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RAJASTHAN



Supreme Court cancels names of 2 revenue villages in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- Recently, a bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Adarsh of the Supreme Court canceled the names of two revenue villages in Rajasthan.



Key Points:

- Basis:** According to the Supreme Court, no revenue village can be named after a person, religion, caste, or sub-caste because a circular issued by the Rajasthan government on August 20, 2009, indicates that no revenue village can be named after a person, religion, caste, or sub-caste.
- Controversy:** The dispute is related to Sohra village in Balotra (formerly Barmer) district. The state government had issued a notification on December 31, 2020, under Section 16 of the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956, constituting new revenue villages. These included the revenue villages of 'Amargarh' and 'Sagatsar', which were separated from Meghwalon ki Dhani. This was challenged by Bhikaram and others in the High Court's single-judge bench.
- Violation:** According to the Supreme Court, naming a revenue village after a particular person violates Article 14, which guarantees all citizens the right to equality before the law.

Notification Related to Local Body Elections

Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan Election Commission issued a notification related to local body elections in the state, exercising its powers under Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Indian Constitution.



Key Points:

- Article 243K:** The superintendence, direction, and control of the conduct of elections to Panchayati Raj institutions are vested in the State Election Commission.
- Article 243ZA:** This article empowers the State Election Commission to prepare electoral rolls for all elections to municipalities and to exercise superintendence, direction, and control over their conduct.

Notification related to Panchayati Raj/Urban Local Body Elections:

- Ban on Vehicles:** The use of buses, trucks, minibuses, matadors, and animal-drawn vehicles (tonga, camel cart, bullock cart), etc., for election campaigning or election-related travel by the candidate or their election agent will be completely prohibited from the date of the election notification until the end of the election.

- Ban on the Use of Loudspeakers:** The use of loudspeakers at the election office established by the candidate for election campaigning will be completely prohibited. There will be a complete ban on the use of loudspeakers within a 100-meter radius of hospitals, schools, and religious places.
- Maximum Election Expenditure Limit (Panchayati Raj):** Under Section 22A of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the maximum limit for election campaign expenses of candidates is as follows:

Sr. No.	Post Name	Maximum Expenditure Limit
1.	Zilla Parishad Member	₹3,00,000/-
2.	Panchayat Samiti Member	₹1,50,000/-
3.	Sarpanch	₹1,00,000/-

- Maximum Election Expenditure Limit (Municipalities):** Under Section 23 of the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009, the maximum limit for election campaign expenses of candidates is as follows:

Sr. No.	Post Name	Maximum Expenditure Limit
1.	Nagar Nigam Parshad (Corporator)	₹3,50,000/-
2.	Nagar Parishad Parshad (Councillor)	₹2,00,000/-
3.	Nagar Palika Member	₹1,50,000/-

High-Level Meeting on the Revised PKC Link Project: New Delhi

Why in News?

- The 39th Annual Meeting of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) Society and the 24th meeting of the Special Committee on Interlinking of Rivers (SCILR) were held on December 23, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- **Chaired by:** Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil.
- Rajasthan was represented by the Minister of Water Resources, Suresh Singh Rawat.
- The meeting included detailed discussions on various important issues related to the interlinking of rivers, including the revised Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) link project.
- 12 new irrigation projects have been included as additional components in the revised link project to meet the irrigation needs in Baran, Jhalawar, and Kota.
- **Ram Jal Setu Link Project (RSLP)/Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)/Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Project: (Joint project of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh)**
- ERCP is an ambitious project of Rajasthan. Under this project, the surplus water from rivers like Kunu, Kural, Kalisindh, Chakan, Parvati, Mej, etc., during the monsoon season will be diverted to the Chambal, Banas, Banganga, and Gambhiri rivers.
- **Funding Ratio:** Centre (90%) : State (10%)

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Main Objectives –

- To provide drinking water supply to Eastern Rajasthan.
- To provide water for irrigation to Eastern Rajasthan.
- Water supply to DMIC (Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor).
- To improve the groundwater level.

