including – NIBP, ECG and Respiratory rate monitoring.

COVIHOME

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad have developed India's First Rapid Electronic and Artificial Intelligence-powered COVID-19 test called COVIHOME. This test can be performed at an affordable cost at home. This test does not require RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) test.

IISC – Mynvax heat tolerant Covid Vaccine

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has developed a heat-tolerant COVID-19 vaccine formulation. While studying on animals, it was found to be effective against all current SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern.

PanBio Test Kit

Indian Council of Medical Research, ICMR has approved second home-based Rapid Antigen Test kit named “PanBio COVID-19”. This test kit was developed by Abbott Rapid Diagnostics Division, Chicago.

REGEN-COV2

Recently, scientists conducted experiments on monoclonal antibody cocktail named REGEN-COV2. Antibody has been found to be life-saving treatment for severely affected Covid-19 patients.

What are Monoclonal Antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies are artificial antibodies that perform the activity of our immune systems. They are produced by extracting specific antibodies from human blood and then cloning them. They are designed to target a virus or specific part of one the virus.

Delta Plus Variant

WHO tagged B.1.617.2 strain of coronavirus as ‘Delta’ variant, which now has further mutated. Mutated form of Delta variant is being termed as “Delta Plus” or “AY.1” variant.

ZyCoV-D

Indian pharmaceutical company Zydus Cadila is soon going to apply Central Drugs Regulator (DGCI) for emergency approval of the corona vaccine ZyCoV-D. If approved, it will be the world’s first DNA-based vaccine.

SENSIT Rapid COVID-19 Ag Testing Kit

In June 2021, a Rapid Antigen Test kit for COVID-19 developed by IIT Delhi was launched. The kit has been developed by IIT Delhi researchers led by Dr. Harpal Singh and named as SENSIT Rapid COVID-19 Ag Testing Kit. It exhibits 86% Sensitivity & 100% Specificity. The kit is used for in vitro qualitative detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigen.

Moderna's Vaccine

Drug regulator of India, DCGI, has allowed Mumbai-based pharmaceutical company Cipla to import Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for restricted emergency use in India.

Space Related:

NISAR

The ISRO-NASA Joint Mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, which aims to measure changes in the earth's surface globally using advanced radar images, has been scheduled to be launched in early 2023.

NISAR will be used for global observation of the entire earth, including the polar cryosphere and the Indian Ocean region. NASA is developing L-band SAR and related systems, while ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, launch vehicle, and related launch services.

Satellite for Disaster Monitoring

ISRO is planning to launch a satellite that will be used for monitoring natural disasters. This satellite will be a geo-imaging satellite, EOS-3, which will be capable of near-real time monitoring of various natural disasters like cyclones, floods etc.

Wooden Satelllite

The European Space Agency (ESA) has planned to put the world's first wooden satellite, WISA Woodsat, on Earth's orbit by the end of this year. The mission of the satellite is to test the applicability of wooden materials like plywood in spacecraft structures and expose it to extreme space conditions, such as heat, cold, vacuum and radiation, for an extended period of time.

It will be launched to space by the end of 2021 with a Rocket Lab Electron rocket from the Mahia Peninsula launch complex in New Zealand.

Ingenuity

NASA's experimental Mars helicopter called Ingenuity undertook its 8th flight on Mars. It flew 525 feet and landed about 440 feet away from **Perseverance rover**.

Perseverance rover is a car-sized Mars rover, to explore Jezero crater on Mars under NASA's Mars 2020 mission.

China

New High Speed Maglev

In July 2021 China rolled out a 600km/hr high-speed maglev train in Qingdao located in the Shandong Province of East China.

Clean Nuclear Reactor

Chinese government has unveiled plans for an experimental nuclear reactor that does not require water for cooling. This reactor will run on liquid thorium instead of uranium and is expected to be safer than the traditional reactors. As molten salt, when exposed to air, cools and solidifies quickly thus insulating the thorium, causing any potential leak to spill very little radiation into the environment compared to the leaks from traditional reactors.

