

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 29 July, 2025



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Rajasthan

State Level 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' Felicitation Ceremony

➔ Why in News?

- On July 28, 2025, 'State Level Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh' was organized at Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM RIPA), Jaipur.



➔ Main Point

- In this Samman Samaroh, 5 districts and 23 blocks were honored in various categories by the Chief Minister for their best performance in saturation of 6 key indicators set by NITI Aayog under 'Sampoornata Abhiyan'.
- The only district with full saturation of 6 key indicators: Karauli (Gold Medal)
- 4 districts with full saturation of 4 key indicators: Baran, Dholpur, Jaisalmer and Sirohi (Bronze Medal)

3 blocks with full saturation of 6 key indicators under Aspirational Block Program:

- Jayal (Nagaur),
- Rani (Pali)
- Khairwara (Udaipur)
- The above three blocks were honored with gold medals.

Sampoornata Abhiyan:

- The 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' was conducted by the Government of Rajasthan and NITI Aayog in aspirational districts and aspirational blocks, in which ranking of districts and blocks was provided on the basis of performance.
- The objective of the Sampoornata Abhiyan was to achieve saturation in 6 major indicators related to health and nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and infrastructure in selected aspirational districts and blocks of the country.
- This campaign was implemented by NITI Aayog from July 2024 to September 2024 in 112 aspirational districts and 500 aspirational blocks of India including 5 aspirational districts and 27 aspirational blocks of Rajasthan.

❖ Facts for Prelims:

Aspirational District Programme

- ◆ The 'Aspirational District Programme' was launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the state governments in the year 2018 with the aim of holistic development of 112 underdeveloped districts across the country.
- ◆ These districts have been identified on the basis of the impact of socio-economic indicators.

5 indicators:

- ◆ **Health and nutrition** - 30 percent.
- ◆ **Education** - 30 percent.
- ◆ **Agriculture and water resources** - 20 percent.
- ◆ **Financial inclusion and skill development** - 10 percent.
- ◆ **Basic infrastructure** - 10 percent.
- ◆ **5 aspirational districts of Rajasthan:** Baran, Karauli, Jaisalmer, Dholpur and Sirohi.

India - United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – Impact on Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed between India and the United Kingdom in London. This agreement will increase Rajasthan's exports as well as develop new industries in the state.



➔ Main Point

- **Signatories:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.
- The agreement will provide duty-free (Zero Tariff) access to the United Kingdom to 99 percent of India's exports.
- This agreement will directly affect Rajasthan's gems, jewellery, textiles, marble, engineering, furniture etc. sectors.

Current duty on gems and jewellery:

- **Precious metal jewellery** - 2 to 4 percent.
- **Cheap metal jewellery** - 4 percent. After the agreement, all duties will be completely abolished.

Clothing and Textile Sector:

- Earlier, there was an import duty of up to 12 percent on textile exports to the UK, which will become zero.
- The agreement will result in better competition with neighbouring countries in apparel and home textiles.

Handicrafts and traditional craftsmanship:

- Exports of traditional paintings, pottery, metal crafts of Rajasthan will increase.

Marble, stone, cement and furniture industry:

- Stone and marble industries of Makrana and Kishangarh will benefit.
- Exports of cement manufacturing units, traditional furniture and bedding manufacturing will increase.

Engineering and auto parts:

- Engineering goods will get lower tariff benefits in the UK.
- Exports of auto parts will increase with local value addition.
- **Tapukda (Honda plant)** – Exports of engine parts and crankshafts are already happening, which will get further boost.

News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Rajasthan State Handball Association Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recently, the elections of Rajasthan State Handball Association were held in Jaipur under the Rajasthan Sports Act-2005.◆ President: Lalit Kalal (Banswara)◆ Secretary: Yash Pratap Singh (Tonk)◆ Senior Vice President: Dr. Manish Agarwal (Jaipur)◆ Treasurer: Lokesh Sharma.
2.	<p>Shailesh Dutt Mathur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recently, Shailesh Dutt Mathur was honored with 'Bharat Gaurav Samman' by Raghunath Dham Charitable Service Institute.◆ He was given this honor in Jyotish Mahakumbh and Adhyatma Samman Samaroh-2025 for outstanding contribution in social service and national interest.

