

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 29 January, 2026



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## RAJASTHAN

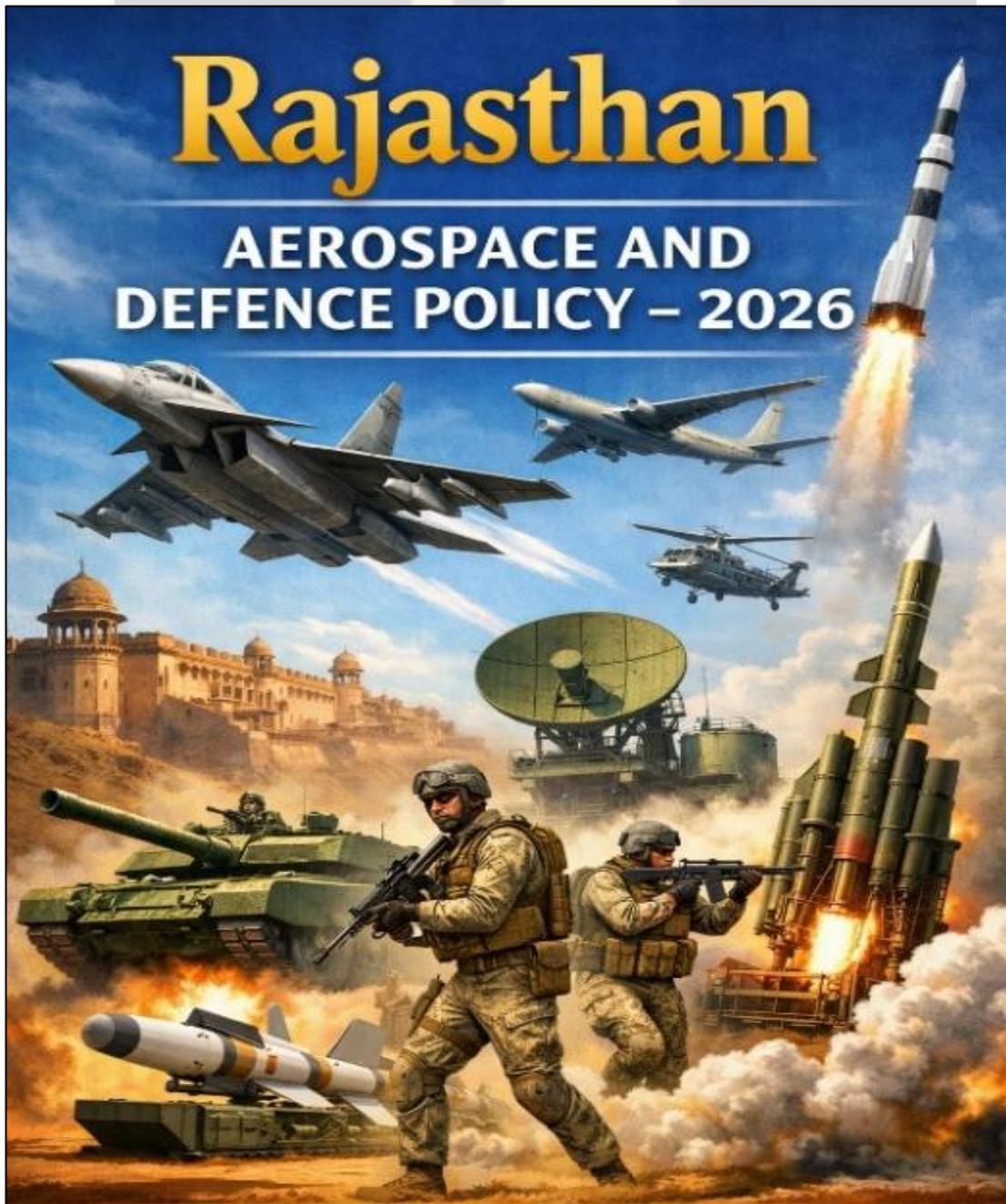


### Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026



#### Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Cabinet approved the 'Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026' on January 21, 2026.



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## Key Points:

- **Objective:** To promote defence and space technology in the state and make Rajasthan a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.
- This policy focuses on the development of MSMEs, startups, and an innovation-based ecosystem.
- Under this policy, aerospace and defence manufacturing units, equipment and component manufacturers, suppliers, and precision engineering units
- MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhauling) units will be promoted.
- This policy will help in promoting defence and space technology in the state and making Rajasthan a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.
- **Classification of projects based on investment:** This policy issued by the Government of Rajasthan classifies projects based on investment.

## Manufacturing Sector:

- ₹50–300 crore – Large.
- ₹300–1000 crore – Mega.
- More than ₹1000 crore - Ultra Mega.

## Service Sector:

- ₹25–100 crore – Large.
- ₹100–250 crore – Mega.
- More than ₹250 crore - Ultra Mega.

