

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 March 2026



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RAJASTHAN

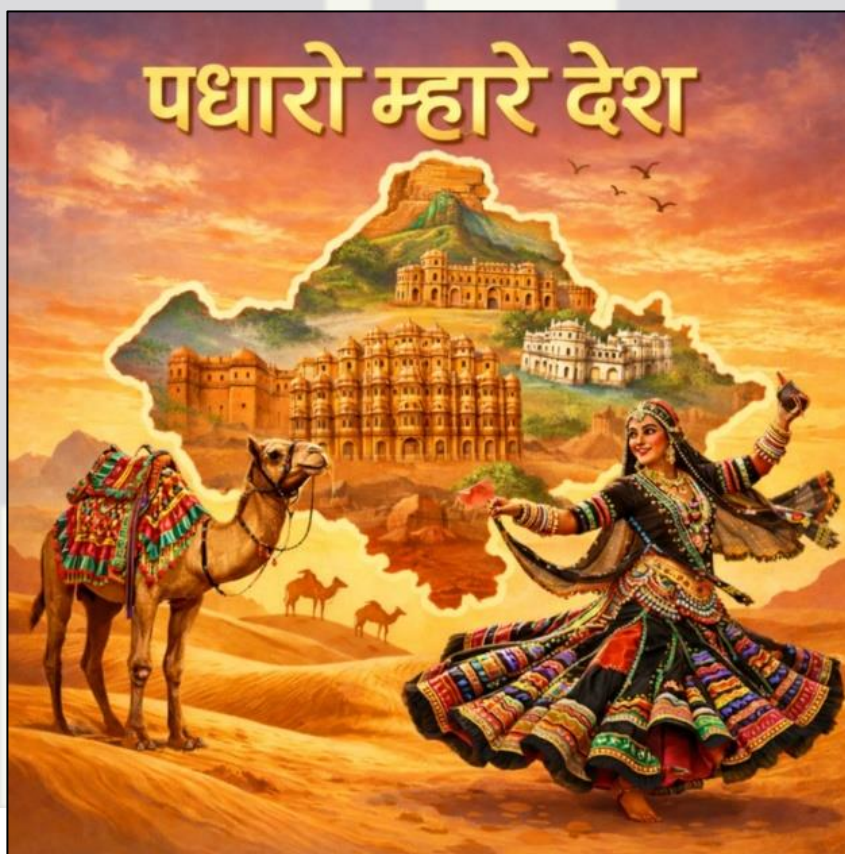


Rajasthan Day – List of Major Events



Why in News?

- On March 14, 2026, the formal commencement of 'Rajasthan Day – 2026' took place, marked by a seven-day 'Cleanliness Week'.



Key Points:

- On March 12, 2025, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced that Rajasthan Day would henceforth be celebrated on the Pratipada (first day) of the Indian New Year—specifically Chaitra Pratipada—instead of on March 30. In accordance with this decision, the Rajasthan Day celebrations for the year 2026 are scheduled to be held on March 19 (Chaitra Shukla Ekam / Nav Samvatsar).

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List of Major Events to be Organized on the Occasion of Rajasthan Day:

S.N.	Date	program name	Site
1.	15 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organization of the State Level “Developed Rajasthan Run”■ Launch of the “Know Rajasthan” Digital Quiz■ State Level ODOP and “Jaipur Ratnam” Exhibition■ Painting Exhibition by Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy	Jaipur
2.	16 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan Tribal Pride Day	Beneshwar Dham, Dungarpur
3.	17 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan Youth Power Day■ State Level Youth Conference	Jaipur
4.	18 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Farmer and Livestock Rearer Dialogue	Bharatpur
5.	19 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ State Level Cultural Program by the Department of Art and Culture	Jaipur
6.	19 March, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Main Ceremony of Rajasthan Day	Jalore

Other Important Points:

'Know Rajasthan' Online Quiz:

- **Organizers:** The Department of School Education, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology and Communications (DOIT&C) and the Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation Limited (RKCL).
- Each quiz will consist of 25 questions, which must be answered within a time limit of 15 minutes.

