

Rajasthan Current Affairs *of* May - June 2020



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PERSON in NEWS

Shri Rajeeva Swarup

On 2nd July 2020, the State Government has appointed **shri Rajeeva Swarup has the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan**. He was currently additional <u>chief secretary</u> (home).

ACS (health) **Rohit Kumar Singh**, who has been heading the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Rajasthan, will replace Rajeeva Swarup as ACS (home).

Akhil Arora, who was principal secretary, social justice and empowerment department, will now hold the charge of medical, health and family welfare department.

Murlidhar Pratihar

Bundi Zila Parishad's chief executive officer (CEO) Murlidhar Pratihar has been selected for the state level e- governance award 2018 – 19 by department of information technology and communication (IT&C) for the better execution of online government schemes of the department of rural development and Panchyatiraj on Panchyat Enterprise Suit.

Bhavna Jaat

Rajasthan's Bhawna Jat, India's race walker created a new national record and won her seventh National Pedestrian Championship at the 7th National Open Race Walking Championships in Ranchi. She is from Kabra village in Rajsamand district. Bhavna has also confirmed the ticket for this year's Tokyo Olympics.

Ravi Bishnoi

Ravi Bishnoi from Jodhpur, who was part of India's Under-19 World Cup squad, emerged the leading wicket taker of ICC U19 World Cup in South Africa. He is a right-arm leg spin bowler.





Karlaj Mishra

Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu released the book written by Rajasthan Governor Shri Kalraj Mishra ttitled "Bharat mein Udhyamata".

Ruma Devi

Ruma Devi from Barmer delivered lectures on women empowerment & handicrafts at Harvard India Conference.

Vishwas Mehta

1986 batch IAS officer Vishwas Mehta from Dungarpur Rajasthan, took over as the new Chief Secretary of Kerala.

Rukmeya Meena

Rukmaiya Meena hailing from Kaspuria in Nainwa subdivision of Bundi district, Rajasthan, has been awarded the World Peace Award by the United Nations Organization as an International Liaison Officer. Rukmeya is a senior administrative officer in railway at Prayagraj.





Places in NEWS

RISU Jaipur

Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) will allot 23 acres free of cost to establish the Rajasthan ILD Skills University (RISU) at Chop village on Sikar Road under 'Knowledge City' project. Additionally, the state government had allotted 30 acres for free near the petroleum refinery near Pachpadra Village in Barmer district to the university which will be developed as an energy village.

MPUAT, Udaipur

An MoU has been inked between Udaipur's Maharana Pratap University for Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) and Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner, for joint collaboration in the field of organic farming, animal husbandry and good farming practices for five years.

Jaipur, Airport

The terminal 2 of the Jaipur airport has secured third position in cleanest and safest airport category, handling more than 50 lakh passengers per year.

The survey was conducted by the ministry of civil aviation and it was named as Swachhata Awards 2019. The airport authorities would be getting an appreciation award in this regard. Kolkata secured top slot, while Chennai came second.

Shark teeth fossils discovered in Barmer

In a major discovery, geologists have found a large number of shark teeth fossils in Barmer district that the entire area was under the sea some 58 million years proving ago. The experts found the fossils in late Palaeocene rocks aged around 58 million years old exposed in a Fuller's Earth (locally known as Multani Mitti). The site of discovery is near Giral lignite mine, around 40km from Barmer district headquarters.





Geologists have also found fossils of shark and other animals at **Sultana village and Bandha village in Jaisalmer**. Under the leadership of palaeontology professor Dhirendra K Pandey, two fossil shark teeth (Galeorhinus and Physogaleus) were found from the early Eocene sediments of Jaisalmer Basin in Sultana which was the first record of Physogaleus from Jaisalmer Basin. The record of Galeorhinus from the Jaisalmer Basin suggests subtropical sea condition during Early Eocene time (56 to 39 million years ago).





<u>Environment</u>

GIB included in Appendix I of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India had proposed to include three species- the Asian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal Florican in the list of 'migratory species threatened with extinction', under the CMS-COP 13.

Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13. Seven species were added to **Appendix I**, which provides the strictest protection: the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, **Great Indian Bustard**, Bengal Florican, Little Bustard, Antipodean Albatross and the Oceanic White-tip Shark.

The Urial, Smooth Hammerhead Shark and the Tope Shark were listed for protection under Appendix II, which covers migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status and would benefit from enhanced international cooperation and conservation actions.

CMS COP13

- The theme of CMS COP13 is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home.
- The Government of India also issued a special stamp edition featuring the Great Indian Bustard the mascot of COP13.
- CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by 'Kolam', a traditional art form from southern India. In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, humpback whale and marine turtles.



 The mascot for CMS COP13, "Gibi – The Great Indian Bustard" is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.





About CMS

- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention is an international treaty concluded under aegis of UN Environment Programme (UNEP), concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
- Bonn Convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn (H.Q), Germany and entered into force in 1983. It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- CMS is only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

Other Relevant Information

- India is Signatory to the CMS since 1983. As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.
- India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar headed Geese, black necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, humpbacked whales, etc.
- India has signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

Helicopter for Locust Control

On 30^h June 2020, a Bell 206-B3 Helicopter was flagged off with spray equipment for Air Force Station in Rajasthan's Barmer from the helipad facility in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the Helicopter. The Helicopter will be deployed for locust control in the desert areas of Rajasthan. Districts that the Helicopter will cover are Nagaur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur.





Chambal River & its Tributaries to be part of Namami Gange

Union Government has included Chambal & its tributaries in Phase-3 of Namami Gange. There will be works to develop water conservation, soil conservation-forest area in five-five km on either side of Chambal river and two-two km on either side of Mej river. For this, trees will be planted, near, Check dams will be built, the flow of rivers will be slowed, so that soil erosion, dirt can be prevented from reaching the Yamuna. Rivers included in the project includes:

- 1. Chambal River
- 2. Mej river of Bundi
- 3. Parwan & Parvati of Baran
- 4. Banas of Sawai Madhopur
- 5. Gambhiri

District in-charge ministers now head of DMFT fund

In a major change, the state government has made the district in-charge ministers, the chairman of governing council of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) fund, replacing the district collectors. The district collectors would now be vice-chairmen.

The fund was created in 2016 for the interest and benefit of persons in areas affected by mining and its related operations. DMFT is funded through contributions from the mineral concession holders in the districts.

Major contribution towards the fund is the 10% of royalty of minor minerals, same percentage of royalty from e-auction and 30% of the royalty of the major minerals. Now, the district collectors will be vice-chairmen and all MLAs and MPs in the district will be members of the trust. There is about Rs 2700 crore in the fund now.

The DMFT has a governing council headed earlier by the Zila Pramukh, which was in February 2019 changed to be headed by the district collectors, while managing committee to be headed by the district collectors and other officials.

The reason given by the government for the change was that MLAs and MPs were not keen on attending the meetings convened by Zila Pramukh. Now, the government has decided to bring back the political leaders again as head of the governing council, with the district in-charge ministers as chairmen.





Rare Butterflies spotted in Rajasthan

Scientists from the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Mohanlal Sukhadia University working on sloth bear ecology at the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary in Southern Rajasthan spotted a very rare lilac **Silverline butterfly**. This species of butterfly was discovered in the 1880s, but only one resident population was known from Bengaluru.

In another incident, after 67 years, the **Desert Grizzled Skipper species of butterfly** has been spotted in Thar desert. This butterfly was believed to have become extinct in India. Zoology assistant professor at SB Government College in Jaisalmer, Dr Shyam Sunder Meena, who is doing a research on butterflies for the last many years, claimed to have found the species in Amarsagar area of the district.

