

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 06 February, 2026



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## RAJASTHAN

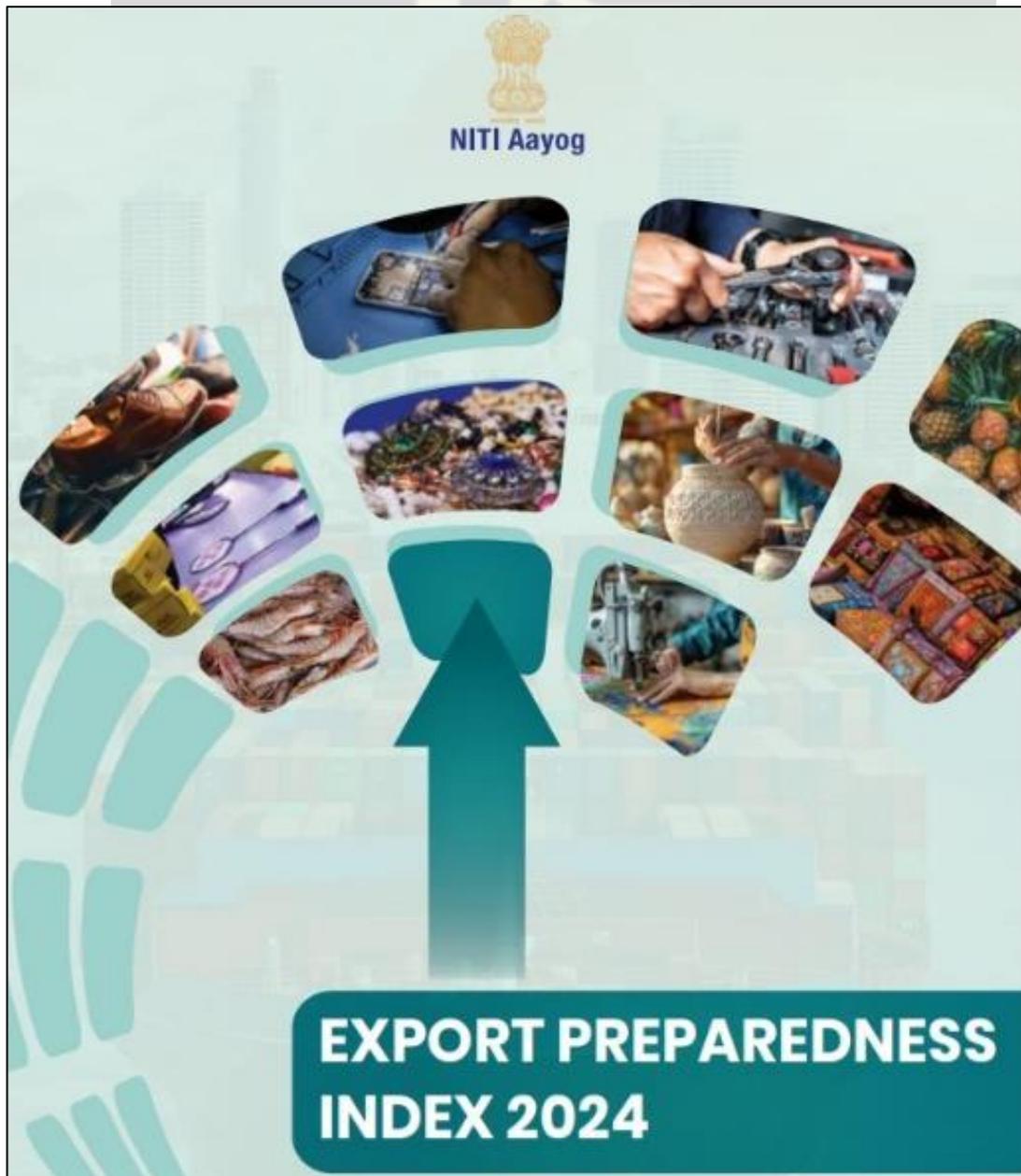


### Rajasthan's Performance in the Export Preparedness Index, 2024 (EPI)



#### Why in News?

- Recently, Rajasthan slipped four places, from 13th to 17th, in the Export Preparedness Index, 2024 (EPI) released by NITI Aayog.