## Key Incentives:

- **Asset Creation Incentive:** Under the policy, eligible aerospace and defence manufacturing and service enterprises setting up in Aero and Defence Parks (A&D) will be given an investment grant in the form of 75 percent reimbursement of state taxes for 7 years as an asset creation incentive.

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- Manufacturing enterprises will be given the option to choose between a capital grant of 20 to 28 percent distributed over 10 years, or a turnover-linked incentive of 1.2 to 2 percent payable in annual installments for up to 10 years.
- In addition, these incentives will be topped up with benefits such as a 10 to 15 percent Employment Booster, a 25 percent Sunrise Booster for the first three mega or ultra-mega units, a 10 percent Anchor Booster, and a 20 percent Thrust Booster.
- Mega and ultra-mega manufacturing enterprises acquiring land from RIICO will also be eligible for flexible land payment options for 10 years and a 25 percent lease rental subsidy for office space for 5 years.
- The policy also includes provisions for special incentives, including exemptions in banking, wheeling, and transmission charges, a flexible land payment model, office-space lease rental subsidy, and the inclusion of 51 percent of the investment made in captive power plants as eligible permanent capital investment.

## **Facts for Prelims:**

- **Dunes Aviation Academy:** Inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma in Hamirgarh (Bhilwara).
- The Rajasthan government has launched the 'Rajasthan Civil Aviation Policy-2024' for the rapid development of the aviation sector.
- The objective of this policy is to provide new employment opportunities to the youth of the state and to make Rajasthan an aviation hub of the country.

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## Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund Launches 'India Growth Fund IV'

### Why in News?

- Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund has launched its fourth fund, 'India Growth Fund IV', with a corpus of ₹150 crore and a green shoe option of ₹100 crore.

### Key Points:

- **Objective:** This fund is designed to invest in pre-Series A and Series A technology startups with scalable business models, strong job creation potential, and significant economic impact.
- **Sectors:** Primary investment sectors include technology, healthcare, agritech, clean technology, and digital transformation.
- This fund aligns with the Rajasthan government's innovation-based growth strategy and the long-term goal of building a self-reliant startup ecosystem.
- With over 23 years of operational experience, Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund has made 44 investments to date, primarily focusing on supporting first-generation entrepreneurs and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

### Venture Capital Fund:

- A Venture Capital Fund (VCF) is a collective investment vehicle that primarily invests capital in new startups and early-stage small companies with high growth potential.
- This fund raises money from wealthy individuals, institutional investors, and pension funds, and finances high-risk companies in exchange for equity (ownership stake), aiming to earn significant returns through an IPO or acquisition.
- Under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, Venture Capital Funds are classified as Category I Alternative Investment Funds.

## Junior National Judo Championship 2025-26 (Rajasthan Men's Team Winner)

### Why in News?

- The Rajasthan men's team emerged as the overall champion at the Junior National Judo Championship 2025-26, held in Kolkata from January 23 to 26, 2026, winning 2 gold and 3 bronze medals.



### Key Points:

#### Rajasthan's Medal Winners:

- Sajan (90 kg – Gold Medal)
- Yash Yadav (100 kg – Gold Medal)
- Atesh Chaturvedi (73 kg – Bronze Medal)
- Babnur Singh (100 kg – Bronze Medal)
- Babaldeep Singh (100+ kg – Bronze Medal).
- **Venue:** Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium, Kolkata, from January 23 to 26, 2026.
- **Organizers:** Judo Federation of India and West Bengal Judo Association.

## Khelo India Tribal Games – 2026 (Selection Trials in Dungarpur and Udaipur)

### Why in News?

- Recently, selection trials for the Khelo India Tribal Games – 2026 were held in Dungarpur and Udaipur.



### Key Points:

- Selection trials for Archery (Boys and Girls) and Athletics (Boys and Girls) were held at the Sports Complex, Dungarpur.
- Selection trials for Football (Boys and Girls), Hockey (Boys and Girls), Swimming (Boys and Girls), and Wrestling (Boys and Girls) were held at the Maharana Pratap Sports Village, Udaipur.
- Selection trials for Weightlifting (Boys and Girls) were held at the Lav-Kush Indoor Stadium, Udaipur.