Important Days

05 June: World Environment Day 2021

This year, 5 June, World Environment Day, marks the official launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a 10-year push to halt and reverse the decline of the natural world. Consequently, the theme of this year's World Environment Day is **Ecosystem Restoration**.

This World Environment Day, join #GenerationRestoration to revive and protect our ecosystems. Pakistan was the global host of the day.

08 June: World Oceans Day

The World Ocean Day was observed on June 8, 2021 under the theme- 'The Ocean: Life and Livelihoods'. The day provides governments across the world an opportunity to inform people about impact of economic activities and human actions on ocean.

World Ocean Day was first suggested in 1992 during Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro with the aim of celebrate this vast water body, its benefits in our lives and to raise awareness to make it a part of sustainable development. Following this, UN general assembly passed the resolution on December 5, 2008 to designate this day.

12 June: World Day against Child Labour

World Day against Child Labour was observed on June 12 to raise awareness regarding detrimental consequences of the Child Labour. The day was celebrated under theme- 'Act Now: End Child Labour.'

17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was observed on June 17, 2021 to raise awareness on land degradation, desertification and drought. Theme of the day for year 2021 was " Restoration, Land, Recovery".

21 June: International Yoga Day

This year 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated across the world. This year, day is celebrating under the theme- "Yoga for wellness" and motto "One World, One Health"

During the curtain raiser event on June 11, 2021, a mobile application called "**Namaste Yoga**" was launched by Ayush Ministry. This app is devoted to Yoga.

On 21st June, PM Narendra Modi launch **mYoga app** and gave the mantra of "Yog se Sahyog Tak".

23 June: UN Public Service Day

United Nations Public Service Day is observed on June 23, to recognise value and virtue of public service to community.

23 June: International Widows Day

International Widows Day is observed on 23 June to bring attention to the voices of widows and highlight the problems they face.

June 23 was chosen to mark the day because on this day, Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba, mother of Lord Loomba, became a widow in 1954. First International Widows Day was observed in 2005 and in 2010 the day was formally adopted as International Widows Day by United Nations.

29 June: International Day Against Drug Abuse

International Day Against Drug Abuse is observed on June 26 every year to raise awareness among people regarding dangerous effects of drugs and its illicit trafficking. This year the theme is 'Share Facts on Drugs, Save Lives'.

29 June: National Statistics Day

National Statistics Day is being observed on 29 June to commemorate the birth anniversary of late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and to recognise his invaluable contribution in establishing National Statistical System.

01 July: National doctor's Day

Indian Medical Association (IMA) observed the National Doctors' Day on July 1 every year to honor birth and death anniversary Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy who was a great physician and second chief minister of West Bengal.

11 July: World Population Day

The day is marked every year to highlights problems of over-population, create awareness about effects of overpopulation on environment and development. The year 2021 marked the 32nd world pupation day.

20 July: International Chess Day

International Chess Day is celebrated on 20th July annually. This day also marks the date of establishment of the **International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in the year 1924.**

In the fifth century Chess was invented in India and was called as “Chaturanga”. The rules of chaturanga spread to Persia, where it was known as chatrang, by the tenth or eleventh century, and it’s here that the earliest recorded games of chess are found.

22 July: World Brain Day

Every year, on 22nd July, World Brain Day is observed to raise awareness about the disease multiple sclerosis (MS). Multiple sclerosis is a disease that affects the brain and the spine.

23 July: National Broadcasting Day

On this day in the year 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) started radio broadcasting from the Bombay station.

29 July: International Tigers Day

On 29th July, 2021, International Tiger Day which is also known as World Tiger Day is observed annually. This day is observed to create and spread awareness about the dangers faced by the tiger population of the world. According to the All India Tiger Estimation Report of 2018 the tiger population in India is 2967.

30 July: World Day against Trafficking in Persons

This year’s theme highlights the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.

According to the National Criminal Records Bureau (NCRB) of India, human trafficking is a group of crimes involving the trafficking of men, women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation or economic gain or other exploitation of trafficked persons.