

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 22 January, 2026



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### Rajasthan Cabinet Meeting (January 21, 2026)



#### Why in News?

- A state cabinet meeting was held on January 21, 2026, chaired by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.



#### Key Points:

- Several important decisions were taken in this meeting, including bringing a bill to protect the properties of permanent residents and the rights of tenants in areas declared as disturbed areas, and the approval of new policies in the aerospace and defense manufacturing and semiconductor sectors.

#### **The Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026:**

- After a particular area is declared a disturbed area due to riots or mob violence, the transfer of immovable property without the prior permission of the competent authority will be considered invalid and void.
- According to the bill, the transfer of immovable property can only be done by interested persons with the prior permission of the competent authority.
- Violation of these provisions of the bill will be a non-bailable and cognizable offense, and there is a provision for imprisonment of 3 to 5 years and a fine.
- After the passage of the bill, the properties of permanent residents and the rights of tenants on those properties in areas declared as disturbed areas in the state will be protected.

## Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy (Approval)

- **Objective:** To promote defense and space technology in the state and to make Rajasthan a significant hub for aerospace and defense manufacturing.
- This policy focuses on the development of MSMEs, startups, and an innovation-based ecosystem.
- Under this policy, aerospace and defense manufacturing units, equipment and component manufacturers, suppliers, and precision engineering units
- MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhauling) units will be promoted.

### Classification of 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:** 75 percent reimbursement of state tax for up to 7 years.
- Mega and Ultra Mega manufacturing enterprises acquiring land from RIICO will be eligible for flexible land payment for 10 years and a 25 percent lease rental subsidy for office space for 5 years.
- The policy also includes provisions such as exemptions in banking, wheeling and transmission charges, a flexible land payment model, office-space lease rental subsidy, and special incentives such as including 51 percent of the investment made in captive power plants in eligible permanent capital investment.

## Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy - 2025 (Approved)

- **‘Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy’:** Rajasthan's first semiconductor policy.
- **Objective:** To make Rajasthan a leading destination in the country for semiconductor manufacturing, design, packaging, and related electronics.
- Also, to attract anchor investments in the semiconductor and sensor sectors, develop world-class semiconductor parks, and strengthen the fabless design ecosystem.
- The policy will promote technology and skill enhancement, research and development, and technology transfer in the semiconductor sector.
- Under the policy, special emphasis will be placed on promoting green manufacturing in semiconductor parks through renewable energy, water efficiency, recycling, and circular initiatives.
- The policy includes 100% exemption from electricity duty for seven years, 75% exemption from stamp duty and land conversion charges, and a 25% reimbursement.
- A capital grant equivalent to 60% of the capital subsidy approved under the ‘India Semiconductor Mission’ will be provided by the state government.
- To promote capital investment, a 5% interest subsidy will be provided by the state government on term loans taken from banks/financial institutions.
- Reimbursement of up to 50% of the project cost for environmental projects.
- 100% exemption from electricity duty for captive power plants for seven years.

## Status of the 'Give Up Campaign' in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- The 'Give Up Campaign' was launched in Rajasthan on November 1, 2024. Through this campaign, more than 54.36 lakh affluent people across the state have voluntarily removed their names from the food security list by January 2026.



### Key Points:

- **Top three districts adding new names:** Jaipur district added the highest number of eligible beneficiaries to the food security list, with 3.17 lakh people.
- **Second place:** Barmer (3.07 lakh)
- **Third place:** Sikar (3.04 lakh)
- Currently, 4.35 crore beneficiaries are included in the food security list in the state.
- To simplify the process of adding new beneficiaries, District Collectors have been authorized to include eligible deprived families under the NFSA.
- **Grain ATMs in three districts:** The state government will establish grain ATMs in Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Bikaner, where food security beneficiaries can automatically receive their rations from fair price shops using their ration cards.
- **Note:** Providing benefits to new families under the NFSA (National Food Security Act, 2013) is included in the 25 major flagship schemes announced by the Government of Rajasthan.

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## Facts for Prelims:

### National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013:

- As the world's largest public welfare scheme in terms of food grains, the 'National Food Security Act' was launched by the Government of India in 2013 to ensure food security for 75 percent of the rural population and 50 percent of the urban population of the country.

