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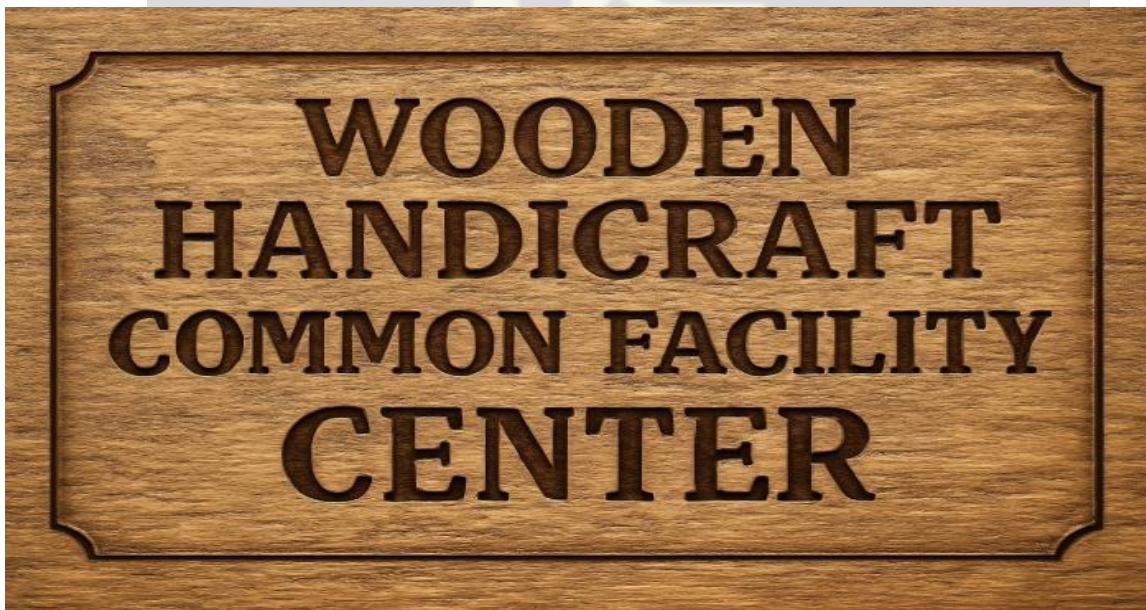
RAJASTHAN



Wooden Handicraft Common Facility Center: Jodhpur

Why in News?

- Recently, Rajasthan's Industry and Commerce Minister, Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore, inspected the newly constructed Wooden Handicraft Common Facility Center in Jodhpur.



Key Points:

- Cost:** ₹1800 lakh
- Construction:** Jointly by the Central and Rajasthan governments.
- This center will provide state-of-the-art resources to artisans and entrepreneurs who lack the capacity to make large investments.
- This state-of-the-art center has been designed to equip Rajasthan's renowned wooden handicraft industry, especially the furniture manufacturing sector, with modern technology, higher production efficiency, and global competitiveness.

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- **Note:** To promote exports under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024, the state government is providing a 25 percent freight subsidy, which will reduce export costs and increase demand for Rajasthan's products in foreign markets.
- It is known that the World Craft Council (WCC) has declared Jaipur as 'World Craft City'.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Handicraft Policy, 2022

- On August 27, 2022, the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the "Rajasthan Handicraft Policy 2022."
- **Objective:** To develop the handicraft sector and empower approximately 600,000 artisans and craftsmen working in this sector.
- A state-level monitoring committee, led by the State Industries Department, has been formed to ensure the successful implementation of this policy.

Key Provisions:

- The state government will bear 100 percent interest on loans of up to ₹3 lakh taken by artisans and provide group insurance to self-help groups working in the handicraft and handloom sectors.
- Cooperative societies of handloom weavers and artisan societies that are setting up permanent marketing centers for sales will receive 50 percent government assistance of the total cost.
- An online platform has been developed by the government to help artisans sell their products. Government departments will be able to purchase products worth up to ₹10 lakh from registered artisans through the e-marketplace without tendering.

World AIDS Day: State-Level Celebration

Why in News?