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Facts for Prelims:

- On the occasion of the inauguration of 'Samyukta Rajasthan' (United Rajasthan), the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, stated the following in his address delivered in Jaipur on Varsha Pratipada (the New Year's Day) of the Vikram Samvat 2006—i.e., March 30, 1949:
- "Today marks the commencement of the New Year in Rajputana; it is on this very day here that the year changes, and the era shifts. As this is a new year, on this day, we must fully comprehend the significance of this new 'Maharajsthan' (Greater Rajasthan). Today, with pure hearts, we must pray to God to make us worthy Rajasthanis—worthy of Rajasthan. May God grant us the strength and wisdom to uplift Rajasthan and to serve the people of Rajputana. On this auspicious day, we seek God's blessings. I hope that you will all join me in this pledge to serve Rajasthan, and in this prayer. Jai Hind!"

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Key Points:

- This initiative will be conducted under the Government of India's 'Gyan Bharatam Mission'.
- Under this statewide survey, the State Department of Tourism, Art & Literature, Culture, and Archaeology will conduct a survey to discover and catalog ancient texts and manuscripts across the state.
- As part of the survey, ancient manuscripts will be identified, cataloged, and registered. The primary objective of this mission is to create a high-quality digital database of rare manuscripts to ensure their preservation for the future.
- **State Nodal Officer for the Rajasthan Manuscript Survey:** Dr. Lata Shrimali, Director of the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy.
- **Main Cluster Center:** Under the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission' in Rajasthan, the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur, has been designated as the state's main cluster center for the conservation and scientific study of manuscripts.
- **Note:** The Abhay Jain Granthalaya (Library), located in Bikaner, has been declared Rajasthan's first official manuscript conservation center.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Gyan Bharatam Mission:** A flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of Culture, announced in the Union Budget 2025-26. Its primary objective is the survey, documentation, conservation, and digitization of India's vast handwritten heritage (manuscripts).
- To revitalize India's knowledge heritage, the 'First Gyan Bharatam International Conference' was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, from September 11 to 13, 2025.

Rajasthan's Progress in Vaccination

Why in News?

- According to recently released data, Rajasthan has achieved unprecedented progress in the field of vaccination. Approximately three decades ago, the vaccination coverage in the state stood at a mere 21 percent; this figure has now risen to approximately 91.8 percent in the year 2024-25.

Key Points:

- Under the vaccination program in Rajasthan, health protection is being provided to children aged from birth up to 16 years, as well as to pregnant women, through various vaccines.
- According to NFHS-5, the percentage of fully vaccinated children aged 12–23 months in Rajasthan is 80.4 percent, which is 4 percent higher than the national average (76.4 percent).

Types of Child Vaccinations in the State:

S.N.	Name of Vaccine	Disease Prevention
1.	Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) Vaccine	Tuberculosis (TB)
2.	Hepatitis B Vaccine	Liver infection caused by Hepatitis B virus
3.	Pentavalent Vaccine	Combination of 5 vaccines: Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus, Hepatitis B, and Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)
4.	Polio Vaccine 1. OPV: Oral Polio Vaccine 2. IPV: Inactivated Polio Vaccine	Polio

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5.	Rotavirus Vaccine (RVV)	Protection from diarrhea in children
6.	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)	Pneumonia and meningitis
7.	Measles and Rubella Vaccine	Protection from infectious diseases like measles and rubella

Facts for Prelims:

- **Note:** No case of polio has been reported in Rajasthan since 2009, and India was declared a polio-free country in 2014.
- **Note:** On February 28, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a 'Nationwide HPV Vaccination Campaign' from Ajmer to prevent cervical cancer in women.
- **Note:** National Vaccination Day is observed every year on March 16. It is also known as 'National Immunization Day.' It was initiated on March 16, 1995, when the first dose of the Oral Polio Vaccine was administered in India.

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Jaipur Tops the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garibi Muft Gavn Yojna'

Why in News?

- Jaipur district has secured the first position across the state in the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty-Free Village Scheme'.

एक वर्ष
परिणाम उत्कर्ष

संयोजित जयन्ति
राजस्थान सरकार

“

‘पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय गरीबी मुक्त गांव योजना’ के माध्यम से हमारी सरकार, पहले चरण में 5 हजार गांवों में सभी बीपीएल परिवारों को, गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर लाएगी तथा

इसके लिए 300 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान भी किया है।

Key Points:

- **Scheme Goal:** To economically empower the state's rural families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) and to uplift them above the poverty line.
- **Scheme Objective:** To improve the standard of living of families identified as per the BPL Census of 2002 and to make them self-reliant.
- **Scope:** This scheme will be implemented across all rural areas of the state.

