

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 27 June 2026



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RAJASTHAN



Heal in Rajasthan Policy – 2025



Why in News?

- To ensure the effective implementation of the 'Heal in Rajasthan Policy - 2025', the Rajasthan government has constituted an Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary and a Technical Committee chaired by the Secretary of Medical Education.

‘हील इन राजस्थान नीति-2025’

राजस्थान बनेगा मेडिकल वैल्यू ट्रैवल हब।

राज्य बनेगा विश्वस्तरीय, किफायती और भरोसेमंद मेडिकल वैल्यू ट्रैवल डेस्टिनेशन।

- हेल्थ प्रोफेशनल्स की ट्रेनिंग
- डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम
- अनुसंधान
- और रोजगार के अवसरों का विस्तार होगा।

स्वस्थ राजस्थान, समृद्ध राजस्थान



Key Points:

- Additionally, a 'Medical Value Travel Portal' and a mobile app are being developed under the 'Heal in Rajasthan Policy'. This will enable patients to access all necessary treatment-related information on a single platform.

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Heal in Rajasthan Policy - 2025:

- The draft of the Medical Value Travel Policy (Heal in Rajasthan Policy) - 2025 was approved by the Rajasthan Cabinet in July 2025, with the aim of transforming Rajasthan into a major 'Medical Tourism Hub' equipped with world-class healthcare services and infrastructure.

Objectives of the Policy:

- To establish Rajasthan as an accessible, affordable, and reliable Medical Value Travel (MVT) destination.
- To foster economic growth, employment generation, and global branding by integrating the health and tourism sectors.
- Under this policy, investors will receive incentives through the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS), the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, and the Tourism Policy; Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) models will also be utilized.

Benefits:

- It will ensure the development of a digital ecosystem linked to Medical Value Travel (MVT) alongside quality healthcare services.
- Multi-specialty hospitals in Rajasthan will be able to develop in alignment with international standards.
- Traditional medical systems such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, and Siddha will be promoted.
- A dedicated MVT cell will be established under this policy, and MVT facility providers and service providers will be certified.
- The policy will promote advancements in telemedicine, biotechnology, and app-based diagnostics. Additionally, teleconsultation and multilingual helpline services will be established.



Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination

Q. 1 Consider the following statements regarding the committees constituted for the effective implementation of the 'Heal in Rajasthan Policy - 2025':

- (i) The Executive Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.
- (ii) The Technical Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Medical Education.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (a) Only i
- (b) Only ii
- (c) Both i and ii
- (d) Neither i nor ii





Digital Platform for Forest Management in Rajasthan: 'DigiVan'



Why in News?

- The DigiVan portal is a multi-layer digital platform of the Rajasthan Forest Department that integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics into forest and wildlife management.



Key Points:

- It is India's first and only integrated 'Digital Forest Stack,' developed to bring greater transparency, accuracy, and a scientific approach to forest management.
- **Development:** This platform has been developed by the Rajasthan Forest Department in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and DXLab.
- **New Modules of the Platform:** During the state-level event for the International Day of Forests (March 21, 2026), the Chief Minister launched the PoC-3 and PoC-4 (Proof of Concept) modules of the 'DigiVan' digital platform.

Practice Questions for Preliminary Examination

Q. 1 Consider the following statements regarding the DigiVan portal-

- (i) It is a multi-layer digital platform of the Rajasthan Forest Department.
- (ii) It integrates AI and data analytics for forest and wildlife management.
- (iii) It has been developed solely to promote wildlife tourism.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Only (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (ii) and (iii)
- (d) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Q. 2 When were the PoC-3 and PoC-4 modules of the DigiVan digital platform launched?

- (a) On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026.
- (b) During the state-level event for the International Day of Forests 2026.
- (c) On the occasion of Rajasthan Foundation Day 2026.
- (d) During National Wildlife Week 2026.

