

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 March 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy, 2026
2.	Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026
3.	Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy – 2025
4.	'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)' in Rajasthan
5.	47th All India Electricity Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Championship
6.	News in Shorts 1. 'Battlefield Thunder' Exercise 2. Dr. Ashwin M. Dalvi: Director, West Zone Cultural Centre 3. Taekwondo Coach Nitin Joliya 4. MoU between Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (BMCHRC) and the Indian Army 5. Textile Export Facilitation Centre (TEFC): Jaipur
7.	Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025
8.	Gajapati Inscription in Guntur
9.	Coconut Production
10.	Parliamentary Standing Committee
11.	Ladakh: Demand for Statehood and Inclusion in the Sixth Schedule
12.	National Quantum Mission

--:1:--

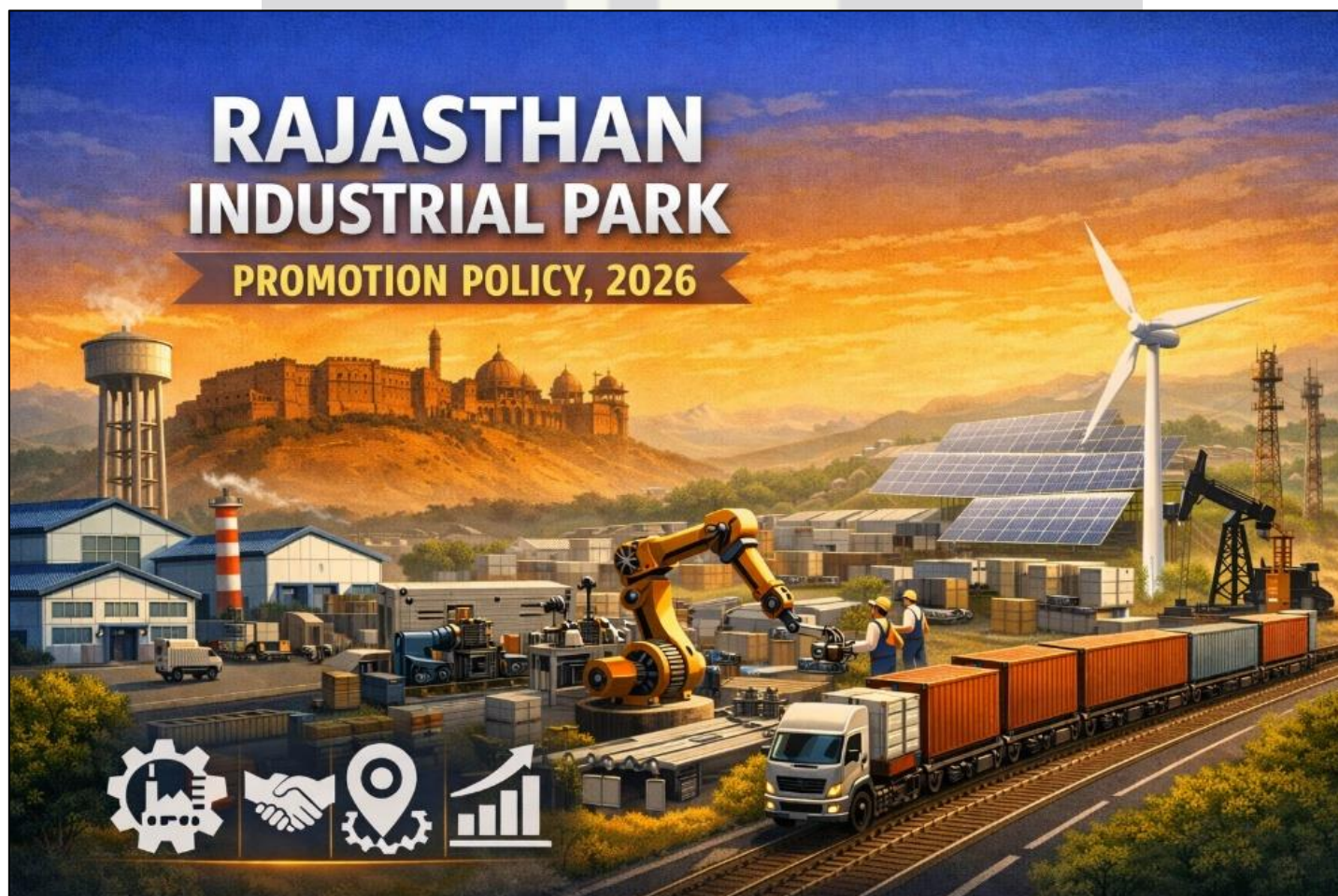


Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy, 2026



Why in News?