Rare Red-necked Phalaropes spotted at Sambhar Lake

In a first, pairs of Red-necked Phalarope, a rare species of wetland birds, have chosen India's biggest inland saline wetland Sambhar Lake as their breeding habitat. Usually, Phalarope breeds in the Artic regions of North America and Eurasia. Red-necked Phalaropes nest around Arctic tundra pools. During migration, they pause on shallow ponds in Rajasthan. The Phalarope, known as a unusual bird, has surprised researchers too with the new pattern.

Contagious skin disease hits foxes in Desert National Park

An outbreak of sarcoptic mange, a highly contagious skin disease, has been discovered among the desert fox population in the Desert National Park (DNP) of the state. As per the state forest department wildlife census report, 2019, there are around 1,000 foxes of both species — Indian Fox and Desert Fox — in Jaisalmer district.

The major areas of infection are Sanvtha (same camel mange area), Nedan, Sanavada, Lathi, Bhadariya, Odhaniya-Chacha, Dholiya (all in Pokhran block) and Sam, Sudasari, Ganga, Bidha, Jamra, Nimba, and few surrounding areas (all in Desert National Park).

Legal protection for Bats

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, which has given rise to widespread hostility and fear towards bats among the people, Rajasthan's chief wildlife warden Arindam Tomar has issued a circular to all deputy conservators of forests in the state to educate people against harming these flying mammals.





A warning has also been issued to take legal action if anyone is found killing or harming bats or their habitat in the state. After Karnataka, Rajasthan has become the second state to protect these mammals amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bats fall under Schedule V of Indian Wildlife Act, 1972 and till date, there was no provision of punishment for killing them.

Salvadora trees in Delhi

Salvadora trees, locally known as peelu (meethi jal), found in the desert areas of western Rajasthan will soon be seen at parks, including the one at Sansad Bhawan in New Delhi. The tree's fruit is not only tasty, but also has many medicinal values. IMG Sanstha of Gurugram has ordered its seeds from a farmer in Jaisalmer and will be sown in many parks in Delhi.

People's Biodiversity Register soon in Rajasthan

Rajasthan will soon have its own People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) at every block level. First-of-itskind in the state, this register is expected to help conserve biodiversity and knowledge of traditional medicines of the state.

According to the Biodiversity Act, 2002, there has to be a biodiversity management committee at every grampanchayat level which will later prepare a PBR. This was, however, never implemented due to the complexity and requirement of staff until a case was filed in National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2016. In the case Chandrapal vs Union of India, 2016, NGT ordered all states to take this seriously and prepare a register.

Rajasthan started the process of preparing the Act but it got delayed due to the pandemic. Now, with some relaxations in the lockdown, the process is expected to speed up.

Registration of all the biodiversity in the state will help in future as this has international acceptance. After preparing this register, if some pharmaceutical company takes some resources to prepare medicines using the traditional knowledge and raw materials of a region, the villagers will get a share out of the profit the company is making. This register has value in intellectual property rights as well.

This will also help in keeping a tab on over-exploitation of bio-resources in the state. In Rajasthan, there are around 10,000 gram panchayats and samitis, and to prepare a register there is a need of at least Rs





50,000 to Rs 1 lakh per panchayat i.e. Rs 100 crore for the state. To get enough manpower for preparing this register, Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board has gotten in touch with universities and colleges.

Draft EIA Notification 2020

Recently, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEFCC), extended the deadline for public comments for draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020 by 45 days amidst the nationwide lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic. The new deadline was posted as 30^a June, 2020.

What is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to evaluate environmental impact of proposed developmental projects or programs and through which clearance is accorded after mitigation strategies are included in the plan. It is a study to evaluate and identify the predictable environmental consequences and the best combination of economic and environmental costs and benefits of the proposed project.

On the basis of EIA, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared, which is a description of the means by which the environmental consequences as pointed out in the EIA will be mitigated. Together the whole draft is termed as EIA-EMP report.

The important aspects of EIA are:

- Risk assessment,
- Environmental management and
- Post product monitoring.

EIA was introduced in India in 1978, with respect to river valley projects. Later the EIA legislation was enhanced to include other developmental sections. Later, the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification was issued on 14^a September 2006 and mandated all developmental projects to abide by the country's environmental laws.

What is the Draft EIA Notification 2020?

This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020 is set to replace and supersede the EIA Notification 2006, which is currently in use.





The draft notification is issued under the powers vested in the central government under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to take all such measures for "protecting and improving the quality of the environment.

According to the government, the new notification is being brought in order to make the process more transparent and expedient by the implementation of an online system, further delegation, rationalisation and standardisation of the process. However, the environmentalist claim that it will fundamentally change the environmental regulatory regime.

As per them, there are many alarming clauses in the draft notification including the concept of **post facto clearance**. The post-facto approval for projects means that the clearances for projects can be awarded even if they have started construction or have been running phase without securing environmental clearances. In 2017, post-facto clearance given to projects in Tamil Nadu was struck down by the Madras high court.

Additionally, the violations can only be reported by the project developer himself and/or government authorities. Not citizens or the civil society.

New construction projects up to 1,50,000 sq m do not need detailed scrutiny by an expert committee or EIA. Earlier it was 20,000 sq m. The draft notification provides for a reduction of the time period from 30 days to 20 days for the public to submit their responses during a public hearing for any application seeking environmental clearance.

World Environment Day 2020

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP, or UN Environment) annually organizes events for World Environment Day, which encourages worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment.

It is celebrated on 5 June in over 100 countries. In 2020, Columbia will host the global World Environment Day celebrations. World Environment Day 2020 calls for urgent action to protect biodiversity.

History of World Environment Day

World Environment Day [WED] was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972. The first WED was held in 1974 with the theme "Only One Earth". Since then, World Environment Day is celebrated





on the 5th of June every year and has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human over-population, and global warming, to <u>sustainable</u> consumption and wildlife crime.

World Environment Day has grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually. Each year, World Environment Day has a new theme that major corporations, NGOs, communities, governments and celebrities worldwide adopt to advocate environmental causes.

World Environment Day 2020

<u>World Environment Day</u> offers a global platform for inspiring positive change. It recognizes that global change requires a global community. Every <u>World Environment Day</u> is hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place. The idea for rotating the centre of these activities through selecting different host countries began in 1987. This year's host is **Colombia in partnership with Germany**.

World Environment Day 2020 Theme:

In 2020, the theme is **biodiversity**–a concern that is both urgent and existential. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa–and now, a global disease pandemic–demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life in which they exist.

ITS TIME FOR NATURE

World Environment Day 2020 calls for urgent action to protect biodiversity.

Following the decisions taken by UN Member States in the <u>Convention on Biological Biodiversity</u>, UNEP and its partners are launching the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), a global initiative to restore the relationship between humans and nature.

UNEP is also working with world leaders to develop a new and ambitious <u>Post-2020 Global</u> <u>Biodiversity Framework</u> to realize a <u>2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature</u>.

Living in <u>harmony with nature</u> can only be achieved if we reverse negative impact of biodiversity loss and pursue full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for <u>Sustainable Development</u>.





<u>World Environment Day</u> celebrations will help build momentum and unite the global community in actions for positive change.

World Environment Day 2020 in India

In view of the prevalent situation due to COVID-19 pandemic MoEFCC will be holding virtual celebrations of World Environment Day on this year's theme theme with focus on *Nagar Van* (Urban Forests). Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change relaunched a scheme for creating urban forest in 200 corporations and cities because all these cities have gardens but not forest. The urban forest will help in creating and enhancing the lung capacities of these cities.