‘International MSME Day’ Celebrated for the First Time in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- ‘International MSME Day’ was celebrated for the first time in Rajasthan on June 27, 2026.



Key Points:

- **Venue:** Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- **Organizer:** Department of Industries and Commerce, Rajasthan.
- **Theme for 2026:** Empowering MSMEs through innovation and sustainable industrial development.

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- During the event, the ‘Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy’, ‘One District, One Product (ODOP) Coffee Table Book’, and the ‘Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Portal’ were launched in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy – 2026:

- Launched with the aim of establishing the state as a global industrial hub.
- **Based on the ‘4G Vision’:** Green, Governance, Growth, and Globalization.
- **Objective:** To boost industrial development and take Rajasthan's economy to \$350 billion by the year 2028-29.

Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Portal:

- The RAMP portal is a digital initiative launched by the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), operating under the World Bank-supported central sector scheme ‘RAMP’.
- The primary objective of this single-window (Single Sign-On) national portal is to enhance the capacity, productivity, and market competitiveness of the country's MSME sector.

Other Important Points:

Rajasthan MSME Policy - 2024:

- **Duration:** December 8,

Key Provisions:

Provision	Description
Interest Subsidy on Loans	Interest subsidy on loans up to ₹50 crore for new and existing MSME units. Selected units are eligible for an additional 2% interest subsidy.
Equity Capital Assistance	One-time financial assistance of up to ₹15 lakh for small and medium enterprises to raise capital through the NSE/BSE exchange platforms.

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Technology Upgradation Assistance	Assistance covering 50% of the expenditure (up to ₹5 lakh) incurred by micro and small enterprises for acquiring advanced technology/software from leading national institutions.
Standard Certification & Intellectual Property Assistance	Reimbursement of 50% of the expenditure (up to ₹3 lakh) incurred for obtaining national and international standard certifications and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
Trade Fair Participation Assistance	Assistance covering 75% of stall rental charges and travel expenses for up to two representatives participating in national and international trade fairs, subject to a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh.
Digitalization Assistance	Reimbursement of 75% of the expenditure incurred on digitalization initiatives, subject to a maximum of ₹50,000.
E-commerce Promotion	Reimbursement of 75% of e-commerce platform fees, subject to a maximum of ₹50,000.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Rajasthan MSME Day:** Celebrated on September 17.
- **MSME Tech Centre:** Bhiwadi.
- **Changes in MSME investment and turnover limits:** In the 2025-26 Budget, the Central Government increased the investment limit by 2.5 times and the turnover limit by 2 times for the classification of MSMEs.

Enterprise Category	Investment Limit	Annual Turnover
Micro Enterprise	Up to ₹2.5 crore (previously ₹1 crore)	Up to ₹10 crore (previously ₹5 crore)
Small Enterprise	Up to ₹25 crore (previously ₹10 crore)	Up to ₹100 crore (previously ₹50 crore)
Medium Enterprise	Up to ₹125 crore (previously ₹50 crore)	Up to ₹500 crore (previously ₹250 crore)

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Practice Question for the Preliminary Examination

Q. 1 When and where was 'International MSME Day' celebrated for the first time in Rajasthan?

- (a) 10 June, 2026 - MSME Tech Centre, Bhiwadi
- (b) 27 June, 2026 - Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- (c) 21 March, 2026 - Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- (d) 18 February, 2026 - Udyog Bhawan, Jaipur

Q. 2 Consider the following statements regarding the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy–2026:

- (i) This policy was launched with the objective of establishing the state as a global industrial hub.
- (ii) Its '4G' vision is based on Green, Governance, Growth, and Globalization.
- (iii) Its objective is to take Rajasthan's economy to \$350 billion by the year 2028-29.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Only (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (ii) and (iii)
- (d) (i), (ii), and (iii)

Thewa Art



Why in News?

- During his recent visit to Slovakia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented cufflinks crafted in the Thewa art style to the President of Slovakia.