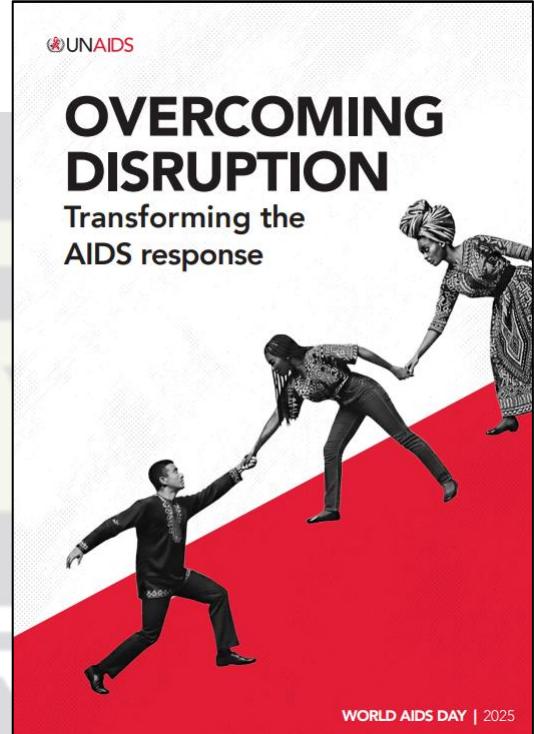
- On the occasion of World AIDS Day (December 1, 2025), the Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society organized a state-level event at the Harischandra Mathur State Institute of Public Health, Jaipur.

Key Points:

- Theme for the year 2025: "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response."

Facts for Prelims:

HIV and AIDS:



Points	HIV	AIDS
Full Name	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
Type Condition	This is the name of the virus that infects the body.	This is a syndrome (disease condition) caused by HIV infection.
Definition	It is the factor that triggers the immune system to attack.	It is the final and most serious stage of HIV infection.
Infection	Not everyone infected with HIV develops AIDS.	It occurs only in people who already have HIV infection and have not been treated.

Diagnosis	It is diagnosed by a blood test (such as an antibody test) that confirms the presence of the virus.	It is diagnosed when the CD4 cell count falls below a certain level (below 200).
Treatment and Management	Antiretroviral therapy (ART) can control the virus and allow a person to live a normal life.	AIDS develops if a person infected with HIV is not treated promptly and treatment is ineffective.
Immune System	The immune system gradually weakens, but may function well initially.	The immune system is severely damaged, making the body unable to fight other diseases.

Government Efforts:

National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP):

- The Government of India's flagship programme for AIDS prevention is the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP).
- This programme is currently in its fifth phase, focusing on targeted interventions, free treatment, awareness campaigns, and a strong legal framework to combat stigma.
- The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare coordinates the multi-sectoral national strategy.

19th Kumbhalgarh Festival: Rajsamand

Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Tourism Department organized the Kumbhalgarh Festival from December 1 to 3, 2025.



Key Points:

- Venue:** Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajsamand.
- Edition:** 19th.

Facts for Prelims:

Major festivals organized by the Rajasthan Tourism Department in 2025:

S.No.	Name of Festival/Campaign	Event Period	Other Important Points
1.	Ghoomar Festival – First Edition	November 19, 2025	Organized in all 7 divisions. More than 6100 women performed the Ghoomar dance collectively at the festival, which entered the Asia Book of Records.
2.	Marwar Festival, Jodhpur	October 6–7, 2025	Marwarshree – Narsingh Chauhan.
3.	Thar Festival, Barmer	October 8–9, 2025	Theme of the program: "Colors of the Desert." Thar Kumari (2025): Nakshatri Choudhary. Thar Shri (2025): Dharmendra Dabi.
4.	Pushkar Fair – 2025	October 30–November 5, 2025	Main event on Kartik Purnima. In the fair of the year 2025, 101 nagadas were played by international nagada player Nathulal Solanki and his team.
5.	Abhaneri Festival – 2025 (Dausa)	September 26–27, 2025	Abhaneri or Abhanagari is an ancient village (9th century) located in Dausa, Rajasthan, famous for its early medieval monuments of the post-Gupta period.
6.	Maru Festival – 2025	February 9–12, 2025	Mr. Desert (Maru Shree) – Dheeraj Purohit (Jaisalmer) Miss Moomal – Komal Siddh (Bikaner)

₹180 crore to Rajasthan under Swadesh Darshan Scheme

2.0

Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Ministry of Tourism approved ₹180 crore for the development of four religious sites in Rajasthan under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0.



