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RAJASTHAN



Justice Sangeet Lodha Committee

Why in News?

- Recently, the 'Justice Sangeet Lodha Committee', constituted by the Supreme Court, visited the Jojari, Bandi, and Luni river system and assessed the pollution in the rivers.



Key Points:

- The purpose of this visit was to assess the severe industrial and sewage pollution, inspect the treatment plants (CETPs), collect water samples, and document the damage caused to villages like 'Doli Kalan and Devasiyon ka Bas'.
- It is noteworthy that the Supreme Court has constituted a High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee to address the deadly pollution in the Jojari, Bandi, and Luni rivers, considered the lifeline of Western Rajasthan. This committee is headed by retired Justice Sangeet Lodha.

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- The Supreme Court's decision on the pollution of the Jojari, Bandi, and Luni rivers in Western Rajasthan is a strong judicial intervention against administrative failure.

The Entire Case and Court's Observations

- **Source of Pollution:** This case concerns the deadly pollution caused by industrial waste (especially from steel and textile units) and sewage, which has poisoned the rivers of Jodhpur, Pali, and Balotra.
- **Administrative Failure:** The court found that two decades of administrative negligence have endangered the lives of approximately 2 million people, their livestock, and the environment.
- **Violation of Constitutional Rights:** Justice Sandeep Mehta considered this horrific pollution a violation of the people's constitutional right to life under Article 21.

High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee (HLEOC)

- The Supreme Court has constituted a High-Level Ecosystem Oversight Committee (HLEOC) to monitor the situation and ensure restoration.
- **Chairperson:** Justice (Retired) Sangeet Lodha.
- **Key Members:** Additional Chief Secretary (Environment Department), Member Secretary (CPCB and RSPCB), Managing Director (RIICO), and the District Collectors of Jodhpur, Pali, and Balotra.

Facts for Prelims:

Jojari River:

- **Origin:** From the hills of Pundlu village in Nagaur district.
- **Total length:** 150 km.
- It is the longest tributary of the Luni River.
- The Jojari River flows through Jodhpur and enters Balotra in the southwest, finally joining the Luni River near Siwana.
- It is the only right-bank tributary of the Luni River.
- **Other tributaries of the Luni River:** Jawai, Sukri, Guhiya, Bandi, Jojari, Mithri, and Khari River.

Indigenous Digital Address System 'Bharatpin'

Why in News?

- Deepak Sharda, a resident of Barmer, recently developed the indigenous digital address system 'Bharatpin'.



Key Points:

- 'Bharatpin' is a type of startup that can create a digital map of any area in India with 1-meter accuracy.
- This digital address system uses artificial intelligence (AI), providing 1-meter accuracy for areas within India and 100-meter accuracy for any area in the world.



Features:

- Bharatpin is a new digital addressing system with two parts - "UPIN and PPIN".
- UPIN + PPIN creates a precise digital address for any location. This address is a 7-character/digit code.
- **Note:** India's first indigenous digital address system is 'DIGIPIN' (Digital Postal Index Number), developed by India Post in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO. Unlike the traditional PIN code, it provides a precise 10-digit digital code for every location, improving accuracy in deliveries (e.g., e-commerce, money orders).

UTKARSH
CIVIL
SERVICES

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Kota Hadoti Travel Mart – 2026

Why in News?

- On January 2, 2026, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 'Kota Hadoti Travel Mart (KHTM)' at Shaurya Ghat on the Chambal Riverfront in Kota.



Key Points:

- **Event Dates:** January 2 to 4, 2026.
- **Organizers:** Rajasthan Tourism Department, Hotel Federation of Rajasthan (Kota Division)
- **Edition:** First.
- **Objective:** To showcase the art, culture, and historical sites of the Hadoti region globally.
- At the Kota Hadoti Travel Mart, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released the book 'Magical Hadoti' and unveiled a canter for jungle safaris.

Other Important Points:

- **Hadoti Region:** The Hadoti region of Rajasthan is a historical region located in the southeastern part of the state, comprising four major districts.
- These districts include Kota, Bundi, Baran, and Jhalawar. The region is named after the Hada Rajputs, a branch of the Chauhan dynasty.

Bhopal Noble Institute: Udaipur

Why in News?

- Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh participated in the 104th Foundation Day celebrations of the 'Bhopal Noble Institute', run by the Vidya Pracharini Sabha in Udaipur.



Key Points:

- The Bhopal Noble Institute was founded in 1923 by the then Prince of Mewar and the 75th Maharana of Mewar, Bhopal Singh, with the cooperation of Aman Singh and Raj Singh Bedla.
- The institute started as a primary school (Court of Wards School), which was upgraded to a high school in 1929, an intermediate college in 1954, a degree college in 1960, and a postgraduate college in 1978.

Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Chittorgarh

- Established – 1911 AD.
- Haribhai Kinkar established the Vidya Pracharini Sabha in Bijolia (present-day Bhilwara).
- In 1915 AD, Vijay Singh Pathik took over the responsibility of running this school in Bijolia.
- The Vidya Pracharini Sabha prepared a large army of farmer volunteers for the Bijolia peasant movement, which fought against the feudal and state power for a long time through non-violent Satyagraha.

Rajasthan Becomes a Model for Cybersecurity

Why in News?

- In 2025, Rajasthan ranked 5th in the country for freezing amounts defrauded by cyber fraudsters.



Key Points:

- The Rajasthan Police is conducting various operations and campaigns to prevent cyber fraud. These include Operation Mule Account and POS, Operation Cyber Shield, Operation Anti-Virus, and Operation Vajra Prahar.
- During these operations, the technical team blocked approximately 2.5 lakh suspicious mobile numbers and IMEIs. Additionally, mule accounts were identified and frozen.
- Currently, fully functional cyber police stations are present in all 41 revenue districts of Rajasthan. Along with this, a cyber helpdesk has been established in every local police station in the state.
- The helpline number for cybersecurity in Rajasthan is 1930.

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Other Important Points:

- **Rajasthan's First Cyber Support Center:** On May 24, 2025, 'Rajasthan's first Cyber Support Center' was launched at the Jaipur Police Commissionerate. This Cyber Support Center is being operated by 'Responsible Netizens and Cogta Foundation'.
- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 'Crime in India' report for 2022, 65,893 cases were registered under cybercrime in India in 2022, which shows a 24.4 percent increase compared to 52,974 cases in 2021.
- **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C):** The 'Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre' (I4C) has been established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with all types of cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner in the country.

Chief Minister's Kanyadan Scheme

Why in News?

- Through the 'Chief Minister's Kanyadan Scheme' operated by the Rajasthan Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, approximately ₹142.62 crore has been spent from 2023-24 to December 2025, benefiting 34,704 girls. (Source - DIPR)



Key Points:

About the Scheme:

- Objective** – To encourage the marriage of girls from economically weaker sections of society and prevent child marriage.
- Benefits Provided:** In two categories.
- First Category:** Girls aged 18 years or older from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and minority BPL families.

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Amount Provided –

Qualification	Amount
General	₹31,000
10th Pass	₹41,000
Graduate	₹51,000

Second Category:

Eligibility	Qualification	Amount
BPL, Antyodaya, Aastha card holder, economically weak widow, specially abled persons, Palanhar beneficiary and women sportsperson	General	₹21,000
	10th Pass	₹31,000
	Graduate	₹41,000

Eligibility Conditions:

- The girl must be at least 18 years old.
- A maximum of two girls from one family are eligible for the scheme.
- Benefits are only for eligible families in the state of Rajasthan.
- The marriage must be valid and registered.
- To avail of this scheme, it is necessary to apply within 1 year of the marriage date.



Rajasthan Youth and Sports Festival – 2026

Why in News?

- The state-level ceremony of the Rajasthan Youth and Sports Festival-2026 will be held in Jaipur from January 7 to 12, 2026.

