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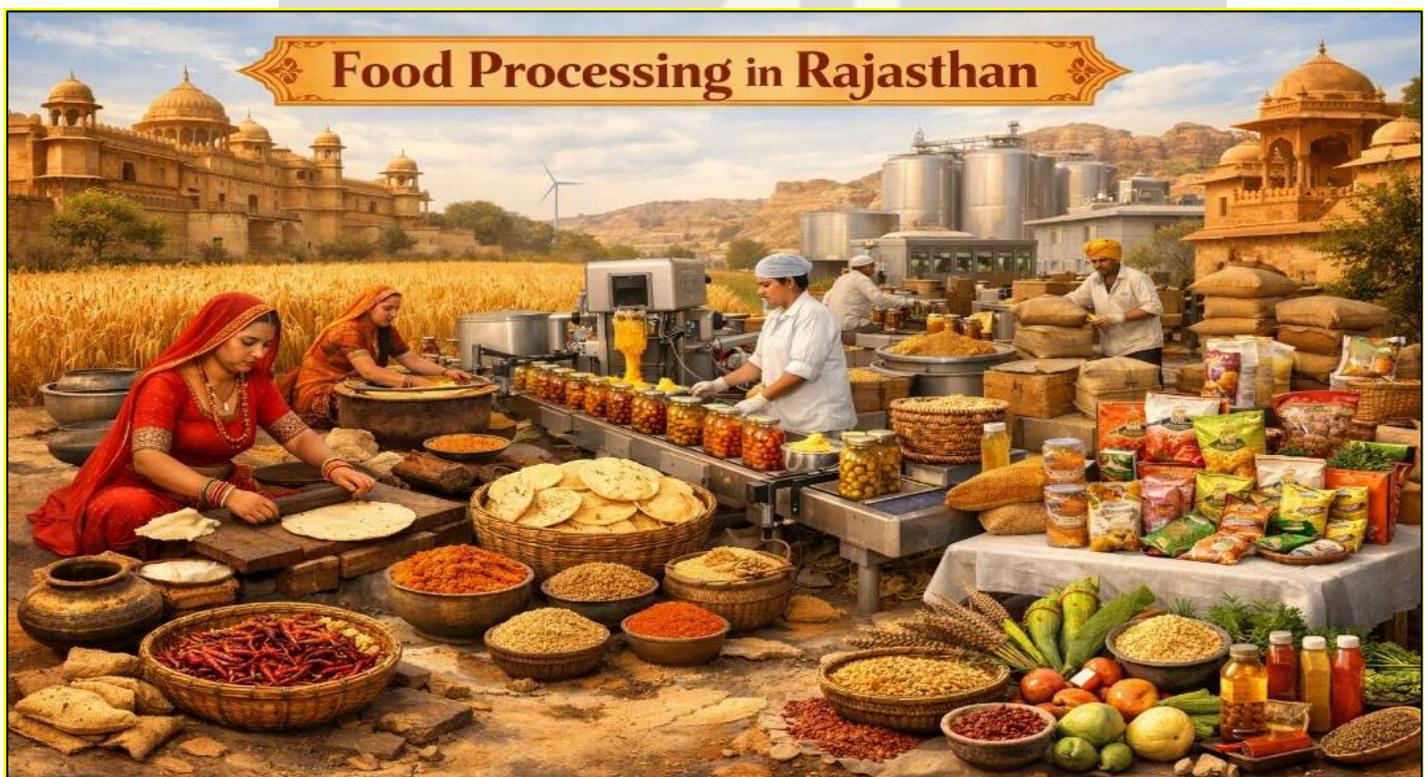


### Status of the Food Processing Sector in Rajasthan



#### Why in News?

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved 2 Mega Food Parks, 2 Agro-Processing Clusters, 14 Integrated Cold Chains, 24 Food Processing Units, and 6 Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages Projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) in Rajasthan by December 31, 2025.



#### Key Points:

- Additionally, the Ministry has approved 1444 micro food processing enterprises under the centrally sponsored Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and 6 projects under the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI).

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- The share of processed food exports in the country's agricultural exports has increased from 13.7 percent in 2014-15 to 20.4 percent in 2024-25.
- It is noteworthy that to ensure the overall development of the food processing sector, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is encouraging the establishment and expansion of food processing infrastructure through two central sector schemes: the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana and the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry.
- The Ministry is also implementing a centrally sponsored scheme, the 'Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises'. These three schemes are demand-driven and are being implemented across the country.