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma officially launched the 'Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy, 2026' from Jaipur on March 18, 2026.



Key Points:

- Approval:** By the Rajasthan Cabinet on February 25, 2026.
- Objective:** To accelerate industrial development, encourage investment, and boost employment generation.

- Under the proposed policy, four models have been prescribed for the development of industrial parks in the private sector.
 - **Model – A:** Development entirely on land allotted by RIICO.
 - **Model – B:** 80 percent of the land to be acquired by the developer, and the remaining 20 percent to be provided by RIICO at prescribed rates.
 - **Model – C:** Arrangement of the entire land by the developer.
 - **Model – D:** Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
- Under the policy, it will be mandatory for industrial parks in the private sector to have a minimum area of 50 acres and to establish a minimum of 10 industrial units.
- **Capital Subsidy:** The State Government will provide a capital subsidy of 20 percent on the development of common infrastructure for the industrial park.
 - **Category – I:** Maximum ₹20 crore for parks up to 100 acres.
 - **Category – II:** Maximum ₹30 crore for parks between 100 and 250 acres.
 - **Category – III:** Maximum ₹40 crore for parks exceeding 250 acres in area.
- **Green Development:** To promote green development, a provision has also been made for the reimbursement of 50 percent of the expenditure incurred on Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) (subject to a maximum of ₹12.5 crore per park).

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO)

- RIICO is a government undertaking established on March 28, 1969, under the Companies Act, 1956, as the Rajasthan State Industrial and Mineral Development Corporation (RSIMDC).
- On January 1, 1980, it was bifurcated into two separate entities:

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 March 2026



1. RIICO – Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited.

2. RSMDC – Rajasthan State Mineral Development Corporation.

Key Functions:

- RIICO has played a pivotal role in promoting industrial development in Rajasthan.
- It develops industrial areas across various parts of the state.
- As a financial institution, it provides loans to small, medium, and large-scale industries.
- It extends support to industries in the form of financial assistance, technical guidance, and infrastructure development.
- In the year 2021-22, RIICO was honored by COSIDICI as the country's best SIIDC (State Industrial Development Corporation).
- 33 regional offices have been established across the state to ensure the efficient operation and management of industrial areas.

--:4:--

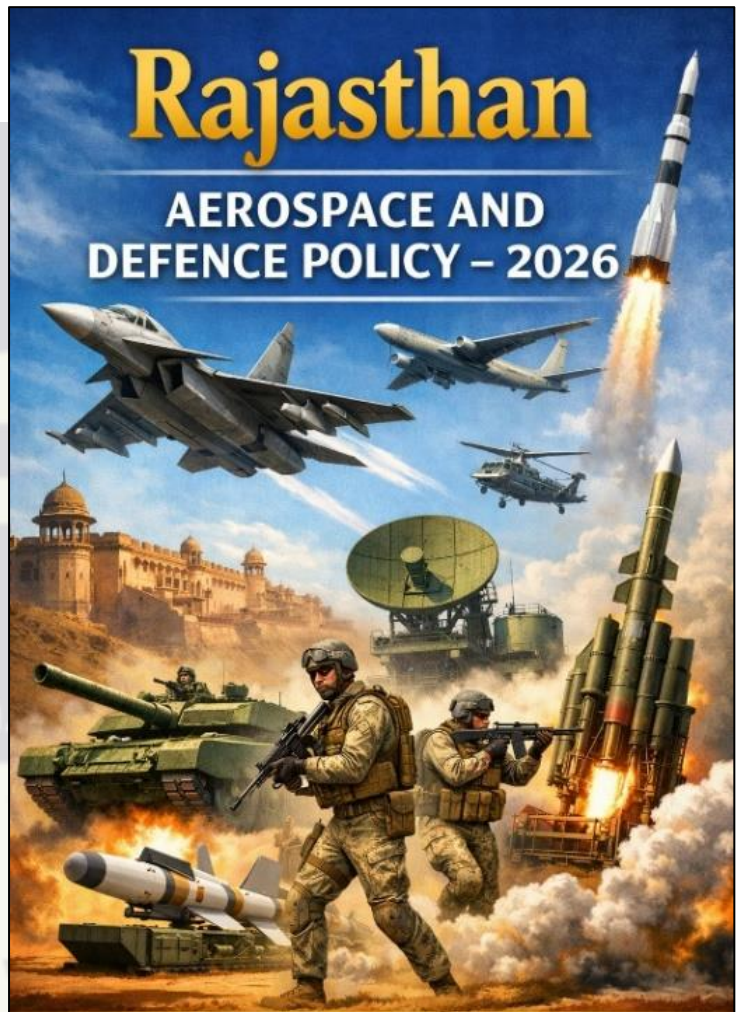
Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy – 2026

