

# Daily Current Affairs

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### Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy – 2025



#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Department of Industries and Commerce, Rajasthan, initiated the application process under the ‘Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy – 2025’.



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Government of Rajasthan

# RAJASTHAN TRADE PROMOTION POLICY 2025



#### Key Points:

- Launch:** Effective across the state starting December 7, 2025.
- Concerned Department:** Department of Industries and Commerce, Rajasthan.
- Objective of the Policy:** To facilitate institutional credit at concessional interest rates for small traders—including micro-trade enterprises—and to ensure improved market access.
- Goal:** To encourage new investment and job creation within the trade sector in the state.

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## Key Provisions of the Policy:

Category	Provision
Interest Subsidy	6% interest subsidy on loans up to ₹1 crore. 4% interest subsidy on loans from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore.
Credit Guarantee Assistance	Under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme, 50% reimbursement of the guarantee fee payable on loan coverage up to ₹5 crore for new micro enterprises, for five years.
Insurance Premium Reimbursement	For micro-category retail traders, 50% reimbursement (up to ₹1 lakh per year) of insurance premium for five years.
E-commerce Incentive	Micro business enterprises to receive 75% reimbursement of e-commerce platform fees (excluding shipping charges) up to ₹50,000 per year for a period of one year.
Additional Incentives for Special Categories	An additional 1% interest subsidy on loans from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore for business enterprises owned by women, SC/ST, and benchmark persons with disabilities.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Key Export Promotion Policies of the Government of Rajasthan:

- Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, 2019
- Rajasthan Handicrafts Policy, 2022
- Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy, 2024
- Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy, 2025
- RIICO Direct Allotment Policy, 2025
- Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy, 2025
- Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS), 2024

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## Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti (State-Level Celebration)

### Why in News?

- On the occasion of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary, a state-level program was organized in Jaipur on April 14, 2026.



### Key Points:

- Venue:** Bhawani Niketan Campus, Jaipur.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** An MoU was signed between Rajasthan's Ambedkar Peeth (Mundla, Jaipur) and Maharashtra's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI), Pune, to foster collaboration in the fields of research, training, and social justice.
- 'Samadhan Saathi' Help Desk:** An AI-based help desk designed to provide information regarding various welfare schemes of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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- **200 Ambedkar E-Libraries:** An announcement was made regarding the establishment of 200 e-libraries in urban areas for aspirants preparing for competitive examinations.
- **Ambedkar Residential Coaching Centre:** An announcement was made regarding the establishment of a residential coaching center for Scheduled Caste students at the Ambedkar Peeth located in Mundla (Jaipur).

## Awards for the Year 2026:

Recipient	Award Name	Subject
Dinesh Kumar Panwar (Pali)	Ambedkar Social Service Award	For upliftment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities and outstanding social service and contribution.
Indira Jingar (Beawar)	Ambedkar Women Welfare Award	For empowerment of women belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities.
Mahendra Kumar Chauhan (Jaipur)	Ambedkar Social Justice Award	For providing effective legal assistance to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe individuals either free of cost or at minimal charges to ensure justice.
Chanchal (Deeg), Jaydeep Raj Damor (Banswara), Himanshu Bagdi (Bundi), Divya Meena (Kotputli-Behror)	Ambedkar Education Award	For meritorious students of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category securing first position in Class 10th and 12th examinations.