RSLP Targets –

- Construction of 26 dams.
- Irrigated area - 5.6 lakh hectares (Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh).
- Beneficiary districts – 17 (according to old data, 13)
 - Alwar, Bharatpur, Karauli, Dholpur, Sawai Madhopur (ABKDS)
 - Khairthal-Tijara (Bhartrihari Nagar), Deeg. ○ Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar (Kota Division)
 - Dausa, Jaipur, Kotputli-Behrur, Ajmer, Beawar and Tonk.

RSLP Water Distribution

- Rajasthan 4102 MCM: Madhya Pradesh 3120 MCM (MCM = Million Cubic Meters)
- Major 5 barrages and 2 dams constructed under the RSLP project:

Sr. No.	Major Barrage/Dam	River	District
1.	Ramgarh Barrage	Cool River	Baran
2.	Mahalpur Barrage	Parvati River	Baran
3.	Navnera Barrage	Kalisindh River	Kota
4.	Mej Barrage	Mej River	Bundi
5.	Rathore Barrage	Banas River	Sawai Madhopur
6.	Doongri Dam	Banas River	Sawai Madhopur
7.	Isarda Dam	Banas River	Sawai Madhopur

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.

News

1.

National Swadeshi Festival – 2025: Chittorgarh



- **Event Dates:** December 23 to 28, 2025.
- **Venue:** Shaheed Major Natwar Singh Shaktawat Sports Ground, Chittorgarh.
- **Organizer:** This festival is organized by the All India Swadeshi Association, with the aim of promoting a self-reliant India.
- **Objective:** To strengthen the local economy and encourage the use of indigenous products.

2.

12th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF): Jodhpur.

RIFF
FILM CLUB
Presents

riFF™
Rajasthan International
Film Festival
(Accredited by FFSI)

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RAJASTHAN
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GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
ART AND CULTURE

Federation of Film
Societies of India
(North Region)

12th RAJASTHAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - RIFF 2026

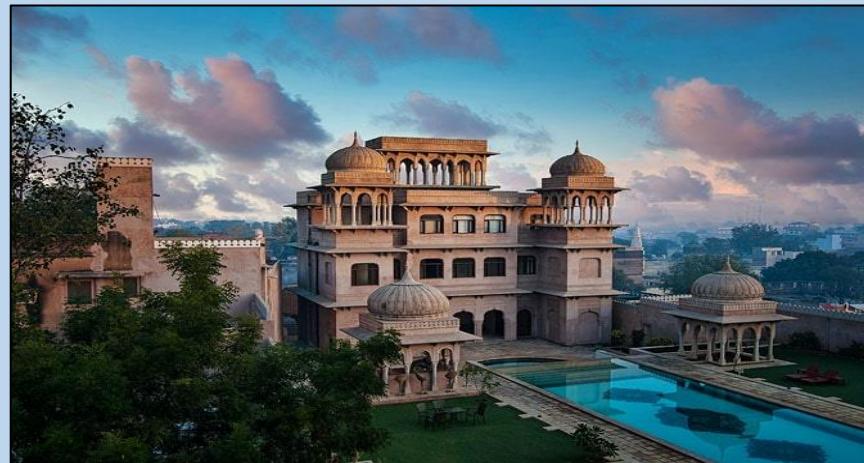
Theme : Cinemasthan - Your Lens, Our Rajasthan

31st January - 4th February, 2026 at Miraj Cinemas, Bluecity Mall and Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

- The '12th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF)' will be held from January 31 to February 4, 2026, at Mirage Cinema, Jodhpur.
- **Theme:** 'Cinemasthan - Your Lens, Our Rajasthan'.
- Mukesh Chhabra will be honored with the "RIFF Honorary Award of Excellence" at this festival.
- **Note:** Jodhpur RIFF
- **Event:** The 'Rajasthan International Folk Festival - 2025', popularly known as Jodhpur RIFF, was held from October 2 to 6, 2025.
- This festival is organized annually at Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur during Sharad Purnima.

