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Daily Current Affairs



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RAJASTHAN



Mineral Vehicle Tracking System (Implemented from January 1, 2026)

Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Mining Department has issued guidelines for implementing the Mineral Vehicle Tracking System across the state from January 1, 2026.

Key Points:

- According to the guidelines issued by the department, it is mandatory to install GPS-based Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDs) and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags on all mineral vehicles before January 1, 2026.
- Vehicles that do not comply with the rules will not be issued an 'e-Ravanna' for mineral transportation.
- **E-Ravanna:** E-Ravanna is an electronic system (app) launched by the Rajasthan government to bring transparency in mineral transportation, prevent royalty evasion, and address the problem of overloading. Since October 31, 2017, the issuance of manual (physical) challans for all mineral transportation has been completely banned, except in special cases for gravel and gypsum.
- **Note:** Rajasthan is the first state in the country to auction pre-embedded blocks. The process of obtaining necessary permissions before auctioning mineral blocks is called 'pre-embedded clearance'.



Facts for Prelims (Economic Survey – 2024-25)

Mining Sector in Rajasthan:

- Rajasthan is one of India's richest states in terms of mineral resources, with reserves of 81 types of minerals, of which 58 are mined.
- Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead and zinc ores, selenite, and wollastonite, while also leading the country in the production of silver, calcite, and gypsum.
- Rajasthan tops the national production of ball clay, phosphorite, ochre, steatite, feldspar, and fire clay.
- Rajasthan is a major producer of dimensional stones such as marble, sandstone, and granite, as well as cement-grade and steel-grade limestone.
- A revenue target of ₹9,500 crore has been set for the Department of Mines and Geology for the year 2024-25.

Rajasthan Mineral Policy – 2024



2.0% Expansion

Increase mineral concession area to 1.0% by 2029-30 and 2.0% by 2046-47



70 Minerals

Expand mineral under extraction from 58 to 70 by 2046-47



50 Pre-Embedded

Auction 50 blocks with pre-embedded clearance by 2029-30



1 Crore Jobs

50 Lakh employment by 2029-30 and 1 crore by 2046-47 direct & indirect



8.0% GSDP

Increase mineral sector contribution to State GSDP by 5.0% in 2029-30 and 8.0% by 2046-47



1 Lakh Crore

Increase state's revenue from mineral sector threefold by 2029-30 and 1 lakh Cr by 2046-47

- Released – December 4, 2024.**
- The Rajasthan Mineral Policy 2024, aims to promote sustainable, transparent, and responsible mineral development by leveraging the state's abundant mineral resources for economic development while ensuring environmental protection and community welfare.

Key Features:

- **Economic Development and Investment:** Promote mineral-based industries, attract investment, and increase the sector's contribution to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- **Employment Generation:** To provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to over 10 million people by 2047.
- **Sustainability and ESG Compliance:** Implement zero-waste mining, environmental friendly technologies, and waste management strategies.
- **Technology Integration:** Ensuring transparency by adopting advanced exploration techniques, AI-based monitoring, and digital governance.
- **Illegal Mining Mitigation:** Preventing illegal activities using GPS-based tracking, geo-fencing, and real-time monitoring.

Targets:

1. Increase the mineral concession area from the current 0.68 percent to 1.0 percent by 2029-30 and 2.0 percent by 2046-47.
2. Increase the number of mineable minerals in the state from 58 to 70 by 2047.
3. Auction 50 large mineral blocks, starting with 5 blocks in 2025-26, by 2029-30.
4. Create 5 million direct and indirect jobs by 2029-30 and over 10 million by 2046-47.
5. Increase the mineral sector's contribution to the state's GSDP to 5 percent by 2029-30 and 8 percent by 2046-47.

Other important points:

Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET)

- **Formed in 2020.**
- **Objective:** To effectively manage and monitor activities related to the scientific exploration and mining of mineral deposits in Rajasthan, including the use of modern technology, research, development, skill development, and revenue generation.

Naunera Major and Parwan-Akawad Drinking Water Projects



Why in News?

- Recently, the state government issued work orders for the Naunera Major Drinking Water Project and the Parwan-Akawad Drinking Water Project under the Jal Jeevan Mission.



Key Points:

- The state government has set an ambitious target of completing both projects by August 2027.