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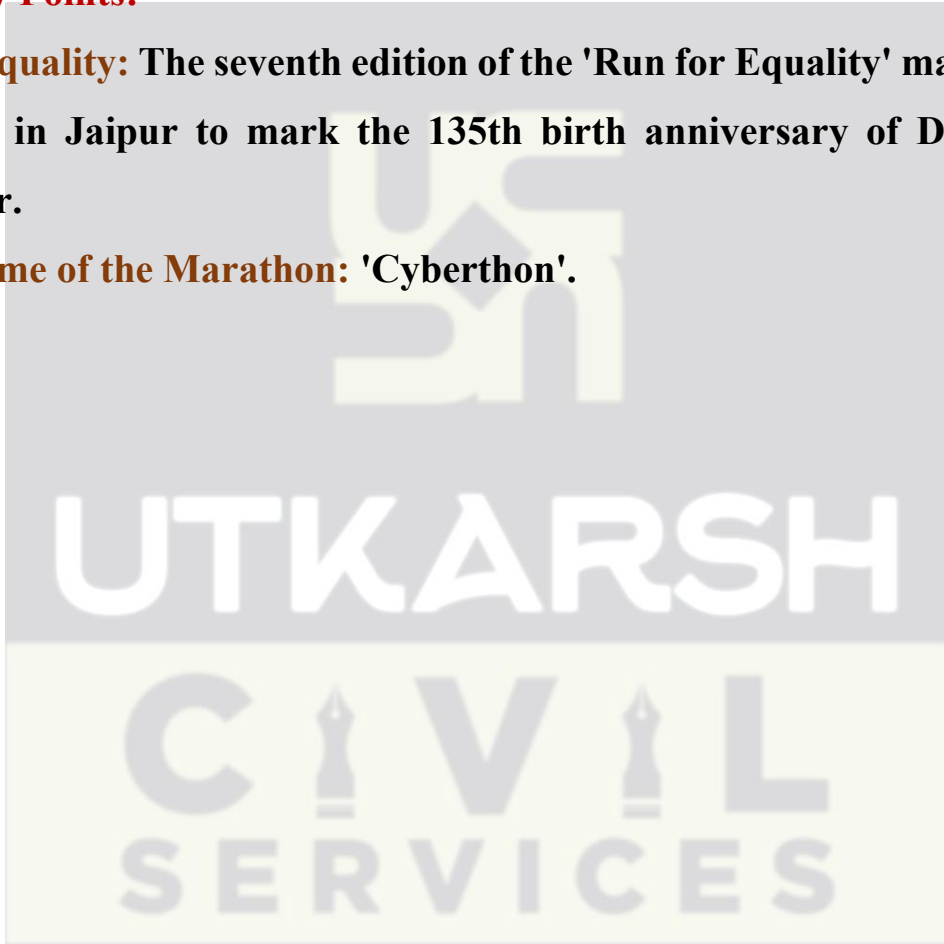
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Nidhi Dhanka (Jaipur), Tanisha Deegwal (Jaipur), Sakshi Meena (Jhunjhunu), Urmila (Jodhpur)	Ambedkar Education Award	For meritorious students of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category securing first position in Class 10th and 12th examinations.
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## Other Key Points:

- **Run for Equality:** The seventh edition of the 'Run for Equality' marathon was organized in Jaipur to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
- **Main Theme of the Marathon:** 'Cyberthon'.