Key Points:

Thewa Art

- Thewa art is one of India's most distinctive traditional handicrafts, hailing from Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.
- This art form is approximately 400 years old and is believed to have originated during the Mughal era.
- It is renowned for intricate gold filigree work performed on colored glass.
- It involves creating extremely fine designs from 23-carat gold and setting them onto the surface of multicolored glass.



NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar: Honoured with a Global Award by 'Multinational Book of Records' ■ Recently, Rajasthan's Minister of State for Energy, Hiralal Nagar, was honoured with a global award by the 'Multinational Book of Records (India)'. ■ It is noteworthy that 23 coal-based units of the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (with a total capacity of 7580 MW) achieved a remarkable milestone on June 2, 2026, by generating 7171 MW of electricity the highest output recorded since the corporation's inception. ■ Additionally, on the same day (June 2, 2026), all 8 units of the Suratgarh Thermal Power Station (with a total capacity of 2820 MW) achieved their highest-ever generation of 2790 MW.
2.	Launch of 'Prosecution Case Management System (PCMS)' ■ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched the 'Prosecution Case Management System' at the state level from Sawai Madhopur on June 25, 2026. ■ The PCMS has been developed by the state government with the aim of making the functioning of the Prosecution Department completely modern and transparent. ■ Integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) and the e-Court system, this mechanism ensures real-time monitoring of cases from the FIR stage to the final verdict as well as online case tracking, rapid reporting, and effective management. ■ Note: During the event, the Lok Sabha Speaker administered the oath of office to Pratibha Purohit, the newly elected State President of the 'Rajasthan Prosecution Officers Association', and her state executive committee.

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3.

Rajasthan at the 'National Cooperative Conference'

- At the 'National Cooperative Conference' held in Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir), Rajasthan's achievements and innovations regarding the theme 'Empowering PACS through Business Diversification' received nationwide acclaim.
- Rajasthan was represented by Dr. Samit Sharma, Secretary of the Cooperative Department.
- It is noteworthy that Rajasthan is a leading state in the country regarding the effective implementation of the Central Government's initiatives 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) and 'Sahakarita Mein Sahakar' (Cooperation within Cooperation).
- Additionally, Rajasthan ranks first in the country in the formation of 1,969 multi-purpose cooperative societies, the enrollment of 6,753 cooperative societies as members of the Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited, the construction of 120 warehouses, and the recording of 10.91 crore entries in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

4.

Rohit Kumar: Rajasthan's New Principal Resident Commissioner in New Delhi

- Rohit Kumar, a 1997-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed as the new Principal Resident Commissioner of Rajasthan in New Delhi.
- As the Principal Resident Commissioner, Rohit Kumar will play a pivotal role in establishing coordination between the Rajasthan Government and various ministries and departments of the Central Government in New Delhi, as well as in the effective handling of state-related matters.

5.

Cricketer Jai Moondra

- Cricketer Jai Moondra, a resident of Tonk, recently made his debut for the Ireland national cricket team in a match against India.

6.

Increase in Pension Amount under 'Loktantra Senani Samman' (Democracy Fighter Honor)

- Recently, the Rajasthan Government announced an increase in the 'Loktantra Senani Samman' pension amount from ₹20,000 to ₹25,000 per month.
- Additionally, the government decided to set the medical assistance amount at ₹5,000 and provide free travel facilities on Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) buses.

Practice Questions for Preliminary Examination

Q. 1 Which organization recently honored Rajasthan's Minister of State for Energy, Hiralal Nagar, with a global award?

- (a) International Energy Council
- (b) Multinational Book of Records (India)
- (c) National Power Management Board
- (d) Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam

Q. 2 How many of the following statements regarding Rajasthan are true in the context of the 'National Cooperative Conference'?

- (i) This conference was held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. (ii) Rajasthan was represented by Dr. Samit Sharma.
- (iii) Rajasthan ranks first in the country in the formation of 1,969 multi-purpose cooperative societies.
- (iv) Rajasthan ranks first in the country with 10.91 crore entries in the ERP.

