

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 17 April 2026



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Target for Financial Year 2026-27 under the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana'



Why in News?

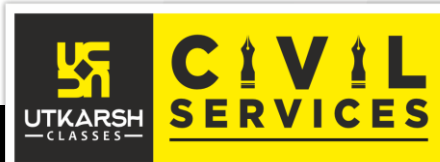
- Recently, the Department of Industries and Commerce set a target to provide financial assistance to 30,000 youths during the financial year 2026-27 under the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana' (Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme).



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📌 Key Points:

Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana:

- **Launched on:** January 12, 2026, by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma from Jaipur.
- **Scheme Duration:** Until March 31, 2029.
- **Objective:** Under this scheme, 100,000 youths will be groomed as micro-entrepreneurs by providing them with interest-free loans.
- **Eligibility:** Must be a permanent resident of Rajasthan, and the age must be between 18 and 45 years.
- **100% interest subsidy and payment of CGTMSE fees to be borne by the State Government.**
- **Maximum Loan Tenure:** 5 years.

Benefits Available under the Scheme (Based on Educational Qualification):

Applicants who have passed Class 8 to 12

Sector	Maximum Loan	Grant (Margin Money)
Service & Trade	₹3.5 lakh	Up to ₹35,000 (10 percent)
Manufacturing Sector	₹7.5 lakh	10 percent

Applicants with a Bachelor's degree, ITI, or Higher Educational Qualifications.

Sector	Maximum Loan	Grant (Margin Money)
Service & Trade	₹5 lakh	₹50,000 (10 percent)
Manufacturing Sector	₹10 lakh	10 percent

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77th Rajasthan Police Foundation Day



Why in News?

- On the occasion of the 77th Foundation Day of the Rajasthan Police, a state-level ceremony was organized at the Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA) in Jaipur.

77 वां राजस्थान पुलिस स्थापना दिवस समारोह (16 अप्रैल, 2026)

सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

- 16 अप्रैल 1949 : राजस्थान पुलिस की नींव
- 30 मार्च 1954 : पुलिस ध्वज से सम्मानित
- जनवरी 1951 : राजस्थान पुलिस सेवा का गठन
- श्री आर. बनर्जी बने थे पहले पुलिस मुखिया

हमारा संकल्प - सेवा, सुरक्षा, शौर्य!

SOG हेल्पलाइन: 155249 | आपातकालीन नंबर : 108/112 | गरिमा हेल्पलाइन : 1090 | चाइल्ड हेल्पलाइन : 1098 | साइबर क्राइम हेल्पलाइन : 1930

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Key Points:

- **Chief Guest:** Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Chief Minister's Medal for Distinguished Service:

Distinguished Personality	Designation
Biju George Joseph	Additional Director General of Police
Bipin Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Police
Anil Kumar	Police Inspector
Sitaram Bhakal	Sub-Inspector of Police
Girdhari Lal Sharma	Sub-Inspector of Police
Govindram	Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police

- **Other Honored Individuals:** On the occasion of the Rajasthan Police Foundation Day, the Chief Minister honored three other citizens at the state level for their outstanding contributions in the field of social service.
 1. **Prakash Prajapati:** A social worker and volunteer social activist residing in Sirohi.
 2. **Surjit Kashyap:** A resident of Jhalawar.
 3. **Sindhu Binujit:** The Divisional-level Child Protection Advisor for the Udaipur Division.

Other Important Points:

Rajasthan Police Training Camp under 'Mission Karmayogi'

- **Event:** Held at the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gujarat campus, under the initiative 'Mission Karmayogi – Gujarat,' from April 6 to April 16, 2026.
- **Objective:** To enhance the skills of police officers across the state and strengthen their professional competencies.
- The Rashtriya Raksha University, located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is an Institution of National Importance functioning under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established in 2020 with the objective of promoting education, training, and research in the fields of policing, internal security, and national defence.

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'Rajasthan State and NSDC - Sector Skill Council' Kaushal Samvad (Skill Dialogue)



Why in News?

- Recently, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan, organized the 'Rajasthan State and NSDC - Sector Skill Council (SSC) Kaushal Samvad' in Jaipur.



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Key Points:

- **Objective of the Event:** To strengthen Rajasthan's skilling ecosystem and to fulfill the objectives of the Rajasthan State Skill Mission (RSSM).
- **Target:** To upskill 1 million (10 lakh) youths over the next five years by bringing together institutions and industries across Rajasthan.
- Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), operating under the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), are the primary bodies responsible for making skill development and vocational training industry-centric.