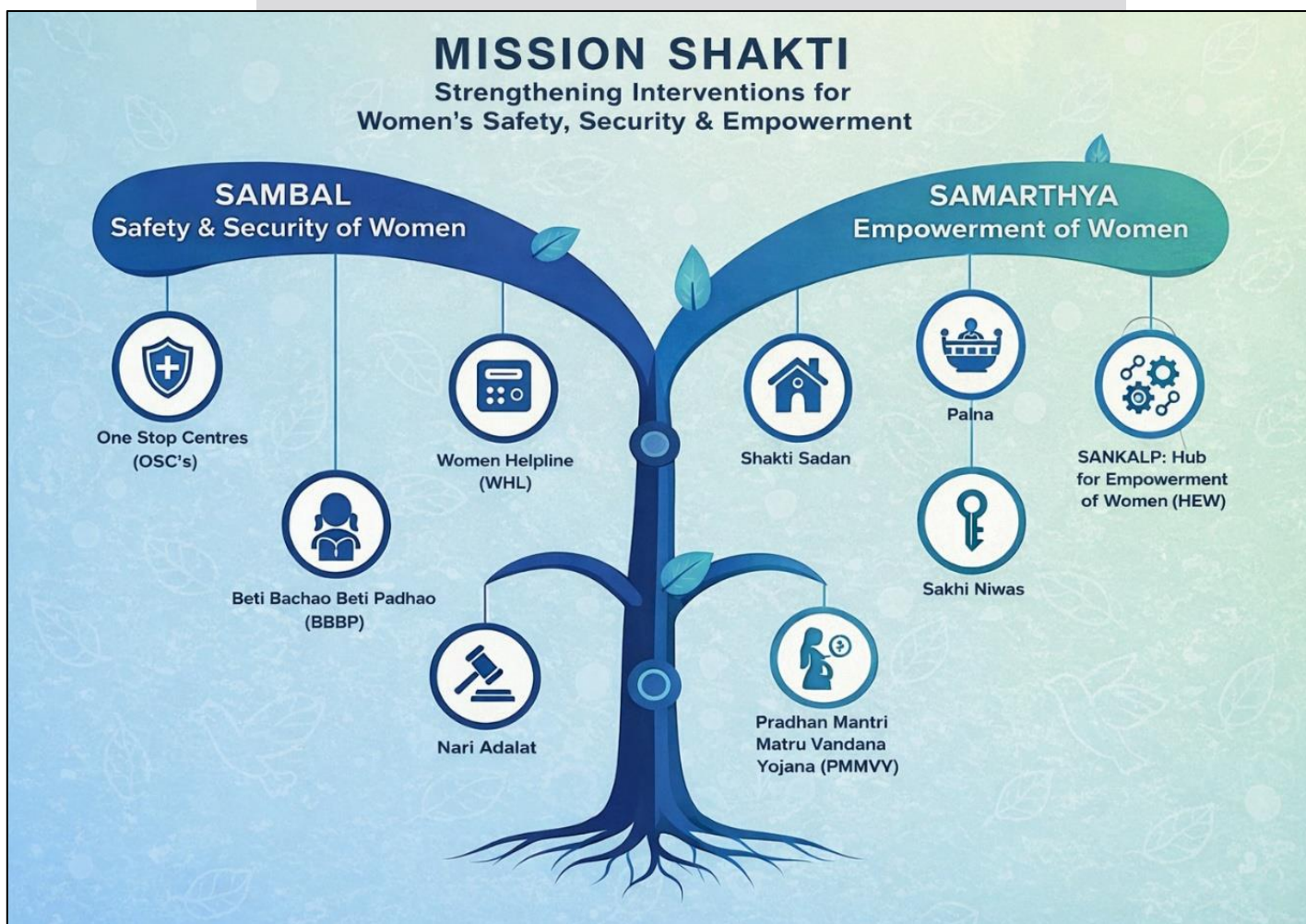


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## ‘Shakti Sadan Scheme’ in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- As of March 2026, under the ‘Shakti Sadan Scheme’ in Rajasthan, essential assistance and counseling have been provided to victimized women in 19,766 cases across 52 Sakhi Centers.



### Key Points:

- The Shakti Sadan Scheme is an integrated relief and rehabilitation initiative for women in distress. It was launched by integrating the ‘Swadhar Greh’ and ‘Ujjwala’ schemes under the Central Government’s ‘Mission Shakti’. Currently, 419 Shakti Sadans are operational across the country.

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- **Launch Date:** April 1, 2022.
- **Concerned Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- **Type:** It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, funded by the Central Government and implemented by the State Governments.
- **181 Women Helpline:** The Government of Rajasthan has established a 24x7 Women Helpline service (181) with the objective of providing protection against exploitation and offering assistance to women.
- **'Samarthya' Sub-scheme:** Under the 'Samarthya' sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, Women Empowerment Hubs have been established at the state level, and Women Empowerment Centers at the district level. These hubs are being operated with a budget-sharing ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and the State.

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## 'Bio-bricks and Agro-plastic Blocks' Developed by IIT Jodhpur

### 📣 Why in News?

- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur have developed sustainable, patented 'Bio-bricks' and 'Agro-plastic Blocks' using agricultural residues (crop stubble) and plastic waste.



### 📌 Key Points:

- These materials are carbon-negative and offer an affordable solution for reducing pollution and waste in the construction sector. Furthermore, this initiative marks a significant step towards circular and climate-friendly infrastructure.

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## Patented Bio-bricks:

- The core of this technology lies in a patented process wherein agricultural residues—such as paddy straw, wheat husk, and sugarcane bagasse—are transformed into sturdy construction bricks through a low-energy, lime-based process.
- Unlike traditional fired bricks, Bio-bricks are manufactured with minimal energy consumption and do not require firing in a kiln, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- These bricks are carbon-negative and also possess recycling capabilities.