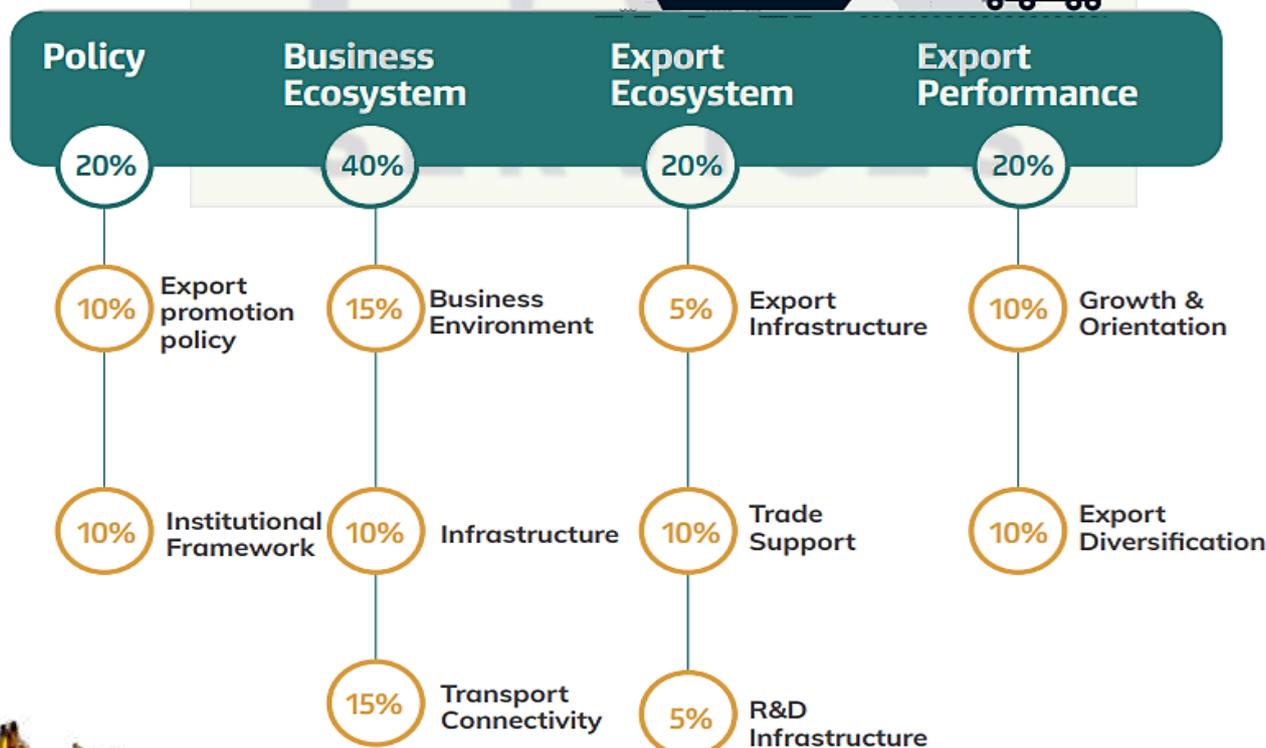


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## Key Points:

- **Introduction:** It assesses the export readiness of states and Union Territories and highlights their crucial role in achieving India's target of US\$1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030 and the vision of Developed India @2047.
- **Publisher:** NITI Aayog
- **Launch:** First launched in 2020, this index assesses export preparedness at the state and district levels through an evidence-based framework.
- **Structure and Details of EPI 2024:** It is structured on the basis of 4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, and 70 indicators.
- **The four main pillars are:** Export Infrastructure, Business Ecosystem, Policy and Governance, and Export Performance.