Key Decisions:

- Establishment of a world-class Skill Training Institution and a Skill India International Centre (SIIC) in Jaipur.
- The Skill Training Institution in Jaipur—being developed along the lines of the World Skills Centre, Bhubaneswar, and the Global Skills Park, Bhopal—will function as an advanced world-class skill training facility and serve as a dedicated platform for mentoring and monitoring the skill ecosystem in Rajasthan.
- The Government of Rajasthan has allocated a budgetary provision of ₹450 crore for this project.

Other Significant Points:

- **Kaushal Rath Initiative:** On January 7, 2026, the 'Kaushal Rath Initiative' was inaugurated from Sikar by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Rajasthan at the India Skills Competition:

- **Event:** Organized by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) from February 15 to 18, 2026.

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- **Winners:** Kirtan Dhakad (Chittorgarh) won a gold medal in the 'Electrical Installation' trade.
- Shubham Jaiswal (Chittorgarh) won a silver medal in the 'Mechanical Engineering' trade.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC):

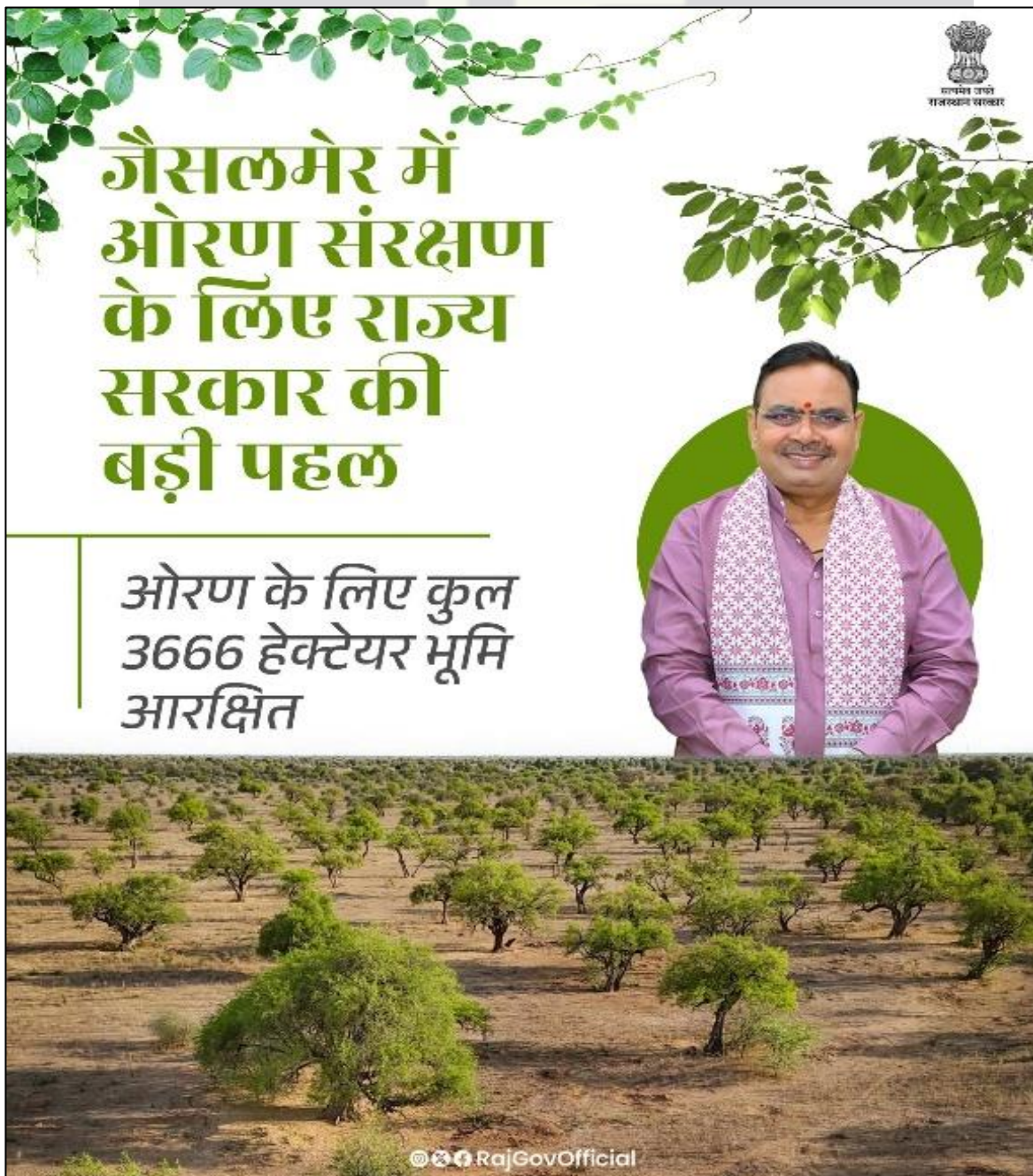
- **Establishment:** In September 2004, as the 'Rajasthan Mission on Livelihoods' (RMoL).
- In May 2012, RMoL was converted into a corporation and renamed the 'Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation' (RSLDC).
- **Objective:** To develop livelihood strategies linked to appropriate skill development for the youth.
- Currently, the 'Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation' (RSLDC) operates and manages various schemes of both the State and Central governments. Its aim is to enhance the skills of Rajasthan's youth and provide them with livelihood opportunities.
- **Note:** In 2015, a new department named the 'Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship' was constituted following a decision by the Rajasthan Cabinet.

