

Daily Current Affairs

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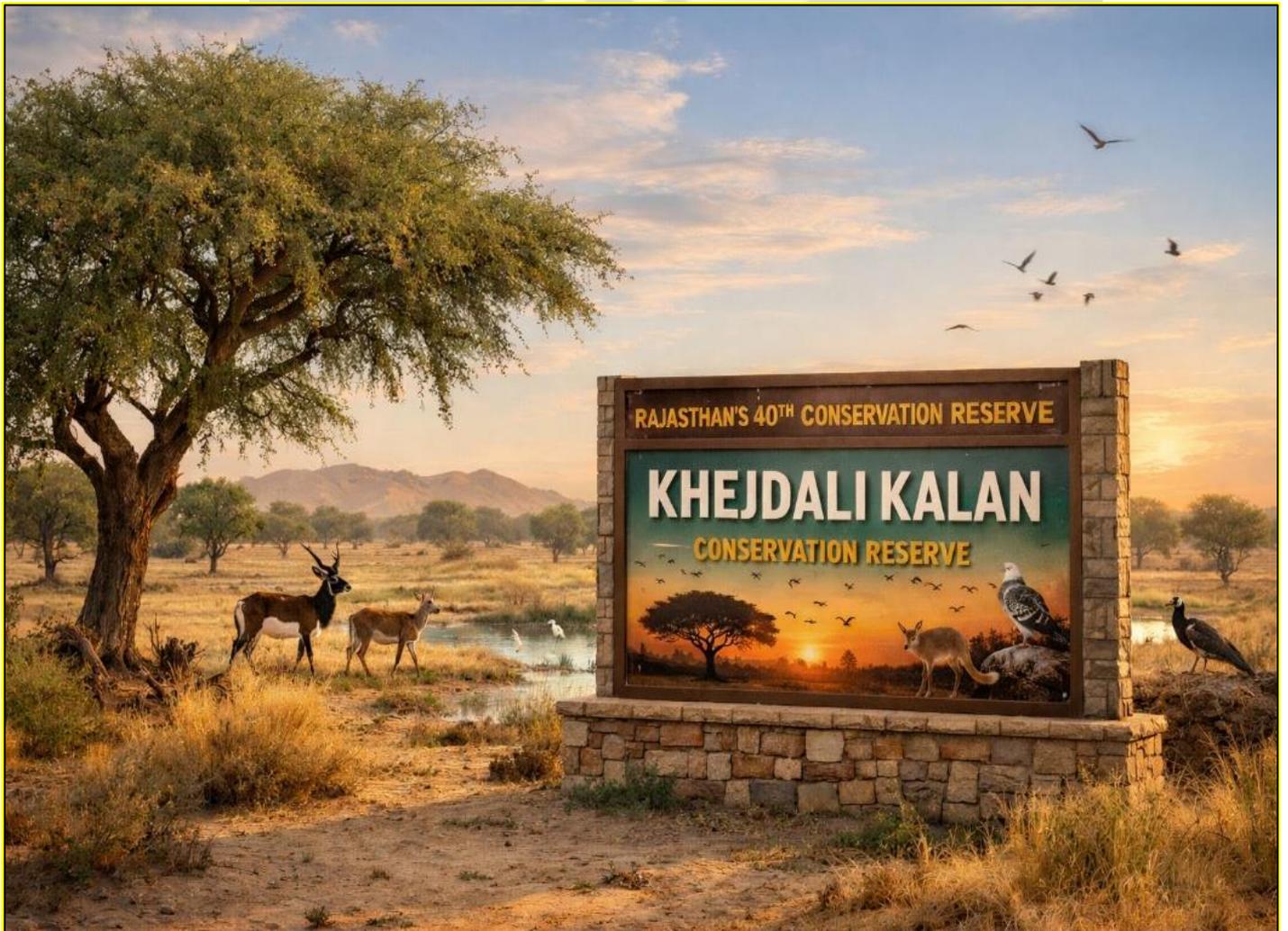


Rajasthan's 40th Conservation Reserve: Khejrli Kalan



Why in News?

- On December 17, 2025, the Rajasthan Forest Department, exercising the powers conferred by Section 36A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, declared Khejrli Kalan in Jodhpur as the state's 40th conservation reserve.



Key Points:

- This conservation reserve is located in Luni tehsil of Jodhpur district and covers an area of 150.85 hectares.

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Conservation Reserves located in Rajasthan (40):

S. No.	Name of Conservation Reserve	District
1	Bisalpur Conservation Reserve	Tonk
2	Johadbeed Garhwala Bikaner Conservation Reserve	Bikaner
3	Sundha Mata Conservation Reserve	Jalore, Sirohi
4	Gudha Bishnoi Conservation Reserve	Jodhpur
5	Shakambhari Conservation Reserve	Jhunjhunu, Sikar
6	Gogelav Conservation Reserve	Nagaur
7	Beed Conservation Reserve	Jhunjhunu
8	Rotu Conservation Reserve	Nagaur
9	Umedganj Bird Sanctuary Conservation Reserve	Kota
10	Jawai Dam Conservation Reserve	Pali
11	Bansiyal Khetri Conservation Reserve	Jhunjhunu
12	Bansiyal-Khetri Bagor Conservation Reserve	Jhunjhunu
13	Jawai Dam Leopard Conservation Reserve-II	Pali
14	Mansa Mata Conservation Reserve	Jhunjhunu
15	Rankhar Conservation Reserve	Jalore
16	Shahabad Conservation Reserve	Baran
17	Shahabad Foothill Conservation Reserve	Baran
18	Beedghas Phulia Khurd Conservation Reserve	Bhilwara
19	Baghdara Crocodile Conservation Reserve	Udaipur