3.

Shekhawati Haveli Conservation Scheme



- The state government announced the 'Shekhawati Haveli Conservation Scheme' in the 2025-26 budget for employment generation and economic development through tourism in the Shekhawati region.
- Under this scheme, 662 historical havelis (mansions) have been identified so far in Jhunjhunu, Sikar, and Churu.
- These havelis will be developed as heritage walks, cultural centers, art galleries, homestays, and tourism hubs.

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4.

National West India Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior Classic Powerlifting Championship: Indore

- **Manisha Prajapat and Chandni Prajapat** from Jodhpur won bronze medals in the 'West India National Classic Powerlifting Championship'.
- **Manisha Prajapat:** Bronze medal in the senior category, lifting 315 kg in the above 84 kg weight class.
- **Chandni Prajapat:** Bronze medal in the sub-junior girls' category, lifting 197.5 kg in the 84 kg weight class.
- **Captain (Senior Women's Category):** Manisha Prajapat (Jodhpur)

5.

Chairman of the Developed Rajasthan@2047 State Level Steering Committee: Chief Secretary



- To ensure the successful implementation of the Developed Rajasthan@2047 vision, the state government constituted a state-level steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah released the 'Developed Rajasthan@2047' vision document in Jaipur on October 13, 2025.
- This vision document is in line with the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.
- It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the 'Developed Rajasthan@2047' vision document for economic prosperity, sustainable development, and inclusive progress on August 23, 2025.

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6.

Death of Bhapang player Jumme Khan

- Recently, Jumme Khan, a renowned Bhapang player from Rajasthan, passed away.
- Jumme Khan was a resident of Pinan village in Alwar district.

7.

State's First Disabled-Friendly Park: Kota

- A sensor-based park for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and the general public will be established in Kota city.
- This will be the first park of its kind in Rajasthan, and it will be developed on the Srinathapuram Development Path at a cost of ₹15 crore.

8.

Rajasthan Power Sector Digital Conclave

- **Event:** The 'Rajasthan Power Sector Digital Conclave' was organized on December 23, 2025, at the Constitution Club, Jaipur.
- **Organizers:** Rajasthan Energy Development Corporation and IT Services.
- Through this conclave, a roadmap for the digital transformation of Rajasthan's energy sector is being prepared.

9.

State-Level Farmers' Conference: Merta (Nagaur)

- A 'State-Level Farmers' Conference' was organized in Merta, Nagaur, on December 23, 2025, to commemorate the completion of two years of the state government.



⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡

First Pollution Control Vessel: Samudra Pratap

➡ Why in News?

- On December 23, 2025, the Indian Coast Guard commissioned its first pollution control vessel, Samudra Pratap, at Goa Shipyard Limited.

➡ Key Points:

- This is the first vessel of its kind for the Indian Coast Guard, indigenously designed and built.
- **Manufacturer:** Goa Shipyard Limited (Construction started: November 2022).
- **Displacement Capacity:** 4170 tons
- **Function:** This vessel will assist in detecting and containing oil spills along the country's coastline.



Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) Mission

Why in News?

- Recently, NASA lost contact with the MAVEN mission, which was launched in November 2013.

Key Points:

- This is the first space mission to survey the upper atmosphere of Mars.
- Launch:** November 2013 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, by an Atlas V rocket.
- Reached Mars:** September 2014
- Instruments:**

Sr. No.	Equipment	Purpose/Function
1.	Solar Wind Instrument	Study of Mars' ionosphere.
2.	Ultraviolet Spectrometer	Study of the upper atmosphere.
3.	Mass Spectrometer	Study of the structure of the upper atmosphere.

Conclusions from MAVEN data:

- Two types of waves are found in the Martian magnetic environment – some below and some above the electron plasma frequency.
- Mars has lost approximately 2/3 of its early atmosphere into space.
- Discovered the effects of solar storms on Mars and the pathways of water loss.