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State Government's Initiative for 'Oran' Conservation in Jaisalmer

Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of Rajasthan decided to designate over 3,666 hectares of land in Jaisalmer as 'Oran' (sacred groves), thereby upholding environmental conservation and respecting local religious sentiments.



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Key Points:

- This move is expected to prove instrumental in maintaining ecological balance and curbing desertification within the sandy desert terrain of Western Rajasthan.
- **Reserved Areas:** The designated area encompasses villages such as Mokla and Birma Kanod, located across the Ramgarh, Fatehgarh, and Jaisalmer tehsils.
- 'Oran' represents a system dating back to ancient times, wherein local communities driven by socio-religious beliefs refrain from causing any harm to these sacred groves. The cutting of trees or the use of axes is strictly prohibited within these zones; consequently, the local ecosystem remains naturally preserved.
- The term 'Oran' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Aranya,' which translates to 'an untouched forest.'
- **Jitendra Rai Goyal Committee:** Acting upon directives from the Supreme Court, a high-level committee chaired by former Justice Jitendra Rai Goyal was constituted in 2025 to oversee the conservation of 'Oran' (traditional forest lands) in Rajasthan. This committee will collaborate closely with the State Forest Department to facilitate the conservation, identification, and sustainable management of the 'Devban Oran.'



NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat Run'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The 'Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat Run' was organized in Jaipur on April 17, 2026.■ Theme: '#Nari Shakti Vandan'■ Organizer: The 'Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat Run' is a nationwide fun run/marathon event organized by 'My Bharat' under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.■ Its primary objective is to honor the power of women at the grassroots level and to strengthen their participation in the nation's journey toward becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).
2.	<p>Kusum Singh: Mahila Beacon Leader Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Kusum Singh, the Sarpanch (village head) of Rahrah Gram Panchayat in the Deeg district, was recently honored with the 'Mahila Beacon Leader Award' at a conference held in New Delhi.■ She received this honor for her outstanding leadership at the Panchayat level, her efforts toward women's empowerment, and for developing Rahrah into a 'Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat.'
3.	<p>2nd National Para Fencing Championship: Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Event: Held at the Sawai Mansingh Indoor Stadium in Jaipur from March 24 to March 27, 2026.■ Organizer: Conducted by the Rajasthan Divyang Para Sports Association under the aegis of the Paralympic Committee of India.

4.

Khwahish Sharma

- Khwahish Sharma, a shooter from Rajasthan, has been selected for the Indian team participating in the ISSF Junior World Cup – 2026, scheduled to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from April 19 to April 27, 2026.
- A resident of Jaipur, Khwahish Sharma is the only shooter from the state to have secured a spot in the main Indian squad.
- Khwahish specializes in the 50-meter Rifle and 10-meter Air Rifle disciplines and is currently ranked among the top 10 junior shooters in the country in the 50-meter category.

5.

4 Players from Rajasthan in the 6th Asian Beach Games

- Four players from Rajasthan have been selected for the Indian team participating in the Kabaddi discipline of the 6th Asian Beach Games.
- Men's Category:**
- Bijender Singh Chaudhary
 - Jitender Yadav
 - Jai Bhagwan
- Women's Category:**
- Manpreet Kaur
- Event: April 22 to 30, 2026, in Sanya, China.