Why in News?

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma formally unveiled the 'Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy-2026' during the 'Udyami Samvad Samaroh' (Entrepreneur Dialogue Ceremony) held in Jaipur on March 18, 2026.

Key Points:

- Approval:** Granted by the Rajasthan Cabinet on January 21, 2026.
- Objective:** To promote defence and space technology within the state and to establish Rajasthan as a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.
- Under this policy, special emphasis has been placed on the development of MSMEs, startups, and an innovation-driven ecosystem.
- The policy aims to promote Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Units, manufacturers of equipment and components, suppliers, precision engineering units, and
- MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) units.



- This policy represents a significant step towards establishing Rajasthan as a hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing, alongside promoting defence and space technology within the state.
- **Classification of Projects Based on Investment:** In this policy issued by the Government of Rajasthan, projects have been classified based on their investment size.

Manufacturing Sector:

- ₹50–300 Crores – Large
- ₹300–1000 Crores – Mega
- Above ₹1000 Crores – Ultra Mega

Service Sector:

- ₹25–100 Crores – Large
- ₹100–250 Crores – Mega
- Above ₹250 Crores – Ultra Mega

Key Incentives:

- **Asset Creation Incentive:** Under this policy, eligible aerospace and defense manufacturing and service enterprises establishing themselves within Aero & Defense Parks (A&DP) will be granted an investment subsidy—in the form of an Asset Creation Incentive—comprising a 75% reimbursement of state taxes for a period of 7 years.
- **Choice of Incentives:** Manufacturing enterprises will be offered the facility to choose between two options: a capital subsidy ranging from 20% to 28% (distributed over 10 years), or a turnover-linked incentive ranging from 1.2% to 2% (payable in annual installments over 10 years). For the service sector, the corresponding ranges are 14% to 20% for the capital subsidy and 1.2% to 2% for the turnover-linked incentive.

- **Additional Boosters:** In addition to the aforementioned incentives, various supplementary benefits—acting as "top-ups"—will also be provided. These include a 10% to 15% 'Employment Booster', a 25% 'Sunrise Booster' (specifically for the first three Mega or Ultra-Mega units), a 10% 'Anchor Booster', and a 20% 'Thrust Booster'.
- **Land and Office Space Benefits:** Mega and Ultra-Mega manufacturing enterprises acquiring land from RIICO will be eligible for benefits such as a flexible land payment scheme spanning 10 years, as well as a lease rental subsidy covering 25% of office space costs for a period of 5 years.
- **Special Incentives:** The policy also incorporates provisions for special incentives, including exemptions on banking, wheeling, and transmission charges; a flexible land payment model; office-space lease rental subsidies; and the inclusion of 51% of the investment made in captive power plants as part of the eligible permanent capital investment.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Dunes Aviation Academy:** Inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at Hamirgarh (Bhilwara).
- **'Rajasthan Civil Aviation Policy-2024':** Launched by the Government of Rajasthan to foster the rapid growth of the aviation sector.
- **Objective:** The primary objective of this policy is to generate new employment opportunities for the youth of the state and to position Rajasthan as a premier aviation hub within the country.

Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy – 2025

Why in News?

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma formally unveiled the 'Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy – 2025' from Jaipur on March 18, 2026.



Key Points:

- This is Rajasthan's first-ever semiconductor policy.
- Approval:** Granted by the Rajasthan Cabinet on January 21, 2026.
- Objective:** To position the state as a leading destination in the country for semiconductor manufacturing, design, packaging, and allied electronics sectors.

