

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 12 July, 2025



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Rajasthan

MAA Scheme Rajasthan : Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana

➔ Why in News?

- According to recent figures, more than 43 lakh patients of the state have received free treatment worth more than Rs 5 thousand crores under Maa Yojana.



➔ Main Point

- This scheme focuses on maternal and child health. In which pregnant women are being provided essential medical facilities before, during and after delivery.
- This scheme run by the Medical and Health Department is the first such scheme in the state sector, which includes treatment packages for every section from general illness to robotic surgery, from allopathy to Ayush system and from children to the elderly.
- To expand the scope of the Maa Yojana, by implementing inter-state portability, the packages of the scheme have been increased from 1800 to about 2300.
- The scheme includes 73 daycare packages and 419 pediatric packages for serious diseases like cancer.
- A fund of Rs 3500 crore has also been constituted for this scheme.

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- As per the budget announcement of the year 2025-26, new packages have been added to this scheme for robotic surgery, neuro surgery, plastic surgery and skin transplant, cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, geriatric care package for people above 70 years of age, new packages for specially abled persons, package for psychological health of adolescents, treatment of oral cancer and AYUSH methods.

- Under this program, an e-card is issued to the eligible families, so that they can avail medical services in government and listed private hospitals without any financial burden.

Other important points:

Maa Voucher Scheme -

- **Start as a pilot project:** March 8, 2024 (Baran, Bharatpur, Phalodi)
- **Launch in the entire state:** August 8, 2024.
- **Implemented in the entire state:** September 17, 2024.
- **Objective:**
 - To reduce safe delivery and maternal mortality rate.
 - Under this scheme, pregnant women of 84 days or more will be able to avail free sonography services at government sonography centers as well as private sonography centers.
- **Benefits:**
 - Under the scheme, pregnant women will get QR code based e-voucher by SMS on their mobile number.
 - With this voucher, women will be able to get free sonography done.
 - The validity of this voucher will be 30 days and if for any reason the woman is unable to get the sonography done within the stipulated time, then she can go to the medical institution again and extend its duration for another 30 days. This can be done only once.

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Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana:

- **Start of the scheme:** Chief Minister Ayushman Arogya Yojana has been started in the state from May 1, 2021 to provide the benefit of health insurance to the entire state by expanding the scope of Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Health Insurance Scheme, which was implemented in the state from January 30, 2021.
- **Package:** Under the scheme, 1798 types of packages and procedures are available for various diseases.
- The cost of tests, medicines and doctor's consultation fee for 5 days before hospitalization and 15 days after discharge is included in the package amount.
- **Features of the scheme:**
 - Facility of cashless insurance coverage of 25 lakhs for every family of Rajasthan.
 - Beneficiaries of National Food Security Act and Socio Economic Census 2011 do not need to register. Insurance premium will be borne by the state government.
 - Apart from this, other families will have to pay a premium of Rs 850 per year.
 - To apply, it is mandatory to have Jan Aadhar number or Jan Aadhar registration receipt.

Chief Minister Overdue Interest Relief Lump Sum Settlement Scheme 2025

➔ Why in News?

- On July 11, 2025, the state government has extended the period of Chief Minister's Overdue Interest Relief One Time Settlement Scheme 2025-26 in the interest of the overdue loan members of Land Development Banks.
- Under this scheme, eligible borrowers will be able to deposit a minimum of 25 percent amount by 30 September 2025.



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➡ Main Point

- The Chief Minister has also distributed long term agricultural and non-agricultural investment loans under the 5 percent interest subsidy scheme of the state government through Land Development Banks.

Chief Minister's Overdue Interest Relief Scheme (CM-OTS):

- The 'Chief Minister's Overdue Interest Relief Scheme 2025-26' (CM OTS) was implemented by the Government of Rajasthan to provide relief to the overdue loan members of Land Development Banks.
- **Objective:** The aim is to provide relief to those farmers whose loan taken from land development banks has not been paid on time and whose account has gone into the "overdue" category. Under this scheme, if the eligible borrowers deposit only the principal amount, then the state government waives off their entire overdue interest amount.
- If the entire amount of overdue principal and insurance premium is deposited by the borrower, 100 percent relief will be given by the state government in overdue interest and penal interest.
- In the scheme, a provision has been made to return the land purchased in the name of Land Development Banks during the auction for recovery earlier to the farmers.

Indian Responsible Tourism Award 2025

➔ Why in News?

- The Indian Responsible Tourism Awards 2025 were presented at the 3rd edition of the Indian Responsible Tourism Awards 2025, organised by Outlook in association with Rajasthan Tourism, at Hotel Clarks Amer on July 11, 2025.



➔ Main Point

- The awards recognise exceptional efforts across all pillars of sustainability – environmental, social, cultural and economic.
- Chokhi Dhani Resort was awarded the Gold Award in the “Sustainable Leadership: Hotels” category for successfully integrating sustainable practices into its operations, promoting eco-friendly tourism, preserving local culture and positively impacting the community.
- On this occasion, the Tourism Minister of Rajasthan announced the launch of the State Tourism Awards 2025 on behalf of the Department of Tourism in Rajasthan.