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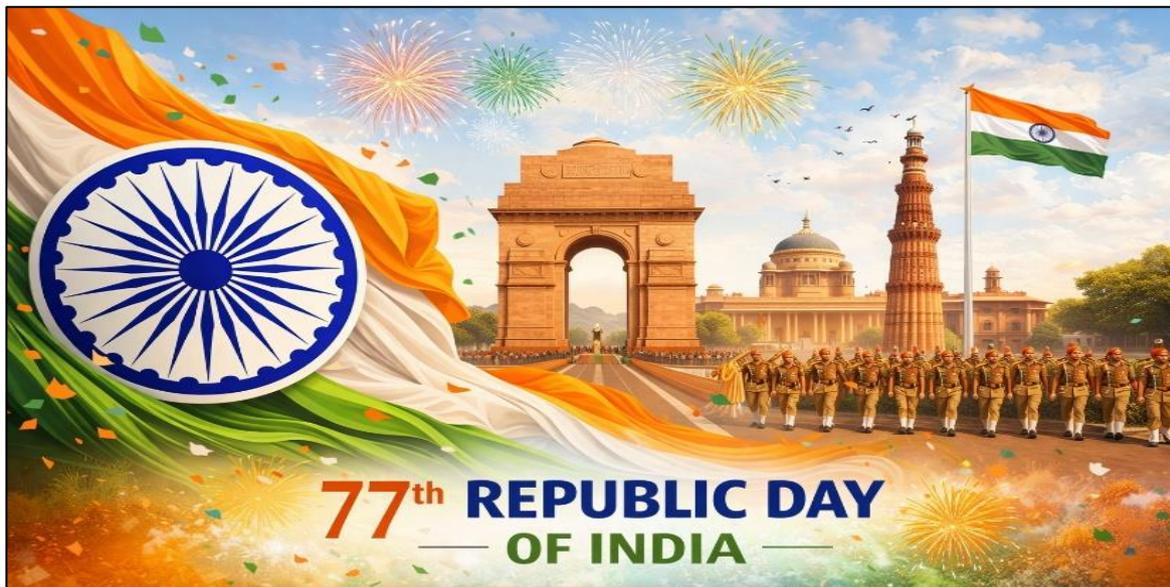
20	Wadakheda Conservation Reserve	Sirohi
21	Jhalana–Amargarh Conservation Reserve	Jaipur
22	Banjh Amla Conservation Reserve	Baran
23	Hamirgarh Conservation Reserve	Bhilwara
24	Kharmore Conservation Reserve	Ajmer
25	Kurjan Conservation Reserve	Phalodi
26	Ramgarh Conservation Reserve	Baran
27	Sorsan I Conservation Reserve	Baran
28	Sorsan II Conservation Reserve	Baran
29	Sorsan III Conservation Reserve	Baran
30	Mahseer Conservation Reserve	Udaipur
31	Beed Fatehpur Conservation Reserve	Sikar
32	Ganga Bhairav Valley Conservation Reserve	Ajmer
33	Beed Muhana Conservation Reserve – A	Jaipur
34	Beed Muhana Conservation Reserve – B (Smallest)	Jaipur
35	Baleshwar Conservation Reserve (Largest)	Sikar
36	Amarkh Mahadev Leopard Conservation Reserve	Udaipur
37	Asop Conservation Reserve	Bhilwara
38	Mokla Conservation Reserve	Jaisalmer
39	Buchara Conservation Reserve	Kotputli– Behror
40	Khejadli Kalan Conservation Reserve (Newest)	Jodhpur

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State-Level Republic Day Celebration – 2026

Why in News?

- The 77th Republic Day state-level ceremony was held at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- **Chief Guest:** Governor Haribhau Bagde.
- **President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service:** Satyendra Singh, Inspector General of Police, Sikar Range. (Currently Inspector General of Police, CID CB)
- **President's Commendation Medal (Home Guard):** Ghanshyam Singh, Deputy Commandant, Central Training Institute, Home Guard Rajasthan.

Other Important Points:

Rajasthan ranks first in Vande Mataram selfies and events:

- Under the programs organized by the Rajasthan Department of Art and Culture, the state secured the first position nationwide in uploading selfies and videos on the 'Vande Mataram@150 portal'.
- **4 districts from the state included in the top 10 districts:** Pali, Rajsamand, Jaipur, and Phalodi were among the top 10 districts across the country

Formation of Rajivika District Project Management Units in the newly formed 8 districts

Why in News?

- Recently, the state government approved the establishment of District Project Management Units (DPMUs) in the newly formed 8 districts, based on the model of the 33 established District Project Management Units of the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council.

Key Points:

- Newly formed 8 districts:** Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Khairthal-Tijara, Kotputli-Behror, Phalodi and Salumber.
- The formation of DPMUs will provide a strong foundation for the administrative and technical arrangements related to project implementation in the newly formed districts.
- It will also make the planning, implementation and monitoring of the activities of self-help groups operating in rural areas more effective.
- This initiative will play a significant role in the economic empowerment, livelihood enhancement, and institutional strengthening of women-led self-help groups (SHGs).
- The formation of District Project Management Units (DPMUs) will strengthen the decision-making process at the local level and increase speed, coordination, and transparency in project implementation.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajivika

- The Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajivika was established in 2010 by the Government of Rajasthan as an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Rural Development Department.
- It is a society registered under the Rajasthan Societies Act - 1958.