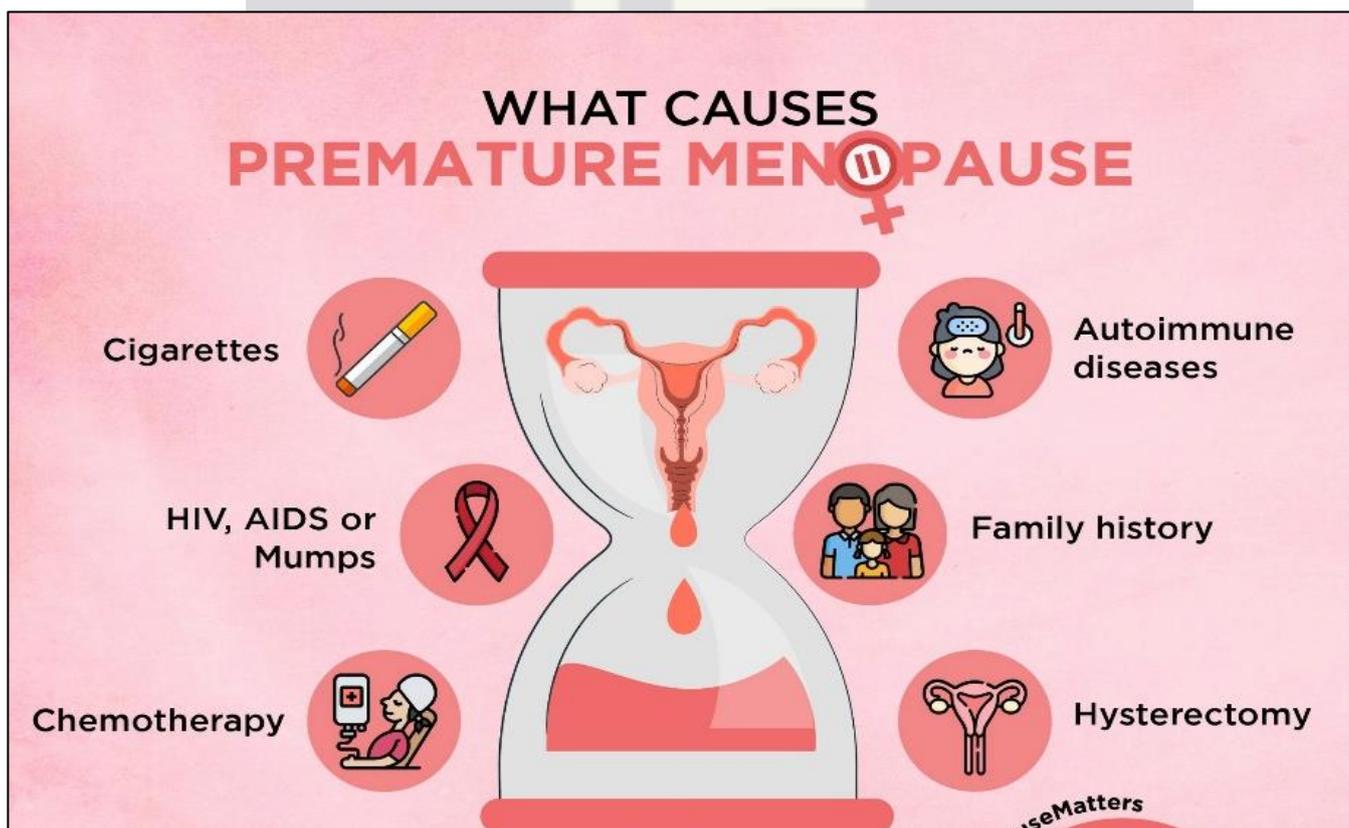
### **Facts for Prelims:**

- **2 Mega Food Parks under PMKSY:** Greentech Mega Food Park, Rupangarh, Ajmer (operational), Shriram Mega Food Park Private Limited, Palana, Bikaner (proposed).
- **Agro Food Parks developed by RIICO:** RIICO has developed 4 Agro Food Parks in Boranada (Jodhpur), Kota, Alwar, and Sri Ganganagar. Additionally, an 'Agro and Food Processing Zone' will be established on 33 hectares of land in the Tinwari industrial area of Jodhpur.