## Export Preparedness Index Framework



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- **Weightage:** Of the four pillars, the business ecosystem has been given the highest weightage of 40 percent, while the remaining three pillars have been assigned a weightage of 20 percent each. This underscores the growing importance of cost efficiency, MSMEs, access to finance, and innovation, which are crucial for strengthening export competitiveness.
- **Categories:** For comparative assessment, states and Union Territories have been divided into categories of large states, small states, northeastern states, and Union Territories. They have also been classified as Leaders (high export readiness), Challengers (medium readiness, potential for improvement), and Aspirers (early-stage export ecosystem), promoting peer learning, cooperative federalism, and targeted reforms.
- **Importance of the Index:** The budget will be able to promote exports, and amidst global instability, states will need to enhance their export readiness for long-term growth, job creation, reducing regional disparities, and strategic alignment in global value chains.
- This highlights the crucial role of states and districts in export growth, job creation, and integration into global value chains, with a special emphasis on infrastructure development, competitive capacity, and cluster-based strategies.
- This index demonstrates the link between federalism and economic performance and prioritizes district-based export growth, supporting Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and trade competitiveness.
- **Rajasthan's Performance (17th position):** According to the report, Rajasthan lagged in export preparedness but performed better in creating an industrial environment, while remaining weak in building an ecosystem for the largest manufacturing sector, MSMEs.

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The NITI Aayog has used four pillars and their sub-pillars as parameters to assess Rajasthan's performance:

The score was only 1.2 in EC and 1.5 in infrastructure facilities.

Pillars	All pillars	total score	Score obtained
Export Infrastructure	Electricity and water	10	4.6
	Logistics, storage capacity	10	2
Business Ecosystem	Economic Output and Manufacturing	10	4.1
	Cost Comparison in Electricity and Water	5	3.5
	Human Capital	5	2.26
	Finance and Credit Accessibility	5	2
	MSME Ecosystem	10	2.1
	Industrial and Innovation Environment	5	4.1
Policy-Governance	Policy Support and Export Documentation	15	9.4
	EC and others	5	1.2
Export Performance	Export Trends	5	3.8
	Infrastructure Facilities	5	1.5
	Markets and Commodities	10	6.4

- **Performance of the MSME Ecosystem:** The state's ecosystem is in poor condition, according to the 2024 report. It received only 2.1 out of 10 points in the report. The poor performance of the state in issuing environmental clearance certificates, providing government infrastructure facilitation, and achieving digital maturity has negatively impacted export preparedness. Rajasthan also lags significantly in developing its logistics and state transport network.

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- **Industrial Environment and Performance:** Although Rajasthan performed poorly in state export preparedness, according to this report, it is in a better position in creating an industrial environment (4.1 out of 5). It is also ahead in innovation. Similarly, government policy support has also been good.

## Other Important Points:

### Top Performing States and Union Territories in EPI, 2024:

Large states	Smaller states, North Eastern states and Union Territories
Maharashtra	Uttarakhand
Tamil Nadu	Jammu and Kashmir
Gujarat	Nagaland
Uttar Pradesh	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
Andhra Pradesh	Goa

## Awards Announced for the 45th Student Art Exhibition

### Why in News?

- On February 5, 2026, the jury of the 45th Student Art Exhibition of the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi declared the artworks of 10 students from the state as award-winning.



### Key Points:

- Artworks:** The exhibition received 536 artworks from 208 students across the state, out of which the jury selected 145 artworks from 110 students for the exhibition.
- Award-winning artworks:** Arun Kumar Kumawat, Nagaur (Ascending Grandeur), Harsha Soni, Beawar (The Walls of Progress), Vijay, Jodhpur (Jodhpuri Jharokha), Ananya Saini, Ajmer (Chittorgarh-1), Prachi Sharma, Jaipur (Memory Lane), Yashika Jangid, (Vibe of Rajasthan), Saurabh Yadav, Alwar (Life Struggle 1), Krishnakant Tanguriya, (What About Us), Shweta Chauhan, Jaipur (Untitled-1), Dharmendra Pandit (Society on Shoulders).
- Prize Money:** At the exhibition's inauguration, the 10 award-winning students will be presented with cash prizes of ten thousand rupees each, certificates, and mementos.

## Dr. O.P. Machra: Second Shootingball World Cup

### Why in News?

- India delivered a stellar performance at the second Shootingball World Cup, held from February 1 to 3, 2025, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, winning medals in both categories.
- Dr. O.P. Machra, General Secretary of Rajasthan Shootingball, played a crucial role as the coach of the men's team.