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National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)

Why in News?

- The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) achieved its highest-ever annual loan disbursement of ₹613 crore in the financial year 2025-26.

Key Points:

NBCFDC:

- **Objective:** Its objective is to promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of Backward Classes. It provides assistance to the poorer sections of these classes in skill development and in establishing self-employment ventures.
- **It is a Section 8 Company-**
 - o A Section 8 Company is a special type of non-profit organization registered under the Companies Act, 2013. Its primary objective is to engage in social service, promote education, foster scientific development, etc.
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- NBCFDC provides financial assistance through State Channeling Agencies (SCAs)—nominated by State Governments/Union Territories—and through banks.





History and Culture

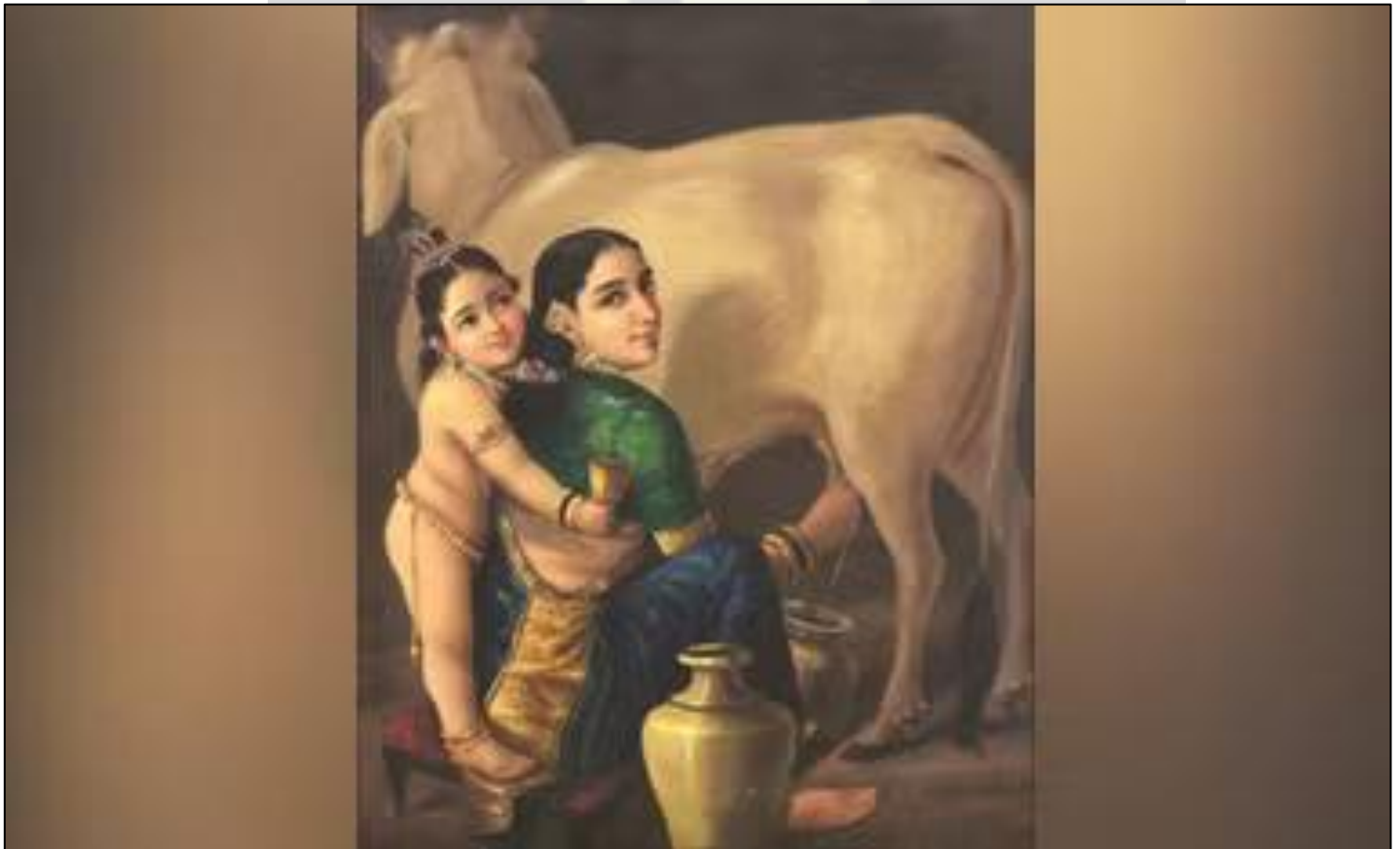


Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906)



Why in News?