## Rising Cases of Premature and Early Menopause in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- There is a continuous increase in cases of premature (before 40 years) and early menopause (40-44 years) in Rajasthan, which is a serious concern for women's health.



### Key Points:

- According to a report by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), the rate of menopause in Rajasthan was 1.5 percent in 2016, which has reached 10.92 percent in 2024. Menopausal symptoms have been found in 1.62 percent of women aged 30 to 34 in the state.
- Premature and early menopause occurs when the ovaries stop functioning and periods stop before the natural average age (approximately 51 years).

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# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 09 February, 2026



- **Primary Ovarian Insufficiency (POI):** Also known as 'premature ovarian failure', this is a condition where the ovaries stop functioning normally before the age of 40, although periods may still occur intermittently.

## Causes:

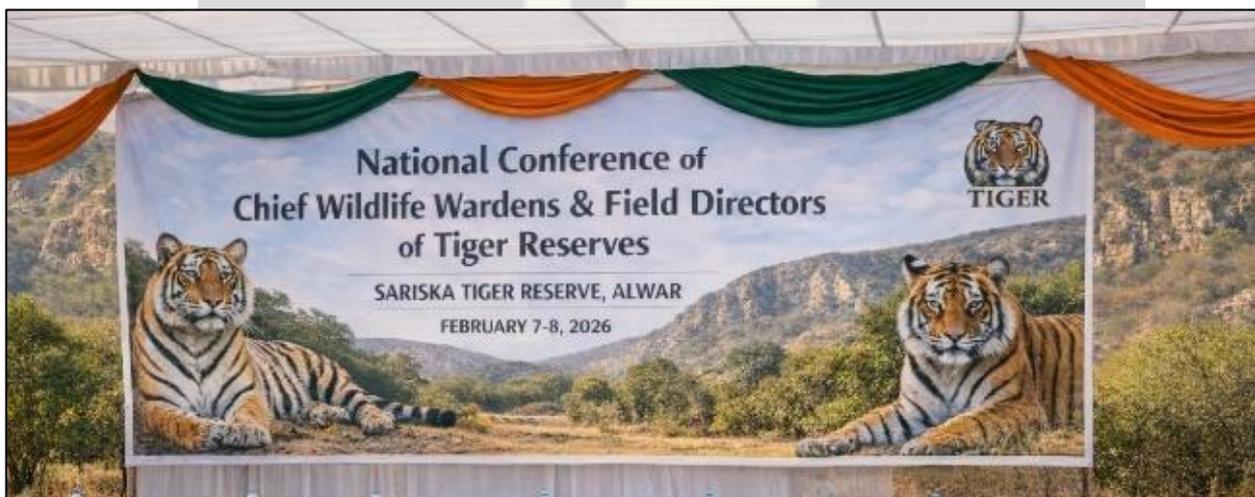
- The main causes of premature and early menopause include genetic factors, autoimmune diseases, ovarian surgery, cancer treatment (chemo/radiation), and lifestyle (smoking).
- **Medical Treatment:** Surgery to remove the ovaries (bilateral oophorectomy), chemotherapy, or pelvic radiation.
- **Genetics:** Hereditary and chromosomal conditions such as Turner syndrome.
- **Health Conditions:** Autoimmune disorders (such as thyroid disease, rheumatoid arthritis).
- **Lifestyle:** Smoking, fast food, irregular routine, etc.

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## National Conference of Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger Range States: Alwar

### Why in News?

- A two-day national conference of Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger Range States and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves was organized at Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar) on February 7 and 8, 2026.



### Key Points:

- The main objective of the conference was to review all the policy decisions taken in the 28 meetings of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) held so far.
- On this occasion, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav released the latest edition of NTCA's outreach magazine STRIPES and awarded the winners of the painting competition organized by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).
- **Note:** M-STRIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) is an IT-based, advanced monitoring system implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for the conservation, monitoring and scientific management of tigers.

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## Other Important Points:

### Painting Competition organized by the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH):

- Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav awarded the winners of the painting competition organized by the National Museum of Natural History.

#### Senior Category:

- **First Place:** Kritika Jain.
- **Second Place:** Aarti Sharma.
- **Third Place:** Rakshit Jain.