### Key Points:

<b>Women's category:</b> Gold medal (Led by: Prajakta Awale)	<b>Men's category:</b> Silver medal (Captain: Suresh Bishnoi)
The Indian women's team won the gold medal by defeating Nepal.	The Indian men's team won the silver medal after defeating Canada.
<b>Silver medal:</b> Nepal <b>Bronze medal:</b> Myanmar	<b>Gold medal:</b> Canada <b>Bronze medal:</b> New Zealand

- Tournament's Best Player:** Canada team captain Rajpal Singh Bagri was declared the best player.
- Mona Jat:** Mona Jat from Rajasthan was also a member of the women's team.
- Note:** Dr. Machra had previously helped the Indian team win a gold medal at the Asian Championship held in Nepal.

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## Hadoti Forest Fair



# हाड़ौती वन मेला

अयोजक: राजस्थान वन विभाग, कोटा संभाग

स्थान: आर्टगैलेरी एवं ग्रामीण हस्तशिल्प बाजार कोटा दिनांक: 7 - 8 Feb 2026

### मुख्य आकर्षण

- वनोपज एवं हर्बल प्रोडक्ट्स की मनमोहक प्रदर्शनी एवं क्रय - विक्रय ।
- Territorial Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, MHTR, RVTR, Kota Wildlife की स्टॉल एवं प्रदर्शनी ।
- पक्षी एवं वन्यजीव विशेषज्ञों की प्रस्तुति ।
- पक्षियों पर फोटोग्राफी एवं स्टेम्प प्रदर्शनी ।
- वन्यजीव एवं मानव सह अस्तित्व पर टॉक शो और नुक्कड़ नाटक ।
- बर्ड वाचिंग ।

प्रकृति के इस अनूठे उत्सव 'वन मेला' में आपका हार्दिक स्वागत है; आइए, प्रकृति के करीब आएं, पारंपरिक उत्पादों का आनंद लें और इस खास आयोजन को सफल बनाएं, आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं।



Instagram / Facebook / WILDLIFEDIVISIONKOTA

Email: dcfwl232@gmail.com

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## Key Points:

- **Event Dates:** February 7-8, 2026.
- **Venue:** Art Gallery and Rural Handicrafts Market, Kota
- **Organizers:** Rajasthan Forest Department and Kota Division.

## Main Activities:

- Attractive exhibition and sale of forest products and herbal products.
- Stalls and exhibitions from the Kota, Bundi, Baran, and Jhalawar regions, Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve/MHTR, Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve/RVTR, and Kota Wildlife.
- Presentations by bird and wildlife experts.
- Photography and stamp exhibition on birds.
- Talk shows and street plays on wildlife and human coexistence.
- Bird watching.

## Other Important Points:

- **Natural Vegetation of the Hadoti Region:** The region primarily has tropical dry deciduous forests. The following types of natural vegetation are found here:

- (1) Dhokda Forests
- (2) Mixed Forests
- (3) Kher Forests
- (4) Grasslands and Shrubs

- The above classification has been done by the State Forest Department on a local basis:

- (1) **Dhokda Forests:** These forests are spread over vast areas of Hadoti. They are found on the slopes of mountain ranges and other uneven land. Their growth is slow, and the trees reach a height of up to 7.5 meters. They are more widespread in the Bundi hills, Mukundwara ranges, and Shahabad area.

- In addition to Dhokda trees, Tendu, Kher, Bel, Gurjan, Siris, etc., are also found here. From a commercial point of view, Tendu leaves are of utmost importance as they are used in making bidis (local cigarettes).
- (2) **Mixed Forests:** Found at the foothills of mountain ranges and along riverbanks. These forests contain various types of trees such as Kher, Bel, Tendu, Gurjar, Khejra, Amla, Bahera, Jamun, Khirni, Selar, Memli, etc. Bamboo is also found where moisture conditions are suitable. Sandalwood trees are found in Dag-Pidawa tehsil of Jhalawar and in Kanwas, Kota.
- (3) **Kher Forests:** Kher forests are also found in mixed form on mountain slopes and in plains. These forests are particularly found in Pidawa, Bakani (Jhalawar), and Sangod, Baran, Shahbad (Kota), and Nainwa, Hindoli (Bundi).
- Grasslands (dense areas) can be seen in many places in Hadoti, where grass and shrubs grow naturally.
- In addition to the above, there are also forests of teak, bamboo, and acacia. Timber, bamboo, gum, lac, and tendu leaves (for making bidis) are obtained from these forests. A large amount of wood is also cut for fuel. Due to indiscriminate felling, there has been a significant depletion of forests in the last ten years. The areas that were once covered with dense forests now appear barren.

