

Daily Current Affairs

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RAJASTHAN

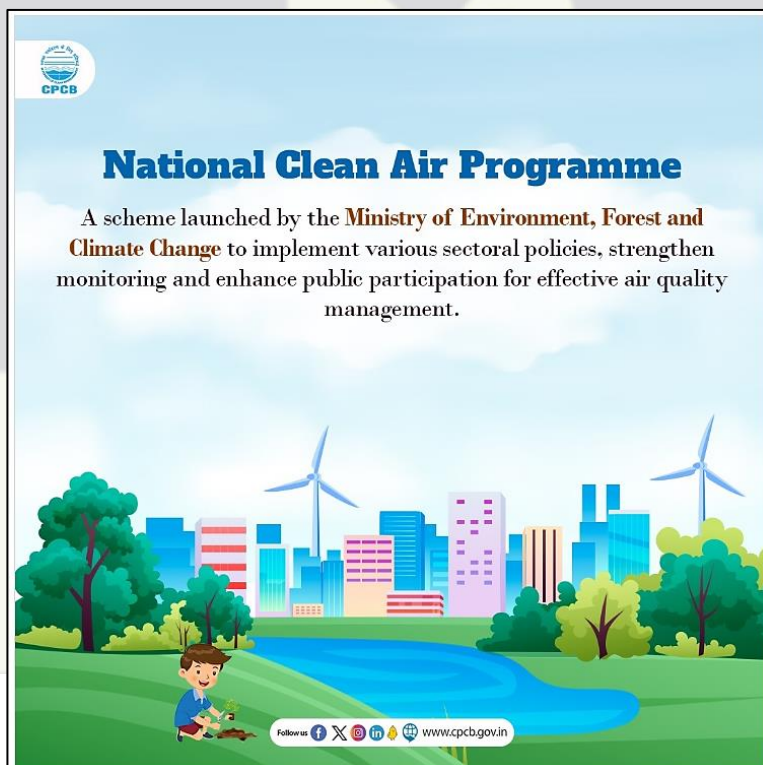


Performance of Rajasthan under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)



Why in News?

- Recently, the 'Clean Air Survey Awards 2025' were given to the best performing cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).



Key Points:

- Position of cities of Rajasthan among 48 cities with a population of more than one million:
 - Jaipur - 33rd rank.
 - Jodhpur - 42nd rank.
 - Kota - 44th rank.

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- **Alwar and Udaipur:** Among 42 cities with a population of (1 to 3) millions, Alwar secured third position while Udaipur stood at 17th position.
- **Category with a population of less than 3 lakh:** Not a single city of Rajasthan included.

Other Important Points:

- Indore and Udaipur were awarded for outstanding efforts in urban wetland management by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Indore and Udaipur are the first two Indian cities to make it to the global list of wetland cities (total cities - 31) recognized under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **Launched:** In January 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with the aim to improve air quality in 130 cities across 24 states/union territories.
- **Initial target of NCAP:** To reduce the concentration of major air pollutants; PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ by 20 to 30 percent by the year 2024, considering the year 2017 as the base year.
- But in the year 2022, the central government revised the target of this program. According to the new target, the concentration of particulate matter (PM) is to be reduced by 40 percent by the year 2026.
- **PM_{2.5}** - 40 micrograms (µg) / per cubic meter.
- **PM₁₀** - 60 micrograms (µg) / per cubic meter.
- **‘NCAP 2.0’ programme:** The first phase of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) will end in the year 2025-26. The Union Ministry of Forest and Environment will implement the second phase of this program.

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'Ghoomar Festival' for the first time in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- On November 15, 2025, 'Ghoomar Festival' will be organized for the first time in Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- **Venue:** Jaipur.
- **Organizer:** Tourism Department, Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** To give a new identity to the rich folk culture and empower women empowerment of Rajasthan at the national and international level.

Facts for Prelims:

Ghoomar Dance (State Dance of Rajasthan)

- It is called the 'Sirmaur of Folk Dances' of Rajasthan.
- This dance is called the 'Soul of Rajasthan'.
- It is a dance performed only by women. The eight steps are called 'Sawai'.
- Gangaur Ghoomar Dance Academy was established in the year 1986 by Rajmata Govardhan Kumari.

First Pravasi Rajasthani Day (10 December)



Why in News?

- The Rajasthan government will celebrate the 'First Pravasi Rajasthani Day' on December 10, 2025.