## Agro-plastic Blocks (APBs):

- Agro-plastic Blocks (APBs)—a sustainable construction material—have been created by combining mixed plastic waste with agricultural residues.
- Utilizing a low-energy thermal fusion and compression process, this technology allows for the direct utilization of various types of plastic waste without the need for complex recycling procedures.
- Their production model is decentralized and economically viable, making them suitable for adoption across various regions of the country—particularly in areas with inadequate recycling facilities.



## NEWS IN SHORTS



S. No.	News
1.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vijaydan Detha Literary Festival – 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> The Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi organized the ‘Vijaydan Detha Literary Festival-2026’ in Udaipur from March 17 to 19, 2026.</li><li>■ <b>Sahitya Akademi Award – 2025 (Rajasthani):</b> Presented to Jitendra Kumar Soni for his short story collection, Bharkhama.</li><li>■ The Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi publishes the monthly literary magazine Madhumati, which promotes Hindi and Rajasthani literature.</li><li>■ <b>Note:</b> The Udaipur-based Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi celebrated its 68th Foundation Day on February 5, 2026; the central theme of the event was "Literature and the Challenges Facing the Akademi."</li></ul>
2.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indian Army Symphony Band Performance: Jaipur</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, a cultural program featuring a performance by the ‘Indian Army Symphony Band’ was organized at the Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) in Jaipur.</li><li>■ <b>Organizer:</b> Headquarters South Western Command, on the occasion of its 22nd Foundation Day (Rising Day).</li></ul>
3.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rajasthan Finishing School Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Rajasthan Finishing School Program is a flagship initiative of the State Government, launched in the 2024-25 budget to enhance the skills and employability of students.</li><li>■ Its primary objective is to prepare students of government colleges to meet industry requirements, supplementing their academic knowledge with practical skills.</li><li>■ This program is primarily designed for final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students of government colleges, as well as for recent graduates.</li></ul>



## History and Culture



### Ambedkar Jayanti



#### Why in News?

- On April 14, India celebrates Ambedkar Jayanti, marking the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.



#### Key Points:

##### Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar

- **Early Life:** Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891.
- He belonged to a Dalit (Scheduled Caste) family and faced severe caste-based discrimination.

##### Major Contributions:

- **In Constitution Making:** He is regarded as the chief architect of the Constitution. As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, he ensured the inclusion of Fundamental Rights, equality before the law, and the abolition of untouchability (Article 17).

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- His vision established a democratic framework featuring checks and balances among the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary.
- He considered the 'Right to Constitutional Remedies'—enshrined in Article 32—to be the 'heart and soul' of the Indian Constitution.
- **Social:** He led movements against caste-based discrimination and advocated for Dalit rights, gender equality, and social justice.
- He founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha (Society for the Welfare of Excluded People) and led social movements such as the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927 and the Kalaram Satyagraha in Nashik (1930).
- **Political:** He was the first Law Minister of independent India and also founded political organizations such as the Independent Labour Party (1936).
- He advocated for reservation/affirmative action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- He promoted labor rights, such as the eight-hour workday, maternity benefits, etc.
- He worked for women's rights, including reforms in Hindu personal laws.
- **Major Literary Works:** Annihilation of Caste, The Problem of the Rupee, Who Were the Shudras?, Mooknayak (a periodical newspaper, 1920), and Bahishkrit Bharat (a newspaper, 1927).
- **Conversion to Buddhism:** In 1956, he embraced Buddhism along with millions of followers.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was conferred the title of "Bodhisattva" by Buddhist monks at the "Jagati Buddhist Council," held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 1954.
- He is known as the "Father of the Indian Constitution."
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna (posthumously in 1990).