## All India Sub-Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament

### Why in News?

- Rajasthan's Vayam Lamba and Shreyansh Choudhary won the championship in the Under-15 Boys Doubles category at the All India Sub-Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament held in Jaipur in February 2026.



### Key Points:

#### Under-15 Boys Doubles:

- **Final:** Vayam-Shreyansh defeated Aditya Singh Negi of Uttarakhand and Samvit Ramesh of Jharkhand 22-20, 26-28, 21-18 in the final to win the title.
- **Match Duration:** The pair won the final match, which lasted 72 minutes, making it the longest match of the tournament.

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## Under-15 Mixed Doubles:

- **Final:** In the Under-15 Mixed Doubles, Manan Sharma of Rajasthan and Inayat Gulati of Punjab were defeated in the final by the second-seeded pair of Jessica Nidhiganthi and T.M.F. of Tamil Nadu with a score of 14-21, 15-21. Jessica Nidhiganthi also achieved double success.
- **Singles Champions:** Anikesh Dutta of Assam became the champion in the Under-15 Boys Singles, while Neeraj Nair of Tamil Nadu became the champion in the Under-17 category.
- **Telangana Twin Sisters Win Title:** In the Under-17 Girls Doubles, the twin sisters Aradhya Gari and Avani Gari of Telangana became the champions. The Gari sisters defeated Anushka Jennifer and Dishitha Gopinath Singh of Tamil Nadu.
- **Under-15 Girls Singles:** In the Girls Singles, Aryama and Himanshi became champions. Aryama Chakraborty of West Bengal won the title in the Under-15 Girls Singles, and Himanshi Chandaram won in the Under-17 category.
- **Final:** In the final, the 5th seed Aryama defeated the top seed Himanshi Chandaram of Telangana to win the title. Himanshi defeated Ghata Suryavanshi of Maharashtra in the Under-17 final.
- **Under-15 Girls Doubles:** In the Under-15 Girls Doubles, Anushree G.S. And Jessica Nidhi became the champion.

## Waterlogging Problem in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- Water Resources Minister Kanhaiya Lal informed the Legislative Assembly about the efforts being made to address the problem of zero groundwater levels (waterlogging) in the affected areas of Raisinghnagar, Suratgarh, and Karanpur in Sri Ganganagar district.
- According to data from the Agriculture Department, three assembly constituencies – Raisinghnagar, Suratgarh, and Karanpur – are affected by waterlogging (zero groundwater levels).





## Key Points:

- **Waterlogging Problem:** This refers to the waterlogging and subsequent infertility (barrenness) of land due to the rise in groundwater levels in canal-irrigated areas.
- **Affected Areas in Rajasthan:** Hanumangarh (Baropal, Bhagwandas, Deidas), Sri Ganganagar, and Bikaner.

## Causes of Waterlogging:

- Excessive irrigation in the Indira Gandhi Canal Project (IGNP) area.
- The presence of an impermeable layer of gypsum or limestone beneath the soil, preventing water from seeping down.
- Lack of proper drainage management.
- Main cause of waterlogging in Sri Ganganagar: Water seepage from canals and accumulation of rainwater.
- Continuous flooding in Muktsar district of Punjab is causing the water level to rise in the south-western direction. This is affecting some areas of Sri Ganganagar. Also, record rainfall in the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers this year has led to waterlogging and flooding in Karanpur.
- **Affected Land:** In Sri Ganganagar district, out of 6 assembly constituencies, 10584.98 bighas of land in 23 villages of Raisinghnagar are affected by waterlogging. 2450.72 bighas of land in 15 villages of Suratgarh are affected. Similarly, 6432 bighas of land in 17 villages of Karanpur are affected.

## Efforts:

1. **District Level Committee:** A joint investigation committee comprising various departments has been constituted by the District Collector of Sri Ganganagar to study the effects of waterlogging on buildings and agriculture, and to survey and find solutions to the problems arising from it.