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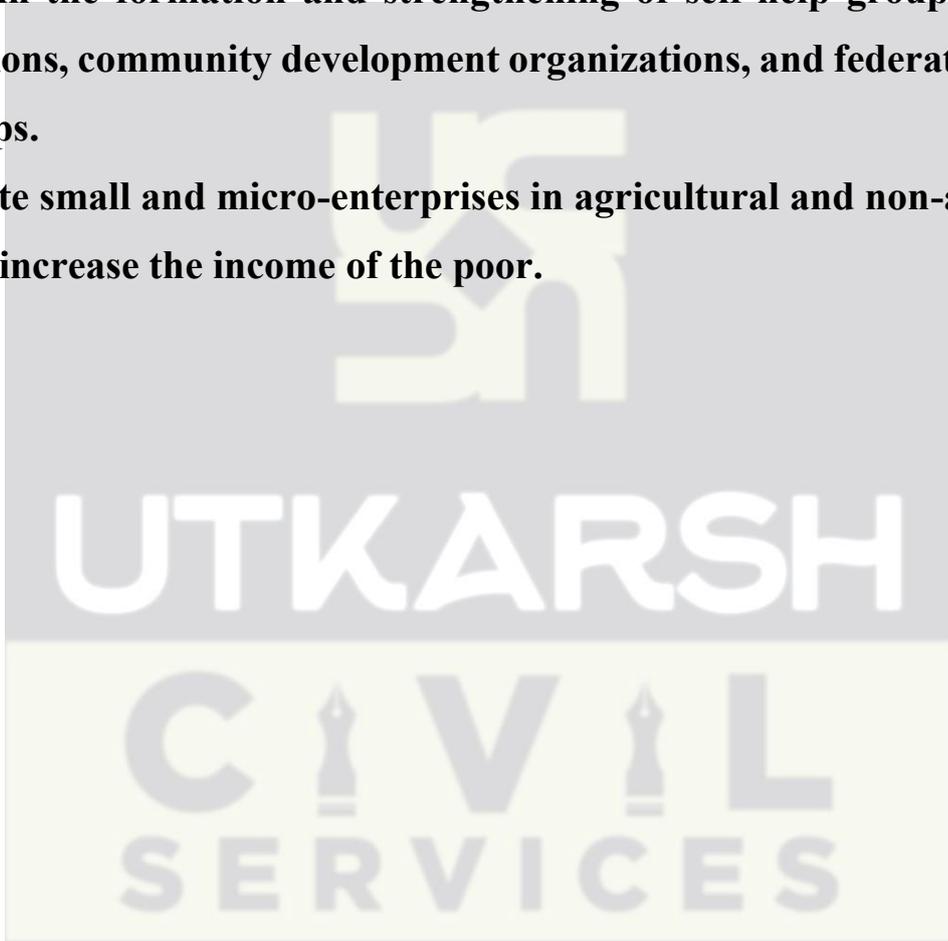
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- **Chairman:** Chief Minister.

Objectives:

- To bring about effective convergence between government and non-government initiatives being undertaken for rural development.
- To assist in the formation and strengthening of self-help groups, producer organizations, community development organizations, and federations of self-help groups.
- To promote small and micro-enterprises in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to increase the income of the poor.



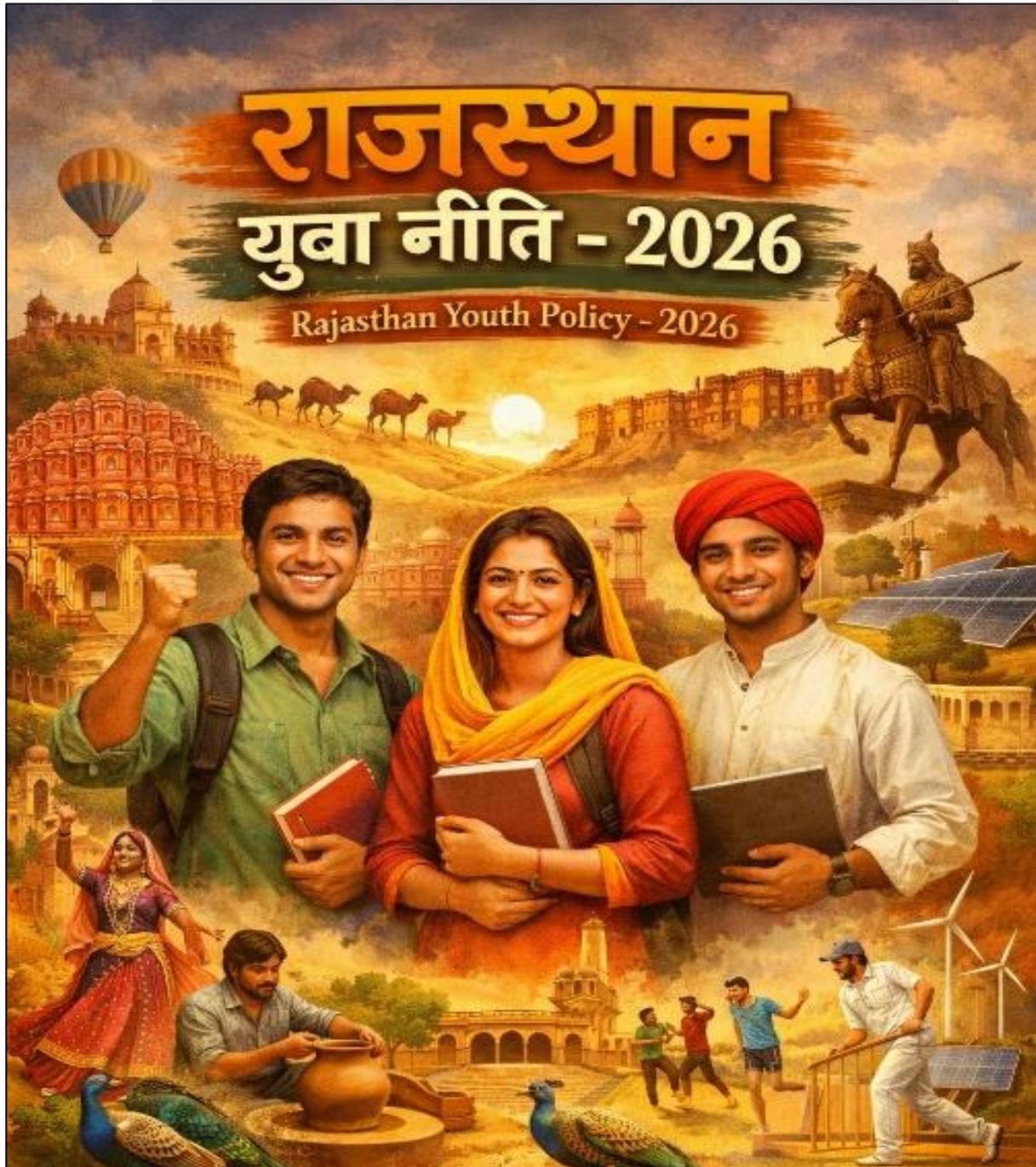
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Rajasthan Youth Policy – 2026



