

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 July, 2025



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## Rajasthan

### Rajasthan City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy-2025

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On July 18, 2025, the state government took important decisions to make Rajasthan a leader in many areas including energy, health, education, medicine, water, roads.
- The cabinet meeting held on July 14, 2025 under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has approved the Rajasthan City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2025 to give impetus to the gas-based economy in the state.

# RAJASTHAN

# गैस डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन नीति 2025

## ➡ Main Point

- **Duration:** This policy will remain in effect till March 31, 2029 or till other policy comes into force.
- **Implementation of the policy:** A state-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary will be constituted, this committee will also have nodal officers for matters related to the Director, Department of Autonomous Governance, local bodies at the state level.
- District City Gas Committee (DCGC) will also be constituted in each district under the chairmanship of the District Collector.
- This policy will ensure convenient, reliable, environment-friendly and cost-effective fuel supply across the state. This will also ensure safe gas supply to consumers.
- This policy is important in order to provide piped natural gas (PNG) to domestic consumers, commercial establishments and industries as well as to promote compressed natural gas (CNG) for vehicles.
- Many important provisions have been made in this policy to promote investment in the field of city gas distribution, which will create new employment opportunities in urban and rural areas.
- Under this policy, the process of permission, land allotment and approval for distribution companies has been made time-bound and simple.
- CGD portal will also be developed for effective implementation of this policy.

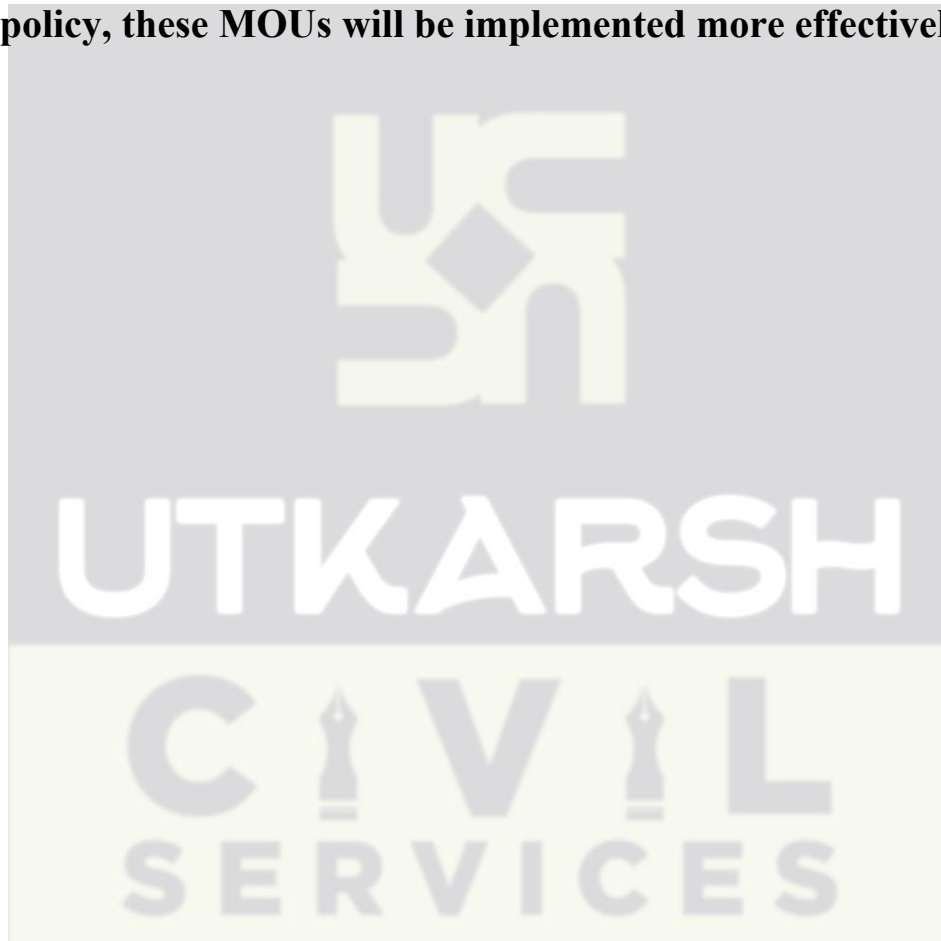
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## Other important points:

- In the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit, 2024, MOUs were signed by the city gas distribution companies with the Rajasthan government for an investment of Rs 8,740 crore.
- With this policy, these MOUs will be implemented more effectively.