Other important points

- In the year 2024, Rajasthan received more than 23 crore domestic tourists and 21 lakh foreign tourists. This has made Rajasthan the fifth most visited country in terms of the number of domestic and international tourists.
- A Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund (RTICF) of ₹5,000 crore was set up in this year's budget.

India Tourism Scenario: Key National Strategic Priorities

- India aims to become a trillion dollar tourism economy by the year 2047.
- India is ranked 39th in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index, 2024.
- In the financial year 2023, tourism has generated foreign exchange earnings of US\$ 28 billion.

Rajasthan: Performance of key sectors

- Tourism and hospitality sector has been given the status of industry.
- The tourism sector contributes about 12% to the state's GDP.
- In the year 2023, 179 million domestic tourists and 1.7 million international tourists visited Rajasthan.
- In the year 2022, Rajasthan ranked 7th in terms of domestic and international tourists.
- Under the 'Pilgrimage Revival and Spiritual Augmentation Campaign' (PRASAD) scheme, integrated development of Pushkar / Ajmer was approved as a project. In addition, Shri Karni Mata Temple in Bikaner district and Sun Temple at Budhahita in Kota district were recognized as major sites.
- Under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0), Bundi (Keshoraipatan) and Jodhpur have been identified for development in Rajasthan.

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Green Hydrogen Hub

➔ Why in News?

- North India's first green hydrogen hub will be set up at GHV Innovation Foundation, a Section 8 company sponsored by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur, on a public private partnership model at a cost of about Rs 205 crore.



➔ Main Point

- **MoU:** The 'Rising Rajasthan Summit' will be established under the MOU signed between IIT Jodhpur and Government of Rajasthan.
- This will be the fourth green hydrogen cluster in the country and the first in North India after the clusters located in Bhubaneswar (East), Pune (West) and Kerala (South).
- **Production of green hydrogen:** In the cluster, 350 tonnes of green hydrogen will be produced from waste water every year. Alkaline water electrolyser and solar energy will be used in this. Also, 15 tonnes of hydrogen will be produced from biomass every year.
- **Objective:** To achieve green hydrogen production, green tourism, export promotion and India's net zero target.

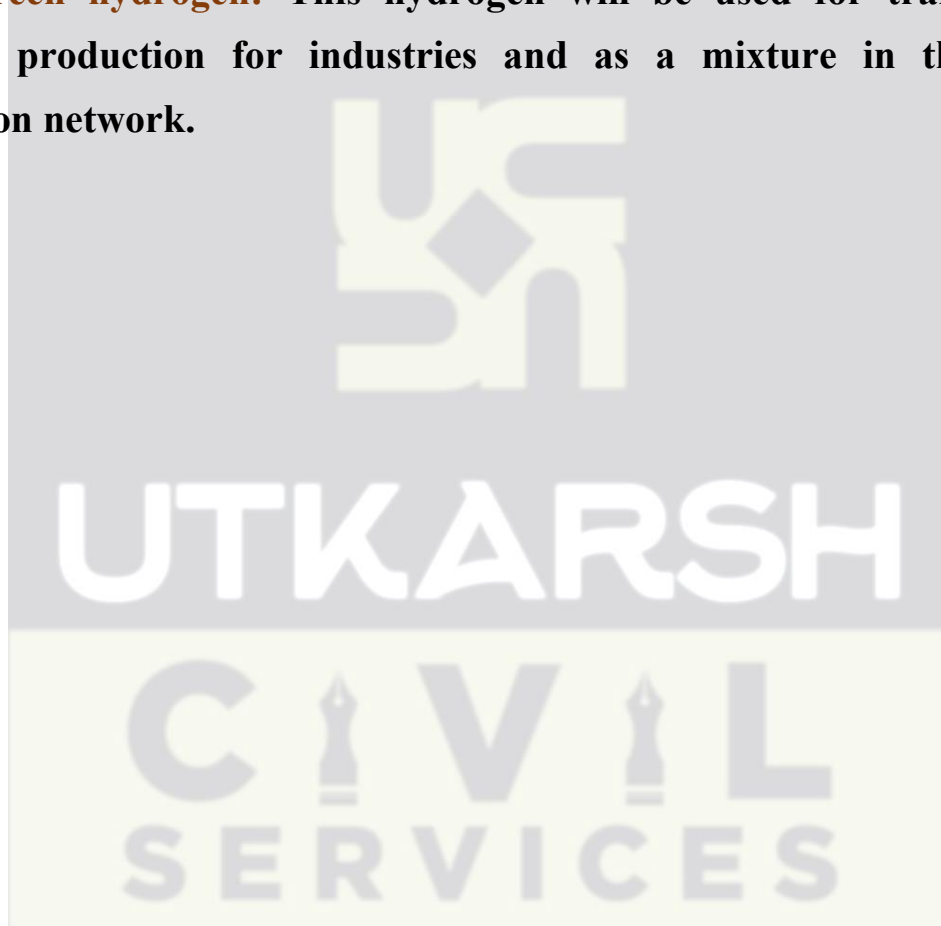
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- **Employment generation:** The construction of green hydrogen cluster will create more than 60 thousand jobs by the year 2030.
- The production of green hydrogen in a cluster operated on PPP mode will cost 1 to 3 dollars per kilogram.
- **Use of green hydrogen:** This hydrogen will be used for transportation, ammonia production for industries and as a mixture in the city gas distribution network.