Biodiversity in India

India though having less land mass and more human and cattle population has nearly 8 percent of biodiversity. The country is endowed with rich biodiversity having several species of animals and plants and hosts 4 of the 35 global bio-diversity hotspots containing several endemic species.

Why Do We Mark International Days?

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

The existence of international days predates the establishment of the <u>United Nations</u>, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool.

Power Ministry launches the '#iCommit' initiative on WED 2020

On the occasion of <u>World Environment Day 2020</u>, Shri R. K. Singh, the Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, initiated the '#iCommit' campaign. The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.





The '#iCommit' initiative, driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power, Government of India is uniting a diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals.

The '#iCommit' initiative is centred around the idea of building an energy resilient future. The prerequisite for that goal is to create a flexible and agile power system. A healthy power sector can help the nation in meeting the objective of energy access and security for all. With the imminent changes in the power system, brought about by innovation such as decentralised solar and electric vehicles, collaboration between all stakeholders will be the way forward and is at the core of '#iCommit' campaign.

The initiative will also celebrate and promote key undertakings of Government of India such as

- National Electric Mobility Mission 2020,
- FAME 1 and 2,
- DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana,
- the Saubhagya Scheme,
- Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY),
- Atal Distribution system Improvement Yojna (AJAY),
- Smart Meter National Programme,
- Pradhanmantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evamUtthan Mahaabhiya (KUSUM),
- Solar Parks, Grid Connected Rooftop,
- UnnatJyoti by Affordable LED for All (UJALA),
- Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY) etc.





General Current Affairs

World Bank approves 500 Million dollars under STARS Program

On 28^a June 2020, the World Bank Group has announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives on 24^a June 2020 for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India. The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India. The loan was approved as a part of the STARS Program. The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

The Stars Program:

STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program. Since 1994 the program has helped in establishing a long partnership between India and the World Bank. Through the program, the World Bank Group has provided greater flexibility to the vision of the Indian Government to provide 'Education for All'. The Government of India has made significant strides in its vision over the years as the number of students going to school has increased to 248 million from 219 million between the 2004-05 to 2018-19 period

2.8 kg 'meteorite'-like object falls from sky in Rajasthan's Sanchore

A 'meteorite'-like object fell from the sky in Sanchore town of Rajasthan's Jalore district creating a 2-3 feet deep crater. It weighed around 2.8 kg.

What Are Meteorites ?

A meteorite is the term given to a piece of a comet or asteroid that falls into the Earth's atmosphere and survives to hit the surface.





No city from Rajasthan in garbage-free city star ratings

A list of garbage-free cities was released by the housing and urban affairs ministry in May 2020 and none of the cities from the state was able to make the cut. Garbage-free cities are given star ratings (seven start being the highest) that will overall impact its ranking in Swachhta Survekshan 2020 results. Jaipur, Ajmer, Dungarpur, Udaipur and other three cities applied from Rajasthan but none of them got any star.

A total of six cities have been certified as 5-Star, 65 cities as 3-Star and 70 cities as 1-Star. The 5-Star cities include Ambikapur (Chattisgarh), Surat and Rajkot (Gujarat), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra). According to the ministry, in all 1,435 cities had applied for star rating and 658 were able to fulfil the criteria but only 141 got star rating. There are 12 conditions to be fulfilled to achieve a 7-star rating — door-to-door garbage collection, sweeping of public places, litter bin, storage bins, waste segregation, plastic ban, screening of nullahs, waste processing and grievance redressal.

16 New Municipalities formed in Rajasthan

In June 2020, the department of local self-government announced the formation of 16 new municipalities in Rajasthan. The districts where new municipalities have been created are –

- Jaipur Bassi & Pavta Municipality
- Alwar Laxmangarh & Bansur Municipality
- Dausa Mandavari Municipality
- Jodhpur Bhopalgarh Municipality
- Sirohi Javal Municipality
- Bharatpur Sikari & Uchhain Municipality
- Karauli Sapotara Municipality
- Kota Sultanpur Municipality
- Sriganganagar Lalgarh-Jatan Municipality
- Baran Ataru Municipality
- Dholpur Sirmathura & Basedi Municipality





21 June 2020 Solar Eclipse in India

On 21 June 2020, 12 countries across the world witnessed rare celestial event, annular solar eclipse, popularly called as **ring of fire eclipse**. The first 2020 solar eclipse took place on the summer solstice (21 June), which is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.

While people living along the path annular eclipse passing through Anupgarh, <u>Suratgarh</u>, Sirsa, Jakhal, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Dehradun, Tapowan and Joshimath saw the annular phase, people in rest of India witnessed a partial eclipse. The next solar eclipse that will be visible from India will take place on October 25, 2022.

Solar Eclipse & Annular Solar Eclipse

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partly obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. Thus, the moon blocks the light of the sun from reaching Earth. This causes an eclipse of the sun, or solar eclipse. During a solar eclipse, the moon casts a shadow onto Earth.

Types of Solar Eclipse:

Based on the alignment, there are three kinds of solar eclipses — total, partial, and annular — along with the addition of a rare hybrid of an annular and a total solar eclipse.

Total Solar Eclipse:

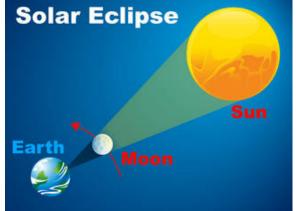
A total solar eclipse is only visible from a small area on

Earth. The people who see the total eclipse are in the center of the moon's shadow when it hits Earth. The sky becomes very dark, as if it were night. For a total eclipse to take place, the sun, moon and Earth must be in a direct line.

Partial Solar Eclipse:

The second type of solar eclipse is a partial solar eclipse. This happens when the sun, moon and Earth are not exactly lined up. The sun appears to have a dark shadow on only a small part of its surface.







Annular Solar Eclipse:

The third type is an annular solar eclipse. An annular eclipse happens when the moon is farthest from Earth. Because the moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller. Hence, the apparent diameter of moon is smaller. As a result, it does not block the entire view of the sun. The moon in front of the sun looks like a dark disk on top of a larger sun-colored disk. This creates what looks like an annulus (a ring) around the moon.

Solar eclipses happen once every 18 months. Unlike lunar eclipses, solar eclipses only last for a few minutes.

Monsoon enters Rajasthan

According to the Meteorological (MeT) Department, the southwest monsoon entered Rajasthan on 24^a June 2020 and covered over 12 districts of the desert state, including Jaisalmer, Barmer, Pali, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Jhalawar, Kota, Baran, Bundi, Bhilwara and some parts of Ajmer.

MoU for Smart Classes

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Rajasthan government, Power Grid Corporation of India and Educational Consultant India Limited to set up smart classrooms in 100 government schools and to make available e-content of syllabus from classes I to XII. The project will cost around Rs 1.85 crore.

MoU for dairy research

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) Udaipur and the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal to promote and accelerate the progress of research and training in various fields of technology development for enhancing productivity and profitability of dairy animals.

NDRI, governed by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, is India's premier institute on dairy research.





37 new degree colleges to come up at block levels

The state higher education department will start 37 new degree colleges at tehsil and block levels from this academic session (2020-21).

It is expected to create additional 10,000 to 12,000 seats, giving a much-needed stimulus to the gross enrolment ratio of the state, which is just 3.7% behind the national average. These colleges will operate from abandoned government buildings or community centres till they get their own buildings.