Code:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Q. 3 Who launched the 'Prosecution Case Management System (PCMS)' at the state level, and from where?

- (a) The Chief Minister from Jaipur
- (b) The Lok Sabha Speaker from Sawai Madhopur
- (c) The Governor from Kota
- (d) The Chief Justice from Jodhpur



Passport is not proof of citizenship: Ministry of External Affairs



Why in News?

- The Ministry of External Affairs has clarified that an Indian passport is merely a travel document and should not be considered final or conclusive proof of citizenship.



Key Points:

- An Indian passport is an official travel document issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- It serves as proof of the holder's identity and nationality for international travel and enables them to obtain consular assistance from Indian embassies/consulates abroad.
- They are produced in accordance with the standards for biometric travel documents set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Citizenship

- According to the Constitution, citizenship is a subject under the Union List; therefore, it falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
- The Constitution does not define the term 'citizen', but it mentions the various categories of persons eligible for citizenship in Part II (Articles 5 to 11).

Ways to acquire Indian citizenship

- According to the Citizenship Act, 1955, there are five ways to acquire Indian citizenship:
 - Citizenship by birth.
 - Citizenship by descent.
 - Citizenship by registration.
 - Citizenship by naturalization.
 - Citizenship by incorporation of territory into India (by the Government of India).

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- Under the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955, dual citizenship is not permitted for persons of Indian origin.
- If a person has ever held an Indian passport and subsequently acquires the citizenship and passport of another country, they must immediately surrender their Indian passport.

Termination of Indian citizenship

- **Renunciation:** If an Indian citizen holds citizenship of another country and renounces Indian citizenship by making a declaration in accordance with the prescribed procedure, they cease to be an Indian citizen.
- **Termination:** If an Indian citizen voluntarily or knowingly acquires the citizenship of another country, their Indian citizenship is terminated.
- **Deprivation:** Under certain circumstances, the Government of India can deprive a person of their citizenship. However, this does not apply to all citizens.

The grounds for this are as follows:

- Citizenship was obtained through fraud.
- The citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India.
- The citizen engaged in unlawful trade or established illicit contact with the enemy during wartime.
- The citizen was sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more within five years of acquiring citizenship by naturalization.
- The citizen has been ordinarily resident outside India for a continuous period of seven years.

Padma Awards



Why in News?

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 65 Padma Awards at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.



Key Points:

- The Padma Awards are announced annually on the occasion of Republic Day.
- For the year 2026, the President approved a total of 131 Padma Awards, comprising
- 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.

Padma Awards

- Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards are among India's highest civilian honors. They are conferred in three categories
 - **Padma Vibhushan:** India's second-highest civilian honor.
 - **Padma Bhushan:** India's third-highest civilian honor.
 - **Padma Shri:** India's fourth-highest civilian honor.
- These awards are conferred annually for distinguished contributions in various fields, including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and public service.
- They can also be conferred posthumously.

Selection Process

- Nominations are received from the following sources: State Governments, Central Ministries, former Padma Awardees, and the general public.
- These are scrutinized by the Padma Awards Committee, constituted annually by the Prime Minister. The Committee's recommendations are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President for approval.



Geography and Geology



Caspian Sea



Why in News?

- Since the mid-1990s, the surface area of the Caspian Sea has shrunk by approximately 24,000 square kilometers an area roughly equal to that of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.