National

National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020)

➔ Why in News?

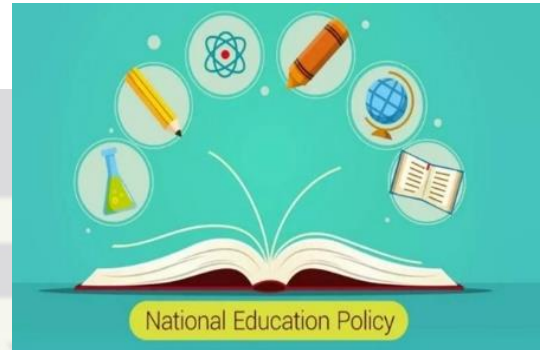
- Recently, the National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 completed five years of its implementation.

➔ Main Point

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Education Policy (NEP) on July 29, 2020.
- The draft of this policy was prepared under the chairmanship of former ISRO chief Dr. K. Kasturirangan.
- The main objective of NEP 2020 is to make India a "global knowledge superpower".
- This policy presents a holistic approach to both school and higher education.

School Education:

- In this policy, the current 10+2 system will be changed to a 5+3+3+4 structure.
- In this new structure, children from 3 to 5 years will be included in formal education.
- Continuity and depth of content will be ensured in the last 4 years.
- A national mission will be launched for basic literacy and numeric ability.
- Free breakfast will now be provided along with mid-day meals in government schools.
- Vocational education and internships will be provided to students from class 6 itself.
- Board examinations will be reformed and a new format will be implemented.



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Higher education:

- A new integrated regulatory body is proposed for regulation, standardization, accreditation and finance in higher education.
- This new body will bring arts, science, technology and teacher education on a single platform.
- Many old regulatory institutions will be removed by this.
- Top foreign universities will be allowed to open their campuses in India.
- It is proposed to make the bachelor's degree a four-year course.
- Students will be given the option to leave the course midway and start it again.
- A credit transfer system will be implemented, so that students can continue their studies in other institutions.
- The M. Phil program will be discontinued.
- The target is to increase the gross enrolment ratio in higher education from 26.3 percent in 2018 to 50 percent by 2035.
- Vocational education will also be made an integral part of the higher education system.

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National Crisis Management Committee

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India granted statutory recognition to the NCMC under the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025.

राष्ट्रीय संकट प्रबंधन समिति

NCMC

गृह मंत्रालय ने आपदा प्रबंधन राष्ट्रीय संकट प्रबंधन समिति
(प्रक्रिया) नियम, 2025 को अधिसूचित किया।



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➔ Main Point

- This committee has now become the apex decision-making body of the National Disaster Response Coordination.
- It has been constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs under Section 8A (2) of the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- The NCMC is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of the Government of India.
- Its other members include the Union Home Secretary, Defense Secretary, Secretary (Coordination), Members of the Cabinet Secretariat, Members of the NDMA and Heads of Departments.
- The Chairman of the NCMC can nominate other experts or officials to the committee depending on the nature of the crisis.
- This committee reviews the disaster preparedness of the country and issues directions to strengthen it.
- It coordinates and monitors the efforts of the NDMA, Central and State Governments and other agencies.
- Its objective is to make disaster management integrated and efficient.

Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025

- This Act ensures clarity and coordination between disaster management bodies at various levels.
- NCMC has been given statutory status through this Act.
- Now NDMA and SDMA have been given the right to prepare disaster plans directly.
- Earlier these plans were made by NEC (National Executive Committee) and SEC (State Executive Committees).
- In view of the challenge of urban disasters, provision has been made to establish Urban Disaster Management Authority (UDMA).
- States have been given the right to create their State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).
- This provision is a step towards addressing the increasing disaster vulnerability in urban areas.

Paithani Sarees

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Prime Minister praised the traditional craftsmanship of Paithani sarees in his Mann Ki Baat programme.