### Other Important Points:

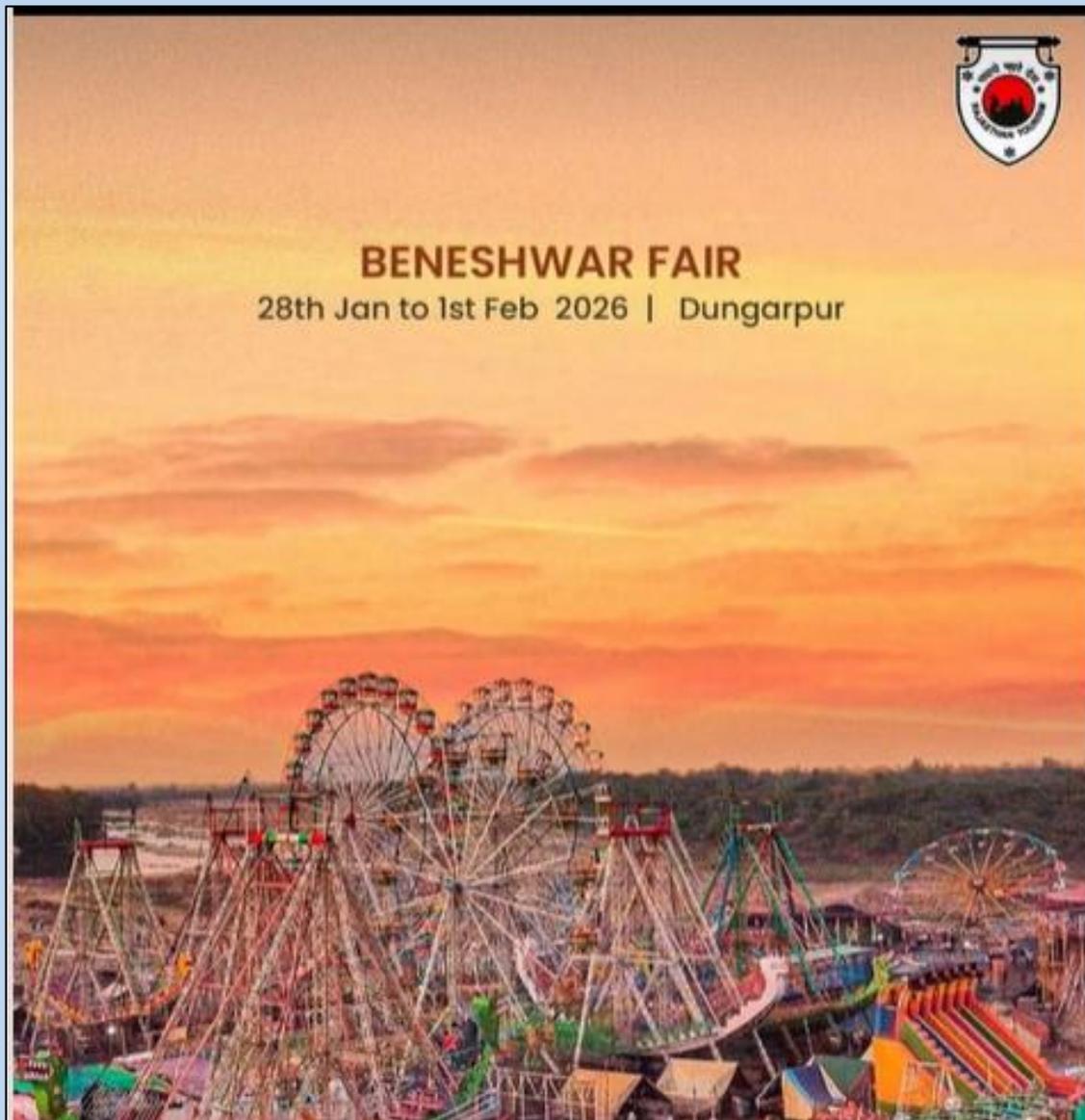
- The first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) will be held from February 14, 2026.
- Host State:** Chhattisgarh.
- The official mascot of these games is 'Morveer', which symbolizes the cultural identity and courage of Chhattisgarh.
- A total of 7 sports have been included in the first edition of KITG, which are as follows:
- Archery, Athletics, Football, Hockey, Wrestling, and Swimming.

## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>India StoneMart Mobile App</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma formally launched the India StoneMart mobile app in Jaipur.</li><li>13th edition of India StoneMart: February 5-8, 2026, in Jaipur.</li><li><b>Theme:</b> Stone for Sustainability.</li><li><b>Venue:</b> Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC), Sitapura.</li><li><b>Organizer:</b> Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS).</li><li><b>Sponsor:</b> Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO)</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Rajasthan and North India's First Phosphate Fertilizer Plant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>North India and Rajasthan's first Phosphate Fertiliser Plant is being established in Chittorgarh.</li><li>This fertilizer plant is being constructed by Hindustan Zinc (Vedanta Group) and will primarily produce fertilizers such as DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate), NPK (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium), and Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate.</li><li>This plant, with an annual capacity of 1 million tonnes, will provide local farmers with better crop yields and reduce import dependence.</li></ul>

3.

## Beneshwar Fair – Dungarpur



- **Event:** January 28 to February 1, 2026.
- **Organizer:** Rajasthan Tourism Department.
- The Beneshwar Fair is organized annually on Magh Purnima at the confluence of the Som-Mahi-Jakham rivers in Dungarpur. It is also known as the Kumbh of the Bhils/Tribals/Wagad or the Prayagraj of Wagad.
- The Shiva Lingam located here is the only Shiva Lingam in the world that is broken on five sides.