- Additionally, to attract anchor investments in the fields of semiconductors and sensors, develop world-class semiconductor parks, and empower the fabless design ecosystem.
- Through this policy, emphasis will be placed on promoting technology and skill enhancement, Research and Development (R&D), and technology transfer within the semiconductor sector.
- Under this policy, special emphasis will be placed on encouraging 'Green Manufacturing' within semiconductor parks through initiatives related to renewable energy, water efficiency, recycling, and circular economy practices.
- The policy includes a 100% exemption from electricity duty for a period of seven years, a 75% exemption on 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 boost capital investment, the State Government will provide a 5% interest subsidy on term loans availed from banks and financial institutions.
- Reimbursement of up to 50% of the project cost for environmental projects.
- 100% exemption from electricity duty for captive power plants for a period of 7 years.

'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)' in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- In Rajasthan, under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), 10,057 clusters have been developed between the years 2015-16 and December 31, 2025, covering an area of 2.01 lakh hectares.

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
सत्यमेव जयते

परंपरागत कृषि विकास योजना (PKVY)

- ▶ जैविक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए वित्तीय सहायता
- ▶ रसायनों का उपयोग कम कर पर्यावरण-अनुकूल खेती पर जोर
- ▶ मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाए रखना और स्वास्थ्यवर्धक उत्पाद प्रदान करना

-:10:-



Key Points:

- To promote organic farming in the country, the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) has been implemented since 2015-16 across all states and Union Territories—with the exception of the North-Eastern states.
- Conversely, to encourage organic farming in the North-Eastern states, the ‘Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)’ has been implemented.
- Under both these schemes, farmers engaged in organic farming are provided with comprehensive support ranging from production to processing, certification, and marketing; furthermore, special emphasis is placed on developing supply chains by forming organic clusters, while prioritizing small and marginal farmers.
- **Implementation of both schemes:** By State/Union Territory governments.
- **Implementation in Rajasthan:** Department of Agriculture.
- Financial assistance provided under the scheme: Aid of ₹31,500 per hectare over a period of three years.
- ₹15,000 per hectare for on-farm and off-farm organic inputs, disbursed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ₹4,500 per hectare for marketing and branding.
- ₹3,000 per hectare for certification.
- ₹9,000 per hectare for training and capacity building.

47th All India Electricity Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Championship

Why in News?

- The 47th All India Electricity Powerlifting and Bodybuilding Championship was organized in Kota from March 13 to 15, 2026.

Key Points:

- **Organizer:** Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (Rajasthan Power Generation Corporation).
- **Rajasthan's Performance:** The powerlifting team representing Rajasthan's electricity corporations won a total of 6 medals, including 2 Gold, 1 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals.

Medal Winners:

S.N.	Players	Electricity Corporation	Medal
1.	Harish Meena	Alwar	Gold
2.	Ajit Singh	Bhiwadi	Gold
3.	Roop Singh Yadav	Dholpur	Silver
4.	Rameshwar Teli	Rawatbhata	Bronze
5.	Naresh Goyal	Jodhpur	Bronze
6.	Shakir Hussain	Jhalawar	Bronze

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Battlefield Thunder' Exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organization: Conducted by the Indian Army's Bogra Brigade in Jaisalmer.■ The exercise showcased the firepower capabilities of modern multi-barrel rocket launchers, such as the Pinaka and B-21 Grad systems. During the exercise, the precise coordination between rocket launchers, drones, and advanced surveillance systems was put to the test.
2.	<p>Dr. Ashwin M. Dalvi: Director, West Zone Cultural Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Dr. Ashwin M. Dalvi was appointed as the new Director of the West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur, for a tenure of three years.■ He previously served as the Chairman of the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi (Rajasthan Academy of Fine Arts) during the years 2017–18, a position that accorded him the status of a 'Minister of State'.
3.	<p>Taekwondo Coach Nitin Joliya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Nitin Joliya—a Taekwondo coach with the Rajasthan State Sports Council—was conferred the title of 'International Taekwondo Kyorugi Instructor' by World Taekwondo. He is the only Taekwondo instructor from Rajasthan to have received this distinction.

4. **MoU between Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (BMCHRC) and the Indian Army**

- A significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between the Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital & Research Centre (BMCHRC), Jaipur, and the Indian Army.
- The primary objective of this agreement is to provide specialized cancer treatment and healthcare services to ex-servicemen, *Veer Naris* (war widows), and their dependents.