Key Points:

- **Objective:** To strengthen ties with the global Rajasthani diaspora and utilize their expertise in key areas.
- The Pravasi Rajasthani Day will serve as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and recognition of the contributions made by migrant Rajasthanis in areas such as education, healthcare, tourism, industry and water management.

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- To deepen emotional and cultural ties, a short film titled 'Panch Gaurav' will be shown during the event, which will depict the heritage and pride of all the districts of Rajasthan.
- During the event, migrant Rajasthanis who have excelled in social, economic and industrial fields will be honored with the 'Pravasi Rajasthani Samman Award (PRSA)' for their achievements.

Other Important Points:

- The first Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas to be celebrated on December 10, 2025, is a unique initiative by the Rajasthan government to connect with the global diaspora Rajasthani community.
- The event, led by Rajasthan Foundation, the state's nodal department for outreach to the diaspora, brings together all non-resident Rajasthanis to celebrate their shared identity, explore new avenues of collaboration with the state government in various fields and strengthen cultural ties.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Day:

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced on March 12, 2025 that Rajasthan Day will be celebrated on the Pratipada (Chaitra Pratipada) of the Indian New Year instead of March 30.
- It is worth noting that United Rajasthan was established on the day of Chaitra Pratipada according to the Hindu calendar. According to the English calendar, that day was March 30, 1949.
- According to the Indian calendar, Pratipada is the first date of the Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month. This day is celebrated as New Year.

Rajasthan Fisheries Area (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Why in News?

- On September 08, 2025, the 'Rajasthan Fisheries Area (Amendment) Bill - 2025' was passed by voice vote in the Assembly.

Key Points:

- The bill increases the penalty amount for fisheries offenses such as fishing without a permit, fishing by putting explosives or poison.
- Earlier, there was a provision of a penalty of ₹ 500, 3 months imprisonment or both for the first time offense, which has been increased to ₹ 25000.
- The penalty amount for second conviction has been increased from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 50,000, while there is a provision of 6 months imprisonment or penalty or both for committing the crime again. Even after this, if the crime is committed, there is a provision of penalty or jail or both for every crime.
- 'Director Fisheries Department' has been authorized for fisheries related crimes.

Facts for Prelims:

- **National Fisheries Development Board:** Hyderabad.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

- **Launched** – In the year 2020.
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is being implemented for a period of five years (2020-21 to 2024-25) with an investment of Rs 20,050 crore.

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- **Associated Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- **Objective** – The objective of this scheme is to modernize and empower the Indian fisheries sector. Under this, several sub-schemes are being operated for fish production, export, establishment of infrastructure, market access and empowerment of fishermen.
- Fisheries sector is a major growing sector of India's economy, contributing to the increase of national income, exports and food security especially in rural areas.
- In the last decade, the Government of India has invested Rs 38,572 crore in this sector through flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and Blue Revolution scheme.
- **Blue Revolution Scheme** - Blue Revolution Scheme was launched in FY 2015-16 with a central outlay of ₹ 3000 crore for 5 years.
- The scheme mainly focused on increasing fish production and productivity.