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## 1st All India Fire Service Sports Meet: Udaipur

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**FIRST TIME IN INDIA**

ALL INDIA FIRE SERVICE SPORTS CONTROL BOARD  
ORGANISING AN EVENT UNDER THE AEGIS OF  
**DG (FS, CD & HG), MHA**

FROM 27/JAN/2026 TO 31/JAN/2026  
AT MAHARANA PRATAP KHEL GAON  
UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

**AIFSSCB.COM** AIFSSCB@ZOHOMAIL.IN

- **Event:** The 1st All India Fire Service Sports Meet is being organized at Khelgaon (Sports Village) in Udaipur.
- **Duration:** January 27 to 31, 2026.
- **Organizer:** All India Fire Service Sports Control Board (AIFSSCB).
- **Participants:** More than 2,000 firefighters, including teams from the Airport Authority of India (AAI), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and various state fire services.

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5.

## **Rajasthan's Tableau Ranks Third in Online Survey**

- In an online survey conducted on the MyGov portal, where citizens voted for their favorite tableau and marching contingent, Rajasthan's tableau secured the third position.
- The first and second positions were secured by the tableaux of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.
- **Theme of Rajasthan's Tableau:** The Golden Touch of the Desert: The Golden Art of Bikaner (Usta Art).

6.

## **Narendra Kumar Sharda Receives Lifetime Meritorious Service Award – 2025**

- Narendra Kumar Sharda, Private Secretary at the Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur, was honored with the ICFRE Lifetime Meritorious Service Award – 2025 at ICFRE (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education), Dehradun, on Republic Day.

7.

## **Dilip Singh Shekhawat**

- Dilip Singh Shekhawat from Rajasthan represented the All India Football Federation (AIFF) at the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Congress 2026 held in Bangkok.



### 4B Movement



#### Why in News?

- The radical feminist movement '4B Movement', which originated in South Korea, has been in the news due to its stance against patriarchy, gender-based violence, and for advocating women's autonomy.



#### Key Points:

- **Introduction:** The 4B Movement is a feminist resistance framework where women refuse to participate in four major institutions associated with patriarchy:
  1. No marriage
  2. No dating
  3. No childbirth
  4. No sexual relations

#### History of the Movement:

- **Origin:** South Korea, 2010.
- Rooted in long-standing gender inequality, online misogyny, and institutional indifference.

#### Features:

1. Challenges the patriarchal system.
2. Rejects unpaid care work, emotional labor, and reproductive expectations imposed on women.
3. Strongly supports women's bodily autonomy, consent, and self-determination.

## Euratom

### Why in News?

- India and the European Union have agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the India-Euratom Agreement.



### Key Points:

#### Euratom - Additional Information:

- Established:** 1957, under the Treaty of Rome.
- Euratom is an abbreviation for the European Atomic Energy Community.
- Objective:** To promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It works to prevent the use of civilian nuclear materials for military purposes.
- India and the European Union signed a research and development agreement with Euratom on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in July 2020.

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

#### Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026.

#### Key Points:

- **Basis:** These rules have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Replacement:** They will replace the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- **Effective:** From April 1, 2026.

#### Main Provisions:

1. **Integrated:** The revised rules integrate the principles of circular economy and extended producer responsibility, with a special focus on efficient segregation and management of waste.
2. **Environmental Compensation:** The rules provide for levying environmental compensation based on the 'polluter pays principle' for violations such as operating without registration, misreporting, submitting forged documents, or other improper practices related to solid waste management.
3. **Implementation:** The Central Pollution Control Board will prepare the relevant guidelines, while the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees will levy the environmental compensation.
4. **Waste Segregation:** The rules mandate a four-tier segregation of solid waste at the source.

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Waste	Management
Wet Waste (fruits & vegetables)	Organic composting and biomethanation.
Dry Waste (paper, glass, rubber, etc.)	Segregation and recycling.
Sanitary Waste (diapers, sanitary waste, etc.)	Safe separate collection.
Special Care Waste (bulbs, thermometers, medicines, etc.)	Collection and deposit at designated collection centers.

- 5. Clear definition of bulk waste generators:** These are institutions with an area of 20,000 square meters or more, water consumption of 40,000 liters or more, and solid waste generation of 100 kg or more per day.
- 6. Expedited land allocation for waste processing and monitoring of complete solid waste management through a centralized online portal.**

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## Paris Climate Agreement

### Why in News?

- The United States has officially withdrawn from the Paris Climate Change Agreement for the second time.