- A painting by Raja Ravi Varma has been sold for ₹167 crore. This sale highlights the role of rarity and cultural value in the valuation of art.



Key Points:

Raja Ravi Varma:

- He was born in Kilimanoor (Travancore, Kerala).
- He belonged to the royal family of the Maharajas of Travancore, Kerala, and was addressed by the title 'Raja'.
- He is referred to as the 'Father of Modern Indian Art'.

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Major Contributions:

- He mastered the Western art of oil painting and the realistic depiction of life.
- He painted themes drawn from Indian mythology. These works depict scenes from popular epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.
- **Establishment of a Printing Press:** The 'Ravi Varma Fine Art Lithographic Press' (FAL Press) was established in 1894 in Girgam (now Girgaon), Mumbai.
- **Most Famous Works:** Damayanti Talking to a Swan, Shakuntala Looking for Dushyanta, Nair Woman Adorning Her Hair, and Shantanu and Matsyagandha.
- **Awards and Honors:** He was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal by Lord Curzon, on behalf of the British Emperor, in 1904. This citation marked the first instance where the title "Raja" was formally used.

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Geography and Geology

Heatwave

Why in News?

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heatwave conditions in several states.



Key Points:

About Heatwaves:

- The IMD declares a heatwave when the temperature at a specific location exceeds 40°C in the plains, 37°C in coastal regions, and 30°C in hilly regions. Additionally, it employs the following criteria:
 - **Based on deviation from normal temperature:**
 - **Heatwave:** A deviation between 4.5°C and 6.4°C from normal.
 - **Severe Heatwave:** A deviation of >6.4°C.
 - **Based on actual maximum temperature (applicable only to the plains):**
 - **Heatwave:** Equal to or greater than 45°C.
 - **Severe Heatwave:** Equal to or greater than 47°C.

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The Red Sea

Why in News?

- Iran has threatened to halt trade through the Red Sea if the U.S. naval blockade around its ports persist.





Key Points:

The Red Sea:

- It is a fjord-type marginal sea.
 - A fjord is a long, deep, and narrow body of water. It extends significantly far inland.
- It is connected to the Gulf of Aden via the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. Additionally, it connects to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal.
- **Bordering Countries:** Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea to the west; Israel and Jordan to the northeast (via the Gulf of Aqaba); and Saudi Arabia and Yemen to the east.
- The Red Sea receives very little rainfall, and no water flows into it from rivers.