- A committee constituted by the District Collector will inspect the waterlogged areas of Punjab and study the work being done there for its management. The department is also continuously monitoring the groundwater level.
- 2. **Drain Construction:** The state government is undertaking drain construction work in Padampura and Sangeeta areas to address this problem.
- 3. **Relining of Indira Gandhi Canal:** The details of the block-wise average groundwater level from 2020 to 2025, based on pre-monsoon and post-monsoon surveys conducted by the Groundwater Department in Sri Ganganagar district, were placed before the House. According to this, the Water Resources Department (North) has completed the relining of the Indira Gandhi Canal and Anupgarh branch and Sangeeta distributary under the RWSRPD scheme to prevent seepage, thereby freeing approximately 10,345 bighas of land from waterlogging. The work is currently in progress.
- **Note:** To address the current waterlogging problem, two projects worth Rs. 40.64 crore are underway under the RWSRPD scheme to protect the villages of Padampura, Sangeeta, Chak 4 SD and 2 SD from damage caused by waterlogging. These projects involve the construction of drains in the Padampura and Sangeeta areas to lower the groundwater level. The collected water is proposed to be pumped into the Anupgarh branch canal. Both these works are proposed to be completed by June 2026.

### Solutions and Management of Waterlogging Problem:

1. **Afforestation:** Planting eucalyptus trees in marshy areas, which absorb water.
2. **Drainage:** Pumping out excess water at Baropal (Ghaghgar Diversion Channel).
3. **Projects:** 'Indo-Dutch Drainage Project' with the cooperation of the Netherlands.
4. **Canadian Cooperation:** The 'RAJAD project' is being implemented in the Chambal region with Canadian cooperation to address the waterlogging problem.

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**Other important points:**

**Ecological regions of Rajasthan:**

Large region	Middle-level region
1. Desert ecosystem	(i) Arid region (ii) Canal-irrigated area (iii) Luni basin
2. Aravalli Mountain Ecosystem	(i) Northern Aravalli Region (ii) Central Aravalli Region (iii) Southern Aravalli Region
3. Eastern Plains Ecosystem	(i) Banas Basin (ii) Mahi Basin (iii) Banganga Basin (iv) Sabi Basin (v) Gambhir Basin (vi) Berach Basin
4. Hadoti Plateau Ecosystem	(i) Chambal Basin (ii) Ravine area

**Problems of the desert ecosystem:**

1. Desertification.
2. Uncontrolled grazing, destruction of vegetation, degradation of pastures, mineral mining, soil erosion, and drought.
3. Salinity and alkalinity.
4. Waterlogging problem (In areas like Suratgarh in Ganganagar district and Pilibanga in Hanumangarh district, the problem of waterlogging has become serious due to high water levels and water stagnation).

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>International Conference on the Crucial Role of Life Sciences and Forestry in Sustainable Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Why in the news?:</b> An international conference has begun at IIS (Deemed to be University) in Mansarovar with the aim of encouraging scientific dialogue and research on the interrelationships between botany, forestry, and social development.</li><li>■ <b>Theme:</b> 'Cells to Communities: Interlinking Life Science, Forestry and Social Development'.</li><li>■ <b>Organizers:</b> Department of Botany and Department of Science and Technology.</li></ul>



## Geography and Geology

### Lake Urmia

#### Why in News?

- Cloud seeding was used to induce artificial rain in the Lake Urmia basin amidst a severe drought in Iran.



#### Key Points:

- **Location:** In the Azerbaijan region of northwestern Iran.
- It is a saline lake due to high evaporation rates.
- Designated as a Ramsar wetland and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the lake has been shrinking since the 1990s.

## 🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

### Local Bodies: 16th Finance Commission

#### 📣 Why in News?

- The 16th Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of approximately ₹7.9 lakh crore to India's rural and urban local bodies for the next five years (FY 2026-27 to 2030-31).



#### 📌 Key Points:

##### Challenges in Local Body Financing

- **Structural Revenue Gap:** For example, property tax collection is very low due to incomplete and inaccurate property records and low coverage.
- **Over-reliance on Central/State Government:** More than 90% of the revenue of Panchayats depends on government grants.
- **Limited Access to Debt and Capital Markets:** The debt taken by municipalities in India is estimated to be less than 0.05% of GDP.