### Under the NFSA, food grains are provided through the following means:

- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana:** This covers the poorest population. Under this scheme, 35 kilograms of food grains are provided per family per month.
- **Priority Households (PHH):** Families included under the PHH category receive 5 kilograms of food grains per person per month.

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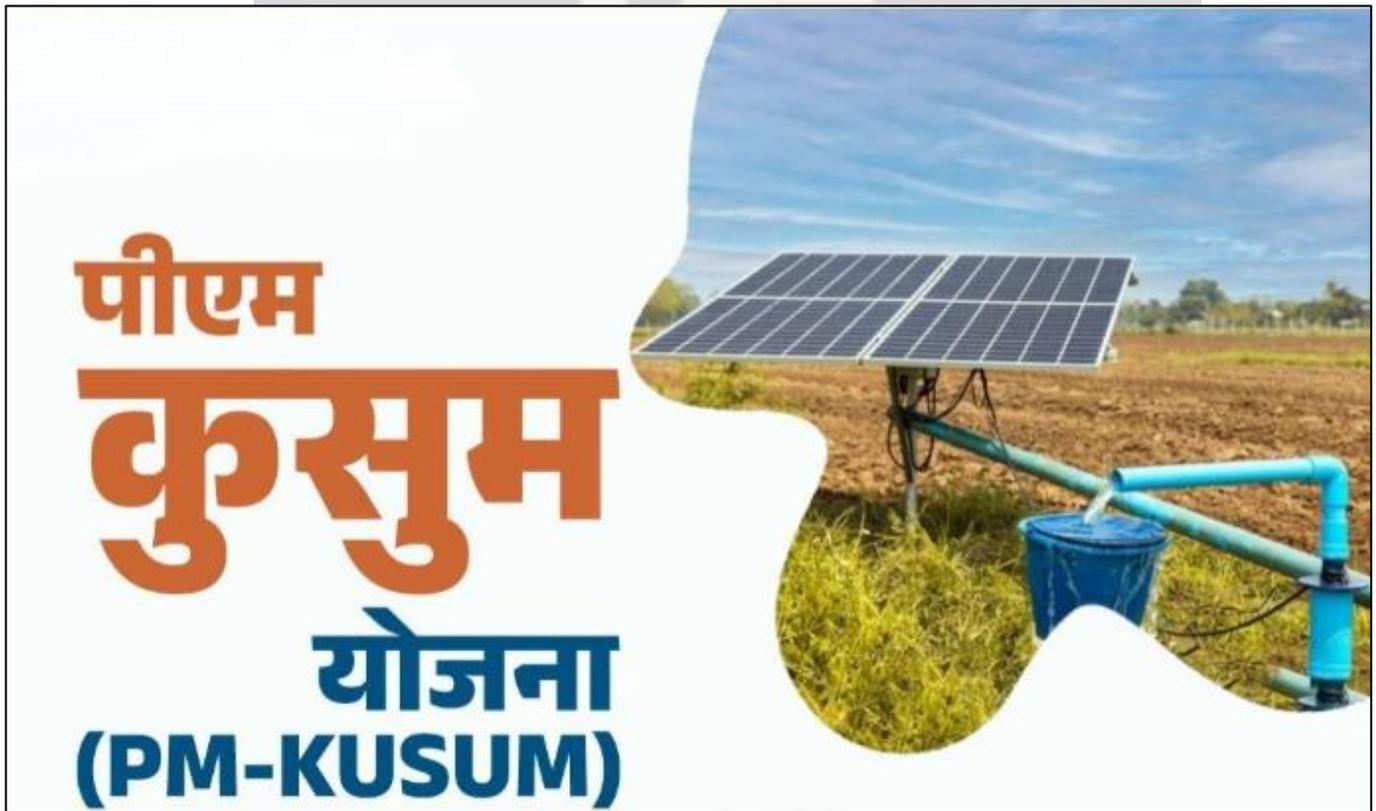
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SERVICES

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## Rajasthan Discoms Receive Gold Award for Outstanding Performance in PM KUSUM Scheme

### Why in News?

- Recently, Rajasthan Discoms were awarded the Gold Award for outstanding achievement in Component-C of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM scheme).