These colleges were announced in the state budget 2020-21, weeks before the lockdown was announced, putting the plan in a fix. Thereafter, no progress was made for opening of these colleges till May due to Covid-19 situation in the state.

Information of 33 districts to be revised in gazetteer

The state government will rewrite the gazetteer of all 33 districts of the state in a phased manner. Under this programme, every year, the gazetteer of at least six districts will be written and published.

In the first phase, the work of writing and publishing gazetteers of Alwar, Banswara, Jodhpur, Karauli, Hanumangarh and Pratapgarh districts would be taken up. A budget provision of Rs 30 lakh has been made for these districts, at Rs 5 lakh per district. Simultaneously, compilation and writing of information of Churu, Bharatpur, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jalore districts will be done in the next phase.

The chief minister has instructed that in order to maintain uniformity and authenticity in writing the gazetteers of all the districts, they should be written by selected writers at the state level. It is noteworthy that all the district gazetteers published earlier are from 15 to 40 years old.

Rajasthan Land Pooling Schemes Act 2016, Rules 2020 notified

On 21⁻⁻ May 2020, the urban development and housing (UDH) department has notified the rules and regulations 2020 for the Rajasthan Land Pooling Scheme 2016. Among other provisions, as per the new rules, owners whose land has been acquired will now receive 45% of the developed land as compensation. This was earlier at 25%. The civic body will give developed proportionate piece of land with all necessary infrastructure, including roads, parks and open spaces, to the land owner. With this,





Rajasthan joined other states such as Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in implementing the Act.

Chiddi Balla

Radheshyam Pipalwa, a young filmmaker from Shekhawati region of Sikar district, Rajasthan, has made a film 'Chidi Balla' on badminton. The film received silver award at United States Global Music Awards.

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

On 14th June 2020, the Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has requested Union Government to conferring national project status to Eastern Rajasthan Ca nal Project (ERCP). In Rajasthan Budget 2018. the Chief Minister has announced several schemes to the tune to Rs 52,000 crore, including development of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) at cost of Rs 37,500 crore.

Background of ERCP

The surface water of Rajasthan has been divided into 15 River basins and one outside basin area. It is estimated that out of fifteen river basins surplus water is available only in *Chambal and Mahi* basin. Within <u>Chambal basin</u>, during rainy season Kunnu, Kul, Parbati, Kalisindh, Mez, and Chakan subbasins are also having surplus yield, while <u>Banas</u>, <u>Banganga</u>, Ghambhiri and Parbati sub-basins are deficit in yield.

Hence, Eastern Rajasthan Canal Projects (ERCP) is planned to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers and transfer to deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan.

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

- Under the project the surplus water in the sub basins of Kunnu, Kul, Parvati, Kalisindh and Mej rivers received during monsoon has to be carried to the sub basin of Banas, Morel, Banganga, Gambhir and Parbati rivers.
- ERCP is planned to meet the **Drinking water** needs of the 13 districts of Southern & South Eastern Rajasthan viz. Jhalawar, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur,





Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, <u>Bharatpur</u> and <u>Dholpur</u> of Rajasthan for Humans and Live stock till year 2051.

- The project will help to **irrigate** nearly 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.
- Additional Benefits:
 - Will enhance availability of surface water & Ground water in the region.
 - Will also take care of Flood / Drought situation in the area.
 - Would also boost the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in <u>Alwar district</u> and generate employment for youths of the state.
- The Project will be executed in three phases.
 - The first phase of the project will extend from Galwa Dam to Dholpur,
 - The second phase will extend from Galwa to Bisalpur-Isarda,
 - The third phase will extend from Galwa to Alwar

Time Schedule:

- The project is proposed to be completed in three phases in seven years from year 2017 to 2023.
- First Phase of about 18474.0 crore is proposed to be completed in five year from year 2017 to 2021

Benefits of National Project Status:

• **Increase in Central Government funding:** In the project with national project status the funding pattern is 90:10 (Center:State) but currently in ERCP it is 60% by the Centre and 40% by the state.

Panchayat Awards 2020: Rajasthan

On the occasion of National <u>Panchayati Raj</u> Day 2020, Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awarded the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in





recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. This post details the various awards in reference to Rajasthan State.

Brief About National Panchayati Raj Day

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24^{*} April, 1993 and gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI's). It is considered as a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj.

In 2010, Government of India in consultation with the States, decided to celebrate 24th April as National Panchayati Raj Day. Consequently, the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, **the National Panchayati Raj Day (राष्ट्रीय पंचायती राज दिवस) (NPRD)** is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.

Every year on this National Panchayati Raj Day Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj organises National Conference and awards best performing Gram Panchayats.

National Panchayati Raj Day 2020

This year, it was proposed to organize a national event at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh and Hon'ble Prime Minister had accorded his kind consent to inaugurate the national event and address all the Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country. But, owing to unprecedented situation that emerged due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, it was been decided to commemorate the National Panchayati Raj Day digitally on 24^a April, 2020.

Panchayat Awards 2020

Every year, on this occasion, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been awarding the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. Awards are given under various categories namely:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP),
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP),





- Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA),
- Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award
- e-Panchayat Puraskar (given to States/UTs only).

This year, due to lockdown, awards under only above three categories viz. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP), Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award have been finalized and will be shared with the concerned States / UT.

Award in the other two categories will be finalized and communicated to States separately after completion of due process which got delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Panchayat Awards 2020: Rajasthan

Following Gram Panchayats from Rajasthan won the award under the different categories of Awards.

Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award

• **Nandri** gram panchayat in **Mandor** block panchayat in <u>Jodhpur</u> district.

Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA),

• **Sunara** gram panchayat in **Newai** block panchayat in <u>Tonk</u> district.

Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP),

• Jakhora gram panchayat in Ladpura block panchayat in Kota district.





New Schemes

SMILE Program

Rajasthan School Education Council has established a new program named Smile from 13 april 2020. Through this, students of about 65,097 government schools and 82,51,029 students in Rajasthan will be able to study from home. SMILE stands for Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement.

State Government hikes water charges for industry by 15 times

Rajasthan government has increased water prices for industry by 15 times. Cement, fertilizer and textile industries, which will take the maximum hit, have decided to approach the state government for its rollback saying it will have a significant impact on their operational costs.

According to the gazette notification, companies using water from canals and dams will now have to pay Rs 250 per 1,000 cubic ft against the existing charges of Rs 20 only. Similarly, industries using river water will now have to pay Rs 30 from the existing Rs 2 per 1000 cubic ft, a 15-fold increase.

State Government forms panels for digital museum in Rajasthan assembly

The State government has constituted an inter-departmental research committee and a technical committee for direction, speed, supervision and certification of digital museum works to be constructed in Rajasthan assembly premises.

In the museum, the political narrative of the state, democracy, constitution of modern Rajasthan and contribution of all the chief ministers of the state, as well as the contribution of the makers who were partners in the creation of the state of Rajasthan will be displayed. On 19 July 2019 budget announcement, chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced to build a modern digital museum in the Rajasthan assembly.





Subsidized loans for farmers

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot announced loans for farmers against their produce at subsidised interest rates to prevent distress sale. As per the announcement, farmers will get loans at 3% interest, with the loan amount capped at Rs 1.5 lakh for small and marginal farmers and Rs 3 lakh for big farmers.

The government will allocate Rs 50 crore from the Kisan Kalyan Yojna to provide the interest rate subsidy of 7% on the loans.