Naunera Major Drinking Water Project:

- **Beneficiary Districts:** Kota and Bundi. (749 villages and 6 towns)
- The project will include the construction of one intake pump house, three water treatment plants, 14 freshwater reservoirs, and 137 highwater reservoirs for Kota and Bundi.
- Additionally, a 58.45-kilometer-long raw water rising main pipeline will be laid for both districts.

Parwan-Akawad Drinking Water Project:

- **Beneficiary Districts:** Jhalawar-Baran-Kota. (1402 villages, 276 hamlets)
- Under the project, two intake pump houses, two water treatment plants, 41 clean water reservoirs, and 276 high water reservoirs will be constructed for Kota and Jhalawar.
- Additionally, a total of 661 kilometers of main transmission pipeline will be laid for Baran-Kota-Jhalawar.

Facts for Prelims:

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- The Central Government launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in August 2019 in partnership with States/Union Territories with the objective of providing tap water supply to every rural household in the country.
- **Implementation:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Ministry of Jal Shakti).
- **Implementation in Rajasthan:** In Rajasthan, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is primarily responsible for implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Water is the subject of state list.

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Rajasthan Winners of the Federation Cup Lacrosse Championship 2025

Why in News?

- Rajasthan's boys and girls teams won the Federation Cup Lacrosse Championship for the second consecutive time.



Key Points:

- Event:** Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sports Complex, Katra (Jammu and Kashmir).
- Organizer:** Jammu and Kashmir Lacrosse Association under the aegis of the Lacrosse Association of India.
- Boys' Category:** Rajasthan defeated Gujarat.
- Girls' Category:** Rajasthan defeated Haryana.
- Boys' Team Captain:** Mohanlal Gameti.
- Girls' Team Captain:** Sunita Meena.
- Note:** Rajasthan has won 19 medals, including 15 gold, from the 22 National Lacrosse Championships held in the last three years.

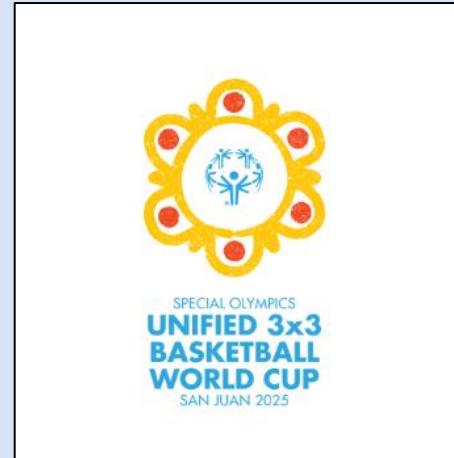
NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>PM Unity Mall in Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The PM Unity Mall is being constructed at the RICO Fintech Park in Jaipur.■ The mall aims to promote Geographical Indication (GI) products and handicrafts from Rajasthan and other states under the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) initiative.
2.	<p>Dhundhari Painter Kailash Rathod Passes Away</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dhundhari Painting Artist Kailash Rathod recently passed away.■ He had painted a series on Jayadeva's 'Geet Govind' for 'Rangreet Sanstha'.
3.	<p>'PIE School Olympics' – 2025</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Edition: 8th.■ Event: December 8 to 13, 2025, at Sawai Mansingh Stadium.■ Organized by: Magazine in Education (PIE) and Rajasthan State Sports Council.

4.

Special Olympics Unified Basketball 3x3 World Cup

- **Event:** December 3-7, 2025, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- India won the bronze medal in this World Cup.
- Samyak Nonk (Jaipur) from Rajasthan was also included in the Indian team.



5.

Atal SAARC Gaurav Award – 2025

- The 2025 'Atal SAARC Gaurav Award' was presented in Jaipur on the occasion of SAARC Charter Day (December 8).
- **Provided by:** International Harmony Forum.
- This award is given in collaboration with the Indo-Nepal Harmony Organization to individuals from various SAARC countries and beyond for their contributions to society and specific fields.

6.

Jaigarh Heritage Festival, 2025



- **Event:** December 6-7, 2025.
- **Venue:** Jaigarh Fort, Jaipur.
- **Organisers:** Vedanta and Teamwork Arts.



NATIONAL



Vande Mataram

Why in News?

- India is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its national song, Vande Mataram.