Key Points:

Four religious sites in Rajasthan:

- Bundi:** ₹21 crore 65 lakh to enhance the spiritual experience and promote religious tourism in Keshoraipatan.
- Sikar:** ₹87 crore 87 lakh for the development of Khatu Shyamji Temple.
- Bikaner:** ₹22 crore 58 lakh for the development of Karni Mata Temple.
- Bhilwara:** ₹48 crore 43 lakh for the development of Malaseri Dungri, the birthplace of folk deity Devnarayan ji.

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Facts for Prelims:

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:-

- **Launched:** In 2015 by the Ministry of Tourism.
- It is a 100 percent centrally funded scheme.
- Under this scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to state governments, union territory administrations, or central agencies for the development of tourism infrastructure in the country.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0:** The Ministry of Tourism has revamped the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) for the development of sustainable and responsible tourism destinations, covering tourism and allied infrastructure, tourism services, human capital development, destination management, and promotion, supported by policy and institutional reforms.

Other important points:

- The Government of India launched the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme' with the objective of developing historical tourist destinations and branding and marketing them globally.
- Under this scheme, 40 projects were approved in 23 states during the financial year 2024-25.
- Under the scheme, Rs 49.31 crore was approved for the development of Amer and Nahargarh forts in Rajasthan and Rs 96.61 crore for the development of Jal Mahal.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Maharishi Ved Vyas Award: Gulab Kothari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Gulab Kothari, Editor-in-Chief of the Patrika Group, was honored with the 'Maharishi Ved Vyas Award' by the Maharishi Ved Vyas Pratishthan for his work in education, research, and writing in the Vedic field.■ Venue: Pune (Maharashtra).
2.	<p>First 2 districts in Rajasthan with 100% digitization under SIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Barmer and Salumer secured first place in digitizing the enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls – 2026 (SIR-2026) in Rajasthan.





NATIONAL



Hornbill Festival

Why in News?

- The 26th edition of Nagaland's famous Hornbill Festival, known as the "Festival of Festivals," began at the Naga Heritage Village in Kisama, Kohima, on the occasion of the state's Foundation Day (December 1).



Key Points:

Hornbill Festival

- Held every year in the first week of December at Kisama near Kohima, it is a vibrant cultural presentation of all the Naga tribes.
- It was conceived in 2000 to promote unity and preserve ethnic heritage.



INTERNATIONAL



UNESCO Executive Board

Why in News?

- India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2025-29.



Key Points:

UNESCO Executive Board

- It is one of the three constitutional organs of the UN agency (the other two being the General Conference and the Secretariat) and is elected by the General Conference.
- It operates under the authority of the General Conference.
- It comprises 58 Member States, each serving a four-year term.

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⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡

Private Sector Entry into India's Nuclear Sector

➡ Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that the government is moving towards opening up the nuclear sector to the private sector.



➡ Key Points:

India's Nuclear Sector

- Traditionally, nuclear power plants in India have been owned and operated solely by the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).
- To allow private sector participation, the government has proposed amendments to key laws:

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- o The Atomic Energy Act, 1962, a framework for nuclear energy development and regulation.
- o The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, ensures compensation mechanisms for nuclear accidents.

Government Steps

- India announced a ₹20,000 crore research and development mission for the development of small modular reactors (SMRs).
- o India also aims to install at least five indigenously developed reactors by 2033.
- NPCIL and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have signed a supplementary joint venture agreement to develop nuclear power facilities in the country.
 - o The joint venture, named Ashwini, will build, own, and operate nuclear power plants, including the upcoming 4x700 MW PHWR Mahi-Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project.