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## Hariyalo Rajasthan Abhiyan 2025

### ➡ Why in News?

- Under 'Bhaskar Pride of Rajasthan', 45 individual who have done remarkable work in various fields were honored by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- With the cooperation of Rajasthan Government, Dainik Bhaskar will organize 'Hariyalo Rajasthan Abhiyan' in Rajasthan.



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## ➡ Main Point

- **Bhaskar Pride Award:** 45 personalities including 4 Padma winners were honored with Bhaskar Pride Award 2025.
- These include Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Grammy Award winner Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Padma Shri Kalbelia dancer Gulabo Sapera, Padma Bhushan and Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti founder DR Mehta, Padma Shri Bhajan singer Munna Master, Sincere Architect Engineer Private Limited. Director Anoop Bartaria, Latiyal Handicrafts Private Limited CMD Radheshyam Ranga.



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## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Teej Utsav and handicraft fair - Bikaner House</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Teej Utsav and Handicraft Fair will be organized from 23 to 30 July 2025 at Bikaner House, New Delhi.</li><li>♦ The fair will be inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Mission Jeevan Suraksha</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>♦ Under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) run by the Government of India for bank account holders, 'Mission Jeevan Suraksha' is being run by the Agricultural Marketing Department from March 2025 to open bank accounts of porters, palledars and weighers working in all the agricultural produce market committees of the state and get them insured under these schemes.</li><li>♦ 94.76 percent of the porters and palledars working in the agricultural produce markets of the state linked to bank accounts have been insured under PMJJBY and 95.34 percent under PMSBY.</li></ul>

3.

## **Biofortified Millet Nutri Bar - Pilot Project Launched**

- ♦ Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Women and Child Development Minister Diya Kumari launched the pilot distribution of Biofortified Millet Nutri Bar for children aged 3 to 6 years visiting Anganwadi centres in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur.
- ♦ This millet-based initiative, inspired by PM Modi's 'Shri Anna Yojana', is being piloted in Jaipur-I, Sanganer Rural, and Udaipur's Phalasia with support from GIZ and PATH.