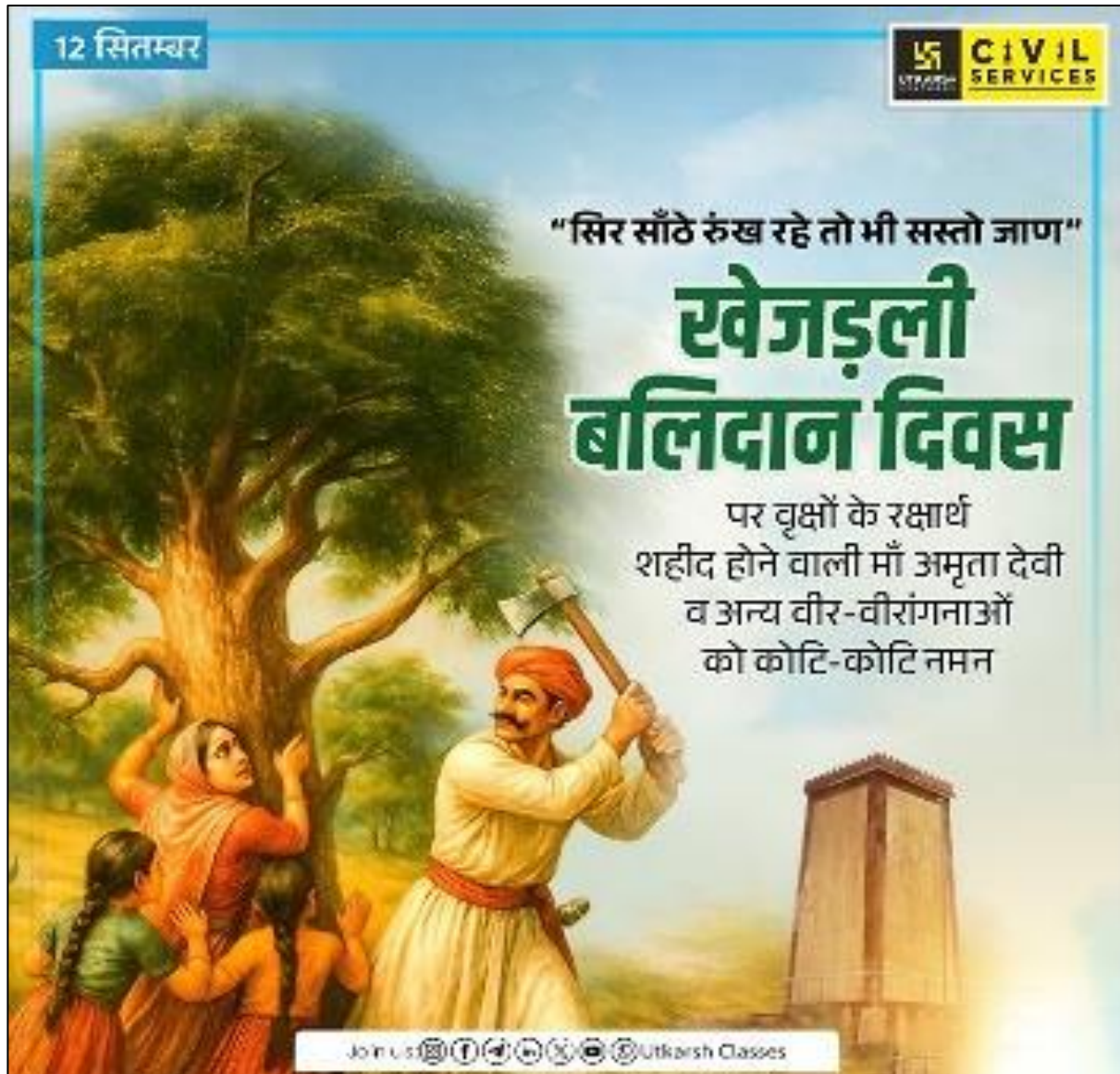
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Khejadli Balidan Diwas



Why in News?

- Khejadli Balidan Diwas is celebrated every year on 12 September.



Key Points:

- Khejadli Balidan Diwas is being celebrated since 12 September 1978. A place named 'Khejadli' is located in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan.
- This day is celebrated in memory of the sacrifice of 363 martyrs of the Bishnoi community who protected Khejadi trees.

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- 363 people were killed by Girdhar Das on the orders of King Abhay Singh of Jodhpur.
- The sacrifice of the Bishnoi community by embracing trees to protect them inspired the Chipko movement.
- On 12 September 1730, Amrita Devi Bishnoi along with her 3 daughters and 363 Bishnoi men and women were martyred in Khejadli to save Khejadi (green trees).
- Khejadli fair is held annually on Bhadrapada Shukla Dashami, this fair is famous all over the world for environmental conservation. Khejadli place is the holy place of Bishnoi community.
- Khejadi tree is the most prominent tree of western Rajasthan. In the year 1982-83, Khejadi tree was declared the state tree.
- The 'Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Conservation Award' is given by the Rajasthan government in the memory of Amrita Devi Bishnoi.



NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>All India ASI Symposium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, 'All India ASI Symposium' was organized at JECRC University, Jaipur.Theme of the Symposium: 'Cosmic Vision 2047: Study of the dynamics of the Sun and planets through observations and artificial intelligence and machine learning'.Organizers: Astronomical Society of India, National Research Foundation, ISRO and JECRC University.
2.	<p>42 new courts established in the state from January 2024 till now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Law and Legal Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel informed in the Assembly that new courts are opened in the state on the basis of criteria set by the High Court and the State Government. In this sequence, 42 new courts have been opened in the state from the year 2024 till now.
3.	<p>Cooperative Membership Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Cooperative Department, Rajasthan will conduct the 'Cooperative Membership Campaign' from 2 to 15 October 2025.Under this campaign, works like formation of new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), membership enhancement, linking the deprived beneficiary with PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, land allotment proceedings for landless PACS etc. will be done.