Why in News?

- The 'Rajasthan Youth Policy – 2026' was launched by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on January 12, 2026, during the closing ceremony of the State Level Youth Festival.



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Key Points:

- **Objective:** To expand opportunities for youth in emerging sectors through education and skill development.
- This policy places special emphasis on expanding youth-friendly health services and sports, preventing gender-based violence, promoting young artists, and highlighting the role of youth in sustainable development.

The policy is based on the following principles:

1. **Education and Skills** - The policy includes detailed provisions to increase youth access to quality education, provide them with career counseling and appropriate guidance. An inclusive education model will be implemented by promoting skill-based education to prepare youth for the future. New technologies like Artificial Intelligence will be incorporated into training courses to prepare them for the changing times.
2. **Employment and Entrepreneurship** - The policy places special emphasis on promoting employment and skills, as well as fostering entrepreneurship among the youth.
3. **Health and Well-being** - The policy focuses on the mental and physical health of young people. The policy ensures that young people stay away from substance abuse and adopt a healthy lifestyle. They will be kept mentally healthy through yoga and meditation practices and encouraged to participate in sports.
4. **Youth Leadership Development** - To make youth participants in the journey of a developed Rajasthan, the policy emphasizes making them responsible citizens. Through this, leadership and decision-making abilities will be developed in young people, and they will be made active participants in the democratic governance system.

5. **Social Justice and Gender Equality** - The policy ensures that every young person in the state gets equal opportunities to progress. This will provide an inclusive environment for every young person without social and gender discrimination.
6. **Art and Culture** - Through this policy, an effort has been made to ensure that young people connect fully with the cultural heritage, literature, and culture of Rajasthan. With this spirit, young artists and budding talents will be encouraged, and cultural festivals and local language literature will be promoted through this policy.
7. **Environmental Protection** - The policy focuses on promoting the role of youth in climate protection, preserving traditional practices, and emphasizing green technologies.
8. **Institutional Mechanism** - The new youth policy emphasizes developing a robust three-tiered institutional mechanism, including a high-level committee headed by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs. In addition, a state-level task force and a core committee will be constituted. This three-tiered system will help in the effective implementation of all the provisions of the youth policy for the holistic development of young people.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Medical and Health Department's 'Gratitude Tree Initiative'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The 'Gratitude Tree Initiative' was launched by the Rajasthan Medical and Health Department on the occasion of Republic Day - 2026.■ Objective: To promote a positive and emotional environment at the Health Building (Jaipur), reflecting our values and Indian culture.
2.	<p>'Apna Khata' Mobile App</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Revenue and Colonization Minister Hemant Meena unveiled the 'Apna Khata' mobile app.■ Through this app, citizens will be able to avail the revenue services of the 'Apna Khata' portal through their mobile phones.■ Services related to mutation, boundary demarcation, consent division, various types of copies, land records and map-related information, application status, reports of non-government restricted land, departmental circulars and Girdawari will be available on mobile phones through the app.
3.	<p>Mention of Ramsar village of the state in the 130th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, in the 130th episode of the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, the Prime Minister discussed the increasing importance of Shree Anna (millets) and mentioned the innovations of the farmers of Ramsar in Barmer.■ More than 900 farmers are associated with Ramsar Organic Farmer Producer Company. These farmers mainly cultivate millet and process it to prepare ready-to-eat laddoos.

4.

Nagaur Cattle Fair - 2026

- **Event:** From January 24 to 27, 2026.
- Every year, from Magh Shukla Pratipada to Magh Purnima, the Baba Ramdev Cattle Fair is held in Manasar (Nagaur) in memory of folk deity Ramdev Ji. It is also called the Nagaur Fair.
- It is organized by RTDC. Besides the buying and selling of animals, the red chili market is also famous here.

5.

Shekhawati Festival - 2026 (Sikar)

- **Event Dates:** January 24 and 25, 2026
- **Venue:** Urban Haat, Sikar.
- **Organizers:** Rajasthan Tourism Department and District Administration, Sikar.

6.