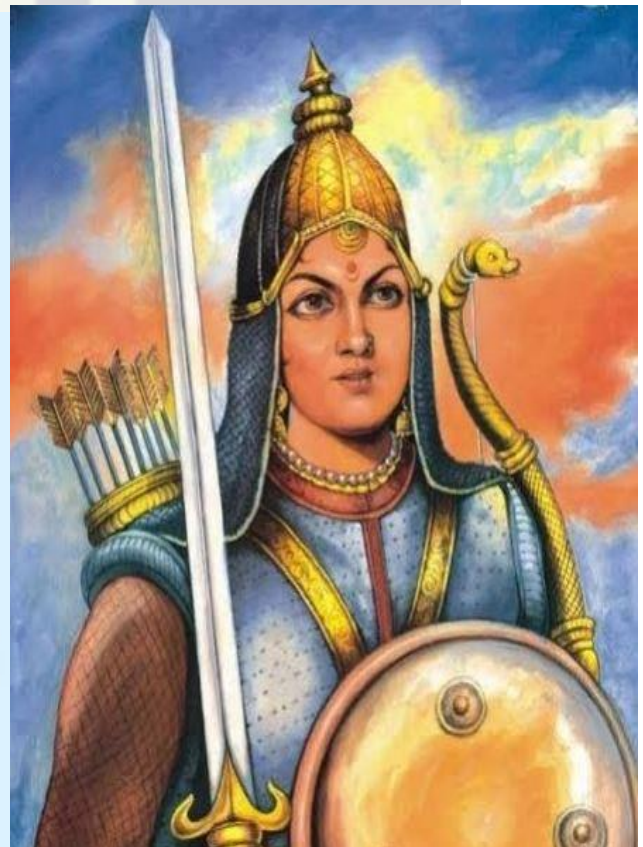


## National

### Rani Durgavati and Ahilyabai Holkar

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, changes have been made in the new NCERT Social Science book of Class 8 for 2025-26. Under these amendments, Razia Sultan and Noor Jahan have been removed from the syllabus, while Rani Durgavati and Ahilyabai Holkar have been included as new chapters.



#### ➔ Main Point

- References to Tipu Sultan, Hyder Ali, four Anglo-Mysore Wars have been removed, while sections related to Anglo-Maratha Wars have been retained.

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## Rani Durgavati:

- **Birth:** In the year 1524 in the Chandela dynasty of Mahoba (present-day Uttar Pradesh, near the border of Madhya Pradesh).
- **Marriage:** To Dalpat Shah, son of Gond king Sangram Shah and ruled the Garha-Katanga state for 16 years after the death of her husband in the year 1550.
- **Garha-Katanga Empire:** The region of Narmada Valley and parts of northern Madhya Pradesh were included in the Garha-Katanga Empire.
- **Mughal invasion of Garha-Katanga:** In the mid-16th century, she fought against Akbar's general Asaf Khan and Sultan Baz Bahadur of neighboring Malwa, opposing the expansion of the Mughal Empire.

## Ahilyabai Holkar:

- **Birth:** Born on May 31, 1725 in Chondi, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra). (300th birth anniversary on May 31, 2025).
- **Marriage:** Married to Khanderao Holkar, son of Malhar Rao Holkar, in 1733 (Malhar Rao Holkar - Ruler of Malwa and founder of the Holkar dynasty)
- After the death of Malhar Rao Holkar and Malerao Holkar, she took over the reins of Malwa and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.
- **Commander-in-Chief:** Ahilyabai appointed Tukoji Rao Holkar as the commander-in-chief.
- **Maheshwar Capital:** Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh was made the capital of the Holkar dynasty.
- **Cultural Contribution:** Rebuilt the Somnath and Kashi Vishwanath temples.
- **Court Scholar:** Patronised Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant and Shahir Anantfandi.

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## Begum Hazrat Mahal:

- **Original name:** Muhammadi Khanum.
- **Marriage:** Nawab Wajid Ali Shah
- The last Nawab of Awadh, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was exiled to Calcutta and in 1856, the British East India Company took over Awadh and it was disintegrated.
- Hazrat Mahal and her son Birjis Qadir decided to return to Lucknow and led the rebellion in Lucknow during the Revolt of 1857.

## Maratha Queen Tarabai:

- **Birth:** Born in 1675, Rani Tarabai was adept in swordsmanship, archery, horsemanship, diplomacy and other arts of statecraft.
- Daughter of Hambir Rao Mohite, a general in Chhatrapati Shivaji's army, the warrior queen played an important role in Maratha politics in the early 18th century.
- **Marriage:** Married to Rajaram I, the second son of Shivaji.

## Youth Spiritual Summit 2025

### ➔ Why in News?

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing a 'Youth Spiritual Summit' on the theme 'Drug-Free Youth for Developed India' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from 19 to 20 July 2025.