4.

31 Eklavya Adarsh Residential Schools in the state

- Tribal Area Development Minister Babulal Kharari informed in the Assembly that the department is running 31 Eklavya Adarsh Residential Schools, 24 Residential Schools and 2 Model Public Residential Schools in the state.

5.

Sidhvi Pandit is India's youngest player to receive Taekwondo Black Belt

- Jaipur resident Sidhvi Pandit has become India's youngest player to receive Taekwondo Black Belt.





Himachal Pradesh: Fourth Fully Literate State



Why in News?

- Himachal Pradesh was declared a 'fully literate' state in the celebration of International Literacy Day, 2025 organized by the Ministry of Education on September 8, 2025 with the theme "Promoting Literacy in the Digital Age" and the progress was attributed to 'ULLAS: New India Literacy Programme'.



Key Points:

- As per the latest announcement, Himachal Pradesh (99.3 per cent) is the fifth state/union territory and the fourth state after Mizoram, Goa, Tripura and Ladakh to be declared 'fully literate'. Other states and their claimed literacy rates are:

State/UT	Literacy Rate
Mizoram	It was declared the first fully literate state of the country on May 20, 2025. According to the PLFS survey, 2023-24, its literacy rate is 98.2 percent.
Goa	The second fully literate state of the country, with a literacy rate of 99.72 percent.
Tripura	The third fully literate state of the country, with a literacy rate of 95.6 percent.
Ladakh	The first fully literate Union Territory of India, declared on June 24, 2024, with a literacy rate of 97 percent.

Definition of Literacy and Full literacy according to the Ministry of Education:

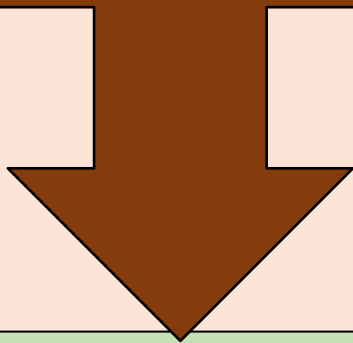
- **Fully Literate:** According to the Ministry of Education, 'fully literate state' means achieving the benchmark of 95 percent literacy rate, which the Ministry of Education considers equivalent to full literacy (100 percent).
- **Literacy:** The Ministry of Education defines literacy as "the ability to read, write and calculate with understanding", including essential critical life skills such as digital and financial literacy.
- **Measuring Literacy in India:** India's decennial census has traditionally been the primary source of literacy data.
- **Census (2011):** Any person aged seven years and above who can read and write with understanding in any language is considered literate. As per Census 2011, the national literacy rate was 74%. The adult literacy rate (aged 15 years and above) was 69.3%.
- **95.3%** (97.4% rural males and 93.4% rural females) of persons in rural areas have basic literacy and numeracy skills, while in urban areas the figure is 97.4% (98% males and 96.7% females).
- **Survey 2023-24:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2023-24, released through sample surveys by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, puts the national literacy rate at 77.5% for those aged seven years and above. For those aged 15 years and above, it is estimated that 22.3% of people in India are illiterate.

Other Important Points:

Process to Achieve 'Total Literacy':

Full Literacy at Individual Level

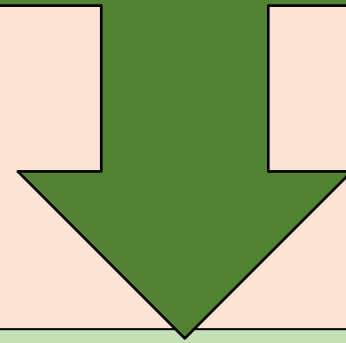
Training: Under the ULLAS programme, adult learners are taught basic reading, writing and math skills that a child learns up to Class 3. They are also taught practical life skills such as; reading time, using a calendar, using currency, writing cheques and conducting secure digital transactions.



Assessment and Certification: A Functional Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) of 150 marks is administered in the learner's chosen language. Passing learners are certified by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) as having achieved basic literacy and numeracy.

Full Literacy at State Level

States must first identify the non-literate population through surveys or other data.



These individuals are provided training under the ULLAS programme and have to pass the FLNAT. A state can get the tag of 'fully literate' after achieving a 95% literacy rate. States with a higher existing literacy rate or a relatively smaller population achieve this target faster.

