

Daily Current Affairs

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Service Management with Artificial Intelligence and Real-Time Systems (SMART)

Why in News?

- Recently, Chief Secretary V. Srinivas conducted a comprehensive review of the 'Service Management with Artificial Intelligence and Real-Time Systems (SMART)' initiative, which is being implemented in the state by the DOIT&C.

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Key Points:

- Implementation:** By RajComp Info Services Limited (RISL), under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology and Communications (DOIT&C), Rajasthan.
- Primary Objective:** To automate and enhance the delivery of government services and benefits through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).

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- This project has been specifically designed to translate the vision of the 'Rajasthan Guaranteed Service Delivery Act' into reality.

Key Features of the Project:

- **Automated Identification:** Utilizing data analytics and AI, the system identifies citizens who are eligible for various government schemes, thereby enabling them to receive benefits without the need for manual application.
- **Real-Time Service Delivery:** The system is designed to deliver benefits to eligible beneficiaries in real-time, thereby minimizing delays and enhancing transparency.
- **Central Data Repository:** The system is built upon a Data Lake containing data on the residents of Rajasthan, where AI/ML techniques are employed to identify ineligible beneficiaries and to include genuine beneficiaries who may have been inadvertently missed.

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Contribution of Milk Production to the Agricultural Sector in Rajasthan

Why in News?

- According to the advance estimates of the Rajasthan Economic Review 2025-26, the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the livestock sector at current prices for the year 2025-26 stands at ₹2.17 lakh crore (approximately).

**राजस्थान आर्थिक समीक्षा
2025-26 के अग्रिम अनुमानों के अनुसार:**

- राज्य में दुग्ध संकलन वर्ष 2025-26 में बढ़कर लगभग **45 लाख लीटर प्रतिदिन**।
- दुग्ध प्रसंस्करण क्षमता दो वर्षों में 51 लाख लीटर से बढ़कर **54 लाख लीटर प्रतिदिन**।
- 'बेसिक एनीमल हस्बैंडरी स्टैटिस्टिक्स (BAHS) 2025' रिपोर्ट के अनुसार राजस्थान सम्पूर्ण देश में दुग्ध उत्पादन में **दूसरे स्थान पर**।

Key Points:

- This accounts for approximately 49.35 percent of the total contribution from agriculture and allied sectors—surpassing the share of crops (42.61 percent)—and has emerged as a major pillar for rural livelihoods in the state.
- In Rajasthan, animal husbandry is commonly referred to as the 'Farmer's ATM'.

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Milk Production in the State:

- **Milk Procurement in the State (Year 2025-26):** Approximately 45 lakh liters per day.
- **Milk Processing Capacity:** Increased from 51 lakh liters to 54 lakh liters per day over the past two years.
- Thanks to a comprehensive expansion of the dairy marketing network, the marketing of dairy products has witnessed a growth of 15 percent.
- With the establishment of new 'Saras' booths in both urban and rural areas, more than 1 lakh liters of milk is now being supplied daily to other states.
- Saras supplies dairy products worth over ₹250 crore annually to the Indian Army.

Other Important Points:

- **Saras Self-Employment Scheme:** Under this initiative, 2,000 new booths have been established, with plans for further expansion at religious and tourist sites. To elevate Saras into a national brand, proposals are also in place to open booths in Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Campaigns to Prevent Milk Adulteration:** 'Saras Amritam Abhiyan' and 'Doodh Ka Doodh Pani Ka Pani Abhiyan'.
- **Chief Minister Milk Producer Incentive Scheme (Mukhyamantri Doodh Utpadak Sambal Yojana):** Under this scheme, milk producers are provided an additional subsidy of ₹5 per liter.
- **Saras Group Insurance Scheme:** Provides health security coverage to milk producers. Under this scheme, insurance coverage of ₹1 lakh per annum is provided for general illnesses, and ₹2 lakhs per annum for critical illnesses.

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- **Raj Saras Suraksha Kavach Yojana:** A sum of ₹5 lakhs is provided in the event of death or total disability, and ₹2.5 lakhs in the event of partial disability.
- **Saras Lado Yojana:** Under this scheme, a grant of ₹1 lakh is provided for the marriage of daughters of registered milk producers.
- **Saras Mayra Yojana:** A sum of ₹21,000 is provided as 'Mayra' (a traditional wedding gift) for the marriage of two daughters of milk producers associated with the dairy sector.