Key Points:

- **Origin** – Vande Mataram was composed in Sanskrit by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first published in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the Bengal famine of 1769-73 and the Sanyasi Rebellion.
- It gained national recognition after being sung at the Indian National Congress session in 1896.
- In 1907, Madame Bhikaji Cama hoisted the tricolor flag for the first time outside India in Stuttgart, Berlin. Vande Mataram was inscribed on this flag.
- In 1906, an English daily, Vande Mataram, was launched under the editorship of Vipin Chandrapal.
- **National Song** - Its first two verses were adopted as the national song of India on January 24, 1950.



Thailand-Cambodia Conflict

Why in News?

- Thailand recently carried out airstrikes on Cambodian military bases.

Key Points:

- This territorial dispute stems from the 1907 border demarcation, by France during the colonial era.
- The center of the dispute is the Preah Vihear Temple, a culturally significant Khmer pilgrimage site dating back to the 11th-12th centuries.
- The International Court of Justice confirmed Cambodian sovereignty in 1962 and again in 2013, but Thailand has rejected these decisions.



Preah Vihear Temple-

- This is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in the Kangrek Mountains near the Thailand-Cambodia border in Cambodia.
- Status - UNESCO World Heritage Site.



National Marine Fisheries Census, 2025

Why in News?

- Recently, the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying provided information in the Lok Sabha regarding the National Marine Fisheries Census, 2025.

Key Points:

- Launch:** November 3, 2025, at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi.
- Nodal Agency:** ICAR - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.
- Operational Partner:** Fishery Survey of India (FSI)
- Operation:** This census is being conducted under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- Census Duration:** November 3, 2025, to December 18, 2025 (45 days).
- Objective:** To create a comprehensive digital database of marine fishing communities, infrastructure, and socio-economic indicators, and to modernize fisheries management and improve the implementation of welfare schemes.

Features -

- This is India's first fully digitized fish census.
- This census will cover approximately 4,000 marine fishing villages and 1.2 million fish farms located in 9 coastal states and 4 union territories.
- Two major mobile apps developed by CMERI are being used, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and efficiency.

Mobile Apps	Function
VYAS Bharat	Data study and geo-referencing
VYAS Sutra	Verification and supervision (real-time monitoring)

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡

India International Science Festival - IISF

➡ Why in News?

- The 11th India International Science Festival began in Panchkula, Haryana.

📌 Key Points:

About IISF –

- **Theme:** The theme of IISF 2025 is Science for Prosperity: For a Self-Reliant India.
- **Launched:** 2015
- It has established itself as a premier platform for scientific exchange, innovation, outreach, and public engagement.



Soyuz MS-27 Spacecraft

Why in News?

- On December 9, 2025, the Soyuz MS-27 spacecraft successfully returned to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS).

Key Points:

- **Launch Vehicle:** Soyuz booster rocket (Russian rocket).
- **Launch Site:** Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan.
- **Space agencies involved:** NASA and Roscosmos (Russia).
- **Mission:** Part of the 73rd long-duration mission to the ISS.

Crews involved:

1. Jonathan Yong/Johnny Kim – NASA
2. Sergey Ryzhikov – Russia
3. Alexey Zubritsky – Russia

Objectives:

- Its primary goal is to support ongoing scientific investigations and technology demonstration experiments on the ISS (International Space Station).
- Research conducted by the crew includes planned manned missions to the Moon and Mars.

SCHEMES

Export Promotion Mission-EPM

Why in News?

- The government has approved the Export Promotion Mission to boost exports, especially for MSMEs and labor-intensive sectors.

Key Points:

Additional Information-

- The Finance Minister announced the Export Promotion Mission in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- **Timeframe** – 6 years – Financial Years 2025-26 to 20230-31
- **Associated Institutions** – Ministry of MSME, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Export Promotion Council, Industry Associations, State Governments.
- **Implementing Agency** – Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- **Two integrated sub-schemes** – Export Promotion and Export Direction.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Hindu Growth Rate

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister has criticized the term Hindu Growth Rate. It linked India's slow economic growth in earlier decades to people's faith and identity.

Key Points:

HGR:-

- **Terminology:** Coined by Raj Krishna in 1978.
- **Timeframe:** Primarily used to describe India's slow economic growth from the 1950s to the 1980s.
- During this period, the country's GDP grew by approximately 3.5-4% annually.
- According to this term, this slow growth stems from the Hindu way of life, which implies a cultural habit of accepting fate or being content with little.