युवा आध्यात्मिक समिट  
नशा मुक्त  
युवा  
फॉर विकसित भारत

18 जुलाई - 20 जुलाई 2025

रुद्राक्ष इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन  
एंड कन्वेंशन सेंटर, वाराणसी

रुद्राक्ष इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन  
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## ➡ Main Point

- **Objective:** To promote collective national resolve rooted in India's spiritual heritage and youth power against drug abuse.
- Four plenary sessions will discuss important topics - understanding the psychological and social impact of addiction, dismantling drug supply and trafficking networks, effective grassroots campaigns and communication strategies and preparing a blueprint for building a drug-free India.
- The summit will conclude on July 20 with the release of the 'Kashi Manifesto'.
- The Youth Spiritual Summit is part of the Ministry's broader mission towards launching an anti-drug value-based youth movement.

UTKARSH

CIVIL  
SERVICES

-:13:-

## National Conference on Good Governance Practices 2025

### ➔ Why in News?

- A two-day National Conference on “Good Governance Practices” was organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in collaboration with the Government of Odisha from 17th to 18th July, 2025 at Bhubaneswar.



## ➡ Main Point

- The conference is an effort to bring together national and state level public administration organizations on one platform to share their experiences on innovations in public administration, transformation of future public solutions for improving quality of life, good governance, digital governance etc.
- The two-day national conference highlighted and felicitated the initiatives awarded with Prime Minister Excellence Awards.
- Five plenary sessions were organized in this national conference on various themes- first session was organized on the theme “Prime Minister Awarded Initiatives 2024 (Holistic Development of Districts)”, second on the theme “Prime Minister Awarded Initiatives 2024 (Aspirational Blocks Programme)”. Other important points:

### Prime Minister's Awards Scheme 2025

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances notified the Prime Minister's Awards Scheme for Excellence in Public Administration, 2025 to Central Ministries/Departments, States and Districts on July 1, 2025.
- The web portal for registration and submission of nominations for the Prime Minister's Awards will be formally launched from October 2, 2025.
- The entire concept and format of the Prime Minister's Awards Scheme since 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to encourage creative competition, innovation, replication and institutionalization of best practices.

- For the year 2025, the Prime Minister's Awards Scheme for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of public servants under three categories -
    - **Category I** - Holistic Development of Districts under 11 Priority Sector Programmes. 5 awards will be given under this category.
    - **Category II** - Aspirational Block Programme. 5 awards will be given under this category.
    - **Category III** – Innovations for Central Ministries/Departments, States and Districts. 6 awards will be given under this category.
  - **The Prime Minister's Award Scheme, 2025 includes –**
    - i. Trophy
    - ii. Scroll
    - iii. Incentive amount of Rs 20 lakh to the awarded district/organization, which will be used for implementation of the project/programme or to meet the resource constraints in any area of public welfare.
- Prime Minister's Excellence in Public Administration Awards 2024:**
- Poshan Tracker Application developed by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) was awarded in the Innovation (Centre) category on the occasion of 17th Civil Services Day held on 21st April, 2025 in New Delhi.



## Hurun India Youth Series 2025

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the first edition of the Hurun India Youth Series 2025, released in collaboration with Vendus Wealth, honoured 79 young leaders aged 30 and below who are making significant contributions to the Indian economy.



### ➔ Main Point

- The entrepreneurs featured founded or co-led ventures with valuations of over \$25 million (first generation) or \$50 million (next generation leaders).
- Top Institutions: With 8 alumni, BITS Pilani tops all undergraduate institutions, followed by IIT Roorkee and IIT Delhi with 6 alumni each.
- In terms of cities, Mumbai has re-established its dominance as the financial capital of India, with 15 entrepreneurs on the top.

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## ■ Top Youngest Entrepreneurs in India :

Name	Age	Company
Kaivalya Vohra	22	Zepto
Adit Palicha	22	Zepto
AVR Smaran	22	AVR Swarana Mahal Jewellers
Arjun Deshpande	22	Generic Aadha
Shiv A Sankeshwar	23	Vijayanand Travels

## ■ Top Youngest Women Entrepreneurs of India :

Name	Age	Company
Devika Ghol	28	OptraScan
Devanshi Kejriwal	28	Skillmatics
Radhika Ambani	30	Encore Healthcare
Ananyashree Birla	30	Svatantra Microfin