Facts for Prelims:

- According to the 'Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2025' report by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajasthan ranks second in the country in terms of milk production, following Uttar Pradesh.
- **Top 5 Milk-Producing States:** Uttar Pradesh (15.66%), Rajasthan (14.82%), Madhya Pradesh (9.12%), Gujarat (7.78%), and Maharashtra (6.71%). Collectively, these states contribute 54.09% to the country's total milk production.

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International Classical Dance and Music Festival – 2026

Why in News?

- The 'International Classical Dance and Music Festival' was organized in Udaipur on April 26 and 27, 2026.



Key Points:

- **Organizers:** Kathak Ashram, Udaipur, in collaboration with the All India Dancers Association (AIDA).
- During the festival, seven luminaries of classical dance were honored with the 'Tambavati Nagari Samman' (the ancient name of Udaipur).

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Honored Luminaries:

Name	City	Dance Style
Amrit Sinha	Lucknow	Bharatanatyam
Sharanya Bisht	Delhi	Kathak
Rajshri Das	Bengaluru	Bharatanatyam
Richa Gupta	Delhi	Kathak
Srishti Bhasin	Jabalpur	Kathak
Shilpa Singh	Jabalpur	Kathak
Sumi Ajay	Bilaspur	Odissi
Vinay Tiwari	Delhi	Bharatanatyam

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Ban on New Construction in Jawai Leopard Reserve Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Issuing a significant order recently, the Rajasthan High Court has imposed an immediate ban on all new construction works and mining activities within the Jawai Leopard Reserve area in the Pali district.■ The High Court has ordered that the 'Status Quo' be maintained to protect the natural habitat of the leopards.
2.	<p>Rajasthan Police's Special Campaign: 'Mission Jagriti'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 'Mission Jagriti' is a special campaign launched by the Rajasthan Police in Jaipur, primarily aimed at combating drug abuse and controlling crime.
3.	<p>Trial Run of the 16-Coach Vande Bharat Express Train</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Indian Railways successfully conducted a trial run of the first 16-coach Vande Bharat Express train—manufactured by the Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala—on the Kota-Nagda-Shamgarh railway section.■ This train utilizes a state-of-the-art propulsion system developed by the Indian subsidiary of the French company, Alstom.

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4.

Uniform Registration Number System

- Recently, the 'Uniform Registration Number System' was introduced in Rajasthan to make judicial processes more modern, transparent, and streamlined.
- **Objective:** The aim of this system is to standardize the process of case registration across courts, thereby facilitating easier record management.
- **Inauguration:** On April 25, 2026, by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice Surya Kant, during the 'The Bench Beyond Retirement' conference held in Jaipur.

5.

Special Mention of the 'Godawan' in the 133rd Edition of 'Mann Ki Baat'

- In the 133rd edition of 'Mann Ki Baat' (April 2026), the Prime Minister specifically lauded the conservation efforts aimed at protecting Rajasthan's State Bird—the Godawan (Great Indian Bustard or GIB).
- **Scientific Name of Godawan:** *Ardeotis nigriceps*
- **Other Name:** Son Chidiya
- **Highest Population:** Desert National Park (Jaisalmer), Sankhaliya (Ajmer), and Sorsen (Baran).
- **Great Indian Bustard Breeding Centers:** Sudasari (Jaisalmer), Sorsen (Baran), and Jodhpur.
- **Great Indian Bustard Hatching Center (Artificial Breeding Center):** Ramdevra (Jaisalmer).

6.

Operation Pravartan

- 'Operation Pravartan' is being conducted by the Jaipur District Administration and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies to combat illegal gas refilling, the black marketing of domestic cylinders, and illegal storage.

7.

Establishment of 12 New Fire Stations by RIICO

- For the financial year 2026-27, administrative and financial approval amounting to approximately ₹25 crore has been issued by RIICO for the establishment of 12 new fire stations and the procurement of 37 fire tenders, with the objective of safeguarding industrial units against disasters such as fires and providing a safer environment.
- **Proposed Fire Stations:** Chopanki, Khushkhera (Bhiwadi), Karni Industrial Area Phase I & II (Bikaner), Basni, Boranada (Jodhpur), Churu, Jaitpura (Jaipur), IID Center & SGC Parbatsar (Nagaur), Kherda (Sawai Madhopur), Tonk, Hindaun City (Karauli), and Hanumangarh (Phase II).