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Economic Developments

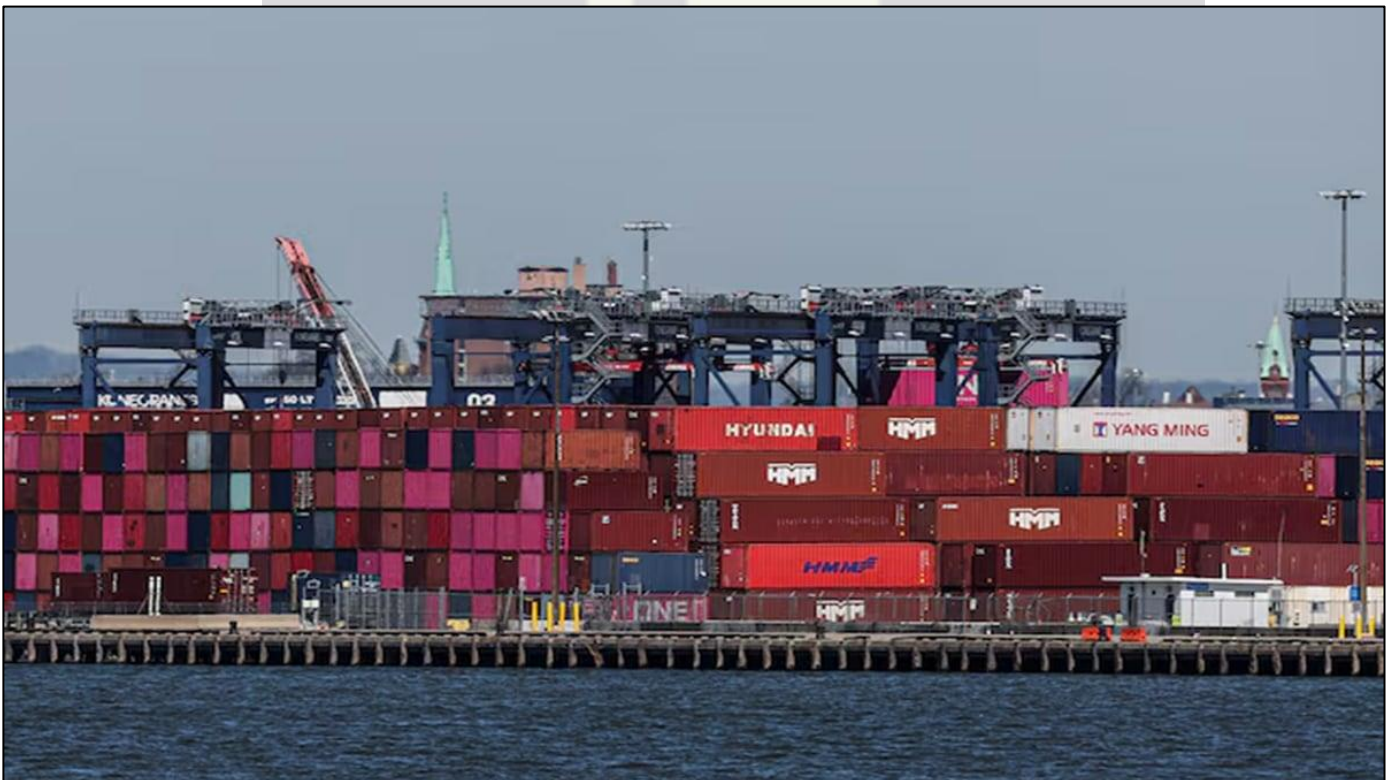


India's Exports



Why in News?

- Despite disruptions caused by the conflict in West Asia, record export figures were recorded in the financial year 2025-26.



Key Points:

India's Export Landscape:

- **Status:** Total exports stood at \$860.09 billion. India ranks among the top 20 global exporters overall, and within the top 10 in terms of services exports.
- **Trade Dynamics:** Imports amounted to \$979 billion. The overall trade deficit stood at approximately \$119 billion, while the deficit in merchandise trade was approximately \$333 billion. A surplus of approximately \$214 billion in services trade helps offset this deficit.

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- **Structural Features:** Non-petroleum exports amounted to approximately \$388 billion (+3.62%). This reflects the diversification of India's export basket.
- **Key Destinations:** Growth in Indian exports to countries like in China, Spain, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka recorded a positive growth. This also includes the diversification of exports towards the ASEAN region and Africa.
- **Key Products:** Petroleum products, engineering goods, minerals, agricultural products, and handicrafts constitute the primary export categories. Robust growth in services exports was observed in sectors such as IT and business services.

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Schemes and Policies

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued guidelines for the Urban Challenge Fund, along with guidelines for the Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-scheme (CRGSS).



URBAN CHALLENGE FUND

Key Points:

- The objective of the Urban Challenge Fund is to mobilize market-based finance for the development of improved urban infrastructure, enhance private sector participation, and undertake citizen-centric reforms.

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- **Scheme Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Allocated Fund:** ₹1 lakh crore (This will facilitate a total investment of ₹4 lakh crore over the next five years).

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- **Financing Mechanism:**
 - o 25% of the project cost will be provided through the Urban Challenge Fund.
 - o At least 50% of the finance must be mobilized from market sources, thereby ensuring private sector participation.
 - o The remaining 25% of the financing may be contributed by States/Union Territories/Urban Local Bodies or mobilized from the market.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Creative development of cities, cities as growth hubs, and Water & Sanitation.
- **Eligible Cities:**
 - o All cities with a population of 10 lakhs or more (based on 2025 estimates).
- All State and Union Territory capitals that do not fall under the aforementioned category.
- Major industrial cities with a population of 1 lakh or more.
- **Implementation Period:** From Financial Year 2025-26 to 2030-31 (the scheme period may be extended).
- **Eligibility:** Projects already financed under AMRUT 2.0 / Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) 2.0 / other Centrally Sponsored Schemes are not eligible to receive funding under this Fund.