International Patient Safety Awards 2026: Dr. Salakh Khan

- Dr. Salakh Khan, a resident of Barmer, will be honored with the International Patient Safety Awards 2026.
- **Venue:** During the 13th International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC) held in Hyderabad (Telangana).

7.

Justice Panachand Jain Passes Away

- Retired Justice Panachand Jain of the Rajasthan High Court passed away on January 27, 2026, at the age of 99.

8.

National Voters' Day - State Level Ceremony

- **Venue:** The state-level ceremony of the 16th National Voters' Day (January 25) was held at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC), Jaipur.
- **Theme of National Voters' Day 2026:** My India, My Vote.
- **Note:** A painting workshop was organized at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, on the occasion of National Voters' Day 2026, under the joint auspices of the State Election Commission, Rajasthan and Rajasthan School of Art, Jaipur.



16th India-EU Summit, 2026



Why in News?

- The Indian Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, jointly announced the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (India-EU FTA) at the 16th India-EU Summit held during the visit of European leaders to India.



Key Points:

- **Event:** January 27, 2026, New Delhi
- **Outcome:** India-EU Free Trade Agreement
- The EU is India's 22nd Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partner.
- Since 2014, the government has signed trade deals with Mauritius, the UAE, the UK, EFTA, Oman, and Australia, and announced an agreement with New Zealand.
- In 2025, India signed trade agreements with Oman and the UK.

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Key features of the agreement:

Serial Number	Document	Area
1.	Towards 2030: India-European Union Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda.	A comprehensive document covering all aspects of the India-European Union strategic partnership.
2.	Joint declaration on the conclusion of negotiations for the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.	Trade, economy and finance
3.	Agreement between the RBI and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA).	
4.	Administrative arrangements for advanced electronic signatures and seals.	
5.	Security and defense partnership	Defense and security
6.	Negotiations begin for an India-EU information security agreement.	
7.	Cooperation framework on mobility	Skills development and mobility
8.	The establishment of a pilot legal gateway office by the European Union has been announced with the aim of promoting skills mobility in India.	
9.	Administrative arrangement between NDMA and the European Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations concerning cooperation in disaster risk management and emergency response.	Disaster management

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10.	Green Hydrogen Task Force has been formed.	clean energy
11.	Renewal of the India-European Union Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement for the period 2025-2030.	Science and Technology and Research and Innovation
12.	Initial talks have begun for India's entry into a cooperation agreement with the Horizon Europe program.	
13.	An agreement has been reached to jointly implement four projects under the India-European Union trilateral cooperation framework. These include: digital innovation and women and youth skills centers; solar-based solutions to empower women farmers in agriculture and food systems; early warning systems; and solar-based sustainable energy transition in Africa, the Indo-Pacific, and the small island developing states of the Caribbean region.	Connectivity

- **India-EU Trade:** Bilateral trade in goods is projected to reach ₹11.5 lakh crore in 2024-25 (₹6.4 lakh crore: exports and ₹5.1 lakh crore: imports).
- India and the European Union are the fourth and second largest economies, respectively, accounting for 25% of global GDP and one-third of global trade.
- Upon implementation of the agreement, tariffs on approximately \$33 billion worth of exports will be reduced by up to 10%.

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ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025

Why in News?

- The central government has notified the second round of legally binding emission reduction targets for carbon-intensive industries under the Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025.

Key Points:

- **Introduction:** The GEI Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025 are statutory rules notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, aiming to set mandatory sector-specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity reduction targets for industrial entities and to implement India's Carbon Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- **Effective Date:** October 9, 2025
- This has become India's first legally binding industrial emission intensity regulation.
- It is based on the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023.
- **Nodal Ministry:**

Rules Notification	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Issuance and Calculation of Carbon Credits	Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
Compliance Enforcement and Penalties	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- **Sectors included in the second phase:** Petroleum refineries, petrochemical units, textile sector (spinning, processing, composite units), and secondary aluminum.
- 25 industrial units, including public sector undertakings such as Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC, Numaligarh Refinery, and private sector undertakings such as Reliance Industries.
- **Note:** Sectors included in the first phase (October 2025): Aluminum, cement, chlor-alkali, pulp and paper units.
- Thus, a total of 8 highly carbon-intensive industries have now come under a mandatory emissions reduction regime.

Key Features:

1. **Base year:** The year 2023-24. Compliance targets have been set for the years 2025-26 and 2026-27.
 2. **Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity:** Targets expressed as tCO₂e per unit of production, covering all greenhouse gases based on global warming potential.
 3. **Carbon Market:** Entities covered under CCTS are brought under India's domestic carbon market.
 4. **Penalty for Non-Compliance:** Environmental compensation (twice the average carbon credit value of that compliance year).
- **Payment Period:** Payment is mandatory within 90 days.
5. **Emission Reduction Targets and Timeline:** These sectors are expected to achieve specific reduction targets ranging from 3 to 7% by the year 2026-27 compared to the 2023-24 baseline.

Importance of the Regulations:

1. **Support for India's Climate Commitments (Paris Agreement (2015)):** Countries are required to reduce their emission intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
2. **Binding Framework:** These rules set India's first legally binding emission reduction targets for carbon-intensive industries.

Other Important Points:

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023:

- **Launch:** By the Central Government on June 28, 2023, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- **Nodal Agency:** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been authorized as the authority issuing carbon credit certificates to industries.
- **Supervisory Body:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB): Monitoring compliance with the rules and determining monetary penalties for non-compliance.
- **Trading Mechanism:** If a carbon-emitting industry exceeds the legal emission limit, it must purchase credits from verified projects.
- These include renewable energy, energy efficiency, methane capture, carbon capture technologies, and afforestation or reforestation initiatives.
- **Sectoral Coverage:** Initially targeting sectors (iron, steel, and aluminum) accounting for 16% of India's total emissions.