8.

Dr. Lokesh Saini: A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award

- Dr. Lokesh Saini, Associate Professor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur, has been honored with the 'A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award' by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN).
- This honor has been conferred upon him for his outstanding contribution to neurology education. Dr. Saini is the only Indian selected for the 2026 award.

9.

All India Inter-University Handball (Men) Championship 2025-26

- **Venue:** University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, from April 21 to 25, 2026.
- **Winner:** University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, won the gold medal after 14 years.

NATIONAL

Right to Education (RTE) Act

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court upheld the provision regarding the mandatory admission of students under the Right to Education (RTE) Act.



Key Points:

- In the case of Lucknow Public School vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and Others, the Supreme Court ruled that neighborhood schools are bound to grant immediate admission to eligible students under the RTE Act, 2009.
The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009
- **Constitutional Basis:** It was enacted to give effect to Article 21A of the Constitution.

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- **Article 21A:** This was inserted into the Constitution by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002. This Article grants the right to free and compulsory education to all children (aged 6–14 years).
- **Key Provisions:** The RTE Act grants every child (aged 6–14 years) the right to free and compulsory education in a neighborhood school until the completion of their elementary education.
- **Provision for 25% Reservation:** To promote inclusive and equitable education, a 25% reservation is mandated for children belonging to economically weaker and disadvantaged sections in private unaided schools.
- In return, the schools are reimbursed by the State for the expenditure incurred per student.

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INS Kalpeni

Why in News?

- An Indian Navy Fast Attack Craft, INS Kalpeni, has arrived at Addu Atoll. This marks a significant step in the ongoing maritime cooperation between India and the Maldives.



Key Points:

- INS Kalpeni is a Car Nicobar-class waterjet Fast Attack Craft. It was commissioned in 2010.
- It is named after Kalpeni Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

Addu Atoll

- This is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives. It is situated in the central Indian Ocean, to the north of the Chagos Archipelago.



Economic Developments



Organic Farming



Why in News?

- The Prime Minister stated that Sikkim's organic farming serves as a model for the country. Speaking on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the state of Sikkim, the Prime Minister remarked that Sikkim is spearheading India's organic food mission.



Key Points:

Organic Farming

- It is a sustainable agricultural system. It avoids the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- It utilizes crop rotation, crop residues, animal-based manure, and other organic resources.

Benefits:

- Reduces agricultural costs for farmers.
- Improves soil quality and biodiversity.
- Provides food products that are safe for health and free from chemicals.
- Reduces water pollution.

The Sikkim Model of Organic Farming

- The state launched the Sikkim Organic Mission in 2010 and, by 2016, became the world's first fully organic state.

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- In 2018, Sikkim was honored with the 'Future Policy Gold Award' by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for its leadership in organic agriculture.

Key Initiatives to Promote Organic Agriculture:

- **Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency:** This agency monitors organic farming practices and ensures compliance with regulations.
- **Agricultural Policies:** Assistance is provided through the promotion of organic seeds, financing (grants, subsidies), agricultural inputs, and local production systems.
- **Market Access:** Infrastructure and supply chains have been developed to assist farmers in selling their organic produce in both domestic and global markets.