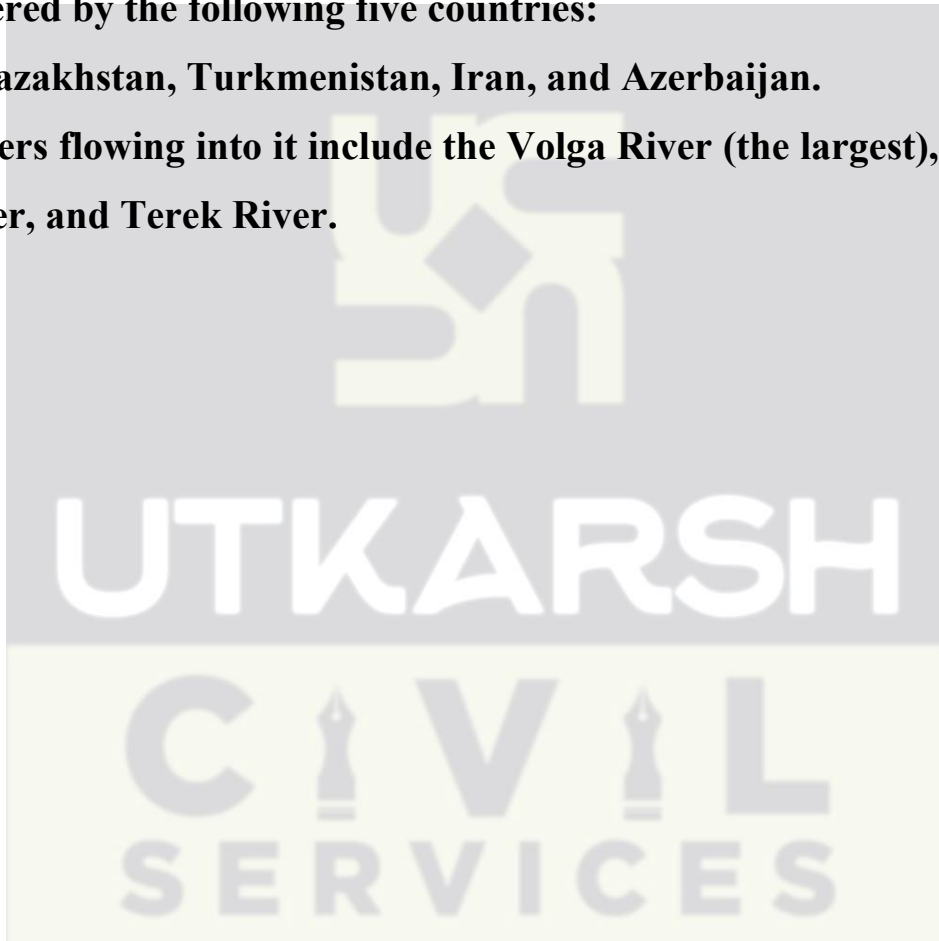




Key Points:

Caspian Sea: Introduction

- The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, situated between Europe and Asia.
- It is bordered by the following five countries:
- Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.
- Major rivers flowing into it include the Volga River (the largest), Ural River, Kura River, and Terek River.





Economic Developments



Expansion of Rooftop Solar Energy in India



Why in News?