RTE income limit raised to 2.5 Lac

Chief minister Ashok Gehlot raised the income cap for admissions to private schools under the 25 per cent quota for poor from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. The move under the Right to Education Act will benefit lakhs of families who will become eligible with the increase in the income cap.

Previously the income limit was set at Rs 1-lakh cap, which reduced the number of beneficiaries to a level that it became difficult for the state to fill the total number of 2.5 lakh seats in 33,500 private schools under the RTE. Every beneficiary can apply in 10 schools for admission. In case the number of students is higher than the number of seats, it will be followed by an automated lottery.

RERA allows project completion deadline extension by a year

In a relief to the realty sector in Rajasthan, the state Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Rera) in May 2020 extended completion deadlines for under-construction projects by a year. The decision will benefit over 1,000 projects that were to be completed on or after March 19.

Rajasthan to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana

On 22 June 2020, <u>Rajasthan Chief Minister</u> Shri Ashok Gehlot announced that the state government will soon launch a new <u>scheme in Rajasthan</u> "Indira Rasoi Yojana" that will provide pure and nutritious meals to the needy on concessional rates twice a day.

Earlier in December 2016, former State Government had launched the '<u>Annapurna Rasoi Yojana</u>', a subsidised meal scheme offering breakfast and lunch for Rs 5 and Rs 8 respectively on the lines of





'Amma Unavagam' (mother's canteen / Amma Canteens) of Tamil Nadu. As per Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Rajasthan the tenure of the Annapurna Rasoi Yojana had expired on March 31 this year.

Salient Features of Indira Rasoi Yojana

- The basic idea behind the scheme is to ensure that "no one sleeps hungry" in the state.
- Needy people living in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies will be getting nutritious meals twice a day at concessional rates.
- The state government will spend Rs 100 crore every year on the Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme).
- The rate for the meals are yet to be finalised.
- Local NGOs will also be roped in for the successful implementation of the scheme .
- A committee headed by the district collector will be monitoring this Yojana and effective monitoring will be done with the help of information technology.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Action Plan Launched

On 26th June, the International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment e-launched "Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking 2020

By <u>resolution 42/112</u> of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. Supported each year by individuals, communities, and various organizations all over the world, this global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.

The theme for the 2020 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking "Better Knowledge for Better Care" emphasizes the need to improve the understanding of the world drug





problem and how in turn, better knowledge will foster greater international cooperation for countering its impact on health, governance and security.

Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)

Nasha Mukt Bharat Annual Action Plan for 2020-21 would focus on 272 most affected districts and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Dept. The Action Plan has the following components:

- Awareness generation programmes;
- Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools;
- Community outreach and identification of dependent population;
- Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and
- Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider.

Based on the finding of the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India and list of districts which are vulnerable from the supply point of view provided by Narcotics Control Bureau, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment would undertake intervention programmes in vulnerable districts across the country with an aim to:

- Reach out to Children and Youth for awareness about ill effect of drug use; Increase community participation and public cooperation;
- Supporting Government Hospitals for opening up De- addiction Centers in addition to existing Ministry Supported De-addiction Centers (IRCAs); and
- Conducting Training programme for participants.

The Ministry has also set up a 24x7 National Toll Free drug de-addiction helpline number 1800110031 to help the victims of drug abuse, their family and society at large.

Nasha Mukt Bharat: Districts in Rajasthan

The following <u>districts of Rajasthan</u> have been included in the 272 most affected districts list and consequently will be focus of Nasha Mukt Bharat Annual Action Plan for 2020-21





• Chittorgarh	• Alwar
• Pratapgarh	• Hanumangarh
• Jhalawar	• Sriganganagar
• Bhilwara	• Beawer (City in Ajmer District)
• <u>Udaipur</u>	• Bikaner
• Kota	• Banswara
• Baran	• Bharatpur
• Jodhpur	• Bundi
• Barmer	• Churu
• Jaisalmer	• Dungarpur
• Pali	• Rajsamand
• Jalore	• SawaiMadhopur
• Nagaur	• Karauli
• Jaipur	• Sirohi
• <u>Ajmer</u>	• Tonk
• Sikar	• Dausa
• Jhunjhunu	

Raj Kaushal Portal - Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange Launched

On 6th June 2020, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan inaugurated Raj Kaushal Portal - an online Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange.

Background of the Portal

On 19 May 2020, Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot had directed the officials to set up an Online Labour Employment Exchange to help labour get jobs during the <u>coronavirus lockdown in</u> <u>state</u>. Consequently, the department of Information and Technology (IT) and RSLDC started





developing a online portal for the labour employment exchange to ensure giving jobs to the migrant workers.

Now on 6th June 2020, the Chief Minister inaugurated **RajKaushal Portal** - an online Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange.

What is Raj Kaushal Portal ?

RajKaushal Portal is an online platform for Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange. The portal has been developed by the department of Information and Technology (IT) and RSLDC, to help provide jobs to the migrant workers who have returned from other states and those who have been rendered jobless.

So far, data of nearly 53 lakh workers (52.67 lakh) and 11.18 lakh employers (industries) have been uploaded on the portal.

Who can register on RajKaushal Portal?

Both industries (employers) and the labourers (those who are seeking jobs) can register themselves on the exchange.

How to register on the portal -

Both employers & labourers can register through

- SSO
- RajKaushal Portal
- E-mitra.

Indira Priyadarshini Baby Kit scheme launched in Rajasthan

On 18th May 2020, <u>Chief minister</u> Ashok Gehlot launched the Indira Priyadarshini Baby Kit distribution programme to newborn girls born in state hospitals. He handed the pink kits to 2 newborn girls who delivered at the Zanana Hospital, Jaipur.





Girls born in state medical hospitals of Jaipur district started receiving the baby kit from 18th May. The scheme will also be launched in other districts in the next few days. CM Gehlot had announced about the scheme in the state budget of 2019-20 to prevent the risk of infection from wrapping infants in old clothes and to protect newborn from hypothermia.

Blue kits will be distributed to newborn boys from July. Under the scheme, 11 lakh newborns in government medical institutions will get the kits every year. It will cost the exchequer around Rs 10 crore per year.

Amrita Campaign

On 14th May 2020, State Medical Health and Ayurveda Minister Dr. Raghu Sharma launched the Giloy planting campaign '**Amrita**' in the state under the aegis of Rajasthan State Drug Plant Division, Ayurveda Department Government of Rajasthan. Under this campaign about one and a half lakh Giloy saplings will be planted in Jaipur district in the next 4 months. Giloy is a safe medicine and it has an important role in developing immunity.

eSanjeevaniOPD: Free Medical Teleconsultation Service

On 4th May 2020, Rajasthan State Health Minister Shri Raghu Sharma launched the **free medical teleconsultation** service by dedicating esanjeevani web-portal. With the help of this portal, people can avail quality medical tele-consultancy services free from home. Currently, 100 health institutions across the state have been identified & a team of 30 doctors has been providing these services through web-portal. One can get tele-consultancy services for common diseases from 8 am to 2 pm.

What is eSanjeevani Web-Portal?

eSanjeevaniOPD – Stay Home OPD has been developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Mohali. eSanjeevaniOPD is based on eSanjeevani - Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by C-DAC, Mohali.

eSanjeevani is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system is being deployed nationally for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at Health and Wellness Centres under <u>Ayushman Bharat Scheme</u> of Government of India.





What is Telemedicine ?

As per World Health Organisation, telemedicine is the delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using IT for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, etc, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and their communities.

What is Medical Teleconsultation ?

Medical Teleconsultation use IT to facilitate communications between a patient and a doctor who are otherwise geographically separated. National Teleconsultation Service of Govt. of India enables teleconsultations over the Internet.