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- **First Phase:** In the first phase of the scheme, a total of 30,631 BPL families have been identified across 5,002 villages in the state.

Key Provisions of the Scheme:

- A provision of ₹300 crore has been made to provide financial support to the BPL families in the 5,000 selected villages.
- Under this scheme, districts that demonstrate outstanding performance will be awarded special financial incentives.
- Based on quarterly rankings, districts securing the first, second, and third positions will be awarded sums of ₹50 lakh, ₹35 lakh, and ₹25 lakh, respectively.
- Families that rise above the poverty line through their own efforts will be awarded an incentive amount of ₹21,000 by the State Government as a mark of honor. Additionally, the State Government will present these families with an 'Atmanirbhar Parivar Card' (Self-Reliant Family Card) as a further incentive.

Other Important Points:

- Jaipur has also secured the first position in the state under the 'PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' in the Critical Care Hospital category, and under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)' for the Primary Collection of Solid Waste and Removal of GVP (Garbage Vulnerable Points).

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>‘Pandun Ka Kada’ Singing Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of the Rajasthan Day celebrations—2026, a program organized by the Department of Art, Literature, and Culture at the Jawahar Kala Kendra featured a performance of the ‘Pandun Ka Kada’ singing style by the Padma Shri awardee Ustad Gaffaruddin Khan Mewati Group.‘Pandun Ka Kada’ is an extremely ancient and rich folk singing style originating from the Mewat region of Haryana and Rajasthan. It is primarily performed by the Mewati Jogis, and its history is believed to date back over 600 years.This singing style is entirely based on the epic narrative of the Mahabharata. It is also referred to as the "Mewati Mahabharata."The Bhapang musical instrument is predominantly used during the performance of this singing style.
2.	<p>Rajasthan Utsav – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma formally inaugurated ‘Rajasthan Utsav – 2026’ at Bikaner House in New Delhi on March 15, 2026.Duration: March 15 to March 25, 2026.This festival offers a glimpse into Rajasthan’s rich cultural heritage, folk traditions, handicrafts, folk music, folk dances, and traditional cuisine.

3.

Jauhar Tribute Ceremony: Chittorgarh

- The Jauhar Tribute Ceremony – 2026, was organized in Chittorgarh from March 13 to March 15, 2026.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the main ceremony on March 15.
- During the event, the book Jaimal Vansha Prakash—authored by former Governor V.P. Singh Badnore—was released.

4.

State-Level Consumer Conference: Jaipur

- On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, a State-Level Consumer Conference was organized by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- **Venue:** Constitution Club, Jaipur.
- **Theme:** "Safe Products – Assured Consumers."
- **Rajasthan Consumer Helpline Number:** 14435
- **State Consumer Commission:** Ranked third in the disposal of consumer cases.
- **'Give Up' Campaign:** Launched in Rajasthan on November 1, 2024, to encourage citizens to voluntarily forgo their food subsidies.

5.

Raj Sakhi Saras Mela 'Jodhana 2026'

- **Event Dates:** March 14 to 20, 2026, in Jodhpur.
- **Organizer:** Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika), in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

6.

The Country's First International-Standard Institute of Dermatology

- India's first international-standard Institute of Dermatology has been established within the Charak Bhawan of the Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in Jaipur.
- Following London, this is the world's second most advanced and distinguished institute, poised to provide high-level medical facilities in the field of dermatology.
- Notably, the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences has also been developed at SMS Hospital to provide advanced cardiac care facilities.

7.

Unveiling of Honda's First EV Model

- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma unveiled Honda Motors' first Electric Vehicle (EV) model, the '0 α ' (Zero Alpha).
- This will be Honda's first electric car to be manufactured in India; production is scheduled to take place at the Tapukara plant (Khairthal-Tijara).
- The foundation stone for Honda's manufacturing plant in Rajasthan was laid in 2007, and vehicle production commenced in 2014.

8.