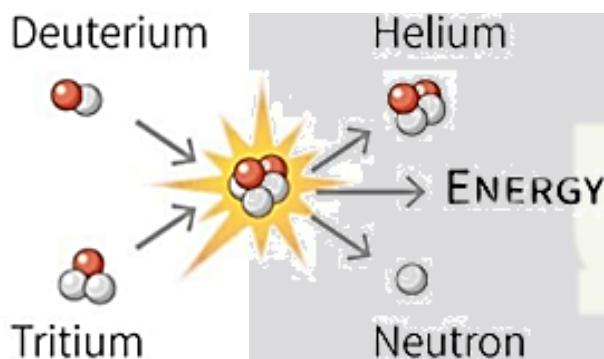
What is nuclear energy?

What is nuclear energy?	Energy released during nuclear fission/fusion
Main uses	Electricity generation in nuclear power plants
Main processes	Nuclear fission (uranium/plutonium)
India's current capacity	8,180 megawatts
Future target (2047)	100 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity

Fusion vs fission

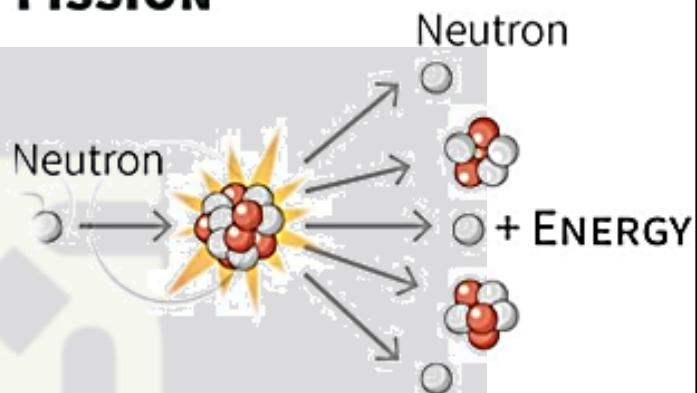
Nuclear reactions that produce massive amounts of energy, but have different processes

FUSION



Joins 2 or more lighter atoms into a heavier one

FISSION



Splits a larger atom into 2 or more smaller particles

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GRADUATION CAP POLITY GRADUATION CAP

Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Assam Group of Ministers (GoM) recommended granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities.

KEY POINTS:

- The six communities:** Tai Ahom, Tea Tribes or Adivasis (Tea Tribes), Moran, Motok, Chutia, and Koch-Rajbongshi.
- These communities are currently listed in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list of Assam. They constitute approximately 27% of the total population of the state.

Provisions relating to the granting of Scheduled Tribe status in the Constitution

- Article 366(25):** According to this article, Scheduled Tribes (ST) are those communities notified under Article 342.
- Article 342:** According to this article, the President has the power to notify the initial list of Scheduled Tribes. This list can be amended by Parliament through law.
- Criteria for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe list:** The Constitution does not clearly define any criteria for granting Scheduled Tribe status to a community.

However, the Lokur Committee (1965) suggested the following criteria:

- Characterized by a primitive nature
- Distinctive culture
- Geographical isolation
- Hesitation in contact with outsiders
- Backwardness