➔ Main Point

- Paithani saree is called the 'Mahavastra of Maharashtra'.
- It is woven from pure silk and gold zari.
- It is famous for its varied and vibrant colours.
- It is believed to have originated in the ancient town of Paithan on the banks of the river Godavari.
- The origin of Paithani sarees can be traced back to the 6th century BC.
- The style of Paithani sarees consists of bold patterns and traditional motifs.
- It has distinctive designs on the pallu and border, such as:
 - Peacock
 - Lotus
 - Mango
- The design inspiration is taken from the rock-cut caves of Ajanta and Ellora.
- Paithani saree was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in the year 2010.



Etalin Hydroelectric Project

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the central government has announced the re-evaluation of environmental clearance for the Etalin Hydroelectric Project.



➔ Main Point

- The project is proposed in the Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The total capacity of the project is 3,087 MW.
- It is proposed as India's largest run-of-the-river hydropower project.
- It will be constructed by building concrete gravity dams on the 'Dri' and 'Talo' rivers.
- The project requires diversion of 1,175 hectares of forest land.
- More than 2.7 lakh trees will be felled under this.
- This will adversely affect subtropical and alpine ecosystems.

Project Geopolitical Implications:

- Construction of a 60,000 MW dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) by China is a matter of concern.
- This has the potential to affect the flow of water in the Siang region of India and lead to flooding.
- The Etalin project is part of India's strategy to protect water rights and counter Chinese hydro projects.
- India has also proposed 13 other hydropower projects (13,798 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Challenges:

- The project poses a threat to endangered species in the Dibang Valley; such as the Himalayan serow and the Asiatic golden cat.
- A cumulative environmental impact assessment is required as multiple projects are proposed in the valley.
- There have been protests by local communities fearing displacement.
- Inclusive public consultation is essential in this context.
- The system of sharing hydrological data between India and China should be strengthened.
- Updated assessments are necessary to maintain a balance between environmental and strategic needs.

Science and Technology

Draft New Telecom Policy 2025

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of India drafted the new Telecom Policy 2025.



➔ Main Point

- **Vision:** To make India an innovation-driven, secure, sustainable and fully connected nation.
- **Key areas of focus:**
 - Expand connectivity.
 - Technologically empower domestic supply chain.
 - Strengthen India's global role in 6G standardization.

Objectives of the policy:

- **Employment generation:** 10 lakh new jobs and skill development of existing employees.
- **Digital connectivity:**
 - Connect 90 percent of the population to 5G by the year 2030.
 - Connect 100 percent of the population to 4G.

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■ **Cyber security:**

- Strengthen protection against cyber attacks.
- Develop quantum-safe communication systems.

■ **Environmental sustainability:**

- Reduce carbon emissions by 30 percent.
- Promote circular economy.

■ **Research & Development:**

- Promotion of domestic R&D.
- Active participation in 6G standardization.

■ **Production Growth:** Target to increase domestic manufacturing by 150 percent by the year 2030.

Key Features:

■ **Fiber Network:** Increase fiber connectivity of mobile towers from 46 percent to 80 percent.

■ **Wi-Fi Network:** Installing 10 lakh wireless hotspots across the country.

■ **Satellite Connectivity:** Promote satellite internet in remote areas.

■ **Use of AI:**

- Network management,
- Grievance redressal,
- Use of artificial intelligence in cyber security.

■ **Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ):** Promotion of design and manufacturing of telecom products with integrated infrastructure.

■ **Security Measures:**

- Monitoring of domestic and foreign satellites.
- Reducing radio-signal interference in border areas.
- **Mobile Number Verification:** Introducing new service to verify users identity.

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NASA's Tracers Mission

➡ Why in News?

- Recently, NASA has launched the TRACERS mission.



➡ Main Point

- **Full name:** Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites.
- **Objective:** To understand the process of protection from solar storms by the Earth's magnetic layer.
- **Main goal of this mission:**
 - To study the process of magnetic reconnection.
 - This is the process in which the magnetic fields of the Sun and the Earth collide and an energy explosion occurs.
 - This explosion can affect satellites, power grids and communication networks.