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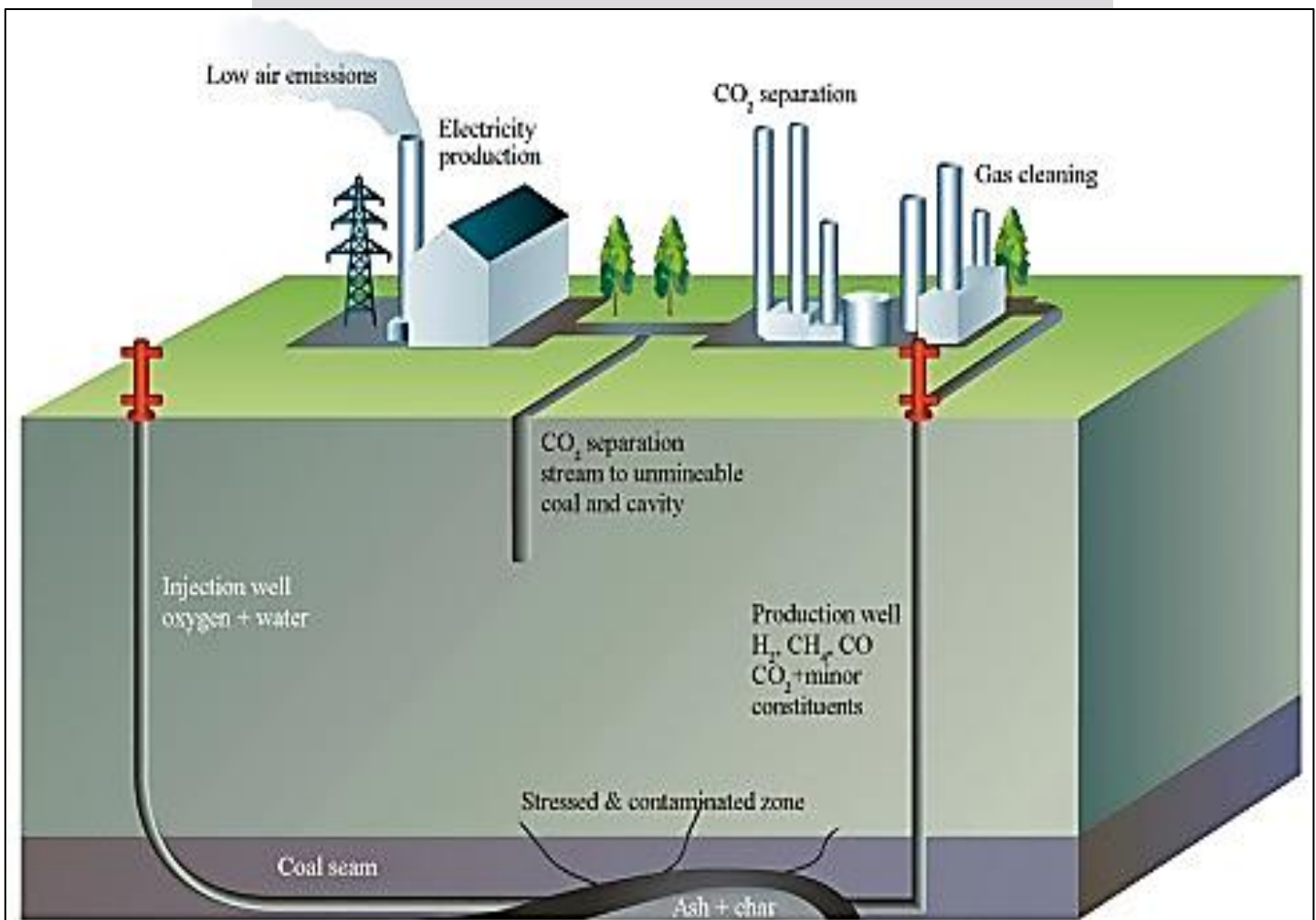
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Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)

Why in News?

- India has, for the first time, initiated coal mining utilizing Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) technology, under which agreements have been signed for four commercial coal blocks.



Key Points:

- Underground Coal Gasification is essentially an in-situ process wherein coal is converted into gas while still underground. This eliminates the need for traditional mining (excavation). Consequently, both costs and environmental damage can be reduced.

Coal Gasification

- This is a thermochemical process in which coal is converted into a mixture of gases known as "synthesis gas" (or syngas).
- It consists primarily of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
- This syngas can be utilized as fuel for power generation, or it can be used to produce synthetic fuels and fertilizers.
- Coal gasification enables a relatively cleaner utilization of coal. The resulting syngas can be used for power generation, as well as for the production of methanol, ammonia, urea, and liquid fuels.
- The Government of India has launched the 'National Coal Gasification Mission.' Its objective is to achieve the gasification of 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.

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Asia-Pacific Forum



Why in News?

- India hosted the 'Asia-Pacific Forum on Advancing Geospatial Foundations for Sustainable Development'.



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
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Key Points:

- The forum highlighted how Geospatial Systems have become the key to 'Future-Ready Governance'.
- It also emphasized the importance of the global framework under the UN-GGIM (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management).
- The UN-GGIM serves as the apex body for geospatial policy formulation. It operates as a committee of experts under the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Geospatial Systems

- These are tools designed to collect, analyze, and visualize data linked to specific locations or positions.
- They incorporate various geospatial technologies such as satellite imagery and remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), drones, and LiDAR.