Government Initiatives:

- **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan:** An integrated programme for school education from pre-school to Class 12 to provide inclusive and equitable quality education.
- **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:** National Mission on Basic Literacy and Numeracy launched to ensure universal basic literacy in all primary schools by 2025, with state-specific targets and timelines.
- **Nipun Bharat:** Launched to achieve universal basic literacy and numeracy for Class 3 children by 2026-27. It follows the five-tier implementation structure (nation, state, district, block and school level) under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.
- **Sakshar Bharat (2009-2018):** This scheme focused on functional literacy and numeracy for people aged 15 years and above.
- **New India Literacy Programme (ULLAS):** A centrally sponsored programme implemented by the Union Ministry of Education from 2022 to 2027 with the aim of achieving 100% literacy by 2030, it focuses on five components to make illiterate adults aged 15 years and above literate; basic literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, basic education, vocational skill development and continuing education.

Five Components of NILP



Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)



Critical Life Skills (include financial, literacy, environmental literacy etc.)



Basic Education (includes preparatory (classes 3 - 5), middle (6- 8), and secondary stage (9-12) equivalency)



Vocational Skills



Continuing Education (engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, sciences, technology, culture etc.)

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- This program, conducted in 26 Indian languages, aims to provide important life skills such as literacy, digital literacy and financial literacy.
- **Functional Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT):** It is a nationwide examination conducted under the ULLAS program, which is implemented in all the districts of the participating states and union territories.
- Under this test, registered illiterate learners aged 15 years and above are certified as literate through basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- **National Education Policy, 2020:** Implemented in place of the 34-year-old National Education Policy, 1986 (Amendment 1992) to establish a modern system under the demand for comprehensive change, regulation and management in the education system, which is in line with the educational goals of the 21st century including Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4).

National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)



Why in News?

- Coal India Limited and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



Key Points:

- **Objective:** To empower tribal students studying in Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

About NSTFDC

- It was established in 2001 under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- **Objective:** To work for the socio-economic and educational upliftment of scheduled tribes, to provide them better self-employment opportunities so that they can become financially independent and self-reliant.
- This institution also provides grants for organizing training and skill development programs for tribal youth.



INTERNATIONAL



Qatar: Place in News



Why in News?

- The Prime Minister of India has condemned the Israeli attacks in Qatar and the violation of Qatar's sovereignty.



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Key Points:

Geographical Location:

- **Capital:** Doha
- Qatar is a country in West Asia located in the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula.
- **Bordering Countries:** Saudi Arabia.
- **Bordering Water Bodies:** Persian Gulf and Gulf of Bahrain.

Geographical Features:

- **Main Topographical Features:** Sand dunes and saline plains (sabkha).
- Qatar has the third largest reserves of natural gas in the world and is one of the largest exporters of natural gas in the world.

HIRE Act: US Law



Why in News?

- The bill proposed by Republican Senator Bernie Moreno, known as "The Halting International Relocation of Employment Act" (HIRE Act), seeks to impose a 25% tax on US firms outsourcing jobs overseas, which could have a significant impact on Indian tech companies.



Key Points:

Impact on Indian IT companies

- Indian IT companies could face increased pricing pressure and a loss of cost advantages.
- Could make companies more dependent on non-US markets.
- US customers, which make up more than 60% of India's IT outsourcing revenue, could reduce spending, put large deals on hold, or renegotiate terms.

US-India Trade Relations

- The US is India's leading export destination, accounting for 17.7% of total exports in FY24.
- India's trade surplus with the US is \$45.7 billion, of which \$38 billion is in goods and the rest in services, mainly IT and software.

India-Mauritius Relations



Why in News?

- The visiting Mauritian Prime Minister said that India has been and will remain a trusted partner of Mauritius.

Mauritius (capital is Port Louis)

- Physiographically it is part of the **Mascarene Islands**.
- **Volcanic island** and almost entirely surrounded by coral reefs.
- **Chagos Archipelago** is disputed territory with UK
 - Recently, US has approved the UK's plan to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.



Key Points:

India-Mauritius Relations

- **Economic:** India has emerged as one of the major trading partners of Mauritius. Major exports by India include pharmaceuticals, cotton, cereals, motor vehicles and mineral fuels.



o Mauritius is an important source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, contributing nearly 25% of India's cumulative FDI since 2000.