Key Points:

- **Venue:** Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.
- Prizes of ₹50,000 for first place, ₹25,000 for second place, and ₹10,000 for third place will be awarded in the state-level competitions.
- In addition, a 'Youth Icon Award' of ₹1,00,000 will be given to participants who have excelled in various fields.
- The Youth Festival will also be organized in all districts and divisions.
- **Note:** Sports Goods and Toys Zone - Khushkhera Industrial Area, Bhiwadi.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Shiksha Shri Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajkumar Verma, a resident of Jaipur, was recently awarded the 'Shiksha Shri Award' for his research paper on "Colonel Sophia Qureshi's Contribution to the Indian Army."■ He received this award from the Vice-Chancellor B.L. Mehta Learning Institute, Maharaja Ganga Singh University, and the Social Science Research Council, New Delhi.
2.	<p>Deependra Singh Shekhawat (Ajmer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Deependra Singh Shekhawat, a resident of Ajmer, won a silver medal in the 80 kg+ weight category at the 31st Thang-Ta Junior National Championship held in Guwahati from December 22 to 25, 2025.■ Competition organized by: Arjun Bhogeshwar Barua Sports Complex, Guwahati.
3.	<p>National Women Folk Art and Craft Workshop: Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A 'National Women Folk Art and Craft Workshop' is being organized at the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, from January 2 to 8, 2026.■ Objective: To promote women's empowerment and folk arts.■ The workshop will include art exhibitions, craft workshops, and cultural programs.
4.	<p>Dr. Ruchi Sogarwal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dr. Ruchi Sogarwal, a resident of Jaipur, was recently honored with the 'Rajasthan Women's Glory Award for Leadership in Corporates' for her outstanding performance in the public health and corporate sectors.■ She received this award at the 'Women's Glory Award 2025' organized by 'HypeAge Media Group' in collaboration with the 'I Can Foundation'.



Rani Velu Nachiyar's Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

- Recently, the birth anniversary of Veeramangai Rani Velu Nachiyar, India's first female freedom fighter, was celebrated.

Key Points:

- She was a princess of the Ramnad kingdom in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.
- Nachiyar became the queen of the Sivaganga state (Tamil Nadu) after the death of her husband in 1780 and ruled until 1790.
- She is credited with creating the first human bomb and establishing the first army of trained women soldiers called the 'Udayal Nari Sena' in the late 1700s.



Piprahwa Relics

Why in News?

- On January 3, 2026, the Prime Minister inaugurated an international exhibition of Piprahwa relics related to Gautama Buddha in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- **Exhibition Title:** 'The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One'.
- This exhibition brings together for the first time the Piprahwa relics that were brought back to India after more than a century and are preserved at the National Museum, New Delhi, and the Indian Museum, Kolkata.
- The exhibition is thematically organized, with a reconstructed interpretive model inspired by the Sanchi Stupa at its center, showcasing the repatriated relics.
- The exhibition also includes an audio-visual component.

Other Important Points:

Piprahwa Buddhist Relics:

- **Location:** Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh (near Kapilavastu, the capital of the Shakya Republic).
- **Discovery:** By William Claxton Peppe in 1898.
- **Relics:** Over 1800 gems, five reliquaries (sacred relic boxes), bone relics, crystal caskets, other ritual offerings, and soapstone vessels.
- **NOTE:** One casket bears an inscription in Brahmi script that directly links the relics to Lord Buddha.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY



The Amazon Rainforest's Stingless Bee

Why in News?

- The municipality of Satipo in Peru has adopted a municipal ordinance declaring the rights of the stingless bee tribe, Meliponini.
- This ordinance grants legal rights to this bee to protect Peru's biocultural heritage.

Key Points:

- This is the first time that insect rights have received legal recognition globally.
- **Recognized Rights:**

1. The right to existence and flourishing.
2. The right to maintain a healthy population.
3. The right to regenerate natural cycles.
4. The right to a pollution-free environment.
5. The right to ecologically stable climatic conditions.
6. The right to legal representation in cases of harm or threat.

- **Note:** Human guardians, such as indigenous leaders or experts, can represent the stingless bees and file lawsuits against polluters on their behalf.

Other Important Points:

Stingless Bees; Meliponini:

- **Habitat:** Tropical and subtropical regions (Amazon rainforest).
- It is one of the oldest bee species found on Earth, responsible for pollinating more than 80% of the plant species in the Amazon.
- They are stingless, meaning they have only a small, vestigial stinger.
- **Cultural Significance:** Stingless bees are an integral part of the culture of the indigenous Ashaninka and Kukama-Kukamiria people.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025

Why in News?

- The Central Government has notified the Central Excise (Amendment) Act, 2025 and related tax changes on tobacco products.