Launch and technical information:

- **Launch site:** Vandenberg Space Force Base, California, USA
- **Launch vehicle:** SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket.
- **Main vehicle:** Two small satellites.
- **Mission lead:** David Miles (University of Iowa)
- **Main study area:** Polar Cusp where solar particles collide with the atmosphere.

Key features:

- More than 3,000 measurements will be made throughout the year.
- The effect of solar energy will be monitored in real time.
- It will study how space affects weather.
- It will help scientists understand the process of solar particles entering the upper atmosphere.

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Other payloads launched along with it:

- **Athena EPIC:** Low-cost satellite for radiation studies.
- **PEXT:** Testing of new roaming-style signal system.
- **REAL:** Research on the escape of harmful electrons from the Van Allen radiation belt.

Relevance to India:

- Communication, weather forecasting and navigation in India are satellite-based.
- **Information obtained from the Tracers mission:**
 - Helpful in the security of ISRO missions.
 - Useful in securing GIS-based national infrastructure.
 - Helpful in strengthening future space strategies.

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Important Days

International Tiger Day

➔ Why in News?

- 'International Tiger Day' is celebrated every year on 29 July to raise awareness about the conservation of tigers and the threats they face globally.



➔ Main Point

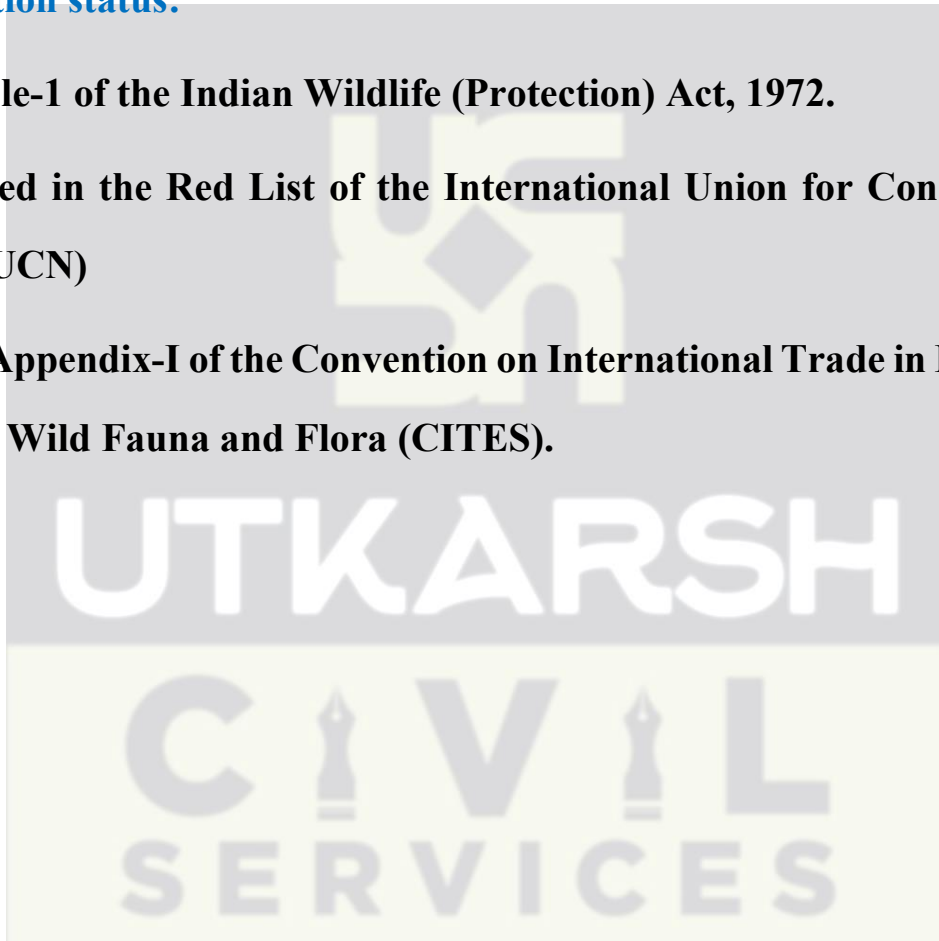
- **Theme for the year 2025:** 'Securing the Future of Tigers with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the Heart'
- The celebration of International Tiger Day was announced during the 'St. Petersburg Tiger Summit' held in Russia in the year 2010.
- This day is dedicated to promoting a global system to protect the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for the conservation of the endangered tiger species.
- **St. Petersburg Tiger Summit:** It was a global conference organized to identify the dramatic decline in the tiger population and to develop strategies for their conservation. During this conference, a target was set to double the population of wild tigers by the year 2022.