-:11:-

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Sambal Fortnight 2025

➔ Why in News?

- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Sambal Pakhwada Samaj was organized from 24 June to 9 July 2025.

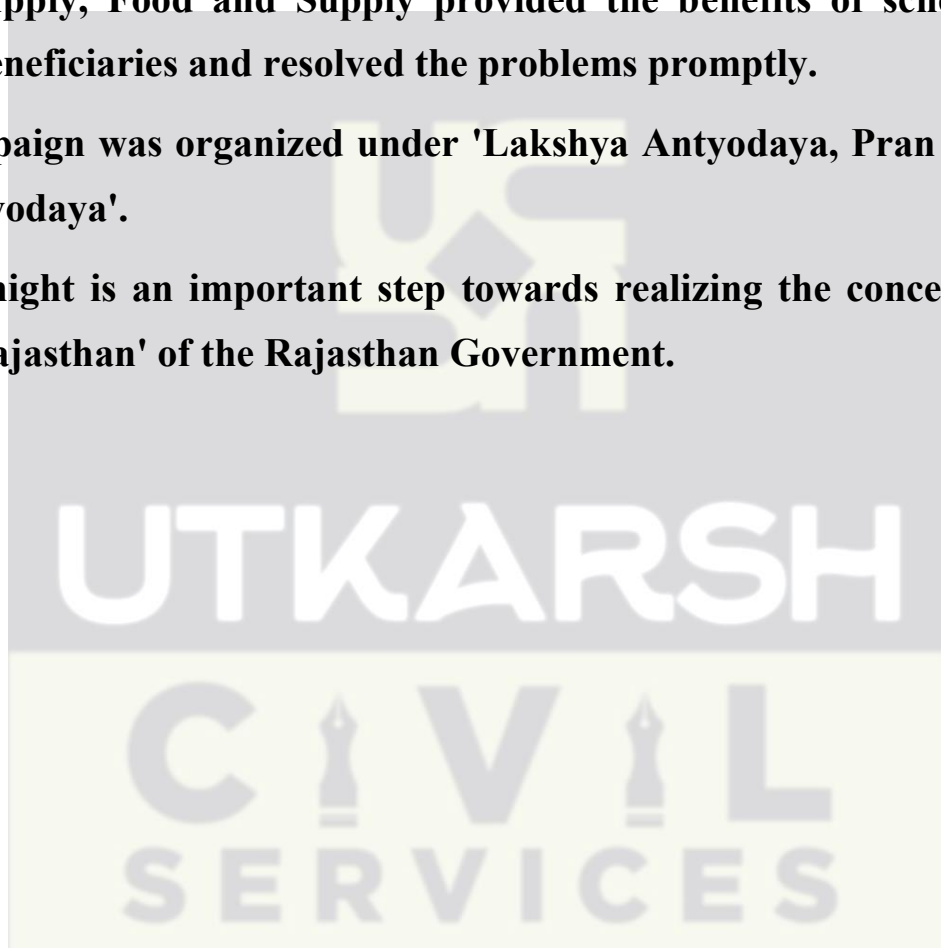
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➡ Main Point

- In the camps organized at the Gram Panchayat level, representatives of departments like Revenue, Medical, Education, Panchayati Raj, Social Justice, Women and Child Development, Labour, Agriculture, Electricity, Water Supply, Food and Supply provided the benefits of schemes to the eligible beneficiaries and resolved the problems promptly.
- This campaign was organized under 'Lakshya Antyodaya, Pran Antyodaya, Path Antyodaya'.
- This fortnight is an important step towards realizing the concept of 'Apno Agrani Rajasthan' of the Rajasthan Government.



National

Nagari Pracharini Sabha

➔ Why in News?

- Nagari Pracharini Sabha, important for the promotion of Hindi and Devanagari, resumed its publication decades after the language conflict in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.



➔ Main Point

Nagari Pracharini Sabha:

- **Nickname:** Kashi Nagari Pracharini Sabha
- **Founded:** It was founded on January 16, 1893 at Queen's College, Varanasi by Shyama Sunder Das, Pandit Ramnarayan Mishra and Thakur Shivkumar Singh.
- **Initial Patronage:** By Babu Radhakrishna Das.
- **Headquarters:** Varanasi (Branches: New Delhi and Haridwar).
- **Objective:** To promote the Devanagari alphabet and the Hindi language.
- The Sabha published a comprehensive Hindi dictionary of 11 volumes called "Shabd Sagar" in the year 1929. The preface of this dictionary was written by Acharya Ramchandra Shukla and Shyama Sundar Das.
- **After Independence:** After independence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the patron of Nagari Pracharini Sabha.