Key Points:

- Effective:** February 1, 2026
- Objective:** To increase tobacco prices in line with public health and fiscal objectives.
- Amendment:** This Act amends the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- Revision of Excise Duty Rates:** The central excise duty on tobacco has been updated to maintain and increase the overall tax burden after the expiry of the GST compensation cess.
- NOTE:** A three-tiered structure is applicable to tobacco and tobacco products, including GST, GST compensation cess, and central excise duty.
- NOTE:** After the implementation of GST in 2017, central excise duty was abolished on most goods, but tobacco and tobacco products remained under its purview.

Impact and Implications:

- Aligned with health policy (in line with WHO recommendations)
- Revenue strengthening
- Protection of state governments' revenue (cooperative federalism)

Other Important Points:

- GST Compensation Cess:** An additional levy imposed on select goods to compensate for the revenue loss incurred due to the implementation of GST.
- Commencement:** July 2017
- Duration:** 5 years (until June 2022)
- Note:** Due to the revenue shortfall related to COVID-19, it was extended until March 31, 2026.

Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the first set of market access initiatives/guidelines under the Export Promotion Mission to enhance global market access for Indian exporters.

Key Points:

- A firm is eligible for a maximum of three National Business Management Projects and four National Business Models in a financial year.
- **Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance is provided to exporters and MSMEs for participating in trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, mega reverse buyer-seller meets, and business delegations.
- **Assistance Amount:** ₹5 crore for a buyer-seller meet/trade delegation and ₹10 crore for a mega reverse wire-seller meet.
- **Limits:**
 1. A maximum of two representatives per firm will receive financial assistance.
 2. The minimum delegation of participants should be 50.
 3. At least 35% should be small and medium enterprises.
- **Objective of Market Access Assistance:** To establish better connections with buyers and strengthen India's position in global markets through targeted and result-oriented market access measures.
- **Financing:** Government funding, 60% of the cost and 40% contribution by industry.

Other Key Points:

Export Promotion Mission:

- **Announcement:** Union Budget 2025-26
- **Cabinet Approval:** November 2025

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■ **Objectives:**

1. To improve access of Indian exporters to priority and emerging global markets.
2. To remove market entry barriers for MSMEs and first-time exporters.

■ **Implementation:** Jointly implemented by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSMEs, Ministry of Finance, and in coordination with Indian missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), commodity boards, and other industry associations.

■ **Implementing Agency:** Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGPT).

■ **Duration and Outlay:** ₹25,060 crore for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31.

■ **The mission is based on two pillars:**

1. **Export Promotion (Financial Assistance):** Focuses on reducing the cost of export financing through interest subvention and credit support.
2. **Export Direction (Non-Financial Assistance):** Focuses on market access, capacity building, and institutional support for exporters.

Status of India's Export Industry:

- **Export Growth:** \$778.21 billion in 2023-24 (67% increase compared to 2013-14)
- **Export Markets:** Ten countries account for 51 percent of total merchandise exports in 2023-24; the United States, UAE, Netherlands, China, Singapore, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Germany, and Italy.
- **Highest contribution:** Services sector (44%)

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi): BSNL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, BSNL launched Voice over Wi-Fi services across all telecom circles in the country.■ VoWiFi (Voice over Wi-Fi): This is a technology that allows users to make voice calls and send and receive SMS messages over a Wi-Fi network instead of a mobile tower.■ Benefits:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reliable calling without mobile signal.2. Improved call quality and security.
2.	<p>Loudi: Destroyer Ship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, China launched a new advanced missile destroyer ship, Loudi.■ According to a recent BBC report, the Chinese Navy is the world's largest navy.
3.	<p>Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, based on the recommendation of the Collegium, the President appointed Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.■ He is currently serving as a judge in the Bombay High Court.■ Other recommendations of the Collegium:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rameshchandra Dimri: Appointed as a judge in the Punjab High Court.2. Neerja Kulwant: Appointed as a judge in the Haryana High Court.



4.

State of Emergency in Ecuador

- Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a 60-day state of emergency in 9 provinces and 3 municipalities.
- **Reason:** Due to increasing criminal violence.
- **Objective of imposing the state of emergency:** To control and reduce violence and neutralize criminal elements.



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