

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 26 March 2026



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### Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy – 2026



#### Why in News?

- The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has recently launched the Rajasthan Industrial Park Promotion Policy – 2026.
- This policy focuses on investment, job creation, and green growth.

# RAJASTHAN INDUSTRIAL PARK PROMOTION POLICY 2026



#### Key Points:

- **Objective of the Policy:** To transform Rajasthan into a 'Future-Ready Destination' by developing world-class industrial parks within the state.
- **Nodal Agency:** RIICO (Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation).

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## Features:

### ■ Four Development Models:

1. **Purely Private Development:** Private developers can develop parks on their own land.
2. **Hybrid Land-Sharing:** An arrangement involving the sharing of land and resources; 80% of the land is to be provided by the developer, and 20% by RIICO.
3. **Public-Private Partnership (PPP):** A joint endeavor between the government and the private sector.
4. **Development by a Purely Private Developer on RIICO-Allotted Land.**

- ### ■ Eligibility Criteria:
- To establish a private industrial park, it is mandatory to possess a minimum of 50 acres of land and have at least 10 industrial units.

## Incentives and Subsidies:

- **Capital Subsidy:** A 20% capital subsidy on common infrastructure for the first 10 park developers.
- **Maximum Limit:** ₹20 crore for parks up to 100 acres; ₹30 crore for parks between 100 and 250 acres; and ₹40 crore for parks exceeding 250 acres.
- **Green Growth Incentive:** Reimbursement of 50% of the expenditure incurred on a CETP (Common Effluent Treatment Plant), subject to a maximum limit of ₹12.5 crore per park.
- **Additional Incentives:** Includes a 100% exemption on electricity duty for 7 years for captive renewable energy generation; a 25% exemption on stamp duty and land conversion charges; and additional incentives under RIPS-2024 for the development of 'Plug-and-Play' office complexes and Common Utility Centers.

## Infrastructure and Development:

- Ensuring the availability of hydroelectric power supply to the park by the Government; construction of the nearest road/approach road (60% borne by the State, 40% by the Developer; State contribution capped at ₹3 crore).
- Time-bound disposal of applications through land information and Single Window Clearance via the State Investment Portal.

## Rajeevika – Microfinance MoU

### Why in News?

- An MoU has been signed for a period of three years between the Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Council and the Centre for Microfinance, Jaipur.



### Key Points:

- **Objective:** To strengthen the model Cluster Level Federations promoted by Rajeevika, and to provide technical support for the effective implementation of the Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH components within rural communities.

## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Jai Krishna Jaju</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Jai Krishna Jaju has been appointed as the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Rajasthan State Council, effective from March 26, 2026.</li><li>■ The Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in 1925 at the initiative of Ghanshyam Das Birla of Rajasthan.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Rajasthan Global Capability Centers Conclave-2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Rajasthan Global Capability Centers (GCC) Conclave-2026 was organized in Jaipur.</li><li>■ Its objective is to establish over 200 GCCs in the state by 2030, generate 150,000 jobs, and develop Jaipur, Udaipur, and Jodhpur as GCC hubs.</li></ul>



## NATIONAL

### Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

#### Why in News?

- Recently, The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has highlighted the achievements of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) over the past 10 years.