🏆 AWARDS 🏆

Global Humanitarian Award, 2025

➡ Why in News?

- Anant Ambani, Executive Director of Reliance Industries and Founder of Vantara, was honored with the Global Humanitarian Award 2025, for his outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

📌 Key Points:

- Anant Ambani became the youngest and first Asian to receive this award.

Vantara Animal Rescue, Conservation and Rehabilitation Centre:

- **Meaning of Anantara:** Star of the Forest.
- **Developed by:** Reliance Foundation.
- **Located:** Motikhawadi Village, Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- **Inaugurated:** March 2025

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Sarvagya Singh Kushwaha: Chess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sarvagya Singh Kushwaha, 3 years and 7 months old, from Madhya Pradesh, has become the world's youngest FIDE-rated chess player.■ In December, he achieved a rapid ranking of 1572.■ FIDE (International Chess Federation): The global governing body of chess, which oversees official tournaments, rankings, and rules.■ FIDE rating is an international measure that reflects a player's ability.
2.	<p>Actress Raveena Tandon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Actress Raveena Tandon was recently named PETA India's Person of the Year for her contributions to animal rights, wildlife conservation, the Vegan lifestyle, and humane education.
3.	<p>“Revolution in Sports” Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Special Olympics India launched the “Revolution in Sports” campaign for athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities.■ Under this, athletes will be prepared for the Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Santiago in 2027.
4.	<p>Global AI Show, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Host: Abu Dhabi■ Objective: To bring together technology researchers, policymakers, and leading industries.■ The event is based on six key pillars, ranging from regulatory frameworks and healthcare transformation to decentralized finance, autonomous defense technologies, and the future of work.

5.	<p style="color: #c00000; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Gita Mahotsav</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Held: Colombo, Sri Lanka ■ Organized by: Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India.
6.	<p style="color: #c00000; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Andrey Vabis: Prime Minister of the Czech Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sworn in: Second term on December 9, 2025 ■ First term: 2017 to 2021. <p style="color: #800080; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Czech Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is a landlocked country in Central Europe. ■ Borders: Austria, Germany, Poland, and Slovakia. ■ Capital: Prague ■ The Czech Republic is a member of NATO, the European Union, the OECD, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe (COE).
7.	<p style="color: #c00000; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">33rd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Host: Bangkok, Thailand ■ Participating Countries: Southeast Asian countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Vietnam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Brunei, Timor Leste, etc.).
8.	<p style="color: #c00000; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Baba Adhav</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr. Baba Adhav, a senior social leader and a prominent activist in the labor and social justice movement in Maharashtra, has passed away. <p style="color: #800080; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Contributions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launched major labor-led initiatives, including the Hamal Panchayat. 2. Led the One Village, One Water Source campaign.
9.	<p style="color: #c00000; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">Second World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Held: December 17-19, 2025, in New Delhi. ■ Co-host: India ■ Collaboration: World Health Organization (WHO).

10.

Jal Shakti Hackathon, 2025

- Recently, the "Jal Shakti Hackathon, 2025" and the Bharat-WIN portal were launched by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** To promote innovations in the water sector.
- This is in line with the "Water Vision@2047" that strengthens scientific and technological solutions in India's water sector.

11.

Microsoft's Investment in AI Development in India

- Recently, Microsoft (Satya Nadella) announced an investment of ₹1.58 lakh crore (\$17.5 billion) in India's AI infrastructure.
- **Investment Period:** This investment will be between 2026 and 2029.
- This is the largest investment in Asia to date.

12.

One Nation, One Port Framework

- Recently, the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced the One Nation, One Port Framework. Information provided in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Initiated by:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Objective:** To bring together key stakeholders such as port authorities, customs, immigration, port health organizations, and the Directorate General of Shipping to ensure compliance with international conventions.
- **Impact:** Its implementation will result in a 33% reduction in documentation, leading to increased efficiency and reduced costs and time.

13.

Washington Accords

- The Washington Accords for Peace and Prosperity were signed between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, mediated by the United States.

14.

UHC Global Monitoring Report 2025

- This report is jointly released by the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group.
- This report analyzes progress towards universal health coverage.