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Research Journals:

■ Nagari Pracharini Patrika:

- Published since the year 1896.
- It is the oldest and most authentic magazine of India based on Hindi research.

■ Saraswati:

- The publication of this Hindi magazine Saraswati started in the year 1900.
- **Editor:** Pandit Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi.

■ Library Establishment: Arya Bhasha Library was established in the year 1896, which became the largest Hindi library in India.

■ Cultural Contribution: Managed the Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum, which was later transferred to Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

-:15:-

Maratha Military Landscape of India

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, in the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, 'Maratha Military Landscape of India' has been included in the World Heritage List.



➔ Main Point

- It has become the 44th World Heritage Site in India to receive UNESCO recognition.
- The proposal was sent for consideration of the World Heritage Committee in January 2024.

Maratha Military Landscape:

- From the 17th to the 19th centuries, the Maratha military landscape of India was an extraordinary network of twelve forts that demonstrate the strategic military vision and architectural brilliance of the Maratha Empire.
- Of these twelve magnificent forts, eleven are in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu.
- Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the selected sites include Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu as well as Salher, Shivneri, Lohgarh, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgarh, Pratapgarh, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.

UNESCO:

- **Founded:** In 1945, as a successor to the Committee for Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Membership:** 193 member countries, 11 associate members and various NGOs/private partners.
- **Aim:** To promote world peace, sustainable development, and human rights through education, science, culture and communication.

Key areas of work:

- Education
- Natural sciences
- Social and human sciences
- Culture
- Communication and information

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Structure:

- The General Conference decides the programme and budget every two years.
- The Executive Board monitors operations.
- The Director-General (appointed every 4 years) is the chief administrator of the institution.

43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India:

Sr. No.	Name of the sites	Year	Place
1	Ajanta Caves	1983	Maharashtra
2	Ellora Caves	1983	Maharashtra
3	Agra Fort	1983	Agra
4	Taj Mahal	1983	Agra
5	Sun Temple	1984	Orissa
6	Mahabalipuram Monuments	1984	Tamil Nadu
7	Kaziranga National Park	1985	Assam
8	Keoladeo National Park	1985	Rajasthan
9	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	1985	Assam
10	Churches and Convents of Goa	1986	Goa
11	Monuments of Khajuraho	1986	Madhya Pradesh
12	Monuments of Hampi	1986	Karnataka
13	Fatehpur Sikri	1986	Agra
14	Elephanta Caves	1987	Maharashtra

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CIVIL
SERVICES

15	Great Living Chola Temples	1987	Tamil Nadu
16	Pattadakal Monuments	1987	Karnataka
17	Sundarbans National Park	1987	West Bengal
18	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	1988	Uttarakhand
19	Monuments of Buddha	1989	Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh
20	Humayun's Tomb	1993	Delhi
21	Qutub Minar and its Monuments	1993	Delhi
22	Mountain Railways of Darjeeling, Kalka Shimla and Nilgiri	1999	Darjeeling
23	Mahabodhi Temple	2002	Bihar
24	Bhimbetka Rock Shelters	2003	Madhya Pradesh
25	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus	2004	Maharashtra
26	Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park	2004	Gujarat
27	Red Fort	2007	Delhi
28	Jantar Mantar	2010	Delhi
29	Western Ghats	2012	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra
30	Hill Forts	2013	Rajasthan
31	Rani ki Vav (Rani ki Bawdi)	2014	Gujarat
32	Great Himalayan National Park	2014	Himachal Pradesh
33	Nalanda	2016	Bihar

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34	Kanchenjunga National Park	2016	Sikkim
35	Le Corbusier's Architectural Works (Capitol Complex)	2016	Chandigarh
36	Historic City	2017	Ahmedabad
37	Victorian Gothic and Art Deco ensemble	2018	Mumbai
38	Pink City	2019	Jaipur
39	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	2021	Telangana
40	Dholavira	2021	Gujarat
41	Santiniketan	2023	West Bengal
42	Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapura	2023	Karnataka
43	Modiams	2024	Assam

SERVICES

-:20:-

International

Sevdas Sadhu Shiva Temple

➔ Why in News?

- July 7, 2025 marks 180 years of the arrival of Indians in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Addressing the Indian diaspora in Port of Spain recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the contributions of Indian-origin personalities in the Caribbean.



➔ Main Point

- Indians from the Bhojpuri and Awadhi regions first arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in 1845.

Persons mentioned by the Prime Minister:

1. Dr Rudranath Kapildev (1920-70): Mathematician and politician.
 2. Sundar Popo: Trinidadian musician,
 3. Former West Indies batsman Darren Ganga,
 4. Sevadas Sadhu:
- In 1947, he first built a temple on the land of sugar company Tate & Lyle Limited.