### Key Points:

#### Paris Agreement:

- **Background:** It was adopted at the UNFCCC-COP21 held in Paris in 2015. It came into force in 2016.
- **Nature:** It is a legally binding international treaty.
- **Parties:** 195 (194 countries + European Union). India is a party to it.
- **Main Objective:** To keep global warming below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- To continue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

## 🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

### Pancham Chatbot

#### 📣 Why in News?

- Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched "Pancham," a chatbot to assist Panchayats and facilitate communication.



#### 📌 Key Points:

- Introduction:** This tool is designed as a digital assistant for Panchayats, ensuring timely and relevant guidance, simplified workflows, and accessibility to day-to-day governance and service delivery tasks for the general public.

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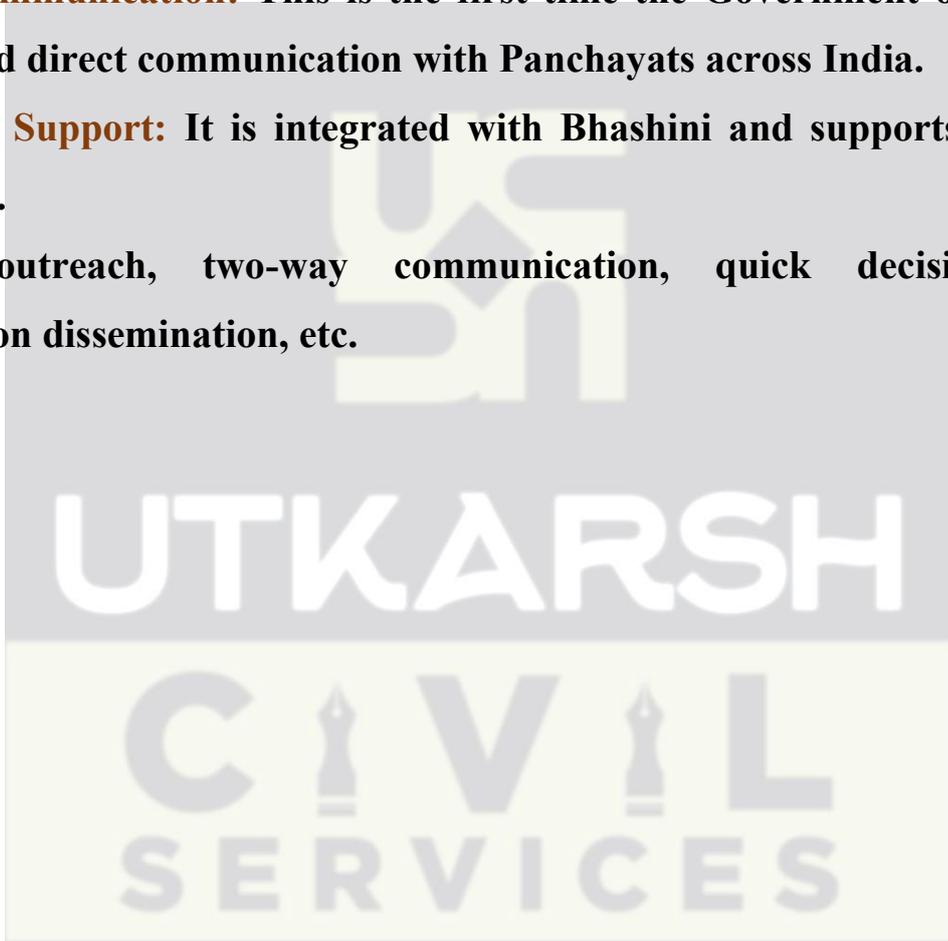
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- **Collaboration:** It has been developed in collaboration with UNICEF.
- **Objective:** Launched as a digital initiative to empower elected representatives and officials of Panchayats.

## Features:

1. **Direct Communication:** This is the first time the Government of India has established direct communication with Panchayats across India.
2. **Language Support:** It is integrated with Bhashini and supports 22 Indian languages.
3. Citizen outreach, two-way communication, quick decision-making, information dissemination, etc.