What is the Process of Consultation at eSanjeevaniOPD ?

- A. Registration
- B. Token
- C. Login
- D. Wait
- E. Consultation
- F. ePrescription





COVID-19 Related

PM SVANidhi Portal

On 29th June 2020, Union Secretary, Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra launched the Beta version of **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi** labelled as "PM SVANidhi" Portal.

What is PM SVANidhi Scheme ?

A <u>Central Sector Scheme</u>, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi labelled as PM SVANidhi Scheme has been launched on 1 June 2020. The scheme aims to facilitate street vendors to access affordable **working capital loan** for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

Salient Features of PM SVANidhi Scheme

- Urban street vendors will be eligible to avail a Working Capital (WC) loan of up to INR 10,000 with tenure of 1 year and repaid in monthly instalments.
- For this loan, no collateral will be taken by the lending institutions.
- On timely or early repayment, the vendors will be eligible for the next cycle of working capital loan with an enhanced limit.
- No prepayment penalty will be charged from the vendors for repayment before the scheduled date.
- The vendors, availing loan under the scheme, are eligible to get an interest subsidy @ 7%. The interest subsidy amount will be credited into the borrower's account quarterly.
- The scheme will incentivize digital transactions by vendors through cash back facility.
- The Scheme shall be implemented up to March, 2022.

Objectives

The scheme is a <u>Central Sector Scheme</u> i.e. fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives:

1. To facilitate working capital loan up to `10,000;





- 2. To incentivize regular repayment; and
- 3. To reward digital transactions

The scheme will help formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

States/UTs:

The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014**. Beneficiaries from Meghalaya, which has its own State Street Vendors Act may, however, participate.

PM SVANidhi Portal

PM SVANidhi Portal is an integrated IT platform (pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in) to provide an end-to-end solution for scheme administration is being developed by SIDBI, which is the scheme implementation partner for PM SVANidhi.

The portal will facilitate multiple scheme functions viz. loan application flow, Mobile App, e-KYC of applicants, integration with UIDAI, Udyamimitra, NPCI, PAiSA, lenders, States, ULBs and other stakeholders, calculation of digital incentives and payment of interest subsidy etc.

The PM SVANidhi Portal shall start accepting loan applications from Street Vendors from July 2nd, who can apply directly or with the help of CSCs/ ULBs/ SHGs.

The Mobile App facilitated with e-KYC module and loan application flow, to be used by lenders and their agents for application origination, shall be released during this week.

The Portal integration with various lenders shall commence during this week and over next few weeks we hope to complete this integration with all the major lenders. The module for enabling street vendors to apply directly for Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to the concerned ULB will be ready by July 10, 2020.





Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

In March 2020, the Union Finance Minister Smt. Niramla Sitharaman had announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana** for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus pandemic. One of the scheme under the package is **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** aimed at providing food-grains to approximately two-third of the population.

Salient Features of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana?

- Covered about 80 crore poor people.
- Initially, for 3 months from April to June end.
- Individuals got extra 5 kg rice or wheat each month for three months in addition to the 5 kg they already got.
- Each household also got 1 kg of dal of their choice.
- Both grains & pulses provided free of cost

Why Scheme in NEWS on June 30th, 2020?

On 30th June 2020, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation and announced an extension of Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana - till November 2020. It means, this scheme giving free ration to 80 crore people will continue in July, August, September, October, November.

Along with providing 5kg free rice/wheat to each member of a family, 1 kg free whole chana will also be provided to each family per month.

Over 90 thousand crore rupees will be spent on this extension of PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. The total outlay of the scheme will now be about 1.5 lakh crore rupees.

Operation Greens Scheme (TOP to TOTAL)

Ministry is implementing a <u>central sector scheme</u>, namely "Operation Greens Scheme" – A scheme for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 500 crores. The scheme has two-pronged strategy of Price stabilisation measures (for short term) and Integrated value chain development projects (for long term).





Due to restriction imposed on account of <u>COVID-19</u>, the supply chain has been disrupted and famers are not able to sell their produce in the market. To improve this situation, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has recently extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Salient Features of Operation Greens Scheme (Total)

Objective:

• The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post - harvest losses.

Eligible Crops:

- Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit;
- <u>Vegetables-</u> French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.
- Any other fruit/vegetable can be added in future on the basis of recommendation by Ministry of Agriculture or State Government
- List of eligible crops, selected surplus production clusters and trigger price for intervention under the scheme – <u>Click Here</u>.

Duration of Scheme:

• Duration of Scheme is for the period of six months from the date of notification i.e., 11/06/2020.

Eligible Entities:

• Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co- operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables.





Pattern of Assistance:

- Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of the following two components, subject to the cost norms:
- Transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption centre; and/or
- Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (for maximum period of 3 months);

Submission of claim for subsidy:

• Eligible entities, who comply with the aforesaid essential criteria may undertake the transportation and/or storage of notified crops from notified surplus production cluster, without any prior approval from MoFPI.

PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched the **PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME)** scheme on 29th June 2020 as a part of "<u>Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan</u>". PM FME Scheme would generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure and formalization.

Details of PM-FME Scheme

- Centrally Sponsored PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme" to be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore.
- The expenditure under the scheme would to be shared in 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and Himalayan States, 60:40 ratio with UTs with legislature and 100% by Centre for other UTs.
- The Scheme adopts **One District One Product (ODODP) approach** to reap benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products. The States would identify food product for a district keeping in view the existing clusters and





availability of raw material. The ODOP product could be a perishable produce based product or cereal based products or a food product widely produced in a district and their allied sectors. Support for common infrastructure and branding & marketing would be for ODOP products.

- The Scheme also place focus on waste to wealth products, minor forest products and Aspirational Districts.
- Existing Individual micro food processing units desirous of upgradation of their unit can avail **credit-linked capital subsidy @35**% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.
- Seed capital @ Rs. 40,000/- per SHG member would be provided for working capital and purchase of small tools.
- FPOs/ SHGs/ producer cooperatives would be provided **credit linked grant of 35**% for capital investment along the value chain.
- Support would be provided through credit linked grant @ 35% for development of common infrastructure including common processing facility, lab, warehouse, cold storage, packaging and incubation center through FPOs/SHGs/cooperatives or state owned agencies or private enterprise to use by micro units in the cluster.
- Support for marketing & branding would be provided to develop brands for micro units and groups with 50% grant at State or regional level which could benefit large number of micro units in clusters.
- The Scheme places special focus on **capacity building and research**. NIFTEM and IIFPT, two academic and research institutions under MOFPI along with State Level Technical Institutions selected by the States would be provided support for training of units, product development, appropriate packaging and machinery for micro units.
- All the processes of the Scheme would take place on an MIS including applications by entrepreneurs, their processing, approval of various projects by the States and MoFPI, release of grant and other funds and monitoring of the project.
- Individual entrepreneurs and other stake holders desirous of availing assistance under the scheme may contact the State Nodal Agencies of their respective states/ UTs regarding the roll out of scheme and contact points at the district level.