5. **Textile Export Facilitation Centre (TEFC): Jaipur**

- The Textile Committee—operating under the Union Ministry of Textiles—has decided to establish Textile Export Facilitation Centres (TEFCs) with the aim of promoting textile exports within the country and strengthening export competitiveness.
- Under this initiative, six such centers—including one in Jaipur—will be established on a pilot basis across the country's major textile clusters.
- These centers will be established on a pilot basis in major textile clusters in Karur (Tamil Nadu), Surat (Gujarat), Ichalkaranji (Maharashtra), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), and Ludhiana (Punjab).
- The Jaipur center will primarily focus on promoting handloom and handicraft products.



Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025



Why in News?

- The Sahitya Akademi has announced the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2025 across 24 languages.



Sahitya Akademi Award 2025



Key Points:

- Among the winners, former diplomat Navtej Sarna has been honored for his English novel *Crimson Spring*; Hindi writer Mamta Kalia for her memoir **Jeete Ji Allahabad**; and, in the genre of literary criticism, Tamil writer Sa. Tamilselvan for **Thamizh Sirukathaiyin Thadanggal**.

Sahitya Akademi Awards

- **Introduction:** Established in 1954, it is India's second-highest literary honor (after the Jnanpith Award), recognizing exceptional literary talent and promoting the country's rich multilingual heritage.

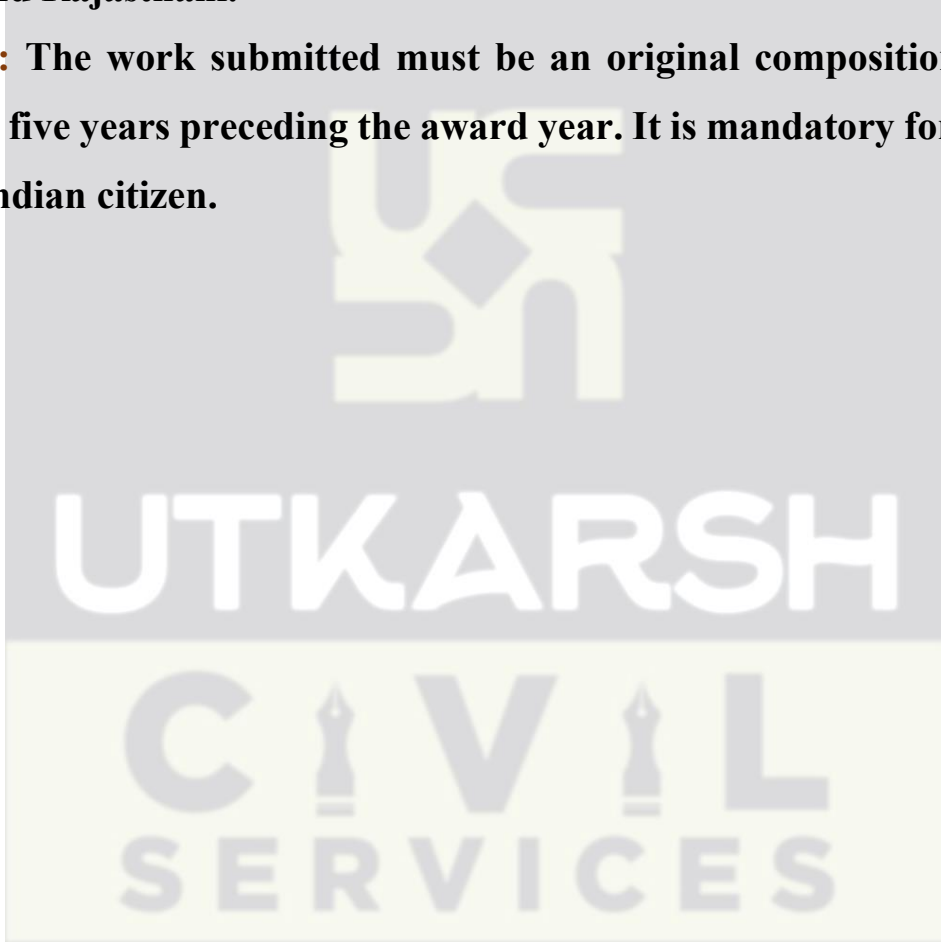
-:15:-

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 March 2026



- This award is presented annually by the Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body functioning under the Ministry of Culture.
- **Linguistic Coverage:** The award is conferred in 24 languages, comprising the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as well as English and Rajasthani.
- **Eligibility:** The work submitted must be an original composition published within the five years preceding the award year. It is mandatory for the author to be an Indian citizen.