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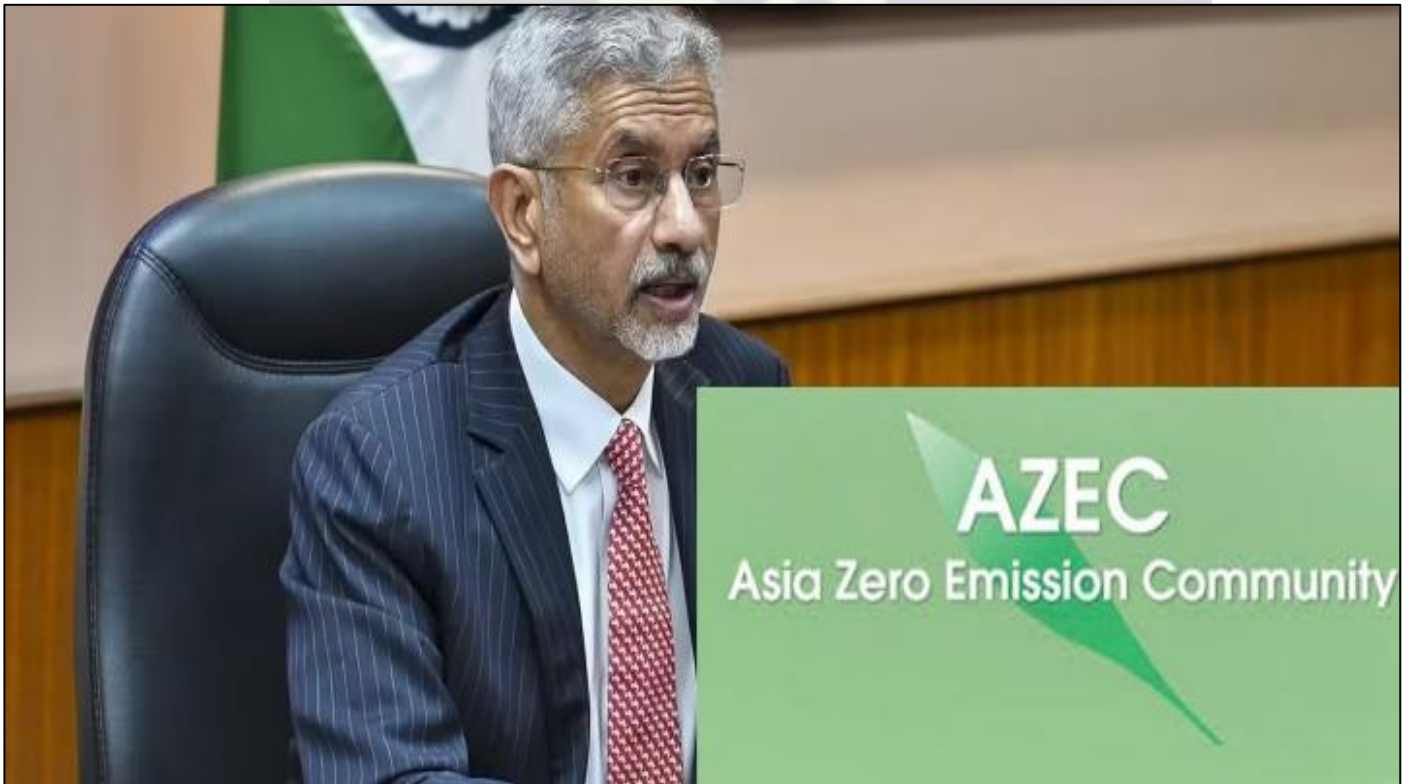


Asia Zero Emission Community Plus and Maritime Security



Why in News?

- India expressed concern regarding disruptions in maritime energy routes during the AZEC Plus meeting; this concern has surfaced amidst tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy chokepoint.



Key Points:

Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Plus

- The Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) is a Japan-led initiative aimed at promoting the reduction of carbon emissions, clean energy transition, and energy security across Asia.

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- **AZEC focuses on the following:**
 - o Facilitating technology transfer in clean energy (hydrogen, ammonia, renewable energy).
 - o Supporting carbon neutrality goals while sustaining economic growth.
 - o Strengthening the resilience of energy supply chains in the region.
- **AZEC Plus is an expanded framework that includes Asian nations as well as global institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Energy Agency.**
 - o It addresses emerging challenges such as supply disruptions, access to critical minerals, and maritime security.

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