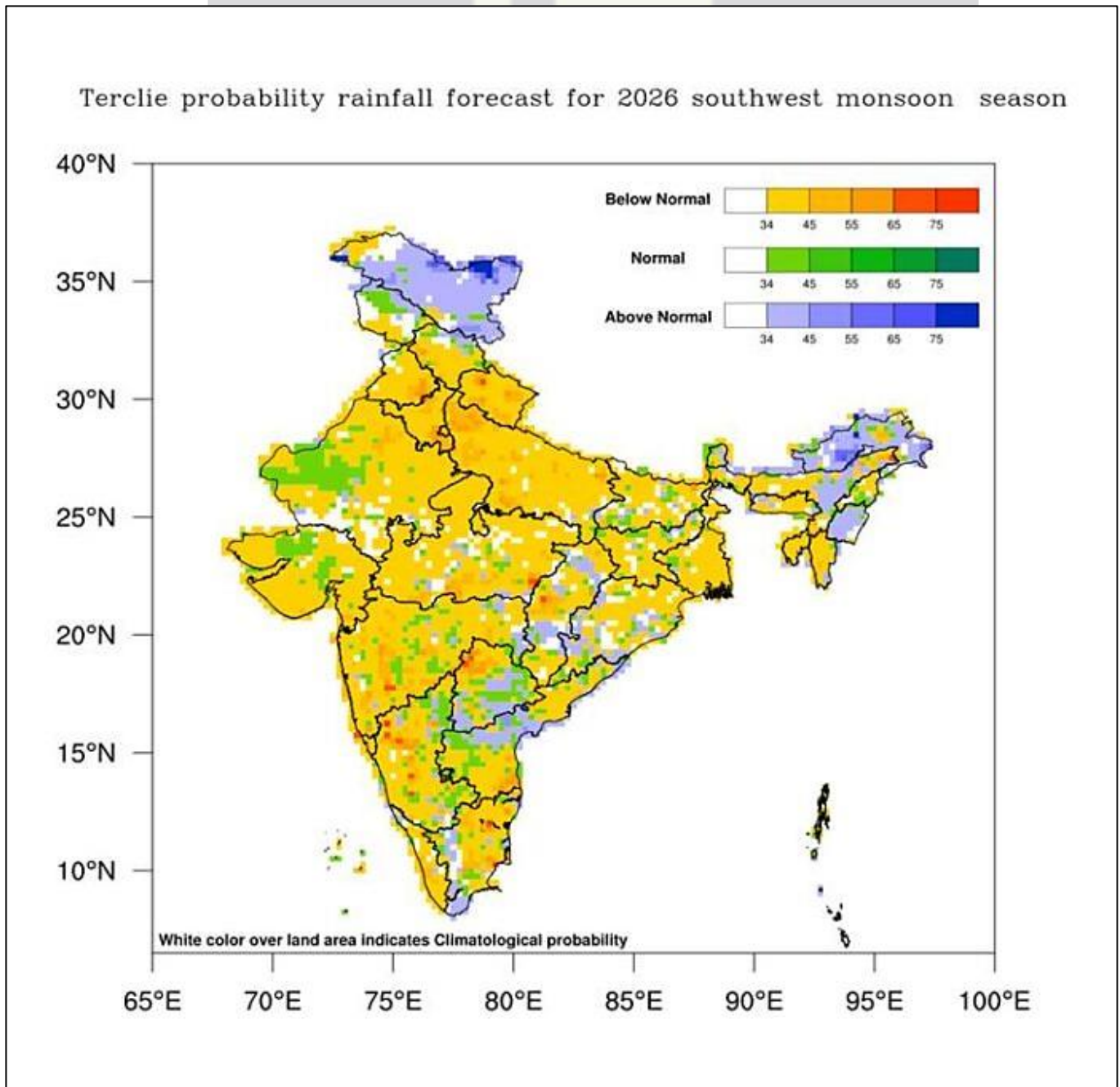
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## Geography and Geology

### Long-Range Forecast for the Southwest Monsoon

#### Why in News?

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released its long-range forecast for the 2026 Southwest Monsoon season.



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## Key Points:

- Southwest Monsoon rainfall in 2026 is likely to be below normal. It is projected to be only 92% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 87 cm for the 1971–2020 period.
- The Long Period Average (LPA) represents the average rainfall over a long duration (e.g., 30 years, 50 years, etc.) for a specific region during a particular period (such as a month or a season).
- This forecast indicates the potential development of El Niño conditions.
- El Niño refers to the warming of the sea surface—or sea surface temperatures that are higher than average—in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- There is a possibility of Positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions developing towards the end of the monsoon season.
- A Positive IOD implies that sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean will be higher than average. This condition typically aids the monsoon.