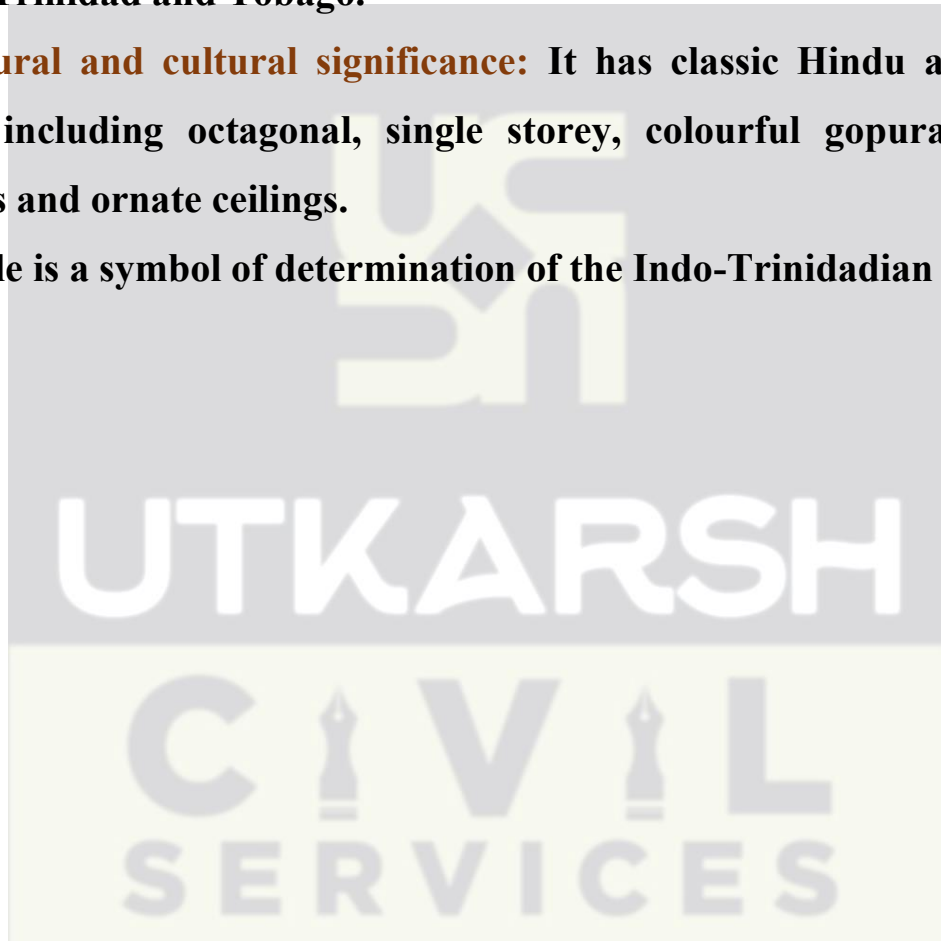
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Sevdas Sadhu Shiva Temple:

- **Construction of the temple:** Sevdas Sadhu, an indentured labourer from India, built the original temple in the Gulf of Paria in the year 1952.
- **Location:** A Hindu temple in Waterloo, Carapichaima Cova-Tabaquite-Talparo, Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Architectural and cultural significance:** It has classic Hindu architectural elements including octagonal, single storey, colourful gopurams, domed mandapas and ornate ceilings.
- The temple is a symbol of determination of the Indo-Trinidadian community.



-:22:-

Science and Technology

Sanchar Mitra Yojana

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Assam LSA, Regional Office of Department of Telecommunications (DOT), Government of India, launched the Sanchar Mitra scheme across India, from Guwahati to empower youth as digital ambassadors.



➔ Main Point

- **Objective:** To promote telecom awareness, cyber security and digital literacy by training engineering students across the country as 'digital ambassadors'.
- Three pillars of the scheme: Connect, Educate, Innovate.
- In this, volunteers student will work as 'Sanchar Mitra'.
- Students will be provided training in modern technical subjects like 5G, 6G, AI, and cyber security.

E-Truck Incentive Scheme

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, India launched the first ever 'E-Truck Incentive Scheme' under the Prime Minister's green mobility vision.