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Changi Naval Base

Why in News?

- Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar—INS Sunayna—arrived at Singapore's Changi Naval Base.



Key Points:

Changi Naval Base

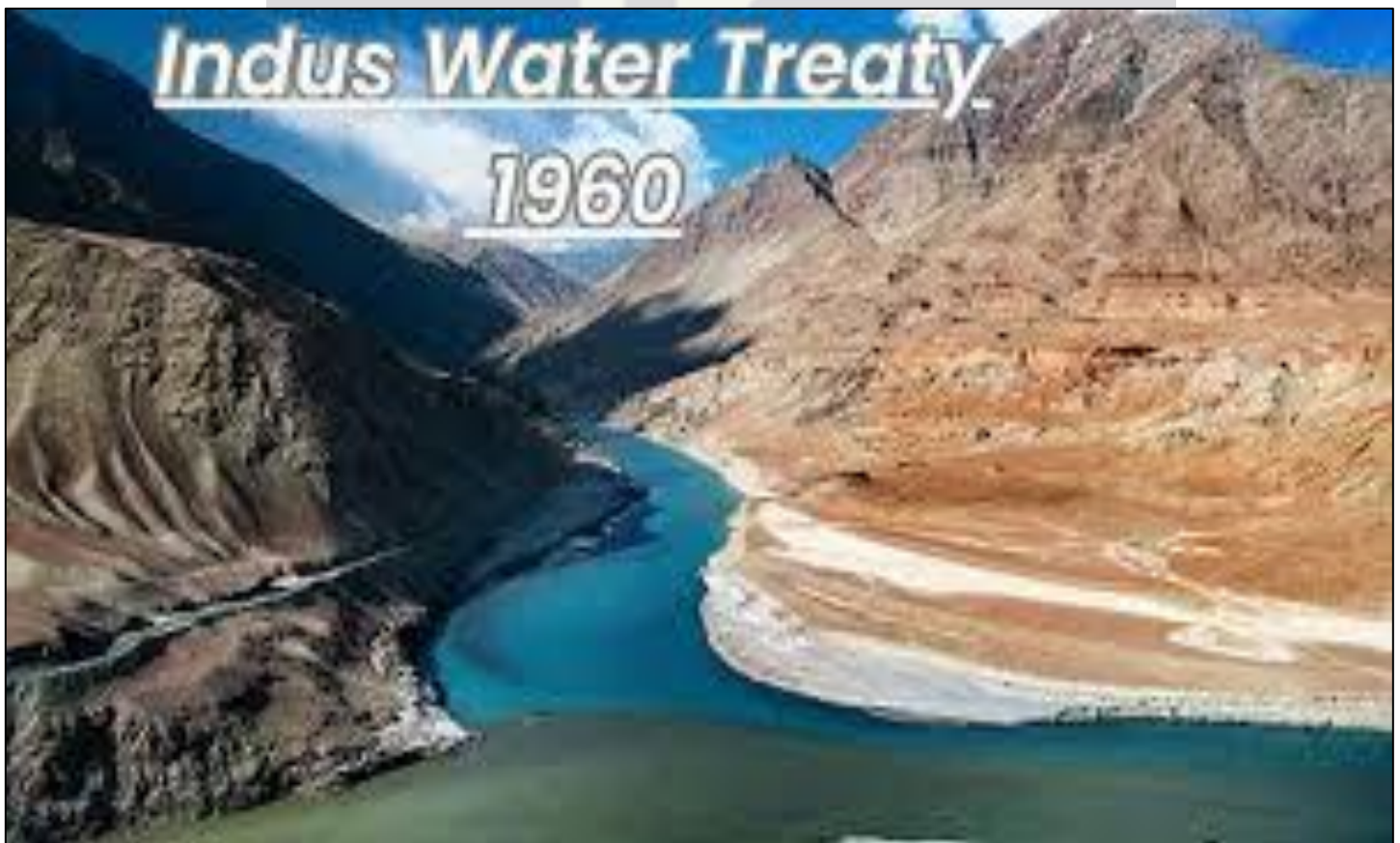
- Strategic Location:** It provides direct access to the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.
- Under the 2017 logistics agreement between India and Singapore, the Indian Navy has been granted access to this base for logistical support.
- Other Foreign Ports with a Strategic Indian Presence**
- Duqm Port:** Located in southeastern Oman, on the western coast of the Arabian Sea.
- Sabang Port:** Located in Indonesia, at the northern tip of Sumatra, at the entrance to the Strait of Malacca.
- Other Ports:** Chabahar Port (Iran); Haifa Port (Israel); Sittwe Port (Myanmar); Chittagong and Mongla Ports (Bangladesh).