-:16:-



History and Culture



Gajapati Inscription in Guntur



Why in News?

- A medieval inscription associated with the Gajapati dynasty has been discovered at the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.



Key Points:

- This inscription is engraved on a stone pillar located within the temple's *mandapa* (pavilion).
- It mentions Kumaraguru Mahapatra, an official who served under Purushottama Deva during the 15th century CE.
- The inscription was originally dedicated to Lord Mallikarjuna of Kondaveedu but was subsequently relocated to the Guntur temple.
- It also references temple rituals—such as the offering of milk—and mentions the management of cows by local communities.
- These findings shed light on the practice of Hari-Hara Puja, indicating a syncretic tradition that blends Shaivite and Vaishnavite beliefs.

The Gajapati Dynasty

- The Gajapati dynasty was a powerful medieval empire that originated in Odisha and flourished during the 15th and 16th centuries.
- It was founded by Kapilendra Deva following the decline of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- At its zenith, the empire stretched from parts of present-day West Bengal down to Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu, with its capital situated at Cuttack (modern-day Cuttack).
- The Gajapati rulers were renowned for their patronage of art, architecture, and literature, and they maintained a continuous rivalry with the Vijayanagara Empire.



Geography and Geology

Coconut Production

Why in News?

- India is the world's largest producer of coconuts, contributing 30.37% to global coconut production.



Key Points:

- Plant Type:** The coconut is a perennial plantation crop and a monocotyledonous palm belonging to the Arecaceae family.
- Climatic Requirements:** A warm and humid tropical climate is essential for the growth of coconuts. It thrives best in regions with temperatures ranging between 25°C and 30°C and requires adequate and evenly distributed rainfall.
- Soil Requirements:** Well-drained sandy loam, alluvial, laterite, and coastal soils.

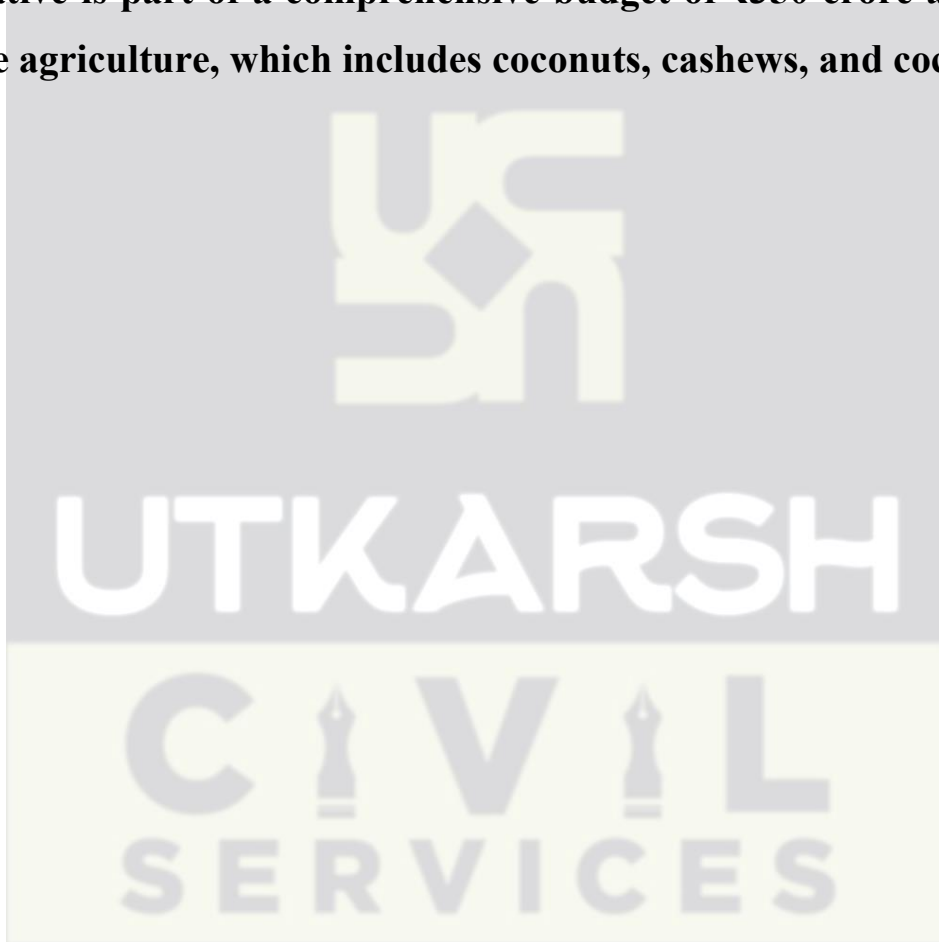
--:19:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 March 2026