Bactrian Camel

Why in News?

- Two Bactrian camels named Galwan and Nubra marched on Kartavya Path for the first time during the Republic Day Parade-2026.



Key Points:

Bactrian Camel – Additional Information:

- It is named after Bactria, an ancient region of Central Asia.
- It is an even-toed ungulate that lives in cold deserts.
- Habitat:** Originally from the arid and cold regions of Central Asia, such as the Gobi and Taklamakan deserts.
- There are approximately 300-400 Bactrian camels in India, found in the Nubra Valley of Ladakh.
- Physical Characteristics:** It has two humps on its back, which store fat.
- Climate Adaptation:** It grows thick fur on its body during the winter. It can tolerate temperatures ranging from -30°C to 40°C .
- Conservation Status:** According to the IUCN Red List, this species is critically endangered.

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Agarwood



Why in News?

- The Central Government laid the foundation stone for the Agarwood Value Chain Development Scheme in Tripura.



Key Points:

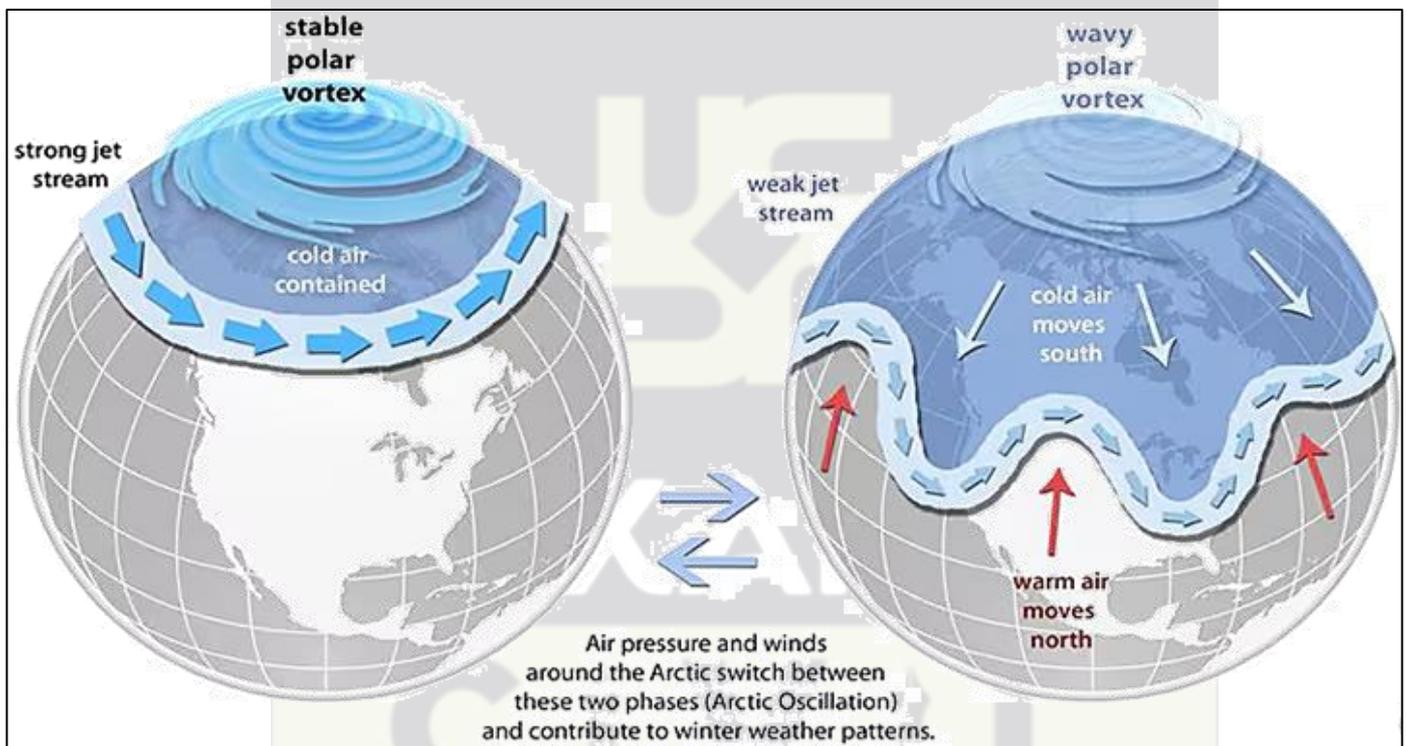
Agarwood Additional Information-

- Agarwood is a rare, fragrant wood. It is used to make high-value perfume oils, incense sticks, and traditional medicines.
- It is mainly found in the tropical high-rainfall regions of South and Southeast Asia, including Tripura and other parts of Northeast India.

Polar Vortex

Why in News?

- Extreme cold conditions are being observed in the United States due to the southward expansion of the polar vortex.



Key Points:

About the Polar Vortex

- **Definition:** The polar vortex is a large and persistent area of low pressure. It contains an extremely cold air mass. It is confined within the polar regions by the polar-front jet stream.
- **Polar-Front Jet Stream:** This is a band of fast-moving stratospheric winds that move eastward. This band separates warm tropical air from cold polar air in the mid-latitudes.
- **Direction of Rotation:** It rotates counterclockwise at the North Pole and clockwise at the South Pole.