Rajasthan State Gas Receives National 'Diamond Award'

- Rajasthan State Gas Limited (RSGL)—a joint venture of the Government of Rajasthan—was honored with the prestigious national-level 'Diamond Award' for its effective utilization of Internet of Things (IoT)-based technology and for its innovations in the field of smart gas distribution.
- At a ceremony organized in New Delhi by the India Smart Grid Forum, RSGL's Deputy General Manager, Vivek Srivastava, and C.P. [received the award]. Chaudhary received this honor.
- RSGL has been conferred this award for the effective utilization and innovation of IoT-based smart technology at its CNG mother station.

Geography and Geology

Phenology

Why in News?

- In India, unusually high temperatures during late winter and early spring are altering the behavior of plants and animals. According to scientists, this phenomenon is impacting the cycle of Phenology.



Key Points:

Phenology

- Phenology refers to the timing or cycle of seasonal biological phenomena—such as flowering, reproduction, and migration.
- Climate change is altering these cycles. This is creating an ecological mismatch between species and their environment.

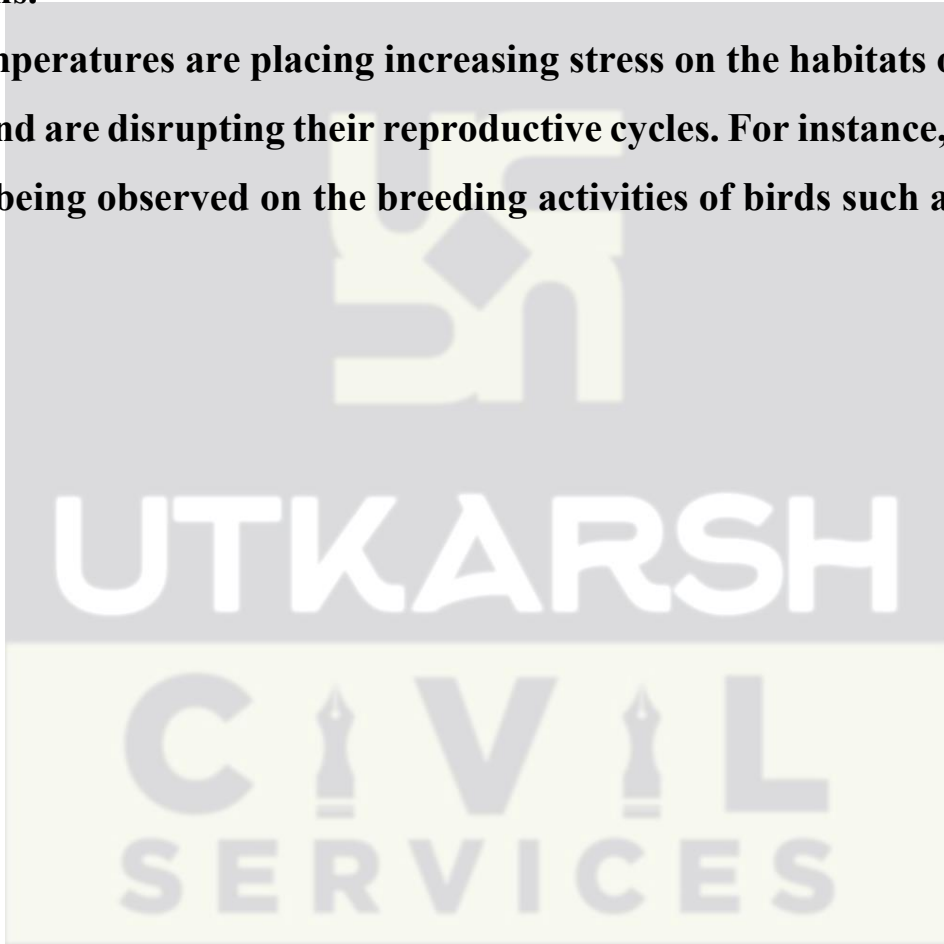
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Examples

- In the Kashmir Himalayan region, plants have started to bloom 20–25 days earlier than usual. Consequently, their synchronization with pollinators—such as bees—is being disrupted, raising the risk of a long-term decline in bee populations.
- Rising temperatures are placing increasing stress on the habitats of birds and reptiles, and are disrupting their reproductive cycles. For instance, a profound impact is being observed on the breeding activities of birds such as the Hawk Eagle.



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Schemes and Policies

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Why in News?

- The Prime Minister has released the 22nd installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi for farmers across the country.



Key Points:

PM-KISAN

- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- **Launch:** Year 2019
- **Scheme Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Objective:** To assist land-holding farmers in meeting their financial needs.