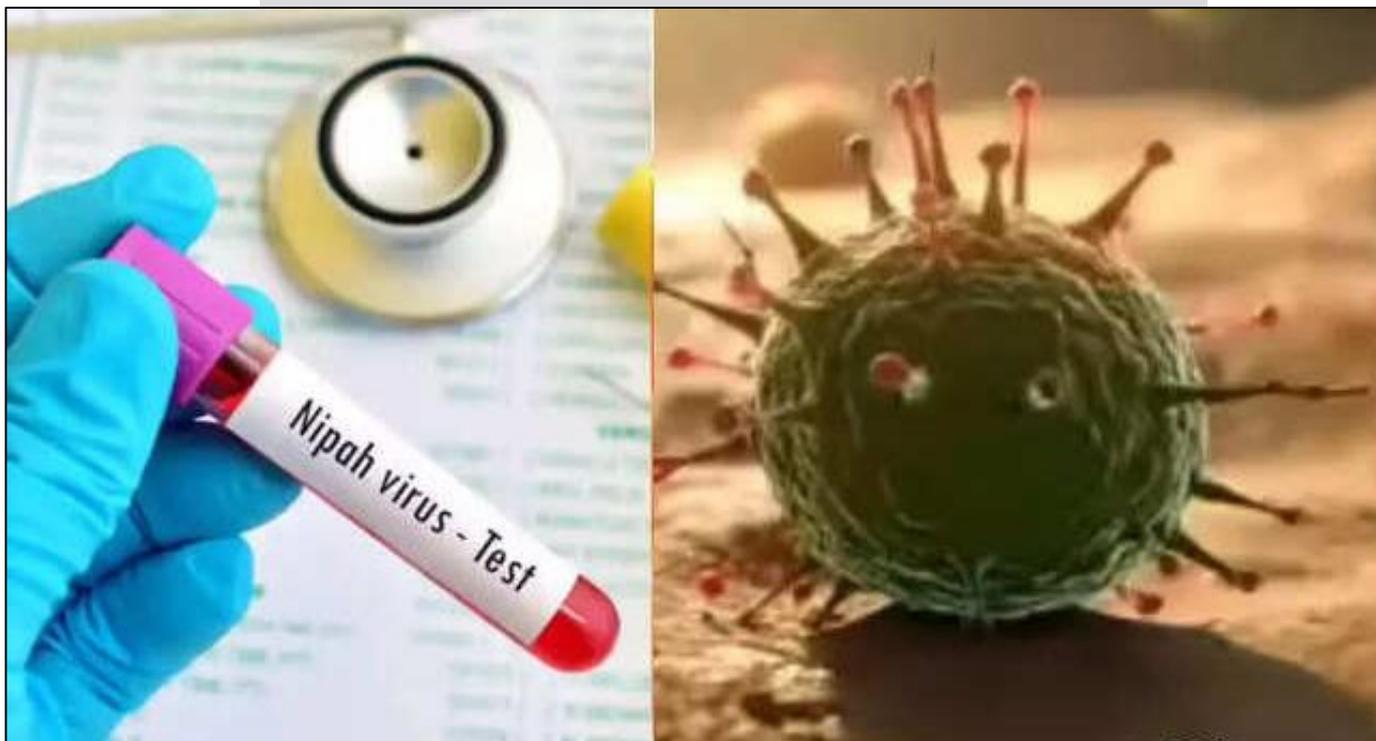


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## Nipah Virus

### Why in News?

- According to the National Centre for Disease Control, only two cases of Nipah virus infection have been confirmed in West Bengal in the last two months.



### Key Points:

#### Nipah - Additional Information:

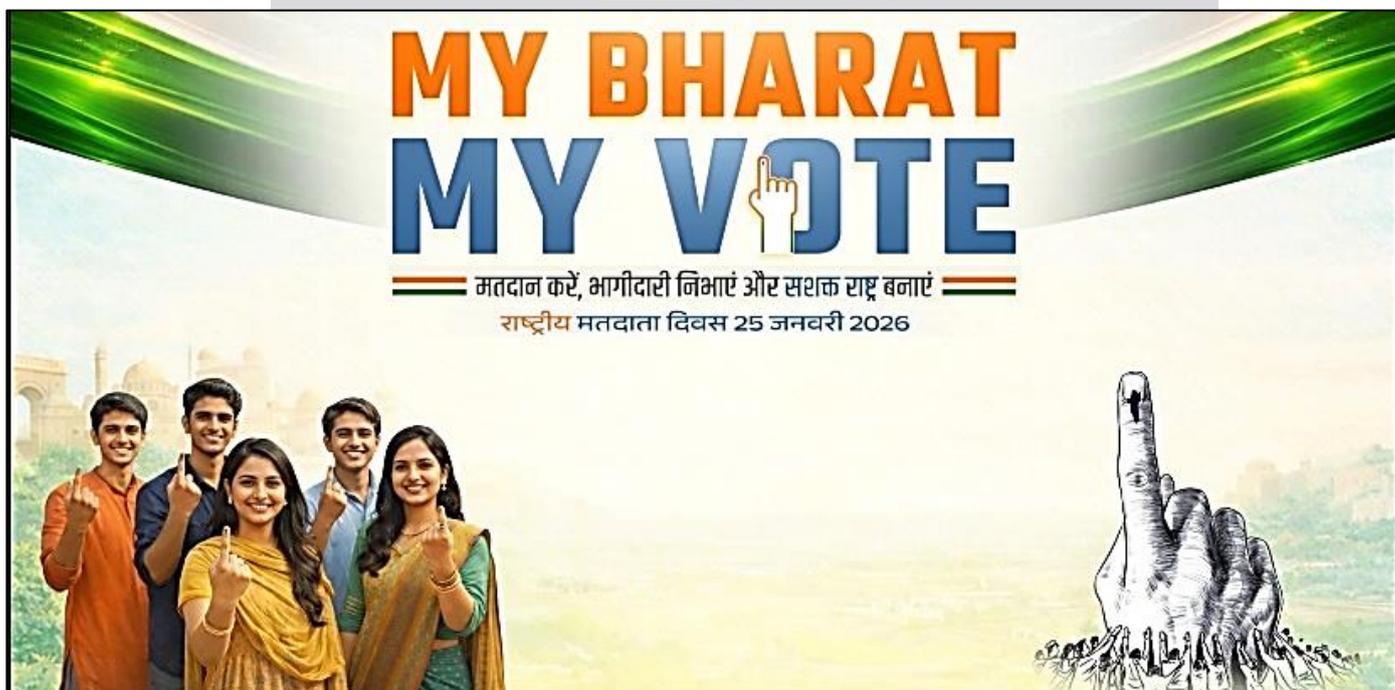
- **Nature:** Zoonotic virus (transmitted from animals to humans)
- **Natural source of infection:** Fruit bats, also known as flying foxes.
- **Human-to-human transmission:** Through close contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person.
- **First identified:** In 1999 in Malaysia and Singapore (bat-pig-human transmission)
- **Incubation period:** 4-14 days.