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Indus Waters Treaty

Why in News?

- Expanding the scope of its objections regarding India's hydroelectric projects, Pakistan has now included the Kiru and Kwar hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River. However, these projects do not formally fall within the purview of arbitration under the Indus Waters Treaty.



Key Points:

Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- This treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, under the mediation of the World Bank.
- Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej):** India was granted full control for unrestricted use.

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- **Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab):** The waters of these rivers have been primarily allocated to Pakistan, although India has also been granted limited rights over them.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism under the IWT (Three-Tiered Hierarchical Mechanism)

- **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):** This is the first-tier body. Through this commission, India and Pakistan exchange water-related data and resolve questions concerning the interpretation of the treaty or potential violations.
- **Neutral Expert:** When the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) fails to resolve an issue, a Neutral Expert is appointed (either by the World Bank or jointly by the governments of India and Pakistan) to resolve technical disputes.
- **Court of Arbitration:** This is a 7-member tribunal constituted to legally resolve disputes that remain unresolved at the levels of the Permanent Indus Commission or the Neutral Expert.

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OPEC and OPEC+



Why in News?

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced its withdrawal from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+.



Key Points:

OPEC

- It is a permanent intergovernmental organization of oil-exporting nations.
- **Establishment:** It was founded in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- Other members include Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, and Nigeria.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna (Austria)
- **Objective:** To coordinate and unify petroleum-related policies among member countries, and to ensure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers.
- **OPEC+:** To address falling oil prices—driven by a significant surge in US shale oil production—OPEC member countries signed an agreement in 2016 with 10 other oil-producing nations to form OPEC+.
- In addition to OPEC member countries, this group includes Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan.

2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting

Why in News?

- Speaking at the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Kyrgyzstan, the Defence Minister called for unified SCO action against terrorism and warned against double standards.

Key Points:

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

- The 'Shanghai Five' emerged in 1996 as a result of a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks between China and four republics of the former Soviet Union.
- Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan were the members of the Shanghai Five.
- With Uzbekistan joining the group in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- **Objective:** To enhance regional cooperation in efforts to curb terrorism, separatism, and extremism in the Central Asian region.
- **Members (10):** China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, and the four Central Asian nations—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- India became a full member in 2017.
- Member countries account for approximately 30% of the global GDP and about 40% of the world's population.
- **Observer Status:** Afghanistan and Mongolia.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Lakes: Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

Why in News?

- According to a CAG report, lakes in Jammu and Kashmir are rapidly disappearing. A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India states that since 1967, 518 lakes have either vanished completely or have shrunk significantly in size.

Key Points:

- **The following major lakes in Jammu and Kashmir are facing threats:**
 - **Wular Lake:** India's largest freshwater lake.
 - **Dal Lake:** The famous lake of Srinagar, which serves as a hub for tourism.
 - **Manasbal Lake:** Kashmir's deepest lake.
 - **Hokersar Lake, Surinsar Lake, and Mansar Lake.**

Causes of the Crisis Facing Lakes:

- Pollution and Eutrophication
- Encroachment and changes in land use
- Degradation of catchment areas and siltation
- Indifference of institutions and the administration
- Pressure from human activities

Steps Taken for Lake Conservation in India

- **National Wetlands Conservation Programme:** Launched in 1985–86, this program provides financial assistance to states to prevent the degradation of wetlands (including lakes).

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- **National Lake Conservation Programme:** Launched in 2001, the objective of this program is to improve the ecology and water quality of urban and semi-urban lakes.

- **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA):** Launched in 2013.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017:

- The rules are based on the principle of "wise use."
- These rules provide a regulatory framework for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
- These rules provide for the constitution of authorities at the state level for the management and monitoring of wetlands.

Other Laws:

- **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:** This regulates the discharge of sewage and industrial waste into water bodies.
- **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** This is the primary legislation upon which the Wetland Rules and environmental protection standards have been framed.
- **Ramsar Convention, 1971:** Its objective is the conservation of wetlands of international importance.

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