#### Junior Category:

- **First Place:** Tanishka Gupta.
- **Second Place:** Khushi Yadav.
- **Third Place:** Palak Bai Meena.

### Alwar Tiger International Half Marathon

- **Event:** The second edition was held on February 8, 2026.
- **Theme:** 'Fit India Mission', promoting tiger conservation and Alwar tourism.
- **Chief Guest:** Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.
- **Brand Ambassador:** Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda.

### Alwar Bird Watching Festival

- **Event:** Held on February 7, 2026, at Siliserh Lake, Alwar.
- **Organizer:** Rajasthan Forest Department.
- **Note:** Urban forests have been established at Matrivan and Kati Ghati in the Bhurasiddh area of Alwar.

## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rohit Kumar Singh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) recently appointed Rohit Kumar Singh, a former IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre and former Union Secretary, as the Chairman of its 'Global Value Chain' Committee and an advisor to the board.</li><li>■ USISPF is a non-profit organization that serves as a platform to deepen strategic and economic partnerships between the two countries.</li><li>■ Rohit Kumar Singh is a senior officer of the 1989 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) from the Rajasthan cadre, with extensive experience in diverse fields such as economic administration, consumer markets, infrastructure development, digital governance, public health, and public-private partnerships.</li></ul>
2.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>51st All Rajasthan Rose Exhibition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Event:</b> The 51st All Rajasthan Rose Exhibition was held on February 7th and 8th, 2026, at City Park in Jaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> The Rose Society of Rajasthan.</li><li>■ The exhibition showcased approximately 300 to over 500 varieties of roses.</li></ul>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Neurologist Dr. Bhavna Sharma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, Dr. Bhavna Sharma, a resident of Jaipur, was honored with the 'Fellow of Indian College of Physicians' award for her outstanding services.</li><li>■ Dr. Bhavna Sharma (Neurologist) received this honor for her distinguished services in the medical field.</li></ul>

4.

## Prakhar Singh Dhirawat

- Prakhar Singh Dhirawat, a resident of Jaipur, recently won a bronze medal in the Under-19 category at the 69th SGFI National Fencing Competition held in Imphal (Manipur).

5.

## Raj Singh Dungarpur U-14 Cricket Tournament: Rajasthan Runner-up

- Recently, in the final of the Raj Singh Dungarpur U-14 Cricket Tournament held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan was defeated by Uttar Pradesh.
- Gaurav Poonia from Rajasthan took the maximum number of wickets (22) in the tournament.
- In the final, Mukul Kaushik from Rajasthan scored a century, making 110 runs.

6.

## 'Aayo Basant' Festival – 2026

- **Event:** From January 31st and February 1st, 2026, at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), Jaipur.
- **Organized by:** Delphic Council of Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** The main objective of this festival is to celebrate the arrival of spring and to raise cultural awareness among youth by blending classical arts with modern creativity.

7.

## Rajasthan Department of Mines and Geology and RSMM receive first prize

- Governor Haribhau Bagde and Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani recently awarded the first prize to the Rajasthan Department of Mines and Geology and RSMM for their outstanding performance in the government pavilion category at India Stone Mart - 2026 held in Jaipur.

8.

## Wellbeing Centers in every medical college in Rajasthan

- Keeping in mind the mental health of medical students, wellbeing centers will be established in every medical college in Rajasthan, along with a state-level wellness cell.
- Additionally, a Dean (Mental Wellbeing) will be appointed in each institution, who will specifically monitor the mental health issues of the students.



## NATIONAL

### Global Teacher Prize – 2026

#### Why in News?

- Indian teacher Rouble Nagi has won the Global Teacher Prize-2026 and received a million-dollar award at the World Government Summit held in Dubai.



#### Key Points:

##### Global Teacher Prize:

- Launched:** In 2014, it is called the Nobel Prize of teaching.
- Presented by:** GEMS Education.
- It is organized by the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO.
- It honors exceptional teachers who have made outstanding contributions to teaching and social change.

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## e-Statistics Portal

### Why in News?

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has launched the beta version of the Model Context Protocol server for the e-Statistics portal.



### Key Points:

- The Model Context Protocol technology allows users to connect directly to data sets through their AI tools and applications.
- **Objective:** This is a centralized digital platform aimed at providing easy and integrated access to India's official statistical data.