➔ Main Point

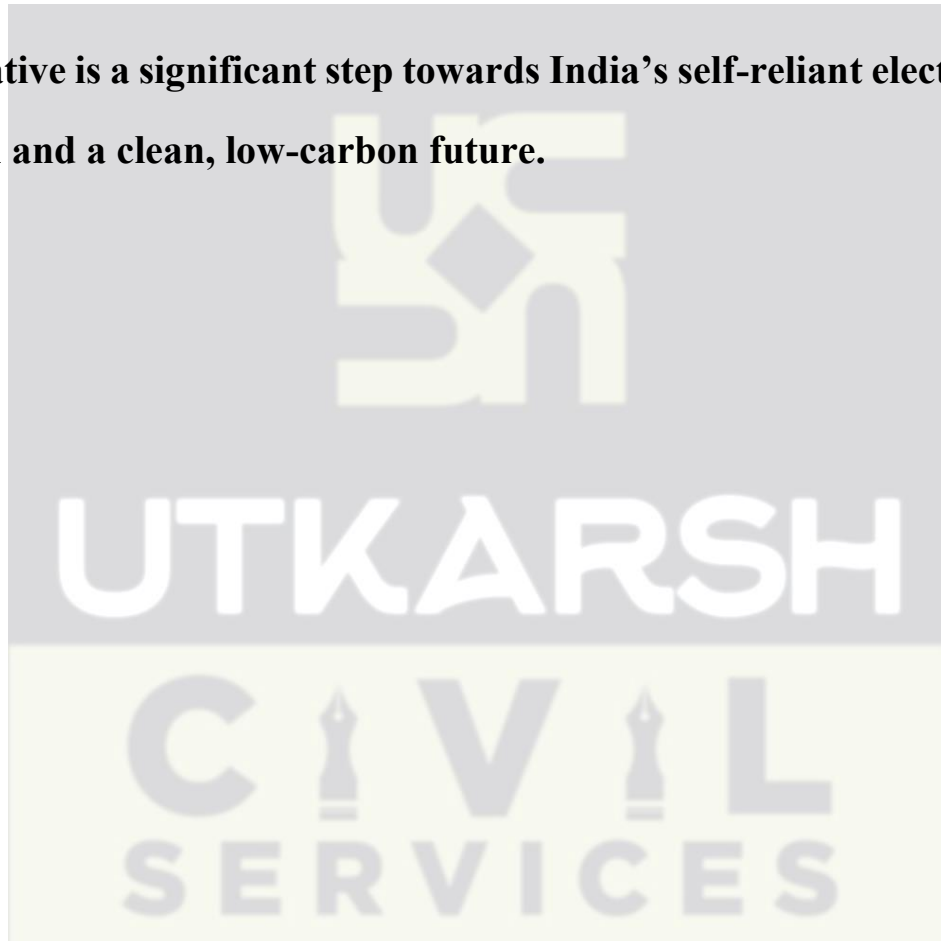
- The Government of India has launched the first ever financial incentive scheme for electric trucks (e-trucks) under the PM e-Drive initiative.
- It aims to promote clean, efficient and sustainable freight transport. Diesel trucks account for 3% of the total vehicles but contribute to 42% of greenhouse gas emissions, which the scheme aims to reduce.
- The scheme will be applicable for N2 (3.5-12 tonnes) and N3 (12-55 tonnes) category e-trucks that are mandated with warranty by manufacturers.
- The incentive amount will be up to a maximum of Rs 9.6 lakh per vehicle depending on the gross vehicle weight, which will be given as an upfront discount. The scheme is expected to bring in around 5,600 e-trucks, including 1,100 for Delhi at a cost of Rs 100 crore.
- Key industries such as cement, ports, steel and logistics will benefit from this. OEMs such as Volvo Eicher, Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland are already making e-trucks in India.

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- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has set a target of buying 150 e-trucks and having 15% electric vehicles in its fleet.
- The scheme mandates the removal of old polluting trucks, thereby modernising the vehicle fleet and reducing emissions.
- This initiative is a significant step towards India's self-reliant electric mobility ecosystem and a clean, low-carbon future.



-:25:-

A new species of fish: *Pethia dibrugarhensis*

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, scientists from Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research have identified a new fish species '*Pethia dibrugarhensis*' in the Brahmaputra river.



➔ Main Point

- **Naming:** This fish is named after Dibrugarh district of Assam, where this species was first found.
- **Classification and Relationships:** This species is a member of the family 'Cyprinidae', commonly called "Barbs". Although it does not have traditional barbels, its anatomy classifies it as a barb.
- **Habitat:** It is a small to medium-sized freshwater fish found in Asia, Europe and Africa. This fish is found in moderately fast flowing water with muddy-sandy-stony surface and co-exists with other local freshwater species.
- **Key features:**
 - Incomplete lateral line
 - Clear black spot near the tail
 - Presence of humeral mark (dark mark near the shoulder)
 - Absence of barbels