## ■ Top 5 Industries Represented :

Industries	number of entrants	Notable Companies
Software Products & Services	21	Perplexity, Zoop
Consumer Goods	12	Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities
Financial Services	9	BharatPe, Swatantra Microfin
Healthcare	8	Encore Healthcare, Cupid, Optrascan
Aerospace & Defense	7	Pixel, Digantara

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## International

### Country in discussion: Britain

#### ➡ Why in News?

- With the aim of increasing public confidence in democracy and equal voting rights, Britain's Labour government decided to reduce the voting age from 18 years to 16 years.



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## ➡ Main Point

- This is an election promise of the Labour Party and is the biggest change since 1969, when the voting age was reduced from 21 years to 18 years.
- Under the reforms, acceptable voter IDs will be expanded to include UK-issued bank cards and digital formats of existing IDs, such as driving licenses and veteran cards.
- According to the British government, voting rights will be implemented equally across the UK, where young voters already participate in decentralised elections in Scotland and Wales.
- According to a parliamentary report, there are about 1.6 million young people aged 16 and 17 in Britain. Voter turnout in the 2024 general election last year was 59.7%, the lowest since 2001. The next election will be held in 2029.

## Other key points:

- Globally, the voting age is 18 in most countries, although last year's European Parliament elections gave EU members the option to vote from 16, a first for Germany, Belgium, Austria and Malta.

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## Science and Technology

### Starlink allowed to provide space-based internet services in the country

#### ➔ Why in News?

- India's space regulator INSPACe recently allowed Elon Musk's company Starlink to provide space-based internet services in the country.



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## ➡ Main Point

- INSPACE has authorised Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt Ltd to operate a low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, i.e. Starlink Gen1 constellation.
- This permission will be valid for a period of five years from July 8, 2025 or till the end of the operational life of the Starlink Gen1 constellation, whichever is earlier.
- The Starlink Gen1 constellation is a global satellite constellation orbiting the Earth, consisting of 4,408 satellites.
- These satellites orbit at an altitude of 540 to 570 kilometres and are capable of providing internet capacity of around 600 Gbps in India.
- Unlike traditional satellite services that rely on remote geostationary satellites, Starlink uses the world's largest low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation.
- Starlink has tied up with two of India's leading telecom companies; Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. Together, these two companies control more than 70 percent of India's telecom market.

## ❖ Facts for Prelims:

### IN-SPACE:

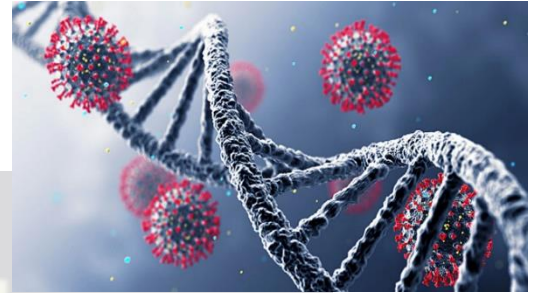
- ◆ **Full name:** Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)
- ◆ **Established:** In the year 2020.
- ◆ To facilitate private sector participation, the government established IN-SPACE as a single-window, independent, nodal agency.
- ◆ **Associated Department:** Department of Space (DoS)
- ◆ **Objective:** To promote private sector participation in space activities.
- ◆ Growing India's space economy, currently worth \$8.4 billion, to \$44 billion by 2033.

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## Gujarat is the first state to do genome sequencing of tribals

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Gujarat government has launched the genome sequencing project to improve health services for the tribal community.



### ➔ Main Point

- The project will be implemented in 17 districts of the state.
- With this move, Gujarat has become the first state in the country to launch a genome sequencing project for the tribal community.
- The main objective of this project is to understand genetic health risks among tribal groups and prepare a database of it.
- The project was announced by the Tribal Development Minister after a meeting with experts and stakeholders in Gandhinagar.
- The project will be implemented by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Center in Gandhinagar.
- Through this project, it will be possible to identify genetic diseases like innate immunity, cancer, sickle cell anemia and thalassemia.