#### Key Points:

##### Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

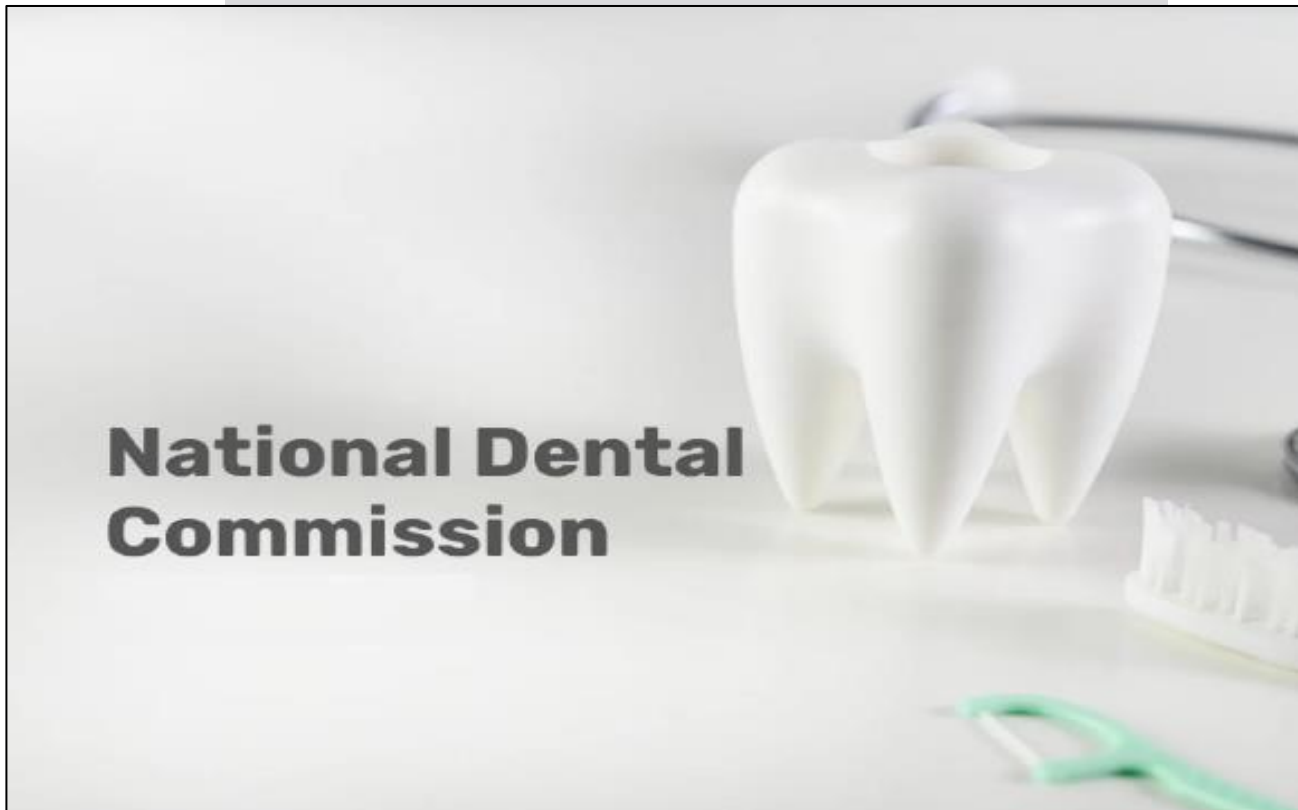
- Establishment:** The current body was constituted under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.
- Previously, BIS operated under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. It was a revamped version of the Indian Standards Institution, which was established in 1947.
- Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- Five Regional Offices:** Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh, and Delhi.
- Key Functions:** Formulation of standards (e.g., Indian Standard Codes), Product Certification (e.g., the ISI Mark for quality assurance), and the Compulsory Registration Scheme (mandatory certification for electronics and IT goods).

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## National Dental Commission (NDC)

### Why in News?

- The Government of India has established a new regulatory body, the National Dental Commission (NDC), replacing the Dental Council of India (DCI).



### Key Points:

#### National Dental Commission

- Established under the National Dental Commission Act, 2023.
- Its objective is to bring about regulatory reforms in dental education and improve access to affordable oral healthcare.

#### Key Functions

- Formulating rules to implement the provisions of the Act.
- Evaluating and rating dental institutions.
- Assessing human resources and promoting dental research.

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- Formulating guidelines for fee regulation in private dental colleges.
- Setting standards for community dental care, education, research, and professional ethics.
- **Institutional Structure:** To ensure the smooth functioning of the Commission, three autonomous boards have been constituted:
- **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dental Education Board:** To oversee dental education.
- **Dental Assessment and Rating Board:** To regulate accreditation and institutional assessment.
- **Dental Ethics and Registration Board:** To govern the professional conduct and registration of dental practitioners.

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## Economic Developments



### India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves



#### Why in News?

- According to a Union Minister, India's strategic petroleum reserves are approximately two-thirds full.



#### Key Points:

- The current capacity of India's strategic petroleum reserves stands at 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).
- When at full capacity, these reserves are sufficient to cover approximately 9.5 days of India's crude oil supply requirements.

#### What are Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)?

- **Introduction:** These are reserves of crude oil. They are maintained by the government to ensure energy security during disruptions in supply.
- These reserves are in addition to the commercial reserves held by oil companies.