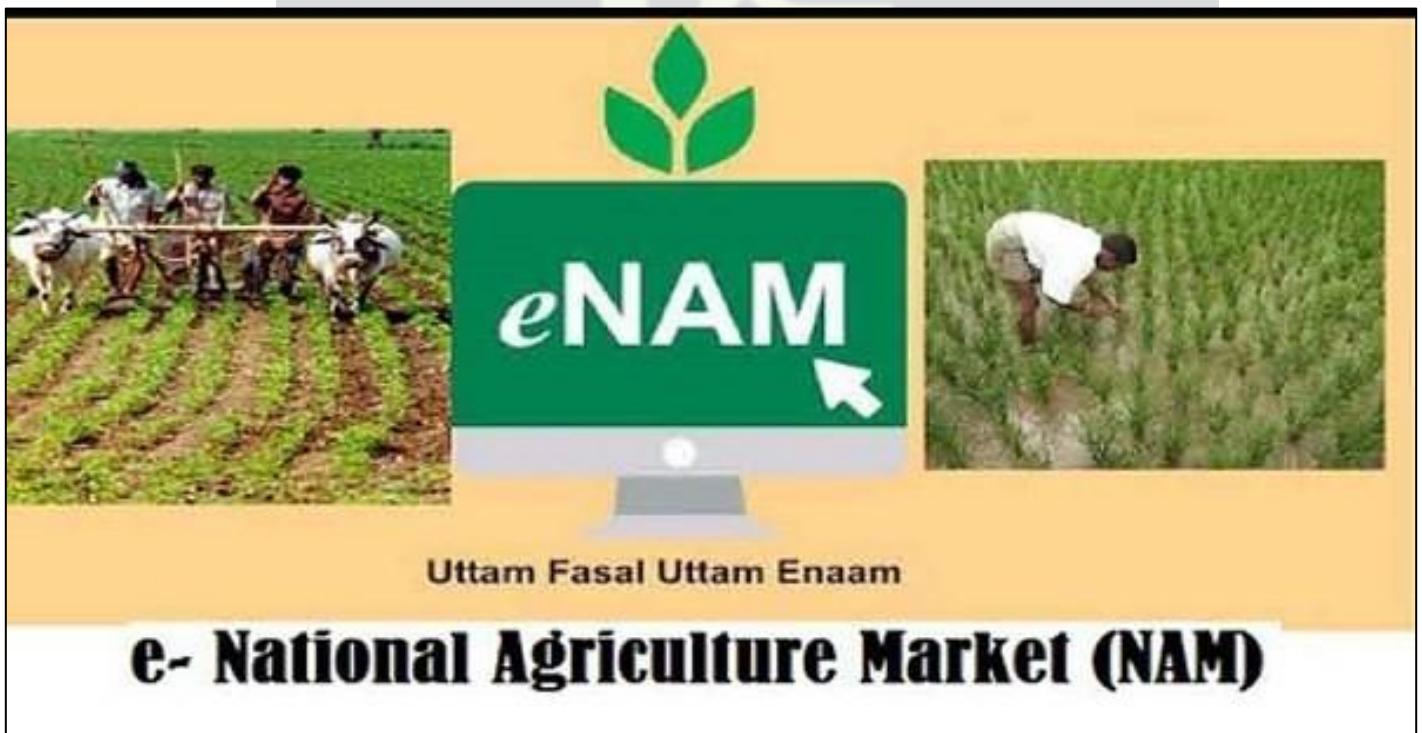
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## Economic Developments

### National Agriculture Market 'e-NAM'

#### Why in News?

- The National Agriculture Market 'e-NAM', launched to transform agricultural trade, has completed 10 years. The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched in April 2016.



#### Key Points:

- It is an all-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities. Its objective is to create a unified national market for agricultural products by digitally connecting existing mandis (markets).
- It addressed the shortcomings of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis and expanded their reach by linking markets across different states.

## Key Features of e-NAM

- **One Nation, One Market:** It comprises a multi-tier structure. This includes a web portal, a mobile application, an AI-based quality assessment system, etc.
- **Implementation:** The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead implementing agency. This agency operates under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Integration with Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWR):** Farmers, traders, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can deposit their produce in warehouses accredited by the 'Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority' (WDRA). From there, by obtaining an e-NWR, they can directly sell their produce on the e-NAM platform.
- **Other Facilities:** Facilitation of inter-state trade, a dashboard displaying live product prices, an interface available in 12 languages, a single-window service, a 'Platform of Platforms' (PoP), etc.