Other Important Information:

- Martian atmosphere:** 95.32% CO₂, 2.7% N₂ (Nitrogen), 1.6% Argon, and 0.13% Oxygen.



Other NASA Mars Missions:

1. **Viking 1 and 2**
2. **Mars Pathfinder**
3. **Spirit and Opportunity rovers**
4. **ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (2016 - present)**
5. **Perseverance rover (2020 - present)**

Mangalyaan (2013 - 2022): ISRO -

- India's first interplanetary mission (Mars Orbiter Mission).
- Launch: 2013, Entered Martian orbit: 2014.
- India became the fourth country to reach Mars, after the Soviet Union, the USA, and the European Space Agency.
- Launch Vehicle: PSLV-C-25

Achievements:

1. Scientific study of the surface features, morphology, atmosphere, and exosphere of Mars for 8 years.
2. Captured an image of Mars' moon, Deimos.
3. Studied solar dynamics related to solar energy and dust storms across the entire planet.
4. Discovered thermal argon in the Martian exosphere.
5. The MENCA payload detected the abundance of oxygen and CO₂ at an altitude of 270 km above the Martian surface.

Blue Bird Communication Satellite

Why in News?

- On December 24, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the 'Blue Bird Block 2' (Blue Bird-6) communication satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in Sriharikota.

Key Points:

- This launch was conducted under a commercial agreement with ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).
- Launch Vehicle:** LVM3 M6
- Satellite developed by:** US company AST SpaceMobile

Features:

- Weighing approximately 6500 kg, it is the heaviest commercial payload ever launched by ISRO.
- This satellite will provide 'space-based cellular broadband' (internet) service directly to regular smartphones.
- Its antennas will ensure 24/7 high-speed internet connectivity in remote areas, thereby reducing the digital divide.

Other Important Points:

LVM-3 Rocket:

- LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), formerly known as GSLV MK III.
- It is ISRO's most powerful rocket.
- It can carry payloads up to 8000 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- Stages: 3 (Solid, Liquid, and Cryogenic fuel)
- It has successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and 72 OneWeb satellites.

ISRO's Commercial Arms:

- Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL):** Established in 1992.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL):** Formed in 2019.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

Why in News?

- India and New Zealand have completed negotiations on a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in 9 months, and it will be formally signed in 2026.

Key Points:

Goals of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement:

1. **Trade Expansion:** To double bilateral trade from the current level to US\$5 billion in 5 years.
2. **Investment Flow:** To facilitate investments of US\$20 billion in New Zealand over 15 years, in line with Make in India.

Key Features of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement:

1. **Tariff Liberalization:** India will provide tariff concessions on 95 percent of New Zealand's exports, while New Zealand will provide duty-free access on all tariff lines from India (100%).
2. **Traditional Medicine:** New Zealand has signed an agreement on health and traditional medicine services for the first time.
3. **Protection of Sensitive Sectors:** India has excluded dairy, rice, wheat, sugar, onions, edible oils, and rubber from the list, maintaining a balance between trade liberalization and protecting farmers' livelihoods.
 - **Excluded Products:** Dairy products, animal products, vegetable products, sugar, artificial sweeteners, weapons, gems and jewelry, copper products, aluminum products.



4. **Services and Movement of Persons:** Under the FTA, 5000 temporary employment visas are issued annually, allowing Indian professionals to work in New Zealand for up to 3 years.
5. India has offered market access in 70.03% of tariff lines, while 29.97% of tariff lines have been kept under exclusion. Immediate tariff elimination has been implemented on 30% of tariff lines.

Other Important Points

- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** A treaty between two or more countries in which they agree to:
 - Reduce or eliminate customs duties on goods.
 - Liberalize trade in services.
 - Provide investment protection.
 - Ensure protection for intellectual property rights (IPR).