### Genome Sequencing:

- Genome sequencing is an advanced and detailed method of analyzing the entire genome.
- This technique is helpful in identifying hereditary disorders and progression factors of diseases like cancer.

## India's first dual stealth drone

### ➔ Why in News?

- India is making the world's first dual stealth drone, which will be able to avoid the enemy's high-res radar and infrared signals and attack in less than seconds.



### ➔ Main Point

- This drone is being prepared with the help of Hyderabad-based startup company Veera Dynamics and Binford Research Lab, Ministry of Defense.

#### Features of dual stealth drone:

- The drone weighs 100 kg. It can carry up to 50 kg of payload.
- **'Rama' armor:** Radar absorption and multispectral adaptive.
  - This is an indigenous coating material, which reduces radar and infrared detection by 97%.
- **Benefit to Indian Army:** Out of 100 attacking drones, only 25-30 reach the target. But this drone will be able to hit 80-85 targets.

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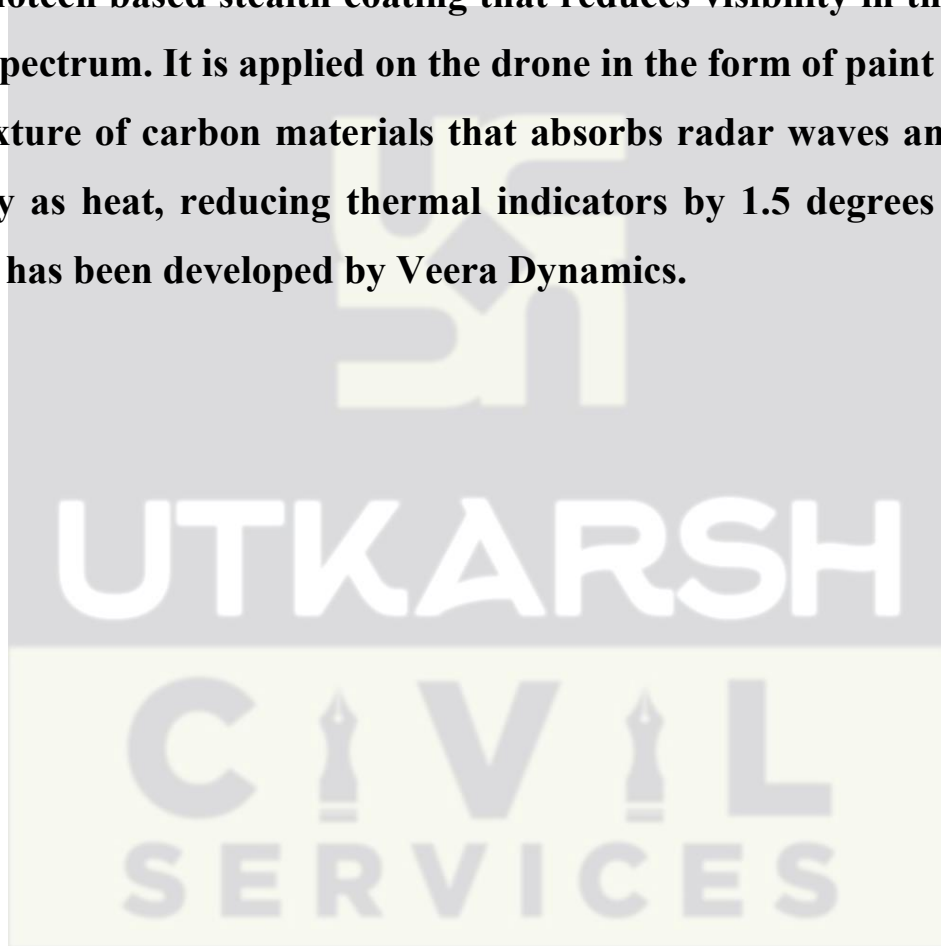


## Other important points:

- Currently, only the US, China and Russia have stealth drones that hide from radar.