Key Features:

- **Benefit:** Financial assistance of ₹6,000 per annum is provided to eligible land-holding farmer families (comprising husband, wife, and minor children).
- This amount is deposited directly into the farmers' bank accounts in three equal installments of ₹2,000 each, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- **Identification of Beneficiaries:** Beneficiaries are identified by the State Governments and Union Territories.

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Sujal Gaon ID

Why in News?

- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched the Sujal Gaon ID.

Key Points:

- **Launch:** It has been introduced by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission'.
- **Nature:** It is a unique digital ID designed to identify piped water supply schemes in rural areas.
- **Objective:** To create a digital map of rural drinking water infrastructure, covering the entire water supply chain from the water source to the household tap.
- **Platform:** It has been integrated with the 'Sujalam Bharat' National Digital Architecture.

Significance:

- It will enhance the monitoring, transparency, and accountability of water supply schemes.
- It will prove instrumental in achieving the universal goal of 'Har Ghar Jal' (Water to Every Household) by the year 2028.

Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH)

Why in News?

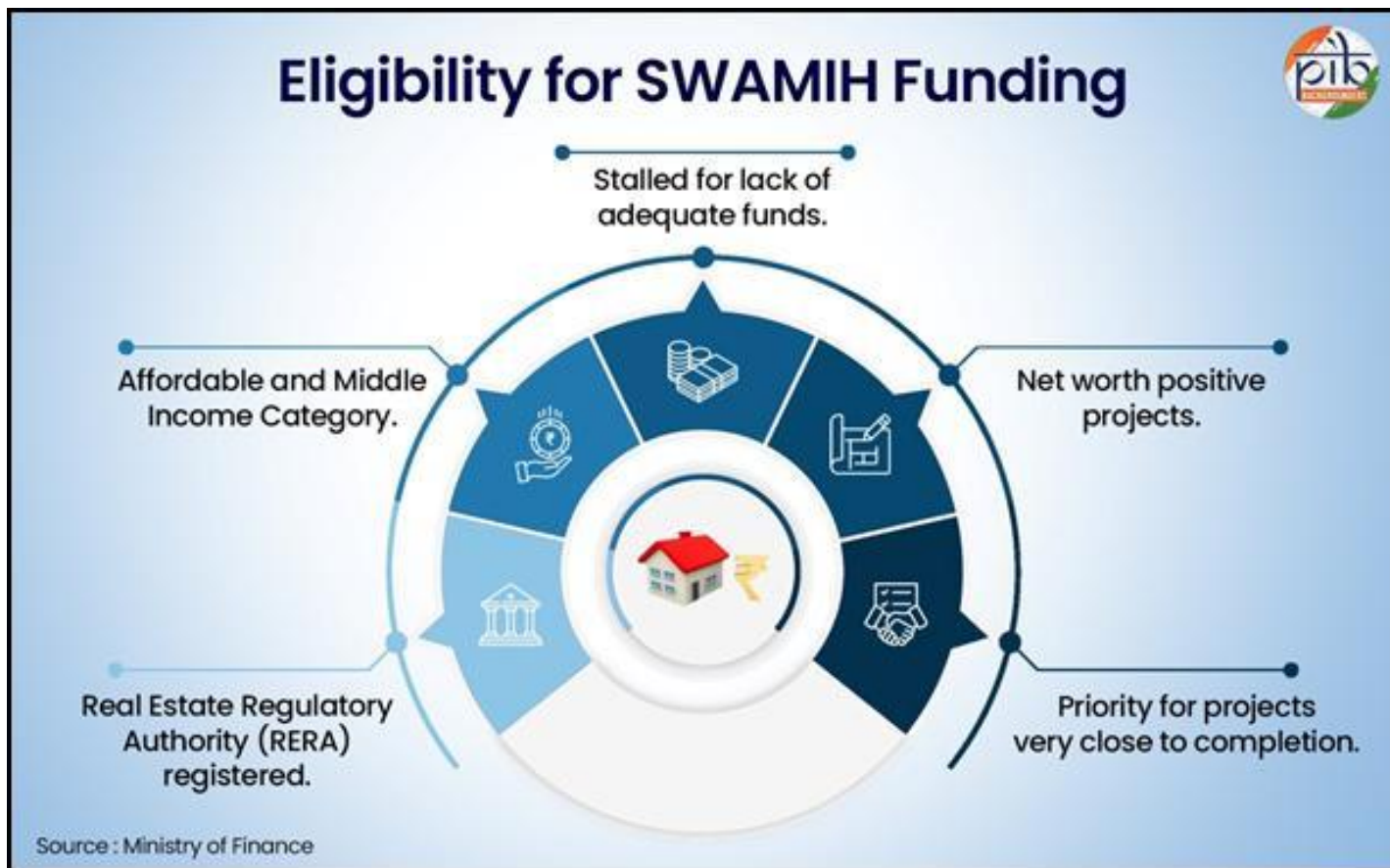
- The Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Investment Fund (SWAMIH) has emerged as a key policy initiative for the housing sector in India.