### Key Points:

- Award presented by:** Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the All India Discoms Association's annual awards ceremony held in New Delhi.
- Award received by:** Aarti Dogra, Chairperson of Rajasthan Discoms.
- By January 2026, a total of 1307 decentralized solar power plants with a capacity of 2877 MW have been installed in the state under Components A and C.

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- Rajasthan Discoms is a leader in the country in feeder-level solarization under Component-C of the KUSUM scheme. Under this, 899 plants with a capacity of 2333 MW have been installed in the state.
- **Nodal Department:** The Energy Department has been designated as the nodal department for this scheme in the state. The scheme has also been included among the major flagship schemes announced by the Government of Rajasthan.

## PM KUSUM:

- **Launched:** March 2019
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Objective:** To ensure energy security for farmers and to fulfill India's commitment to increasing the share of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based sources to 40 percent by 2030.

## Three Components of the Scheme:

### Component-A:

- Installation of 10,000 MW of solar capacity through the establishment of individual plants with capacities ranging from 500 kW to 2 MW.
- To avoid high costs and losses of transmission lines, solar power plants are to be installed within a five-kilometer radius of notified substations.
- The electricity generated is purchased by the local DISCOM (Distribution Company) at a pre-determined tariff set by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC).
- **Note:** In Rajasthan, the implementation of Component-A was initially being done by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL), which was transferred to Rajasthan DISCOMs on July 23, 2024, as per the directions of the Energy Department of the Government of Rajasthan.

## Component-B:

- Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered agricultural pumps.
- This component provides for the installation of standalone solar-powered agricultural pumps ranging from 3 to 10 horsepower (HP), with maximum subsidy payable for pumps up to 7.5 horsepower.
- Farmers who do not have agricultural electricity connections for irrigation and who depend on diesel-based pump sets are eligible to install solar-powered pump systems under this scheme.
- The farmer's share under this scheme is 40 percent. The remaining 60 percent is contributed equally by the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan (30 percent each).
- Out of the 40 percent, the farmer can avail a loan of up to 30 percent from the bank, and the remaining 10 percent has to be borne by the farmer.
- Component-B of the scheme is being implemented through the Horticulture Department.

## Component-C (Feeder Level Solarization)

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued guidelines on December 4, 2020, for the implementation of feeder-level solarization under Component C of the PM-KUSUM scheme, which allows for the installation of grid-connected solar power plants with a capacity to meet the annual electricity requirement of one or more separate agricultural feeders through the CAPEX mode or RESCO mode.
- The Ministry has approved a target of solarizing 4,00,000 pump sets.

## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>State-of-the-Art Animal Feed Plant: Kota</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ A state-of-the-art animal feed plant will be established in Kota by the Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation at a cost of ₹71.22 crore.</li><li>■ The plant established in Kota will have a capacity of 150 metric tons per day.</li><li>■ <b>Collaborating Institution:</b> Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</li><li>■ <b>Other 7 animal feed plants operating in Rajasthan:</b> Kaladera (Jaipur), Pali, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, and Lambiakalan (Bhilwara).</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>MoU between RFSDL and Mega Corporation Limited</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rajasthan Financial Services Delivery Limited (RFSDL) and Mega Corporation Limited.</li><li>■ Under this, a technology-based salary-linked advance program will be implemented for government employees.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Sahitya Shivalik Award - 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, senior poet Kanhaiyalal Bhramar from Jaipur was honored with the 'Sahitya Shivalik Award-2025' for his distinguished contribution to literature.</li><li>■ This award was presented at the 'All India Writers' Festival' held from December 23-25, 2025, at the Writers' Village in Dehradun.</li><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> All India Sarvbhasha Sanskriti Samanvay Samiti, Haridwar.</li></ul>
4.	<p><b>Regional Media Workshop 'Vartalap': Beawar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Press Information Bureau, Jaipur, of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, recently organized a regional media workshop 'Vartalap' in Beawar.</li></ul>

## NATIONAL

### National Disaster Response Force (NDRF): Foundation Day

#### Why in News?

- The 21st Foundation Day of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was celebrated on January 19, 2026.