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- **Others:** Underdeveloped bond market; data gaps and accounting issues; delays in the constitution of State Finance Commissions (SFCs), etc.

## Key Recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission

- **Property Database:** States should develop a citizen-friendly GIS-based property tax information technology (IT) system.
- **Rural-Urban Divide:** The total grant should be divided between rural local bodies and urban local bodies in a 60:40 ratio.
- **Urbanization Premium:** Encourage the merger of surrounding villages into larger urban local bodies with a population of more than 1 lakh.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** Remove the obligation under Articles 280(3)(bb) and (c) of the Constitution, which mandates the Central Finance Commission to make recommendations based on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions.
- **Best Practices:** NITI Aayog has been recommended to study the functioning of State Finance Commissions and publish a compendium of best practices for the states.

## Sources of Financing for Local Bodies

- **Own Tax Revenue:** Under Article 243X of the Constitution.
- **Non-Tax Revenue:** This includes license fees, permit issuance fees, etc.
- **Inter-Governmental Transfers:** Grants recommended by the Finance Commission, transfers by states, and scheme-specific transfers.
- **Borrowings:** Municipal bonds, general obligation bonds
- **Other methods:** Pooled financing for small urban bodies, land monetization, etc.



## Sociology



### Elderly Care in India: Union Budget 2026-27



#### Why in News?

- The Union Budget 2026-27 announced a plan to train 1.5 lakh caregivers annually through programs aligned with the NSQF (National Skills Qualification Framework). This aims to strengthen the geriatric care workforce in India.



#### Key Points:

##### Why the Need to Strengthen Elderly Care?

- **Aging Population:** Senior citizens currently constitute over 10% of the population and are projected to reach 19.5% by 2050.
- **Health Implications:** Medical expenses for this age group are more than double the average.
- **Rural Concentration:** Where medical infrastructure is often lacking.
- **Erosion of Social Support:** Decreased traditional family support, low awareness of legal rights, and issues like domestic abuse.
- **Inadequate Financial Security:** Vulnerability to financial fraud, financial dependence, and low insurance coverage.

##### Government Initiatives Related to Elderly Care

- **Policy and Legal Framework:** The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 has been enacted; the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) has been formulated.
- **Health Initiatives:** The National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly has been implemented, and schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Vayo Mitra, etc., are operational.
- **Social and Economic Support:** Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, Elder Line (14567), SAGE (Senior Care Aging Growth Engine) initiative, SACRED (Senior Able Citizens for Re-Employment in Dignity) portal, etc.



## INTERNATIONAL



### FORGE Initiative



#### Why in News?

- The United States announced the launch of the “Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE)” during the first Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting.



#### Key Points:

- **Event:** Washington D.C., USA.
- More than 50 countries, including India, participated.
- **Formation:** FORGE was formed as a successor to the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).
- The MSP aimed to strengthen critical mineral supply chains to achieve economic prosperity and climate goals.

#### FORGE Objectives:

- FORGE partner countries will work together at the policy and project levels.
- The aim is to advance various initiatives to strengthen diverse, resilient, and secure critical mineral supply chains.

## Exercise Khanjar

### Why in News?

- The 13th edition of the joint special forces exercise Khanjar has commenced in Misamari, Sonitpur district, Assam.