## Key Achievements of e-NAM

- **Network Expansion:** The number of mandis integrated with e-NAM increased from 1,389 (in 2024) to 1,656 (by March 2026).
- **Growth in Agricultural Trade:** From 2016 to March 2026, 13.25 crore metric tonnes of commodities were traded, generating a total trade value of ₹4.84 lakh crore.
- **Wide Reach:** More than 1.80 crore farmers, 2.73 lakh traders, and 4,724 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are registered on e-NAM.

## Workers' Protests in the Country's Major Industrial Hubs

### Why in News?

- Recent protests by workers in Barauni (Bihar), Surat (Gujarat), Manesar (Haryana), and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) have raised concerns.



### Key Points:

- In light of these workers' protests, the Uttar Pradesh government has increased the minimum wages for various categories of workers with retrospective effect.

### Key Reasons for the Rising Workers' Protests

- Recent Energy Crisis:** Due to fuel shortages or rising fuel prices, the cost of living for migrant workers has increased.
- Concerns Regarding Labor Laws:** The Code on Wages provides for a national floor-level minimum wage and a national minimum wage, but it does not specify a clear methodology for determining them.

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- **Informal Sector:** More than 80% of India's workforce operates within the informal sector. The majority of these workers do not benefit from the protective provisions offered by the labor codes.
- **Demand for Amenities:** Dissatisfaction among workers also stems from the failure to fulfill demands regarding housing, workplace safety, adequate ventilation, lighting, regular bonuses, etc.
- **Issues with Trade Unions:** The existence of multiple trade unions within a single industry often leads to internal conflicts. Some trade unions operate under political influence and do not fully prioritize the interests of the workers.

## Key Reforms Undertaken

- **Social Security:** Gig and platform workers have been brought under the ambit of the Code on Social Security (2020). Online aggregator companies are required to contribute 1–2% of their annual turnover to a welfare fund for gig and platform workers; however, this contribution shall not exceed 5% of the total payments made to these workers.

## Terms of Employment:

- The Code on Industrial Relations (2020) provides for fixed-term employment in an effort to reduce the reliance on contract-based employment.
- Furthermore, trade unions comprising 51% of the workforce in a specific industry have been recognized as the bargaining unions authorized to negotiate on behalf of the workers.
- **Workers' Rights and Safe Working Conditions:** The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, establishes a national database for workers in the unorganized sector. It includes provisions for providing compensation to victims in the event of an accident or death occurring due to the nature of their employment.

## Other Reforms:

- **She-Box:** For the safety and security of female employees at the workplace.
- **e-Shram Portal:** For the registration of workers in the unorganized sector and to facilitate the provision of assistance to them.

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## 🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

### Delimitation and the Concerns of Southern Indian States

#### 📢 Why in News?

- Southern Indian states have expressed concerns regarding the process of delimitation. They argue that delimitation could disproportionately affect their representation in Parliament—specifically, that their representation could be reduced.



#### 📌 Key Points:

##### Southern States' Concerns Regarding Delimitation

- **The Paradox of Population Control:** Delimitation based on population figures could result in a comparatively lower number of seats for the southern states. This could diminish their political representation and influence. Such an outcome would amount to "punishing" those states that have performed effectively in controlling their populations.

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- **Federalism and Regional Autonomy:** Significant shifts in representation could weaken the federal structure, as national policies might increasingly be formulated to align with the priorities of the northern states.

## What is Delimitation?

- It is the process by which the number of seats allocated to each state—as well as the boundaries of the constituencies—for the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the State Legislative Assemblies are determined.

## Constitutional Provisions:

- **Articles 82 and 170:** These articles provide for the readjustment of the territorial constituencies (for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies) within each state, as well as for alterations to their boundaries, to be carried out by an authority and in a manner prescribed by Parliament through legislation.
- **Articles 330 and 332:** These articles provide for the readjustment of the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.

## The Delimitation Commission:

- Constituted under the Delimitation Acts enacted by Parliament, this Commission is responsible for determining the boundaries of electoral constituencies.
- To date, Delimitation Commissions have been constituted four times—under the Delimitation Commission Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002.

## Right to Vote

### Why in News?

- According to the Supreme Court, the right to retain one's name in the electoral roll and to cast a vote in one's country of birth is not only constitutional but also emotionally significant.