Rajasthan Upgrades 19 Schemes to Flagship Programmes

The State Government of Rajasthan has decided to declare 19 schemes and programmes across 9 departments as **flagship programmes** following the <u>Covid 19 outbreak in the state</u>. These schemes and programs are majorly related to health, education, social security & employment, and have been upgraded as flagship schemes to provide relief to people from <u>Covid19</u> pandemic and empowering the weaker section. The Planning Department, GoR has released a <u>notification</u> regarding the same. The 19 Schemes upgraded to flagship programmes include:

No.	Department	Program
1		Shudh Ke liye Yudh (Campaign against adulteration)
2		Nirogi Rajasthan
3	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	CM Free Medicine Yojana
4		CM Free Test Yojana
5		<u>Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima</u> <u>Yojana (AB-MGRBSY)</u>
6	Food and civil supply department	Rs.1 kg wheat
7	School Education	Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School
8		Mukhyamantrik Kanyadaan / Hathleva Yojana
9		Benefits under <u>Rajasthan Silicosis Policy 2019</u>
10	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhymantri ekalnari Samman pension Yojana
11		Mukhyamantri Vradhjan Samman pension Yojana
12		Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyjan Samman pension Yojana
13		Palanhaar Yoajana





14	Agriculture	Rajasthan agriculture processing, business and export promotion scheme 2019
15	MSME	Chief Minister Small Scale Industries Promotion Scheme
16	WONE	MSME Act - Self Cetification
17	Industrial Department	Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) - 2019
18	Information & Technology Department	<u>Jan Soochana portal</u>
19	Planning Department	Jan Aadhar Yojana

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 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.

Rajasthan Quarantine Management Committee Constituted

As migrant population starts returning to home state in numbers, Rajasthan government has formed Quarantine Management Committee at Ward, Village, Block, District & State level for effective quarantine mechanism at the grassroots level. The committees were formed after state chief minister Ashok Gehlot held a meeting with all the district collectors.

To prevent the spread of <u>Covid-19 pandemic</u> at the community level, the state government has issued order for mandatory quarantine of people coming from other states for a period of 14 days, under the





<u>Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020</u>. The communities formed at different levels are as follows:

State Level Quarantine Management Committee

- A seven-member state-level Quarantine Management committee, headed by the additional chief secretary (ACS), Veenu Gupta has been constituted.
- The state-level committee will review the arrival, registration, and quarantine arrangement for migrant workers and submit its report daily to Rajeeva Swarup, ACS, home.

District Level Quarantine Management Committee

- 12-member district committee,
- Headed by the collector.
- Members:
 - 1. District Collector
 - 2. Member of the legislative assembly (MLA)
 - 3. Member of Parliament (MP)
 - 4. Superintendent of police (SP),
 - 5. Chief executive officer (CEO) of the Zila Parishad,
 - 6. Chief district medical and health officer (CHMO)
 - 7. Superintendent, District Hospital
 - 8. District food supply officer,
 - 9. District Education Officer,
 - 10. Commissioner of a municipal council,
 - 11. Executive Engineer Public works department (PWD)
 - 12. Any other officer or Civil Representative Member nominated by the collector





• The committee will establish, review and ensure the security of Covid Care Centre (CCC), quarantine centre, screening, and home quarantine of migrant workers.

Sub-Divisional Level Quarantine Management Committee

- Sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) will head a 10-member sub-division-level quarantine management panel.
- Other Members:
 - 1. Local MLA,
 - 2. Deputy SP,
 - 3. Development officer, Panchayat Samiti
 - 4. Block Medical & Health Officer
 - 5. Chief Block Education Officer
 - 6. Food supply officer
 - 7. Executive Officer Nagar Palika
 - 8. Tehsildar
 - 9. Other Public Representative / Govt. Officer appointed by the SDM
- They have been entrusted with the responsibility to review the CCC, screening, quarantine arrangements etc at the block level.

Village Panchayat Level Quarantine Management Committee

- Members:
 - 1. Panchayat Elementary Education Officer
 - 2. Patwari
 - 3. Sarpanch
 - 4. Village Development Officer
 - 5. Booth Level Officer (BLO)
 - 6. Beat Constable





- 7. ANM
- 8. Women Supervisor / Anganwadi Worker
- 9. Other Public Representative / Govt. Officer appointed by the SDM
- The Committee has been entrusted with the responsibility to review the CCC, screening, quarantine arrangements etc and report the same to SDM.

Ward Level Quarantine Management Committee (For Urban Areas)

- Members
 - 1. Booth Level Representative (BLO)
 - 2. Ward Councillor
 - 3. Cleanliness Supervisor
 - 4. Beat Constable
 - 5. Health Worker / ANM
 - 6. Asha Sahyogini
 - 7. Other Public Representative / Govt. Officer appointed by the SDM
- The Committee has been entrusted with the responsibility to review the CCC, screening, quarantine arrangements etc and report the same to SDM.





Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 Promulgated

On 1 May 2020, the <u>Governor of Rajasthan</u> in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India, promulgated the **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**.

Why Ordinance is promulgated: The Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly is not in session and the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action.

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 - Summary

1. Short title, extent and commencement

• The ordinance extends to the whole of the State of Rajasthan and came into effect immediately.

2. Definitions-

• Defines **epidemic disease**" means any disease declared as epidemic disease by notification published in the Official Gazette, by the Government

3. Power of Government to notify epidemic disease-

• Empowers State Government to notify any disease as epidemic disease by notification in the Official Gazette

4. Power to take special measures and specify regulations as to epidemic disease

In case of threat of an outbreak of any epidemic disease in the state. Rajasthan Government may specify such temporary regulations or orders to be observed by the public or by any person so as to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof and require or empower District Collectors to exercise such powers and duties as may be specified in the said regulations or orders.

Additionally, the Government may take measures and specify regulations:





- (a) to prohibit any usage or act which the Government considers sufficient to spread or transmit epidemic diseases from person to person in any gathering, celebration, worship or other such activities within the State;
- (b) to inspect the persons arriving in the State by air, rail, road or any other means or in quarantine or in isolation, as the case may be, in hospital, temporary accommodation, home or otherwise of persons suspected of being infected with any such disease by the officer authorized in the regulation or orders;
- (c) to seal State Borders for such period as may be deemed necessary;
- (d) to impose restrictions on the operation of public and private transport;
- (e) to prescribe social distancing norms or any other instructions for the public to observe that are considered necessary for public health and safety on account of the epidemic;
- (f) to restrict or prohibit congregation of persons in public places and religious institutions or places of worship;
- (g) to regulate or restrict the functioning of offices, Government and private, and educational institutions in the State;
- (h) to impose prohibition or restrictions on the functioning of shops and commercial and other offices, establishments, factories, workshops and godowns;
- (i) to restrict duration of services in essential or emergency services such as banks, media, health care, food supply, electricity, water, fuel, etc.; and
- (j) such other measures as may be necessary for the regulation and prevention of epidemic diseases as decided by the Government.

5. Punishment for offences-

Any person/institution/company who is bound by regulations or orders contravenes or disobeys any such regulation or order made under this Ordinance, or obstructs any officer empowered under this Ordinance, shall on conviction be punishable with **imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both**.





6. Punishment for abetment of offences-

Whoever abets an offence under this Ordinance shall be punished in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence.

7. Offence by a company-

(1) Where an offence under this Ordinance has been committed by a company, every person, who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Ordinance has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this section,-

- (a) "company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) "director", in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.

8. Offences to be cognizable and bailable-

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Central Act No. 2 of 1974) all offences under this Ordinance shall be cognizable and bailable.

9. Authorized Officer-

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, authorize one or more persons who shall be competent to act under this Ordinance.





10. Power to delegate-

The State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette direct that any power exercisable by it under this Ordinance may also be exercised by such officer as may be mentioned therein, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein.

11. Compounding of offences-

• Allows offences to be compounded by such authorities or officers and for such amount as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

12. Ordinance not in derogation of any other law.-

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

13. Protection of action taken in good faith-

• No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done by or under this Ordinance.