## Economic Developments



### Build-Own-Transfer Model (BOT Model)

#### Why in News?

- The central government is planning to promote national highway construction through public-private partnerships in 2026-27.
- The Build-Own-Transfer model will be given priority.

#### Key Points:

##### **BOT Model - Additional Information:**

- This is a public-private partnership model where a private entity finances, designs, constructs, and operates the project for a fixed period, after which the project is transferred back to the government.
- **Revenue and Tolls:** The private partner is allowed to collect user fees/tolls during the concession period to recover their investment and earn a profit.
- **Risk Allocation:** This model places a relatively higher burden of risk on the private sector. This includes risks related to low traffic, financial risks, and in some cases, cost-related risks.

## The recent meeting of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee

### 📣 Why in News?

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%.



### 📌 Key Points:

- The MPC has slightly revised the GDP growth rate for FY2026 to 7.4% (from 7.3%) and retail inflation to 2.1% (from 2%).
- Inflationary trends remain subdued, with CPI inflation projected at 4-4.2% in the first and second quarters of FY2027, slightly elevated due to rising precious metal prices, while declining food prices help keep overall inflation low.

## Reasons Behind the Recent Policy Decision

- **Strong Growth Momentum:** Real GDP growth remains robust, supported by strong domestic consumption, income tax relief, GST rationalization, and fiscal measures undertaken in the Union Budget.
- **External Sector Uncertainties:** Rising geopolitical tensions, volatile crude oil prices, and divergence in global monetary policies pose risks to capital flows and exchange rate stability.
- **Inflation Within Target Range:** Retail inflation remains within the target band of 2-6%, limiting the need for immediate policy action.
- **Impact of Trade Agreements:** India has recently signed trade agreements with the United States, the European Union, Oman, and New Zealand.
- These agreements are expected to boost exports and investment, mitigate external vulnerabilities, and support medium-term growth.

## Impact on the Indian Economy

- **Impact on Borrowers and Households:** Stable interest rates reduce financial uncertainty for middle-class households and home loan borrowers.
- **Impact on Investment and Credit Growth:** Stable interest rates, strong demand conditions, and trade agreements create a predictable environment for private investment.
- **Macroeconomic Stability:** This decision strengthens the credibility of India's flexible inflation targeting framework and demonstrates institutional stability in monetary policy making.

## What is the Repo Rate?

- The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks. It is a key policy tool used by the RBI to control liquidity, inflation, and economic growth.

- A lower repo rate means banks can borrow funds from the RBI at cheaper rates. This incentivizes banks to lower lending rates, resulting in:
  - o Easier access to credit for consumers and businesses
  - o Increased investment, consumption, and economic activity
  - o Increased liquidity and money supply
  - o This can boost growth, especially during economic downturns.

## What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

- The MPC is a statutory body established under the RBI Act, 1934 (amended in 2016).
- It is responsible for setting the benchmark interest rate (repo rate), keeping in mind the objective of maintaining price stability while also considering growth.

## It comprises 6 members:

- 3 members from the RBI (including the Governor, who is the chairperson)
- 3 external members appointed by the government.
- Decisions are taken by a majority vote, and each member has one vote. In case of a tie, the RBI Governor has the casting vote.

## Flexible Inflation Targeting Framework (FITF)

- India adopted a flexible inflation targeting framework in 2016. Under this framework, the government, in consultation with the RBI, sets the inflation target every five years.
- This sets the CPI inflation target at 4%, with a tolerance band of  $\pm 2\%$ , i.e., between 2% and 6%.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Agni-III

#### Why in News?

- India successfully test-fired the medium-range ballistic missile Agni-III from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha.



#### Key Points:

##### About Agni-III

- Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Features:** It is a two-stage, solid-fueled ballistic missile.
- Range:** More than 3000 km
- Warheads:** It is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear weapons.

##### Agni

- This is India's indigenously developed long-range missile system, developed by DRDO.
- Agni-I to Agni-IV:** Range from 700 to 3,500 km.
- Agni-V:** Three-stage solid-fuel engine, MIRV-capable, 5,000 km range, intercontinental flight capability.
- Agni-P:** Two-stage solid-fuel, range 1,000-2,000 kilometers, equipped with advanced propulsion/navigation, can carry thermobaric or nuclear warheads.

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