About Tiger:

- **Scientific name** - Panthera tigris.
- 75 percent of the total number of tigers in the world is found in India.

Conservation status:

- In Schedule-1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Endangered in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Listed in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



Personalities

Geetanjali Shree

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, International Booker Prize winner Geetanjali Shree was awarded the PEN Translate Award 2025.

➔ Main Point

- This honor was given for the English translation of her Hindi book 'Once Elephants Lived Here'.
- **Book:** Once Elephants Lived Here.
- **Original language:** Hindi.
- **English translator:** Daisy Rockwell.
- **Format:** Collection of short stories.
- **Theme:**
 - Memory,
 - Displacement,
 - Social change,
 - Experience of loss.
- The collection portrays deep human emotions.



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PEN Award:

- This award is given to books that are translated into English from other languages.
- Its purpose is to promote diversity and quality in global literature.
- This award is given in collaboration with the English PEN institution and SALT Publications.
- The selection is based on literary quality, seriousness of publication and diversity in British literature.

Other major works that have received the award:

Authors	Country	Books	Translations
Sarah Shagufta	Pakistan	Eyes, Eyes, Eyes	Javeria Hasnain (from Urdu to English)
Mohammad Al-Assad	Palestine	Children of the Dew	Anahid Al-Hardan, Maiya Tabet (from Arabic to English)
Daniela Catrílio	Chile	Chilco	Jacob Edelstein (from Spanish to English)
Conceição Evaristo	Brazil	The Backstreet of Memory	Annie McDermott (from Portuguese to English)
Maria Stepanova	Russia	Disappearing Acts	Sasha Dugdale (from Russian to English)
Ana Paula Maia	Brazil	On Earth as It Is Beneath	Padma Viswanathan (from Portuguese to English)

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Geetanjali Shree:

- **Born:** 12 June 1957, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh
- **Main language:** Hindi
- **Famous work:** Sand Samadhi (English translation: Tomb of Sand)
- **Translator:** Daisy Rockwell
- **Important awards:** International Booker Prize 2022, PEN Translate Award 2025
- **Latest work:** Once Elephants Lived Here – Short story collection.
- **Style:** Social reality, memory, displacement, women's discourse, metaphor.
- **Other works:** Maai, Tirohhit, Khali Jagah, Hamara Shahar Us Baras.
- **Global identity:** The first Hindi language writer to receive the Booker Prize.

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Personalities

World's Best Consumer Bank Award

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, State Bank of India (SBI) was declared 'World's Best Consumer Bank' for the year 2025 by Global Finance magazine.



➔ Main Point

- SBI is India's largest public sector bank.
- This bank has played an important role in ensuring financial access in rural and backward areas.
- SBI has made notable innovations in digital banking, customer service and financial inclusion.
- This award of Global Finance magazine is based on global standards and research-based evaluation.

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Global Finance Magazine:

- Global Finance is a prestigious international magazine.
- It is known for financial news, global banking rankings and analysis.
- **Founded:** 1987
- **Headquarters:** New York City, United States of America (USA)

State Bank of India (SBI):

- **Founded:** July 1, 1955 (from the nationalization of Imperial Bank of India)
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai.
- **Ownership:** Fully owned by Government of India.
- **Features:**
 - Largest commercial bank in India.
 - Wide network.
 - YONO App & AI based services.
 - Pioneer in financial inclusion.
 - International presence in 30+ countries.