SWAMIH Fund



Key Points:

- Launched in 2019, SWAMIH provides financing to housing projects affected by financial constraints.
- This fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is managed by SBI Capital Ventures Ltd., a company of the State Bank Group.



- **Impact and Outcomes:** Under the SWAMIH scheme, the construction of over 58,596 homes has been completed to date, and the construction of over 100,000 homes is expected, thereby benefiting more than 238,000 people.



Kharg Island



Why in News?

- Recently, the U.S. military attacked military bases on Iran's Kharg Island.



Key Points:

Kharg Island

- Often referred to as the "Orphan Pearl," Kharg Island is a small island in the northeastern Persian Gulf, situated approximately 25 kilometers off the coast of Iran's Khuzestan province.
- Despite its small size, it serves as Iran's most important oil export terminal and is one of the world's most strategically significant energy chokepoints.

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- **Iran is the third-largest producer within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), accounting for approximately 4.5% of the global oil supply.**

Global Pandemic Accord

Why in News?

- India is advocating for an equitable benefit-sharing framework for developing countries during the ongoing negotiations for the upcoming Pandemic Accord in Geneva.

Key Points:

- It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025.
- **Objective:** To establish a legally binding international framework to address global gaps and inequities in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.
- Negotiations are currently underway regarding its Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System to regulate how biological samples and genetic data are shared internationally.
- It is expected to be adopted by May 2026; thereafter, it will be open for signature and ratification by countries, and will enter into force 30 days after receiving 60 ratifications.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

Why in News?

- The captive breeding program under the Great Indian Bustard Project has entered its fourth year. The total population of Great Indian Bustards under captive breeding—that is, protected reproduction—has reached 70 individuals.

Project Great Indian Bustard (Project GIB)



Key Points:

- **Habitat:** This bird is endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It is primarily found in agro-grasslands.
- Its largest population is found in Rajasthan. Additionally, it is also found in parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- In Rajasthan, it is known by the name 'Godawan'.

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Characteristics:

- It is an omnivorous bird and belongs to the 'Otididae' family.
- It exhibits sexual dimorphism; that is, the physical structure of the male and female birds differs.
- The male bird possesses a distinct gular pouch, which plays a crucial role in signaling for breeding.
- **Major Threats:** Poaching, mortality due to collisions with high-voltage power lines, etc.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Critically Endangered
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- Included in the Species Recovery Programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.

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National Chambal Sanctuary

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance regarding the protection of gharials in the National Chambal Sanctuary.



Key Points:

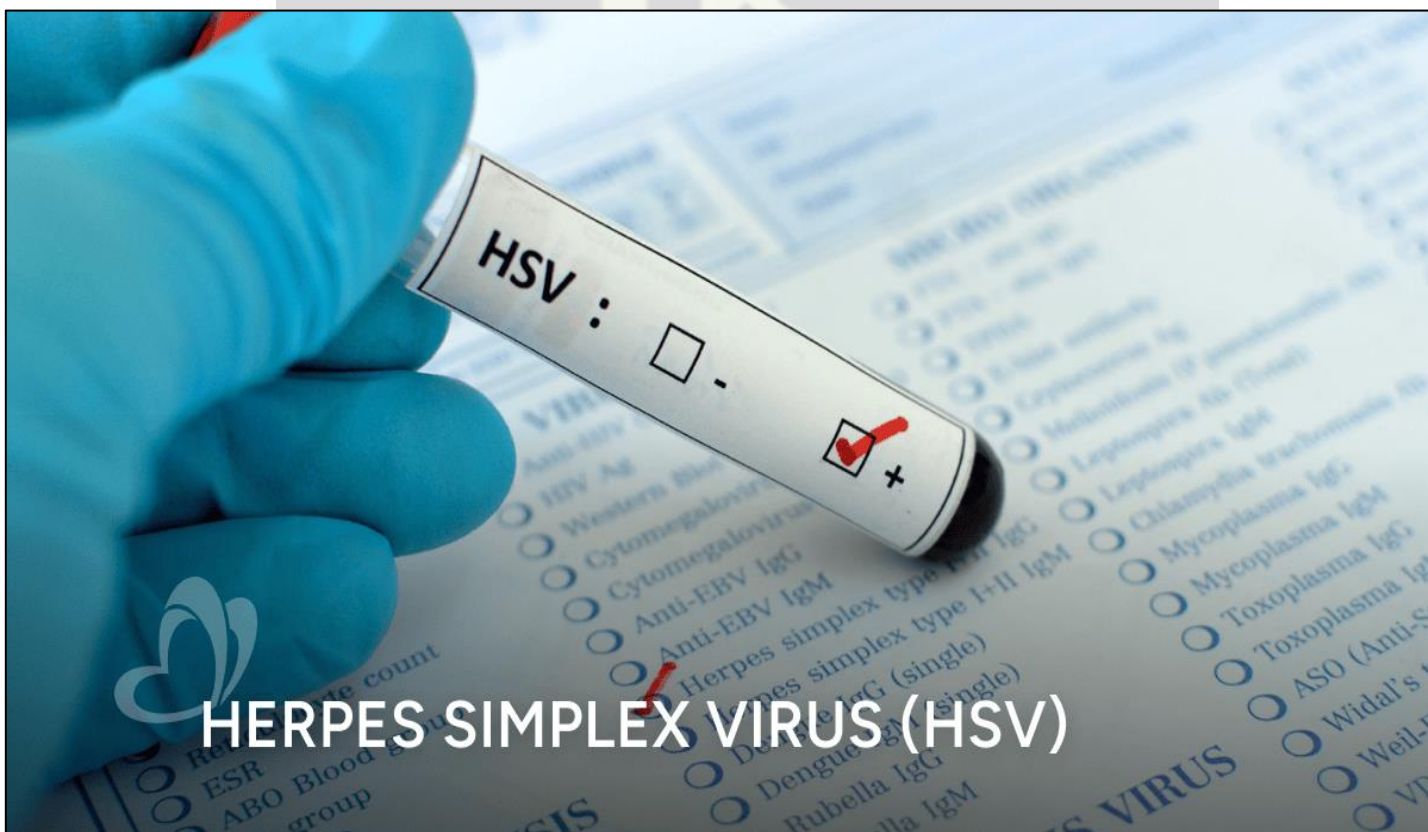
- **Location and Area:** It spans approximately 5,400 square kilometers along the banks of the Chambal River across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- It is India's first and only tri-state riverine protected area.
- **Establishment:** It was established in 1979, for the conservation of riverine biodiversity.
- **Significance:** It serves as a primary habitat for the Critically Endangered gharial.
- The Chambal River is one of India's least polluted perennial rivers; consequently, the region is home to rich aquatic biodiversity.
- **Other Fauna Found in the Sanctuary:** Ganges River Dolphin, Red-crowned Roofed Turtle, other freshwater turtle species, migratory birds, etc.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Why in News?

- Due to severe overcrowding at the Jalpaiguri Correctional Home in West Bengal, seven inmates have died from a Herpes virus infection, and 92 others have been found to be infected.



Key Points:

Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

- It is commonly known simply as 'Herpes.' It is a common viral infection that causes painful blisters or ulcers on the mouth or genitals.
- It can be treated, but it cannot be completely cured, as the virus remains present in the body for life.

Types of HSV:

HSV Type 1:

- Primarily causes oral herpes, which appears as cold sores around the mouth.
- It spreads through oral contact, saliva, or skin-to-skin contact.
- It can also cause genital herpes (infection of the genitals) through oral-genital contact.

HSV Type 2:

- Primarily causes genital herpes.
- It spreads through contact with infected skin, sores, or bodily fluids during sexual intercourse.
- **Rare Transmission:** The Type 2 virus can also be transmitted from mother to child during childbirth; this condition is known as neonatal herpes.