- **Implementing Agency:** Managed under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL). ISPRL was established in 2004.
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



- **वर्तमान में कच्चे तेल की भंडारण क्षमता:**
  - 1.33 MMT (विशाखापत्तनम, आंध्र प्रदेश)
  - 1.5 MMT (मंगलुरु, कर्नाटक)
  - 2.5 MMT (पादुर, कर्नाटक)
- **SPR-II के अंतर्गत कच्चे-तेल की निर्माणाधीन भंडारण**
  - 4 MMT (चंडीखोल, ओडिशा)
  - 2.5 MMT (पादुर, कर्नाटक)

- **Storage Technology:** Crude oil is stored in underground rock caverns. These caverns are situated deep beneath the ground, typically located near coastal regions.

## Significance of Strategic Petroleum Reserves

- **Energy Security:** Ensures a continued supply of oil to consumers within the country in the event of war, supply disruptions, or blockades of maritime routes.
- **Economic Stability:** Helps stabilize oil prices in the market, thereby aiding in the mitigation of sudden inflationary shocks.
- **Strategic Autonomy:** Reduces dependence on external geopolitical circumstances.

## Challenges Facing India

- **Limited Storage Capacity:** The capacity of India's strategic petroleum reserves falls significantly short of the standards set by the International Energy Agency (IEA). According to the IEA, a country should maintain oil reserves equivalent to 90 days of demand.
- **Policy and Operational Issues:** There is a lack of a clear policy regarding the release of oil from these reserves, particularly during periods of oil price volatility.

## Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026

### Why in News?

- The Central Government has notified the 'Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026'. This Order has been notified under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

## PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY BOARD (PNGRB)



### Key Points:

Its objectives are as follows:

- To facilitate the expansion of the Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network;
- To promote the consumption of clean fuels;
- To ensure energy security;

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- To support India's transition towards a natural gas-based economy.
- **Key Reforms:** Time-bound approvals, a single coordinated framework, expansion of the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, etc.

## Gas-based Economy

- **Target:** India aims to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix—that is, in its total energy demand—to 15% by the year 2030.
- In the year 2025, its share stood at only 6.2%.
- **Demand Projection:** Natural gas consumption is projected to rise from 52 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) in FY25 to over 112 MTPA by FY40.

## Steps Taken Towards a Gas-based Economy

- **Expansion of the National Gas Grid:** The Jagdishpur-Haldia/Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline project and the establishment of Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) for the North-Eastern region.
- **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transport (SATAT) Scheme and CBG Mandate:** This scheme was launched in 2018. Under this initiative, entrepreneurs were invited to produce Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) from waste.
- **Unified Tariff (UFT) Policy:** This policy was introduced by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to establish a uniform and equitable distance-based tariff structure across the entire country.
- **Other Measures:** The launch of the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX), etc.

## Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE)



### Why in News?

- The results of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2025, covering the period from January to December 2025, have been released.



### Key Points:

#### ASUSE:

- **Conducted by:** The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Objective:** To provide inputs for GDP estimation and National Accounts.
- **Coverage:** The unincorporated non-agricultural sector, encompassing manufacturing, trade, and services.
- **Indicators:** Employment, Gross Value Added (GVA), wages, digital usage, etc.
- **Significance:** It aids in policy formulation for MSMEs and the informal sector economy.

## 🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

### Lieutenant Colonel Puja Pal and Others vs. Union of India Case

#### 📣 Why in News?

- The Supreme Court directed that eligible women officers in the Armed Forces must be granted Permanent Commission and pensionary benefits.



#### 📌 Key Points:

- In the Babita Punia and Others case (2020), the Supreme Court had ordered the grant of Permanent Commission to women. Furthermore, it had deemed them eligible to hold command posts.
- Under the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme, officers are initially appointed for a tenure of 10 years. This tenure can subsequently be extended up to 14 years.

#### Key Observations by the Court:

- **Systemic Discrimination:** The denial of Permanent Commission is rooted in institutional bias. It also reflects structural inequality in the evaluation process.
- **Flawed Evaluation System:** The methodology for evaluating Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs), as well as the prescribed cut-offs, must be reviewed. This is essential for future batches.

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## Sociology

### Scheduled Caste Status

#### Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has ruled that Scheduled Caste status, under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, is restricted exclusively to Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists.



#### Key Points:

##### Supreme Court's Observations:

- **Loss of Scheduled Caste Status:** Upon conversion to any other religion, Scheduled Caste (SC) status ceases immediately and completely, regardless of the caste into which one was born.
- **Mutual Exclusivity:** An individual cannot simultaneously claim SC status while practicing another religion.
- **Distinction from Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status:** ST status is not based on religion; rather, it depends on the continuity of tribal identity and community acceptance.