## 🎓 POLITY 🎓

### National Voters' Day, 2026

#### 📣 Why in News?

- National Voters' Day is celebrated every year on January 25th to commemorate the establishment of the Election Commission of India (January 25, 1950).
- Theme of National Voters' Day, 2026: "My India, My Vote".
- Tagline of National Voters' Day, 2026: "Citizen at the heart of Indian democracy".



#### 📌 Key Points:

##### Best Election District Award in 2026:

- **Presented by:** The President of India
- **Recipient States:** Bihar, Kerala, Odisha, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Delhi.

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- **Contribution:** For excellence in the use of technology in elections, election management, voter awareness, enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and training.
- **Publications:** On the occasion of National Voters' Day, 2026, publications titled "2025: A Year of Initiatives and Innovations" and "Festival of Elections, Pride of Bihar" were released.

## Central Election Commission:

- **Establishment:** January 25, 1950
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Part-15, Articles 324 to 329.
- **Structure:** 1 Chief Election Commissioner + 2 Election Commissioners.
- **Tenure:** 6 years or 65 years (whichever is earlier).
- **Appointed by:** President
- **Removal:** By the President (Grounds: proven misbehavior and incapacity)

## Electoral Reforms:

1. **Photo Identity Cards for Voters (Year 1993):** The Voter Photo Identity Card (EPIC) scheme was introduced to prevent fraudulent voting and impersonation.
  - In 2004, this initiative was further developed to include Photo Electoral Rolls (PER).
  - E-EPIC was launched in 2021.
2. **Electronic Voting Machine (EVM: Year 1998):** First used experimentally in the Kerala elections in 1982.
  - EVMs were formally used on a large scale in 1998 in the state assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

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3. **Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP; Year 2009):** This is the ECI's flagship program for voter education, aiming to bridge the participation gap by addressing urban apathy and youth disinterest.
4. **National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP):** Launched in 2015 with the objective of linking EPIC data with Aadhaar.
5. **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT; Year 2013):** VVPAT was introduced in 2013 following a Supreme Court directive (Subramanian Swamy vs. ECI) to add an extra layer of verification to EVMs.
6. **Accessible voting for persons with disabilities:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) declared 2018 as the "Year of Accessible Elections".
7. **Others:** ERO-NET (2018), CVIGIL APP (2018), Special Intensive Revision (SIR; 2025) and ECINET (2026).

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## University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equality in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations-2026

### Why in News?

- The Central Government has assured that the new guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC) will not be misused.

### Key Points:

- These regulations are in line with the National Education Policy-2025. They apply to all universities, colleges, and deemed universities in India.

### Major Provisions:

- **Duties of Higher Educational Institutions:** Every higher educational institution must prevent and eliminate discrimination. They will be responsible for promoting equality among all stakeholders and for the strict implementation of the regulations.
- **Equal Opportunity Centre:** An EOC will be established to provide assistance, guidance, and counseling to disadvantaged groups and to conduct inclusive programs.
- **Equality Squads and Equality Ambassadors:** Institutions will have to form equality squads for vigilance on campus. Equality ambassadors will be appointed to promote equality and report violations.
- **Equality Committee:** An Equality Committee, with representation from SC/ST/OBC/Women/Persons with Disabilities, will investigate complaints and submit its report within 15 working days.
- **Grievance Redressal and Appeal:** A person dissatisfied with the Equality Committee's report may appeal to the Ombudsman within 30 days of receiving the report.
- The Ombudsman will endeavor to dispose of the appeal within 30 days.
- **Monitoring Mechanism:** A national monitoring mechanism will be established, and an annual report on the functioning of the Equal Opportunity Centre will be mandatory.
- **Penalties:** Institutions that fail to comply with the regulations may be deprived of UGC schemes and removed from the list of recognized institutions.