- **Distribution in India:** It is primarily grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, and West Bengal.
- **Coconut Promotion Scheme (Budget 2026-27):** Its objective is to boost production by replanting old trees with improved varieties.
- This initiative is part of a comprehensive budget of ₹350 crore allocated for high-value agriculture, which includes coconuts, cashews, and cocoa.



-:20:-

Indian Governance and State System

Parliamentary Standing Committee

Why in News?

- A report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has criticized the Ministry of Planning and NITI Aayog for underutilization of funds and poor financial management, noting that expenditure fell by 36% in both the Financial Year 2024 and Financial Year 2025.



Key Points:

Parliamentary Standing Committee

- Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs) are permanent committees of Parliament constituted to examine, scrutinize, and oversee the functioning of the Executive.
- These committees function throughout the year, whereas *ad hoc* committees are temporary in nature.

--:21:--

Types of Parliamentary Standing Committees:

- **Department-Related Standing Committees:** These examine the demands for grants of various ministries, bills referred to them, and policy issues. Example: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.
- **Financial Committees:** Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, and Committee on Public Undertakings.
- **Other Standing Committees:** Business Advisory Committee, Committee of Privileges, and Rules Committee.

Role of Parliamentary Standing Committees

- **Detailed Financial Scrutiny Beyond Parliament:** Parliamentary debates often lack sufficient time for a detailed examination of budgetary provisions.
- Standing Committees conduct an in-depth scrutiny of demands for grants, expenditure trends, and utilization patterns.
- **Evidence-Based and Impartial Oversight:** The committees function in an impartial manner, relying on expert suggestions and data-driven analysis. Their reports provide an objective assessment of policy implementation and financial discipline.
- **Oversight of the Executive:** The committees remain operational throughout the year, ensuring continuous oversight of ministries and departments. This enhances transparency and accountability in governance.

Ladakh: Demand for Statehood and Inclusion in the Sixth Schedule

Why in News?

- Recently, protest rallies were organized in Ladakh demanding statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.



Key Points:

- Following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution by Parliament, Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislative assembly in 2019.
- A year later, protests erupted in the region—comprising the Leh and Kargil districts—demanding constitutional safeguards such as statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to grant it tribal status, job reservations for locals, and separate parliamentary seats for Leh and Kargil.

Sixth Schedule of the Constitution

- The Sixth Schedule was adopted under Article 244 of the Constitution, which includes provisions for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions within a state.
- The Sixth Schedule applies to areas officially designated as 'Tribal Areas' within the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. Currently, there are 10 such 'Tribal Areas' across these four states.
- These divisions, known as Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), were granted certain legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within the respective states.
- **Composition:** According to the Sixth Schedule, an ADC administering an area within a state consists of 30 members, each serving a five-year term.
- The Bodoland Territorial Council, located in Assam, is an exception to this rule; it comprises over 40 members and possesses the authority to legislate on 39 specific subjects.
- **Jurisdiction:** ADCs are empowered to formulate laws, rules, and regulations concerning land, forests, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village and town-level policing, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs, mining, and other related matters.
- ADCs also possess the authority to constitute courts to adjudicate cases where both parties involved are members of Scheduled Tribes and the maximum punishment prescribed is imprisonment for less than five years.
- The Governor is the central authority for the functioning of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) and Regional Councils.

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ⌚

National Quantum Mission

📣 Why in News?

- Under the National Quantum Mission, 23 academic institutions have been approved to establish Quantum Teaching Laboratories, and more than 100 additional proposals are currently being evaluated.



📌 Key Points:

National Quantum Mission

- **Introduction:** The NQM is a flagship initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), for which a total budget of ₹6,003 crore has been allocated for the period spanning 2023-24 to 2030-31.
- **Objective:** The objective of the NQM is to promote, nurture, and scale up Research and Development (R&D) in quantum technologies in order to accelerate technology-led economic growth and build indigenous capabilities.

--:25:--