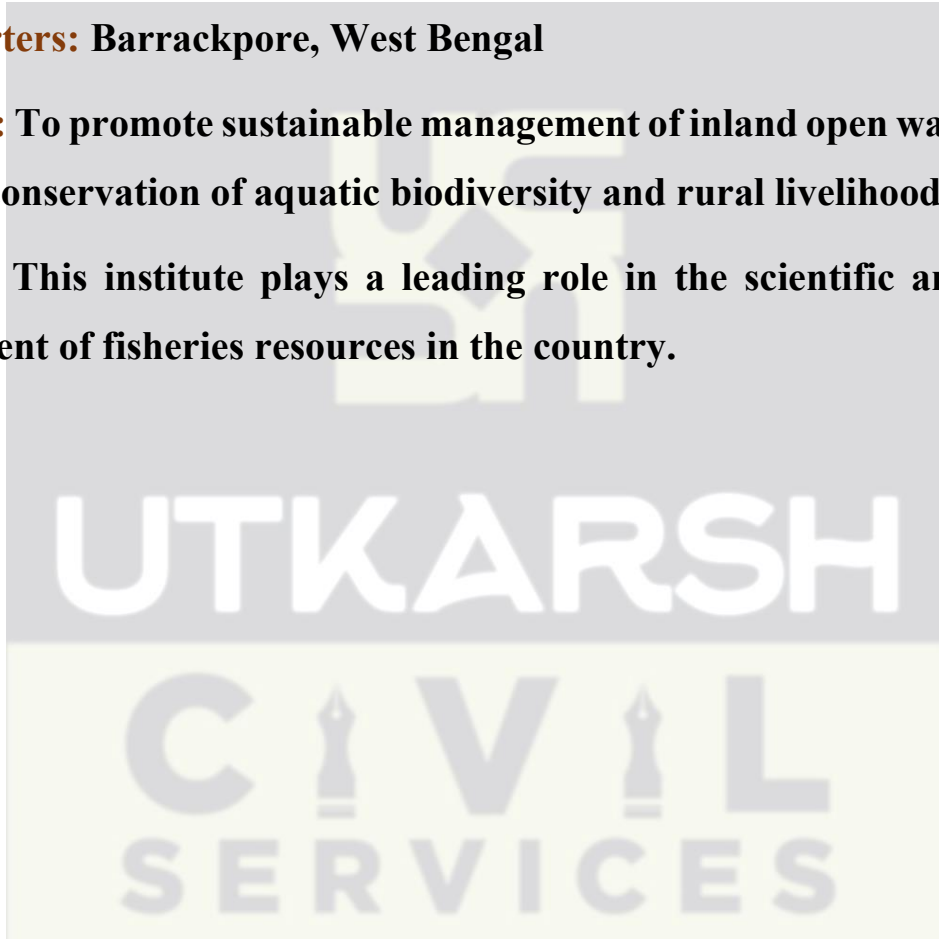
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Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI):

- This institute functions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Establishment:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Barrackpore, West Bengal
- **Objective:** To promote sustainable management of inland open water fisheries in India, conservation of aquatic biodiversity and rural livelihood generation.
- **Function:** This institute plays a leading role in the scientific and practical management of fisheries resources in the country.



Japanica Rice Varieties

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, scientists at the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) have used 'CRISPR-Cas9' gene editing technology to enhance phosphate absorption in Japonica rice varieties.



➔ Main Point

- This innovation will increase the yield without affecting the quality of the seed.

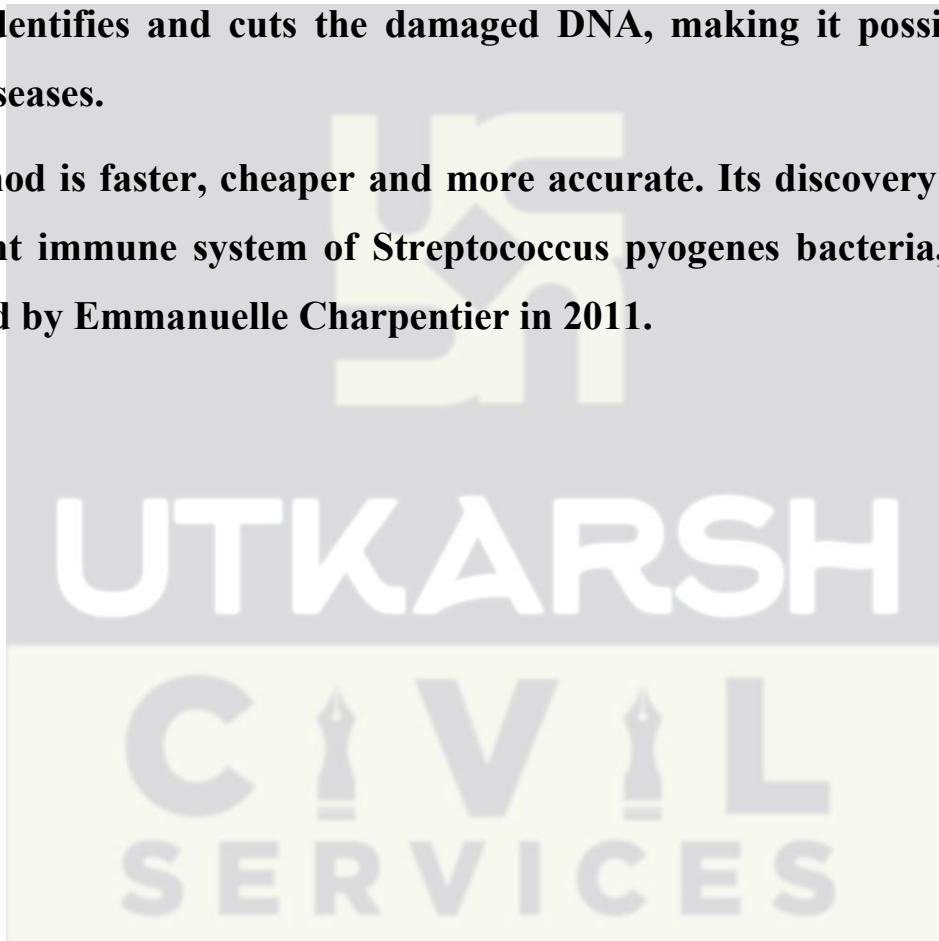
Phosphate:

- Phosphorus is extremely essential for plant growth, but only 15-20% of phosphorus fertilizer is absorbed by plants, while the rest is lost due to runoff.
- New gene-edited rice varieties can increase yield by 20-40% even at low doses of fertilizer, thereby increasing efficiency in agriculture.
- The research identified the role of transporter OsPHO1;2 and repressor OsWRKY6, which transport phosphate from rice roots, which were modified with CRISPR-Cas9 technology to improve phosphate transfer.
- It increases the absorption capacity of phosphate, which prevents the formation of insoluble compounds and encourages plant growth.

-:28:-

CRISPR-Cas9:

- CRISPR Cas-9 technology is a gene editing method, which was discovered in 2012.
- It changes the DNA by cutting it at specific places in the genome. The Cas-9 enzyme identifies and cuts the damaged DNA, making it possible to treat genetic diseases.
- This method is faster, cheaper and more accurate. Its discovery is based on the ancient immune system of *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria, which was discovered by Emmanuelle Charpentier in 2011.



Three new Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)

➡ Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian government is planning to set up three new strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) to strengthen the country's energy security.



➡ Main Point

- India currently has three SPRs with a total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur.
- These reserves are intended to deal with any disruption in supply due to natural disasters, wars or other global events.
- India has also included private sector participation in its SPR policy, allowing private oil companies to lease storage facilities and trade crude oil.
- The move is also significant for India's membership in the International Energy Agency (IEA), which requires members to maintain reserves equivalent to 90 days of consumption.
- **Three new reserves:**
 1. Chandikhol in Odisha,
 2. Bikaner in Rajasthan and
 3. Rajkot in Gujarat

Environment and Ecology

Great Hornbill

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, presence of Great Hornbill was observed in the coastal area of Kannur, Kerala.



➔ Main Point

Great Hornbill:

- **Family:** It belongs to the family of Bucerotidae.
- **Size:** Its length is 95–120 cm and weight is about 3 kg.
- **Characteristics:** Large, curved yellow beak and hollow casque are its main characteristics.
- **Diet:** Mainly frugivorous, but also hunts small animals.
- **Behaviour:** Arboreal, diurnal, and non-migratory.
- **Global distribution:** South and Southeast Asia India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia etc. and in India it is found in Western Ghats, Eastern Himalayas, Northeast and parts of Central India.

Cultural Importance:

- **State Bird:** Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Hornbill Festival (Nagaland):** Named after it, this bird is viewed with the most reverence and respect by the Naga community.

Habitat:

- Tropical and subtropical evergreen and moist deciduous forests are its main habitats.
- Prefers dense old trees, which have natural cavities.
- Generally found at 600–2000 m altitude.
- Its presence in coastal areas is extremely rare.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (India):** Schedule-I

Major Threats:

- Hunting, especially for casque
- Habitat destruction due to deforestation

Gaja Mitra Scheme in Assam

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Assam government has approved the 'Gaj Mitra' scheme in eight most human-elephant conflict districts in Assam.



➔ Main Point

- According to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) report, more than 1,400 people and 1,209 elephants have died due to this conflict between the year 2000 and 2023.
- The Gaj Mitra scheme will be implemented in Goalpara, Baksa, Udalguri, Sontipur, Nagaon, Golaghat, Jorhat and Biswanath districts.

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- The scheme will be implemented in 80 such sensitive areas of the state, where there are frequent face-offs between elephants and people.
- The Gaj Mitra scheme focuses on voluntary community participation, restoring elephant habitat and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) cameras to track elephant movements.
- Under the scheme, approval was also given to increase the remuneration of village heads from Rs 9000 per month to Rs 14,000 per month.



News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Italy qualified for the first time for T-20 Cricket World Cup – 2026</p>  <p>◆ Italy has become the 26th country to qualify for the T20 World Cup to be held in the year 2026.</p> <p>◆ The Italian cricket team has made it to the ICC World Cup event for the first time.</p> <p>◆ Italy qualified along with top team Netherlands by finishing second in the final qualifier tournament of the Europe region concluded in The Hague, Netherlands.</p>
2.	<p>Sachin's painting in MCC</p> 

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- ◆ Recently, a painting of Sachin Tendulkar was displayed at the MCC Museum at Lord's (London).
- ◆ This painting was created by Stuart Pearson Wright which will be displayed here till the end of the year.
- ◆ After this it will be shifted to the historic pavilion of Lord's.

3.

'Astra' missile



- ◆ Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force have successfully test fired the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile 'Astra' equipped with indigenous radio frequency seeker from Sukhoi-30 MK-I aircraft.