## Rama Material:

- It is a nanotech based stealth coating that reduces visibility in the radar and infrared spectrum. It is applied on the drone in the form of paint or wrap.
- It is a mixture of carbon materials that absorbs radar waves and dissipates the energy as heat, reducing thermal indicators by 1.5 degrees Celsius per second. It has been developed by Veera Dynamics.



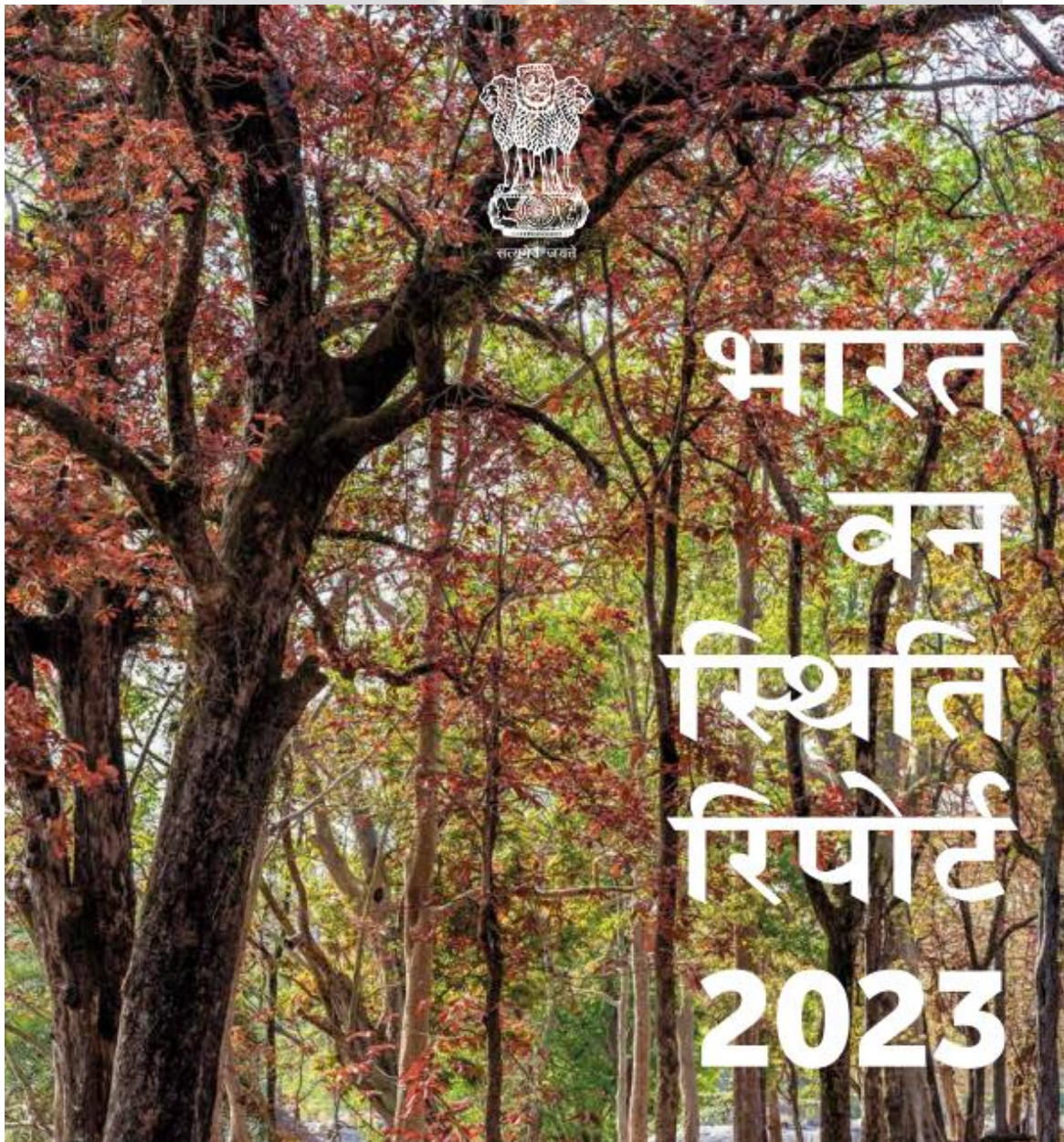
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## Environment and Ecology