India's Global Trade Network:

- India - Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), 2025
- India - UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), 2025
- India - EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) - Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, 2024
- India - United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), 2022
- India - Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), 2022
- India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), 2021



PERSONALITY



Vinod Kumar Shukla

Why in News?

- Recently, the renowned writer Vinod Kumar Shukla passed away.

Key Points:

- Affiliation:** Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh.

Works:

- First poetry collection (1971):** "Lagbhag Jaihind"
- Novel (1979):** "Naukar Ki Kameez" (a film was made based on this novel).
- Other novels:** 'Khilega To Dekhenge' (1996), 'Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi' (1997), 'Ek Chuppi Jagah' (2018).
- Other poetry collections:** 'Ped Par Kamra' (1998), 'Mahavidyalaya' (1996), 'Ek Kahani' (2021), 'Ghoda Aur Anya Kahaniyan' (2021).

Awards:

- Awarded the 59th Jnanpith Award in 2024:

- Composition:** 'Everything will remain to be'
- Shukla is the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive this honor.

- Raza Award

- Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh Fellowship.

- Mathrubhumi Book of the Year Award.

- PEN America Nabokov Award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Consumer Day: December 24



Key Points:

- **Theme for 2025:** Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice.
- **Reason:** The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 received the President's assent on December 24, 1986.
- **Objective:** To raise awareness and promote responsible practices among consumers and other stakeholders.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- **Implemented:** July 20, 2020 (Replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986).
- **Consumer Rights -**
 1. Right to Protection.
 2. Right to be Informed.
 3. Right to Assurance.
 4. Right to be Heard.
 5. Right to Redressal.
 6. Right to Consumer Awareness.
 7. Right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, and standards of goods and services.

Three-Tier Judicial Structure:

Sr. No.	Level	Description
1.	District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (First Level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ District forum, located at the district court.■ Resolves complaints with claims up to ₹50 lakhs.
2.	State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (Second Level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Resolves complaints with claims between ₹50 lakhs and ₹2 crore.
3.	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (Top Level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Handles complaints over ₹2 crore.■ Established: 24th July 2020 (Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019).



Consumer Welfare Fund; Financial Assistance;

- Centre : State – 75 : 25
- Centre : Union Territory – 90 : 10

E-Jagruti:

- **Launched:** January 1, 2025
- Created by integrating and streamlining previous systems, including OCMS, E-Daakhil, NCDRC EMS, and Confonet.
- **Benefits:** Global reach, efficiency and speed, inclusivity, and secure transactions.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Sukhman Singh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Indian golfer Sukhman Singh has won the 124th Amateur Golf Championship of India.■ Venue: Tollygunge Club (Kolkata)■ Final: Defeated Harman Sachdeva.
2.	<p>Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The government will establish a Bureau of Port Security to secure the country's ports and ships.■ It will be modeled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
3.	<p>Exoplanet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Scientists have discovered an exoplanet using the James Webb Space Telescope.■ Name: PSRJ 2322-26506■ Shape: Similar to a lemon/rugby ball■ Distance from Earth: 1 million miles■ One year on this planet is 7.8 hours long.
4.	<p>India's \$450 Million Package to Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ India will provide a \$450 million package to Sri Lanka to assist in the reconstruction of areas affected by Cyclone Ditwah.■ This includes \$350 million in concessional loans and \$100 million in grants.■ This is in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Ocean' policy.



5.

'Atal Vision of Sanatan Culture' Book

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book 'Atal Vision of Sanatan Culture', written by Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, at the Vice President's residence in New Delhi.

6.

Sports: Comprehensive Internship Policy

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a comprehensive internship policy with the aim of attracting young talent to sports and strengthening the country's sports infrastructure.
- Under this policy, college and university students will be offered internships in the Ministry and its autonomous bodies.
- 452 internships will be provided annually under this policy.

7.

Siversk City

- Russian forces have captured the eastern Ukrainian city of Siversk.
- Russia has now occupied approximately 20% of Ukraine.