#### Key Points:

- **Establishment of NDRF:** January 19, 2006 (under the Disaster Management Act, 2005)
- **Reason for Establishment:** The Odisha Super Cyclone in 1999 and the 2004 tsunami highlighted the need of the NDRF.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- **Motto:** "Disaster Service Always and Everywhere"

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## Structure:

- **Leadership: Director General (DG);** Current NDRF Director General: Piyush Anand
- **Battalions:** 16 battalions + 18 Search and Rescue teams are operational.
- **NDRF Academy (established in 2018):** The premier training institution.
- **Functions:** The NDRF is authorized for relief and rescue operations in all natural and man-made disasters such as floods, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear), mountain rescue, medical first response, animal rescue, and fire response (added in 2022).

## Major Achievements:

- **Domestic Relief:** Played a crucial role in rescue operations during the Wayanad landslide and the Silkyara tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand (2023).
- **International Missions:** Played a role in the Japan Triple Disaster (2011), Nepal earthquake (2015), Turkey earthquake (2023; Operation Dost), and the Myanmar earthquake in 2025.
- **NOTE:** Recognizing emerging risks, the NDRF declared 2024 as the "Year of CBRN Preparedness."

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### United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



#### Why in News?

- The 80th anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Council will be celebrated on January 23, 2026.



### United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



#### Key Points:

- **Introduction:** It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, committed to coordinating and implementing international economic, social, and environmental policies.
- **Establishment:** January 23, 1946, London (under the UN Charter, 1945).
- **Headquarters:** New York, USA
- **Members:** 54 countries (elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term)
- **Objective:** To promote sustainable development by integrating economic development, social inclusion, and environmental protection so that no one is left behind.
- **Council Decisions:** Decisions are made by a simple majority.
- **Functions:** Policy coordination, institutional liaison, SDG follow-up, and promoting inclusive participation.
- **NOTE:** This Council elects the executive boards of agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, and UNHCR.

## Diego Garcia

### Why in News?

- US President Donald Trump has expressed concern regarding Diego Garcia. This matter is related to the United Kingdom returning Diego Garcia to Mauritius.



### Key Points:

- The US has a significant military base on Diego Garcia.

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## Location:

- Central Indian Ocean
- Part of the Chagos Archipelago
- Coral atoll

## History:

- The Chagos Archipelago was under the control of the United Kingdom since 1965.
- In May 2025, an agreement was reached between the United Kingdom and Mauritius. Under this agreement, the entire Chagos Archipelago was recognized as being under the sovereignty of Mauritius. However, the United Kingdom has leased Diego Garcia for 99 years.
- **Military Significance:** Diego Garcia houses a joint military base of the United Kingdom and the United States.

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## SCHEMES

### Atal Pension Yojana

#### Why in News?

- On January 21, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) till FY 2030-31, along with financial support for promotional and developmental activities and inter-fund transfers.



#### Key Points:

- Implementation Strategy:** The scheme will continue till 2030-31, and the government will provide support for the following:
  - Promotional and developmental activities to increase outreach among unorganized sector workers, including awareness and capacity building.
  - Allocation of necessary funds to meet the viability requirements of the scheme and ensure its sustainability.

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## Major Impact:

- It ensures old-age income security for millions of low-income and unorganized sector workers.
- It promotes financial inclusion and supports India's transition to a pension-based society.
- It strengthens the vision of Developed India@2047 by providing sustainable social security.

## Background: Central Sector Scheme:

- **Launch:** APY was launched on May 9, 2015, with the objective of providing old-age income security to workers in the unorganized sector.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Finance.
- **Age Limit:** Individuals aged 18 to 40 years are eligible.
- **Scheme Features:** APY provides a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month, starting at the age of 60, based on contributions.
- **Progress:** As of January 19, 2026, more than 866 crore subscribers have been enrolled.
- **Nodal Agency:** National Pension System under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- **Need for Extension:** Continuous government support is necessary to ensure the sustainability of the scheme, address viability gaps, and continue awareness and capacity-building efforts.