14. Power to remove difficulties-

• Empowers State Government may to make provisions necessary for removing the difficulty in implementation of this ordinance.

15. Power to make rules-

- Empowers the State Government to make rules by notification in the Official Gazette into effect the provisions of this Ordinance.
- Every rule and regulation made under this Ordinance shall be laid before the House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of not less than fourteen days.





16. Repeal and Saving-

- Repeals the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957 (Act No. 31 of 1957).
- All orders made under the above Act shall be deemed to have been done, taken or made under this Ordinance.

Consequently, based on the above **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**, the State Government notified set of rules on 3rd May 2020.

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 - Fines, Rules & Regulations

Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020 Fines Rules Regulations | Consequently, based on the **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**, the State Government notified set of rules, regulations & fines along with punishment that can be awarded for violation of prescribed rules & regulations.

Covid 19 as Epidemic Disease:

In exercise of powers conferred under <u>Section 3 of Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020</u>, the state government notified **Covid-19** as an epidemic disease for the whole of Rajasthan.

Important Rules & Regulations under declared under Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020

The State Government made the following <u>regulations</u> to be observed by the persons to prevent the outbreak of the COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019), under the <u>Section 4 of Rajasthan Epidemic</u> **Diseases Ordinance 2020**:

- 1. Every person shall wear face mask or face cover (nose and mouth covered properly) in public or work place.
- 2. No shopkeeper shall sell any item to a person who is not wearing face mask or face cover properly.
- 3. No person shall spit in public place.
- 4. No person shall consume liquor in any public place.
- 5. No person shall sell paan, gutka, tobacco etc.
- 6. Every person shall maintain social distancing (minimum 6 feet from the other person) in public place.





- 7. No person shall organize any marriage related function or gathering without prior intimation in writing submitted in the Office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate, and shall also be responsible to ensure that social distancing is maintained throughout the function and that the total number of persons does not exceed 50.
- 8. There shall not be more than 20 persons at funerals / last rites and social distancing shall be ensured.
- No person shall organize any other kind of social / political / sports / entertainment / academic / cultural / religious function / other gathering.

Authorized Officers:

In exercise of powers conferred under <u>Section 9 of Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020</u>, the state government <u>authorized</u> police officers not below the rank of head constable, within their respective jurisdiction, as authorized officer to act in respect of any offence committed.

Compounding of Offences - Fines

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 11 of Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020, on 12th May, the State Government <u>authorized</u> Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police and above Police Officers, within their respective jurisdiction, to compound the offences committed under Section 4 of the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020.

S.N.	Offence	Amount in Rupees for which the offence is to be compounded
1	2	3
1.	Any person not wearing face mask or face cover	Rs. 200/-
	(nose and mouth covered properly) in public or work	
	place	
2.	Selling any item by a shopkeeper to a person not	Rs.500/-
	wearing face mask or face cover	
3.	Any person found spitting in public place	Rs. 200/-
4.	Any person found consuming liquor in public place	Rs. 500/-
5.	Any person found selling paan, gutka or tobacco	Rs. 1,000/-
6.	Any person not maintaining social distancing	Rs. 100/-
	(minimum 6 feet from the other person) in public	
	place	





Additionally, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 11 of Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020, the State Government <u>authorized</u> all Executive Magistrates, within their respective jurisdiction, to compound the offences committed under Section 4 of the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020.

S.N.	Offence	Amount in Rupees for which the offence is to be compounded
1	2	3
1.	Any person not wearing face mask or face cover (nose and mouth covered properly) in public or work place	Rs. 200/-
2.	Selling any item by a shopkeeper to a person not wearing face mask or face cover	Rs.500/-
3.	Any person found spitting in public place	Rs. 200/-
4.	Any person found consuming liquor in public place	Rs. 500/-
5.	Any person found selling paan, gutka or tobacco	Rs. 1,000/-
6.	Any person not maintaining social distancing (minimum 6 feet from the other person) in public place	Rs. 100/-
7.	Organizing any marriage related function or gathering without prior information in writing to the Sub Divisional Magistrate or not maintaining social distancing during that function	Rs.5000/-
8.	Organizing any marriage related function and having more than 50 persons	Rs. 10,000/-





AtmaNirbhar Bharat: Covid19 Special Economic Package - Key Points

In his address to the nation on 12th May 2020, Prime Minister Modi gave a clarion call for **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** (आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान) - or *Self-Reliant India Movement*.

To help mitigate ongoing <u>Covid19</u> crisis and to provide much needed boost towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' he announced a Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs 20 lakh crores - equivalent to 10% of <u>India's GDP</u>.

He said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz.

- **Economy**, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change;
- Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India;
- System, based on 21st century technology driven arrangements;
- Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and
- **Demand**, whereby the strength of our demand and supply chain should be utilized to full capacity.

Main Components of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan:

Consequently, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman conducted a series of 5 press conferences and announced measures under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** (आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान). Measures announced in each of these presentations have been summarised as below:

Date	Part	Focus Sectors & Posts
13/05/2020	Part I	MSME, EPF, Gareeb Kalyan, RERA, Credit
14/05/2020	Part II	Farmers, Migrants, Labours & their Credit Supply
15/05/2020	Part III	Agriculture & Allied Sectors
16/05/2020	Part IV	<u>Coal, Minerals, Aviation, Defence, Space,</u> <u>Atomic Energy, Electricity</u> <u>Tariffs</u>





17/05/2020 Part V Ease of doing business, Health, Education, Support to State Governments Governments

Overall Stimulus provided by Atmanirbhar Bharat Package

S. No	Item	Rs. Crores
1	Part I	5,94,550
2	Part II	3,10,000
3	Part III	1,50,000
4	Part IV & Part V	48,100
	Sub-Total (1)	11,02,650
6	Earlier Measures inc. PMGKP	1,92,800
7	RBI Measures (Actual)	8,01,603
	Sub-Total (2)	9,94,403
	Grand Total	20,97,053





Stimulus from earlier measures

SI no	Measures	Rs crores
1.	Revenue lost due to tax concessions since Mar 22^{nd} 2020.	7,800
2.	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)	1,70,000
3.	PM's announcement for Health sector	15,000
	Total	1,92,800

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-1

SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1	Emergency W/C Facility for Businesses, incl MSMEs	3,00,000
2	Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs	20,000
3	Fund of Funds for MSME	50,000
4.	EPF Support for Business & Workers	2800
5.	Reduction in EPF rates	6750
6.	Special liquidity Scheme for NBFC/HFC/MFIs	30,000
7.	Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs	45,000
8.	Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs	90,000
9.	Reduction in TDS/TCS rates	50,000
	Sub Total	5,94,550

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-2

SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1.	Free Food grain Supply to Migrant Workers for 2 months	3500
2.	Interest Subvention for MUDRA Shishu Loans	1500
3	Special Credit Facility to Street Vendors	5000
4	Housing CLSS-MIG	70,000
5	Additional Emergency Working Capital through NABARD	30,000
6	Additional credit through KCC	2,00,000
	Sub-Total	3,10,000





Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-3

SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1.	Food Micro enterprises	10,000
2.	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana	20,000
3.	TOP to TOTAL: Operation Greens	500
4.	Agri Infrastructure Fund	1,00,000
5.	Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	15,000
6	Promotion of Herbal Cultivation	4,000
7	Beekeeping Initiative	500
	Sub-Total	1,50,000

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-4 and Part-5

SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1	Viability Gap Funding	8,100
2	Additional MGNREGS allocation	40,000
	Sub-Total	48,100