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Factors Responsible for Formation:

- Temperature gradient (between cold polar and warm tropical regions)
- Earth's rotation (Coriolis force)
- Pressure gradient force
- Interaction of jet streams.
- **Stability:** When this vortex is strong and stable, it keeps the jet stream in a tight, circular path. This keeps the cold air trapped in the north and allows warm air to flow south.
- **Instability:** When it weakens, it becomes wavy. This leads to extreme cold conditions in the south.

Types of Polar Vortex

- **Tropospheric Polar Vortex:** This forms at an altitude of 10 km to 15 km, where most weather phenomena occur.
- **Stratospheric Polar Vortex:** This forms at an altitude of 15-50 km. It is strongest during the winter season.

Effects of the Polar Vortex

- **Cold Weather:** Due to the rapid warming of the Arctic, the temperature difference between the poles and the mid-latitudes is decreasing. This can make the vortex more unstable, potentially increasing the frequency of severe cold waves.
- **Ozone depletion:** The cold air trapped in the vortex intensifies ozone depletion, particularly over Antarctica. This leads to the formation of the ozone hole.
- **Impact on India:** There is no direct link between the polar vortex and Indian weather, but Arctic air masses are influencing various weather systems, including Western Disturbances.

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

Humanoid Robot: ASC Arjun

📣 Why in News?

- Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named 'ASC Arjun' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station.



📌 Key Points:

- Introduction:** This is an AI-powered humanoid robot deployed to assist the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in station surveillance, crowd management, and passenger assistance.
- Development:** Technical team, Indian Railways, Visakhapatnam (indigenously designed and manufactured).

Functions of the robot:

1. Security and Surveillance
2. Real-time Alerts
3. Emergency Response
4. Human Interaction

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ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Gulfood, 2026



Why in News?

- India made a strong and strategic presence as a Country Partner at Gulfood 2026, the world's largest annual food and beverage trade exhibition.



Key Points:

- Event Dates:** January 26-30, 2026.
- Venue:** Dubai World Trade Centre and Dubai Expo City (held at two locations for the first time).
- India's Role:** Country Partner.

Main Objectives:

- To showcase India's potential as the world's food basket and promote a sustainable and secure food supply chain.

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- **Participants:** Agricultural export startups under APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) (8 startups under APEDA's Bharat initiative), Farmer Producer Organizations, and representatives from 25 states.

Products showcased by India:

1. Basmati Rice
2. More than 10 Indian GI-tagged rice varieties.
3. Processed food products.
4. Millets, groundnuts, tea, spices, turmeric, organic products.
5. Fruits and vegetables.

- **Note:** The UAE is the largest market for APEDA's designated products and serves as the gateway to the Gulf region, which is the largest destination for India's agricultural exports.

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Fourth Industrial Revolution - IR 4.0 Centres

Why in News?

- The World Economic Forum announced the establishment of 5 new Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) centres globally.



Key Points:

- One of these centres will be established in Andhra Pradesh, India. This will be the third such centre in India, after Mumbai and Telangana.

What is IR 4.0?

- The term was coined in 2016 by Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum.
- IR 4.0 includes components such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, and quantum computing.
- Unlike previous revolutions, IR 4.0 is blurring the lines between physical, digital, and biological systems.

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Stages of the Industrial Revolution:

- **First:** Mechanization, water power, steam power.
- **Second:** Mass production, assembly line, electricity.
- **Third:** Computers and automation.
- **Fourth:** Cyber-physical systems.

The importance of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Economic growth	-	Increased productivity and improved supply chains
Potential for inclusive development	-	Through digital access
Environmental sustainability	-	Smart grids, circular economy, low-carbon emission systems, improved resource efficiency

Challenges and risks

Technological gap	-	The risk of increasing inequality between developed and developing countries.
Workforce disruption	-	Decreased demand for manual skills and increased demand for technical skills.
Cyber attacks	-	Espionage and vulnerability of technological infrastructure.
Environmental impact	-	Increased consumption of energy and scarce resources due to sensors, data centers, and connected devices.

🎓 POLITY 🎓

77th Republic Day, 2026

📣 Why in News?

- Republic Day is celebrated every year on January 26th as a symbol of the enforcement of the Indian Constitution.
- Republic Day, 2026 was celebrated around the theme of '150 Years of Vande Mataram'.
- **Chief Guests:** António Costa (President of the European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission).



📌 Key Points:

Republic Day: Historical Significance:

- **Purna Swaraj Resolution:** In December 1929, the Indian National Congress passed the Purna Swaraj (Complete Self-Rule) resolution at the Lahore session (presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru).
- **Purna Swaraj Day:** As per the decision of the Congress session, January 26, 1930, was designated as Purna Swaraj Day in India, and from 1930 to 1947, Purna Swaraj Day was celebrated as Independence Day.

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Constituent Assembly:

- **First Meeting:** December 1946, Constitution Hall.
- **Constitution Completed:** November 26, 1949 (Constitution adopted).
- **Constitution Enforced:** January 26, 1950 (in honor of the 1930 Purna Swaraj declaration).

77th Republic Day, 2026:

- **Tableaux:** 30 tableaux from states, union territories, and ministries were presented under sub-themes such as 'Mantra of Freedom - Vande Mataram' and 'Mantra of Prosperity - Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

State/Ministry/Department/Armed Forces	Tableau Themes:
Assam	Asharikandi Village and Terracotta Craft Tradition.
Gujarat	Dedicated to revolutionary Madam Bhikaji Cama.
Maharashtra	Ganeshotsav (Tilak).
Uttar Pradesh	Culture of Bundelkhand.
West Bengal	Vande Mataram (Bankim Chandra Chatterjee).
Punjab	Dedicated to Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib.
Kerala	Kochi Water Metro (India's first water metro).
All three armed forces (Military Department)	Operation Sindoor - Victory through Unity.
Ministry of Culture	Artistic Representation: 150 Years of Vande Mataram.
Ministry of Home Affairs	Reconstruction after the 2001 Bhuj earthquake.