- **Development Partnership:** India has extended special economic packages to Mauritius and lines of credit for priority projects such as Metro Express, Supreme Court building and social housing.
- **Cultural:** About 70% of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin.
 - o Girmitiyas (indentured Indian labourers) were first brought to Mauritius from Puducherry in 1729.
- **Strategic and Geopolitical Importance:** Mauritius' location in the Western Indian Ocean is crucial for India's maritime security and regional influence.
 - o Mauritius is important for India's Ocean (MAHASAGAR) vision and 'Neighbourhood First' policy. It also serves as a major gateway for India's trade and investment in Africa.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY



Aspergillus



Why in News?

- Recently, two new species of black Aspergillus have been identified in the Western Ghats.



Key Points:

About Aspergillus:

- Aspergillus is a group of filamentous fungi that can act as saprophytes, endophytes, and opportunistic pathogens.
- **Uses in Biotechnology:** Black Aspergillus plays an important role in citric acid production, food fermentation (production of enzymes, organic acids, etc.), and agriculture (phosphate fixation capacity).
- Some of its species can cause dangerous fungal pathogens and may also be carcinogenic.



SCHEMES



AI-based mental health program 'Never Alone'



Why in News?

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has launched an AI-based mental health and wellness program "Never Alone" to prevent student suicides and increase mental health awareness.



Key Points:

- The program was launched on World Suicide Prevention Day and is an important step towards taking care of the mental health of students.

Objective of the Program:

- The program aims to increase mental health awareness among students and reduce the stigma associated with suicide.
- The AI-based counselling service has been launched to provide mental health-related support to students.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Why in News?

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched on 10 September 2020.





Key Points:

- Now the scheme has been extended till 2025-26.
- **Nodal Agency:** National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) is the nodal agency for implementation of training, awareness and capacity building programmes under PMMSY.
- PMMSY will be implemented as an umbrella scheme, which will include both the central sector components and the centrally sponsored scheme components.

Achievements

- India is the second largest fish producer in the world and contributes to about 8% of global fish production.
- The scheme has generated employment and empowered women.

Strategic Initiatives

- **Empowerment of Women in Fisheries:** Up to 60% financial assistance is provided for women-related projects and support is provided to climate-resilient coastal villages.
- Biofloc and Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) units have been expanded to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner.
- **Digital Platform:** The sector has been formalized by Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Yojana (sub-scheme of PMMSY) and National Fisheries Digital Platform. Single window facility for benefits has also been provided.
- Development of 100 Climate Resilient Coastal Fisherman Villages (CRCFV) aims to enhance climate resilient capacity in coastal communities.

🎓 POLITY 🎓

Representation of People Act (RPA)



Why in News?

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has decided to conduct background checks of founding members of organisations applying for registration as political parties at the time of registration itself.



Key Points:

Section 29A of RPA, 1951:

- Political parties must apply for registration with the Election Commission within 30 days of their formation.
- Applications for registration are made as per ECI guidelines under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 29A of the RPA 1951.
- **Mandatory oath:** The organisation or body shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established and the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and shall uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- The decision of the Election Commission regarding registration shall be final.



IMPORTANT DAYS



132nd Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's 1893 Chicago Speech



Why in News?

- The 132nd Anniversary of the Chicago Religious Conference refers to the Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago in 1893.



Key Points:

- **Date and Place:** The first Parliament of the World's Religions was held at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago from September 1893 to September 1893.
- **Principal Organisers:** The conference was conceived by Swedenborgian layman Charles Carroll Bonney and Unitarian minister Jenkin Lloyd Jones. Pastor John Henry Barrows was appointed its President.

Indian History and Culture

- **Religious and Spiritual Renaissance:** Vivekananda's speeches gave significant impetus to the idea of spiritual nationalism in India and introduced India's ancient philosophy of Vedanta to the world.
- **India's Soft Power:** The event strengthened India's reputation as an apostle of peace, tolerance and harmony, shaping its identity on the global stage.

Ethics and International Relations

- **Universalism and Tolerance:** The message of universal acceptance and religious harmony articulated by Vivekananda remains the cornerstone of India's philosophical traditions and foreign policy principles.

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- **Addressing Communalism:** His warnings against communalism and fanaticism are still highly relevant in addressing global conflicts and religious rivalry in the modern age.
- Swami Vivekananda was born as Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863 in Kolkata (Calcutta). He was a chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and a proponent of the principles of service, education and spiritual upliftment.
 - o He founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897 to propagate the ideals of Advaita Vedanta. He died in 1902 at Belur Math, the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.
- National Youth Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.