IMPORTANT DAYS

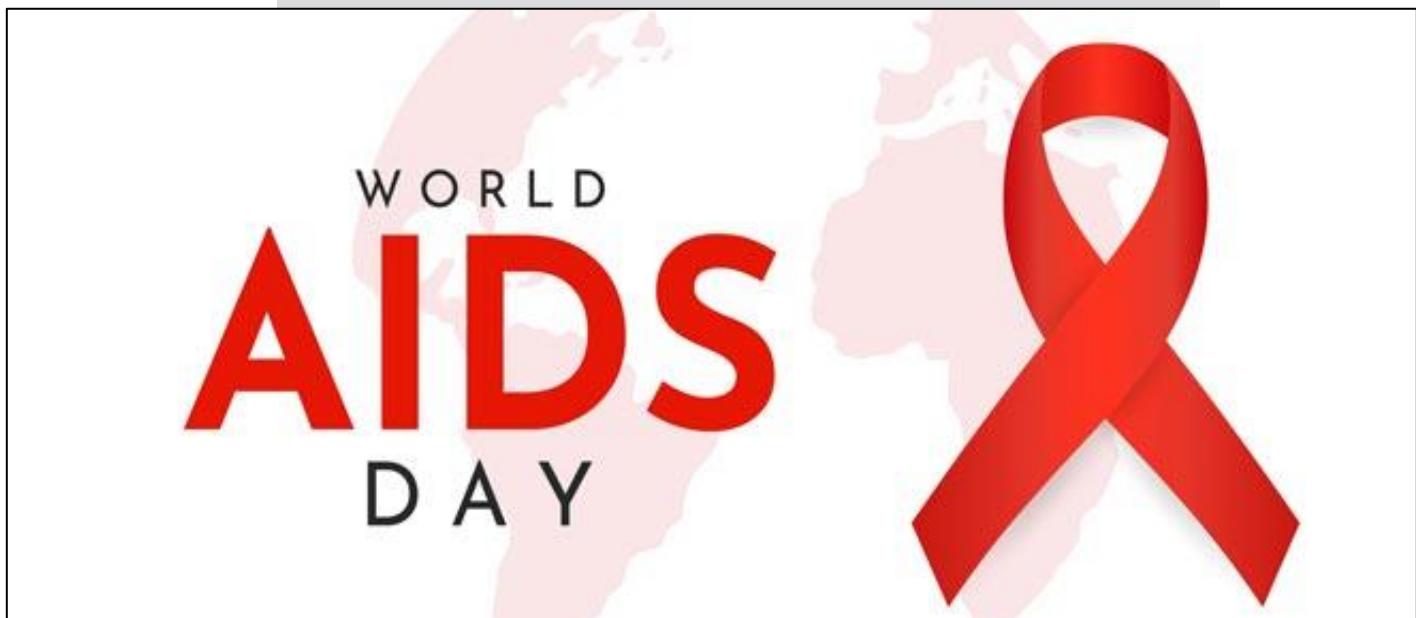


World AIDS Day



Why in News?

- World AIDS Day is observed every year on December 1.



Key Points:

- It was first marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988.
 - **Theme 2025:** Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response.
- HIV AIDS**
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system.
 - o HIV targets the body's white blood cells, weakening the immune system. This makes diseases like tuberculosis, infections, and some cancers more likely to occur.
 - o Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) occurs in the most advanced stage of the infection.

Know The Difference!



HIV

v/s

AIDS

Human

Immunodeficiency
Virus

A virus

That leads to AIDS

Gradually attacks
and weakens the
immune system

Acquired

Immunodeficiency
Syndrome

The later stage of
untreated HIV infection

Group of signs and
symptoms
emerge as the immune
system weakens

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

HIV/AIDS in India

- Infections have declined from 0.33% in 2010 to 0.20% in 2024.
- This rate in India is significantly lower than the global average of 0.7%.
- New infections in India account for only 5% of the global total.

National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)

- It has evolved in five phases, from basic awareness to comprehensive prevention, testing, treatment, and sustainability.
- **NACP I (1992–1999):** This was India's first comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and control program.



- **NACP II (1999–2006):** Strengthening long-term national capacity to combat HIV/AIDS.
- **NACP III (2007–2012):** Halting and reversing the HIV epidemic by 2012.
- **NACP IV (2012-2017):** 50% reduction in new infections (compared to a 2007 baseline).
 - Extended (2017-2021) to further advance the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.
- **NACP V (2021-2026):** Launched as a Central Sector Scheme, it aims to build on previous achievements and address persistent challenges.
 - This phase aims to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 by helping to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

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新闻剪报 NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Hansa-3 NG Trainer Aircraft</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratory, Bengaluru, launched the production version of the indigenous Hansa-3 (NG) trainer aircraft.■ The Hansa-3 is India's indigenous two-seater training aircraft developed by CSIR-NAL.
2.	<p>International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p>  <p>International Telecommunication Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The ITU's World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) concluded in Baku. This conference is held every four years.