### Key Points:

#### About the Right to Vote:

- In India, the right to vote and the right to be elected constitute a constitutional right.

#### Key Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 325:** No person shall be ineligible for inclusion in the electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of the States shall be held on the basis of adult suffrage.
- **Relevant Sections under the Representation of the People Act (RPA):**
  - o **Section 62 (RPA 1951):** This pertains to the right to vote.
  - o **Section 16 (RPA 1950):** This lays down the disqualifications for registration in the electoral roll.

## Recusal of Judges from Hearing a Case

### Why in News?

- A former Chief Minister of Delhi has requested a Justice of the Delhi High Court to recuse himself from hearing a particular case.



### Key Points:

#### Regarding the Recusal of Judges from a Case:

- **Meaning:** It refers to a judge stepping down from hearing a case due to a potential conflict of interest or alleged bias.
- **Objective:** Its aim is to promote a fair process, public confidence in the administration of justice, and judicial neutrality.
- **Underlying Principle:** It is based on the 'Rule Against Bias' (or Nemo Judex in Causa Sua). According to this principle, no person should be a judge in a case in which they have a personal interest.
- **Regulation:** In India, there are no codified rules governing this practice.
- **Past Instances:** Instances of judges recusing themselves during the hearings of cases such as *Ranjit Thakur vs. Union of India* (1987) and *Chandraprabha vs. Union of India* (2025).

## Schemes and Policies

### Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) Scheme

#### Why in News?

- The Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) Scheme has been notified. Fund of Funds 2.0 is based on the Fund of Funds for Startups 1.0 (FFS 1.0) scheme, which was launched in 2016 under the Startup India Action Plan.



#### Key Points:

- It facilitates access to Venture Capital (VC) for startups across various stages and sectors. Venture Capital (VC) is early-stage equity financing provided to startups with high growth potential, accompanied by active guidance.

#### Key Features of the Startup India FoF 2.0 Scheme

- **Total Corpus:** ₹10,000 Crore
- **Ministry:** Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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- **Eligibility:** Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) pertaining to the periods of the 16th and 17th Finance Commissions.
- Alternative Investment Funds are private investment funds that raise capital from sophisticated and large investors (both Indian and foreign) and invest that capital across various avenues in accordance with a defined investment policy.
- **Structure:** This scheme will contribute to the funds of AIFs registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), enabling them to invest in the equity of startups and associated investment instruments.
- **Selection Process for AIFs under the Scheme:** Screening will be conducted by a Venture Capital Investment Committee comprising experienced members of the startup ecosystem.
- **Monitoring and Governance:** By an Empowered Committee (EC), chaired by the Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Implementation:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). SIDBI also serves as the implementing agency for the Fund of Funds for Startups 1.0.
- Additionally, other domestic implementing agency/agencies will also be selected for the purpose of implementation.

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### China's Fictitious Naming of Places



#### Why in News?

- India has firmly rejected China's attempts to assign "fictitious names" to places within territories that India considers to be its own, terming such actions as "mischievous" and detrimental to bilateral relations.



#### Key Points:

##### China's Actions

- China claims Arunachal Pradesh to be "Southern Tibet" (Zangnan); since 2017, it has repeatedly issued lists renaming various places—actions that India has consistently rejected as invalid.

- China is establishing administrative units, such as He'an and Hekang counties, in regions of Ladakh that include parts of Aksai Chin—a territory that has long been the subject of a border dispute.
- According to reports, China has also created a new county named Senling.

## Senling

- It is situated near the Karakoram mountain range, falling within the vicinity of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor.

## He'an

- It encompasses parts of the Aksai Chin plateau, a region that has long remained a focal point of discussion due to the India-China border dispute.

## India's Response

- The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that regions such as Arunachal Pradesh—along with other disputed territories—constitute an "integral and inalienable" part of India.
- India views these moves within the broader context of border tensions and strategic concerns, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which India opposes on grounds of sovereignty issues regarding PoK.

## Line of Actual Control (LAC)

- The LAC is the demarcation line that separates the territory under India's control from the territory under China's control.
- India considers the length of the LAC to be 3,488 kilometers, whereas China regards it as being approximately 2,000 kilometers.
- It is divided into three regions: the Eastern Region, which extends to Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; the Central Region, located in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh; and the Western Region, situated in Ladakh.