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- **Padma Awards, 2026:** A total of 131 Padma Awards (5 Padma Vibhushan + 13 Padma Bhushan + 113 Padma Shri).
- **Military Awards:** 70 armed forces personnel awarded gallantry medals, including Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, and Army, Navy, and Air Force Medals.
- **PTM and TM Medals:** The President conferred the President's Coast Guard Medal (PTM) and Coast Guard Medal (TM) to Indian Coast Guard personnel.
- **Service Personnel:** 982 personnel awarded gallantry and service medals.
- **Jeevan Raksha Awards:** Awarded for commendable humanitarian acts of saving lives.
- **Note:** The newly formed Bhairav Battalion (Special Assault Infantry Unit) performed for the first time at this ceremony.
- **Note:** A military contingent from the European Union participated (first participation outside Europe).

Weapon Systems displayed at the Republic Day parade:

1. BrahMos and S-400
2. Integrated Operations Center.
3. Akash Missile System.
4. Battle Array Format (for the first time).
5. 61 Cavalry combat uniform.
6. T-90 Bhisma Tank and Apache Helicopter.
7. Arjun Tank and Prachand Light Combat Helicopter.
8. High Mobility Reconnaissance Vehicle.
9. Dhruv (Advanced Light Helicopter).
10. Nag Missile System and BMP-2 Infantry Combat Vehicle.
11. Ajayketu On-Terrain Vehicle, Randhwaj Rugged Terrain Tactical Transport System, and Dhwansk Light Strike Vehicle.
12. Robotic Dog, Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV), and Rafale, MiG-29, Sukhoi-30, Jaguar.
13. Shaktibaan and Divyastra.
14. Hypersonic Glide Missile (LR-ASHM).

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Other Important Points:

Vande Mataram:

- **Origin:** Composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, first published in Bangadarshan in 1875 and later included in Anandamath (1882).
- **National Status:** On January 24, 1950, India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, declared that "Jana Gana Mana" would be the national anthem and that "Vande Mataram" would also be given equal status as the national song for its significant role in the freedom movement.
- **Mention in the Constitution:** The Indian Constitution does not explicitly mention the national song, although Article 51A(a) urges citizens to respect the Constitution, the national flag, and the national anthem.

Role in the Freedom Movement:

- **Adopted by the Congress:** By Rabindranath Tagore at the Calcutta session of the Congress in 1896.
- **Adopted All-India:** Varanasi session (1905).
- **Mass Mobilization and Press:** Vande Mataram Sampradaya in North Kolkata (1905) and the launch of the English daily newspaper 'Bande Mataram' under the leadership of Bipin Chandra Pal in 1906.
- **Main Slogan of the Swadeshi and Anti-Partition Movement:** Vande Mataram was first used as a political slogan during a student protest at Calcutta Town Hall on August 7, 1905.

Vande Mataram Abroad:

- In 1907, Madam Bhikaji Cama unfurled the tricolor flag for the first time outside India in Stuttgart, Germany, with "Vande Mataram" written on it.
- Last words of Madan Lal Dhingra in August 1909 (England).
- In October 1912, Gopal Krishna Gokhale started a procession in Cape Town with the slogan Vande Mataram.

Governor's Discretionary Powers vs. the Rights of Elected Governments

Why in News?

- In recent years, some states have witnessed controversies surrounding the Governor's address to the state legislature at the commencement of the first session of the year.

Key Points:

- Recent walkouts by Governors during state assembly sessions in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have sparked a constitutional debate regarding the discretionary powers of Governors versus the rights of elected governments.
- These incidents test the limits of Article 176 (Governor's mandatory address) and Article 163 (Council of Ministers' aid and advice).

Relevant Constitutional Articles

- **Article 175:** This grants the Governor the right to address or send messages to the House (or Houses) at any time.
- **Article 176:** This mandates the Governor to deliver a special address. Unlike Article 175, this is mandatory, not voluntary.

This address is delivered:

- At the commencement of the first session after each general election and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

Concerns

- **Erosion of Constitutional Mandate:** A Governor's selective reading or walkout from the address under Article 176(1) violates the mandatory nature of the provision and undermines the constitutional scheme that envisages formal communication between the elected government and the legislature.
- **Threat to Parliamentary Sovereignty:** Extending discretionary powers to routine executive functions risks the Governor acting as a parallel authority, which the Supreme Court has repeatedly warned would hollow out parliamentary democracy.

Supreme Court on the Role of the Governor

- **In the case of Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab (1974)**, the Court established that the Governor is a ceremonial head who must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, not as an independent authority.
- The Court observed that it is an "unconstitutional impropriety" for an officeholder to publicly criticize the established policy of the Cabinet, which violates the parliamentary system.
- **In the case of Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker (2016)**, the court ruled that the Governor is a ceremonial head and, under Article 163, must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, whose discretion is limited only to specific constitutional provisions.
- **In the case of State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025)**, the court held that the Governor's discretionary powers cannot override or obstruct a responsible elected government.

The Way Forward

- **Strengthening Cooperative Federalism:** Institutional mechanisms such as regular consultations between Governors and state governments can mitigate conflicts.
- **Adherence to Constitutional Text and Conventions:** Governors should act strictly in accordance with the Constitution and well-established conventions.
- **Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission Recommendations:** Both commissions emphasized the need for Governors to act impartially and within constitutional limits.