### India State of Forest Report 2023

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On December 21, 2024, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav released the 'India State of Forest Report 2023' at the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun.



## ➡ Main Point

- The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is being published on a biennial basis by the Forest Survey of India since 1987 in India.
- The Forest Survey of India (FSI) conducts an in-depth assessment of the country's forest and tree resources based on the interpretation of remote sensing satellite data and field-based National Forest Inventory (NFI) and its results are published in the India State of Forest Report.
- The India State of Forest Report 2023 is the 18th report in this series.
- The forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,357 sq km which is 25.17 percent of the geographical area of the country, which includes 7,15,343 sq km (21.76 percent) of forest cover and 1,12,014 sq km (3.41 percent) of tree cover.
- As compared to the year 2021, the forest and tree cover of the country has increased by 1445 sq km, which includes 156 sq km in forest cover and 1289 sq km in tree cover.

**The top four states showing maximum increase in forest and tree cover are:**

1. Chhattisgarh (684 sq km)
2. Uttar Pradesh (559 sq km)
3. Odisha (559 sq km)
4. Rajasthan (394 sq km).

**Top three states showing maximum increase in forest cover:**

1. Mizoram (242 sq km)
2. Gujarat (180 sq km)
3. Odisha (152 sq km)



## Top three states with highest forest and tree cover in terms of area:

1. Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km)
2. Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km)
3. Maharashtra (65,383 sq km)

## Top three states with highest forest cover in terms of area:

1. Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km)
2. Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km)
3. Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km)

- In terms of percentage of forest cover to total geographical area, Lakshadweep (91.33 per cent) has the highest forest cover, followed by Mizoram (85.34 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62 percent).
- The current assessment also reveals that 19 states/union territories have more than 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover.
- Out of these, eight states/union territories; viz. Mizoram, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur have more than 75 percent forest cover.
- The total mangrove cover is 4,992 square kilometers.
- The extent of bamboo bearing area in the country is estimated to be 1,54,670 square kilometers.
- There has been an increase of 5,227 square kilometers in bamboo area as compared to the last assessment done in the year 2021.
- In the current assessment, the total carbon stock in the forests of the country has been estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes.
- The country's carbon stock has increased by 81.5 million tonnes compared to the previous assessment.



## Asia's oldest elephant 'Vatsala'

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Asia's oldest (100 years old) elephant 'Vatsala' died in Panna Tiger Reserve.



### ➔ Main Point

#### Panna Tiger Reserve:

- Panna Reserve is the 22nd Tiger Reserve of India and the 5th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is located in the Vindhya ranges and covers parts of Panna and Chhatarpur districts.
- It was established as a national park in 1981 and declared a Tiger Reserve in 1994.
- It also includes the Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1975.
- This area was earlier a hunting ground for the princely states of Panna, Chhatarpur and Bijawar.
- Dry deciduous forests and grasslands are predominant here.
- Teak forests in the north and teak-kardhaai mixed forests in the east form the boundaries.
- It is home to major populations of tigers, bears, leopards and hyenas.
- Other carnivores include jackals, wolves, wild dogs, cats and spotted wild cats.
- The Vindhya mountain ranges help connect the eastern and western wildlife populations.

## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Foot Prosthesis (Artificial Leg)</b></p>  <p>◆ Recently, the first indigenously designed and developed high-profile advanced carbon fibre based foot prosthesis was unveiled in Telangana by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and AIIMS-Bibinagar.</p>