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## HISTORY



### Buddhist Diamond Triangle



#### Why in News?

- The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has officially included the Buddhist Diamond Triangle of Odisha (Lalitgiri - Udaygiri - Ratnagiri) in its tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

## Diamond Triangle



Ratnagiri



Udaygiri



Lalitgiri



#### Key Points:

- **Introduction:** This is a serial cultural nomination of three interconnected monastic complexes located in the Jajpur and Cuttack districts of Odisha.
- The site is unique as it represents a continuous history of 1500 years and showcases the transformation of Buddhism through its three major schools:
  1. Theravada/Hinayana
  2. Mahayana
  3. Vajrayana/Esoteric Buddhism

- **Period:** 5th to 13th century CE (Bhaumakara dynasty; peaked in the 8th to 10th centuries CE).
- The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) visited Odisha in 639 CE and described the flourishing state of Buddhism.
- **Remains:** A large number of sculptures, statues, fragments of antiquities, stone slabs, pottery, coins, terracotta plaques, and several massive stupas constitute the ruins of a complex called Pushpagiri University, described by Xuanzang, which held a status similar to Nalanda and Vikramshila Universities.

## 1. Lalitgiri (Red Hill):

- **Introduction:** One of the oldest and most sacred Buddhist sites in Odisha (Cuttack).
- **Period:** This triangular area shows a continuity of culture from the post-Mauryan period to the 13th century CE.
- **Remains:** A massive stupa containing reliquary caskets made of gold, silver, and stone (relics of Lord Buddha), a large semi-circular chaitya hall, and sculptures of various Hindu deities.
- **Affiliation:** Mahayana (Buddha figures in various postures), Mahayana and Vajrayana schools.

## 2. Udayagiri (Hill of Precious Gems):

- **Alternate Name:** Madhavapura Mahavihara.
- **Period:** Represents the 7th to 12th centuries CE.
- **Remains:** Two-storied monastic complex (8th century CE), ancient sculptures of Manjushri, Avalokiteshvara, Jatamukuta Lokeshvara, and terracotta seals.

### 3. Ratnagiri (Hill of the Rising Sun):

- **Affiliation:** Center of Vajrayana Buddhism.
- **Remains:** A stupa monastery, monastic complex, temples, votive stupas, and various sculptures including Tara, Vajrapani, and Jambhala.
- **Female Patronage:** Received support from female devotees, particularly Queen Karpurakshi.
- **Architecture:** Its stupas blend Buddhist motifs with Brahmanical architectural styles.
- Sculptures found here bear similarities to Buddha images found in Borobudur (Indonesia) and Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka).

UTKARSH

CIVIL  
SERVICES

## Telugu Inscription

### Why in News?

- A Telugu inscription dating back to the early 8th century CE has been discovered in Pittikayagulla, Andhra Pradesh.



### Key Points:

#### Information from the inscription:

- **Early development of the Telugu language:** It demonstrates the development of Telugu as an independent administrative and literary language, free from Prakrit influence.
  - **Language and script:** The inscription is engraved in the Telugu language and script.
  - The inscription includes the text "Swastishri Nandelu Bari, Chensina Bandhu Prani, Milli Achari" and "Padasina Nava Katta".
- This work is attributed to a sculptor named Pranimilli Achari.
  - This work belongs to the Renadu region under the royal administration.

## Other Important Points:

- **Telugu language:** One of the important languages of the Dravidian language family.
- The Proto-Dravidian language split into two languages approximately 5000 years ago.
- The Telugu language emerged as an independent language in the 10th century BCE.
- **Oldest Telugu inscriptions:** The oldest inscriptions related to the Renati Cholas, dating back to 575 CE, have been found in Kalamalla and Erragudipadu in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Telugu language is included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and was granted the status of a classical language in 2008.

## Sangam-era Five Great Epics:

Epic	Author	Description
Silappadikaram (Epithet: Iliad of Tamil Literature)	Ilango Adigal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Describes the story of Kovalan and Kannagi.</li><li>■ Provides information about contemporary Tamil society, politics, and social life.</li></ul>
Manimekalai (Epithet: Odyssey of Tamil Literature)	Sītalai Sattanar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Sequel of Silappadikaram; Manimekalai is the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi (a Buddhist nun).</li></ul>
Jivaka Chintamani	Tiruttakkadeva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Related to Jivaka (Jainism).</li><li>■ Also called the divine book and Manannul (Book of Marriages).</li></ul>
Valayapathi	Tamil Jain Monk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Supports the ideologies found in early Jainism.</li></ul>
Kundalakesi	Nathakuthanar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Related to Buddhism.</li></ul>