### Key Points:

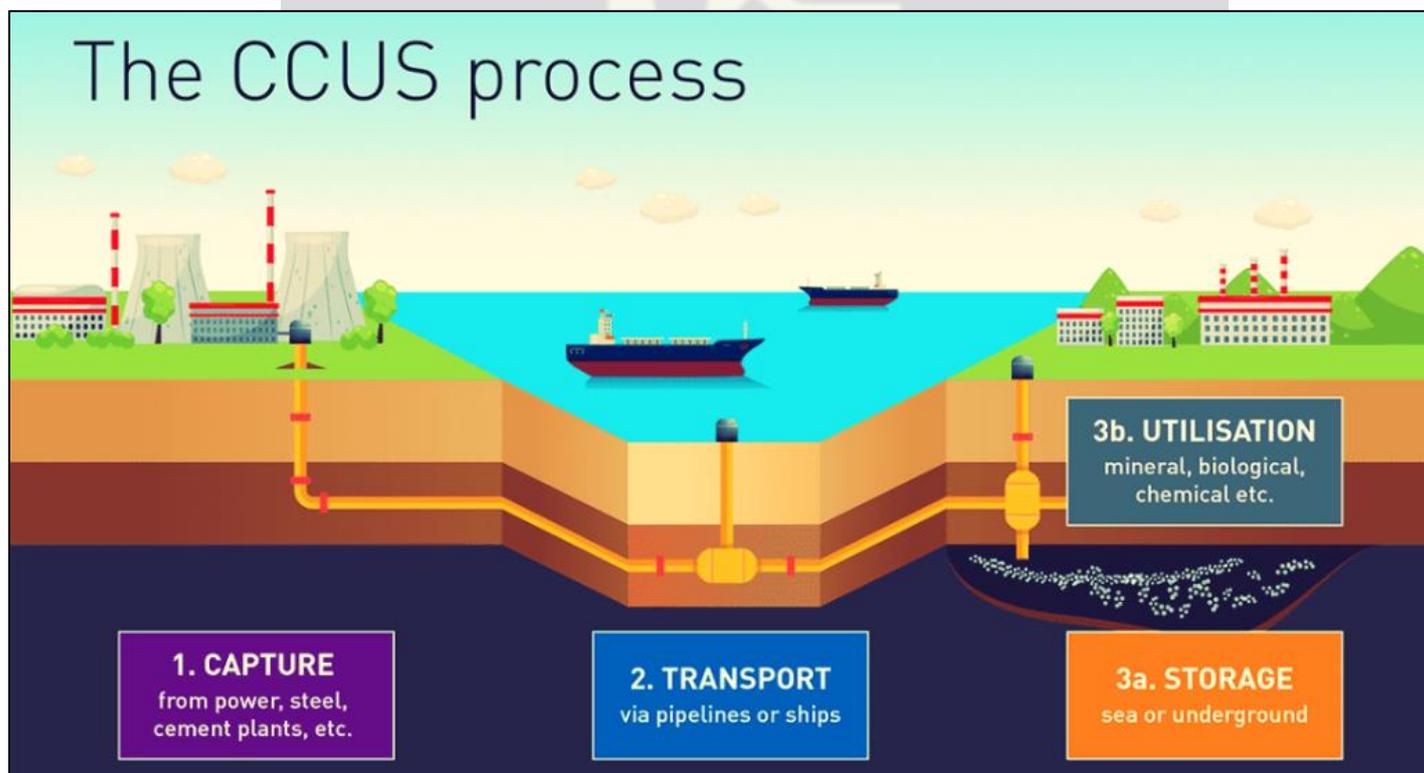
- **Event:** This is an annual bilateral military exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- **Objective:** To enhance mutual cooperation between the forces of both countries.
- Focus on counter-terrorism scenarios.

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS): Union Budget 2026-27

#### Why in News?

- The Union Budget 2026-27 proposed an outlay of ₹20,000 crore for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technologies.



#### Key Points:

- These technologies will be implemented on a large scale in line with the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) CCUS Roadmap 2025.

#### Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)

- What is CCUS:** It involves capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from large carbon-emitting sources such as power generation or industrial plants, where fossil fuels or biomass are used as fuel.

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- If the captured CO<sub>2</sub> is not used on-site, it is compressed and transported. It is then used in various applications or injected into deep geological formations.
- **Key technologies:** Chemical solvent-based absorption, cryogenic separation, direct air capture, enhanced oil recovery, bio-energy carbon capture and storage, etc.

## Why is it needed?

- **Reducing emissions:** Controlling carbon emissions in heavy industries such as cement, steel, or chemicals.
- **Low-cost hydrogen:** It enables affordable low-carbon hydrogen production.
- **Global targets:** To achieve the global net-zero target by 2050, at least 1 billion tonnes of CCUS capacity per year is needed by 2030.
- Notably, India has set a net-zero target for 2070.
- **Competitiveness:** Making products competitive in foreign markets in light of carbon-related tariffs such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

## Challenges

- Insufficient technological maturity
- High costs across the entire value chain
- Limited facilities for testing and scaling up technologies
- Inadequate funding

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