## One Station One Product Scheme (OSOP)

### Why in News?

- The Indian Railways' One Station One Product scheme has now expanded to over 2000 railway stations.



### Key Points:

#### OSOP: Additional Information

- **Launch:** Year 2022
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Railways
- **Objective:** Its aim is to promote local and unique products of India. Space is provided at railway stations to display and sell the products.
- **Products Included:** Handicrafts of tribal communities, handloom products of local weavers, handicrafts such as wood carvings, Chikankari and Zari-Zardozi work, processed and semi-processed food products.
- This scheme is part of the Vocal for Local campaign. It also strengthens the goal of the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) campaign.



## INDEXES AND REPORTS



### Employment and Social Trends Report, 2026



#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Employment and Social Trends Report, 2026, released by the International Labour Organization (ILO), estimated the global unemployment rate for 2025 to be 4.9%.



#### Key Points:

- Employment:** A decline in extreme working poverty was recorded between 2015 and 2025 (by 3.1 percentage points).
- In low-income countries, 68% of workers were living in extreme or moderate poverty in 2025.
- Unemployment:** The global unemployment rate remained at 4.9% in 2025, resulting in an employment gap of 408 million jobs.
- Employment Growth:**

High-income countries	Decline
Middle-income countries	Slow growth (0.5%)
Low-income countries	Rapid growth (3.1%)

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## Structural Changes in Employment:

- The pace of worker reallocation across economic sectors globally has halved in the last two decades.
- This slower pace of change in productive sectors is contributing to weaker job quality and productivity growth.

## Gender and Youth Inequality:

- Women account for only 2/5 of global employment.
- Women's labor force participation is 24.2 percentage points lower than that of men.
- The global youth unemployment rate increased to 12.4% in 2025.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Employment:** The adoption of artificial intelligence increases the risk for educated young people in high-skilled entry-level jobs.
- **Informality Rate:** The global informality rate increased by 0.3% (from 2015-2025), and it is estimated that 2.1 billion workers will be informally employed by 2026.

## Assessment of the Report in the Indian Context:

- **Economic Growth:** India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region; This means the Indian economy will remain the fastest-growing economy in South Asia in terms of GDP growth.
- **Manufacturing:** India's share (3%) in global manufacturing is significantly lower compared to China (27%) and the United States (17%).

## Green Economy:

- **Renewable Energy:** India has made significant progress in creating jobs in the renewable energy sector.
- **Green Sector:** In India and the broader Asia-Pacific region, the demand for green talent exceeds the available supply.



## HISTORY



### Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya Foundation Day



#### Why in News?

- January 21st is annually celebrated as the Foundation Day (54th anniversary) of the states of Manipur, Tripura, and Meghalaya.



## Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura



#### Key Points:

##### Merger of Manipur:

- Before 1947:** An independent princely state.
- 1947:** Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh signed the 'Instrument of Accession (IOA)' with the Government of India; agreeing to merge with India.
- 1948:** First elections held on the basis of universal adult suffrage.
- 1949:** Under pressure from the Government of India, the Instrument of Accession was signed. After the merger, the Manipur Legislative Assembly was dissolved and it was made a Part C state.
- November 1, 1956:** Made a Union Territory under the Manipur Union Territories Council Act, 1956.

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- **January 21, 1972:** Manipur was granted full statehood through the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (NEA-A).

## Merger of Tripura:

In 1949

In 1956,

January 21, 1972



merger



it was made a Union Territory.



Full statehood

- In 1949, Tripura was allowed to merge with India by Queen Kanchan Prabha Devi, who took over the rule after the death of King Bir Bikram.
- After the merger with India, Tripura became a Part C state.
- Tripura was granted full statehood through the NEA-R Act, 1971 on January 1, 1972.

## Meghalaya:

- **Background:** The Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia Hills communities in the state of Assam demanded greater autonomy.
- **1969:** The Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act established Meghalaya as an autonomous state within Assam.
- **1971:** Under the NEA-A Act, 1971, Meghalaya was granted statehood as the 21st state of India.

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