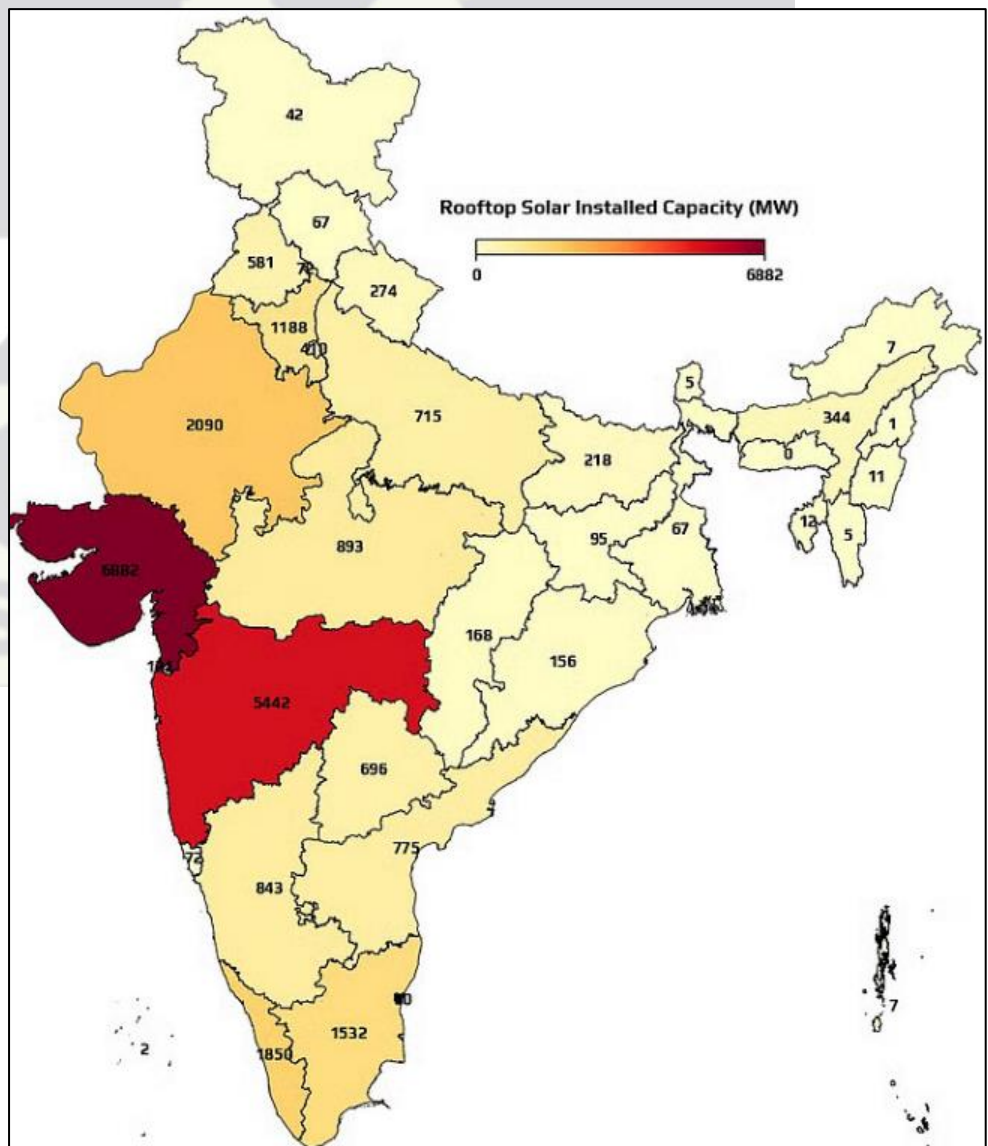
- Recent analysis by 'Climate Compatible Futures' and data from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy reveal significant regional disparities in the adoption of rooftop solar energy across India.



Key Points:

Status of Rooftop Solar Energy in India

- India's total rooftop solar energy capacity has reached 25.7 Gigawatts (GW). In the first quarter of 2026 alone, 2.7 GW of capacity was added, marking a 125% year-on-year growth compared to the same period last year.
- The installed rooftop solar capacity in Gujarat and Maharashtra combined exceeds the total capacity of all other states in the country.



Reasons for the Rapid Expansion of Rooftop Solar Energy

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (2024):** This scheme aims to benefit 10 million (1 crore) households and provide subsidies of up to ₹78,000 for residential rooftop solar systems.
- Residential consumers contributed approximately 82% of the new rooftop solar capacity added in early 2026.
- **Robust Ecosystem in Leading States:** States leading in rooftop solar energy have developed the necessary infrastructure, offering facilities such as easy access to credit, efficient power distribution companies (DISCOMs), and swift approval for net-metering.

Regional Distribution of Rooftop Solar Energy

Leadership of Western and Southern India

- India's top 10 states account for approximately 86% of the country's installed rooftop solar energy capacity.

Key Reasons:

- Timely government policies.
- Well-developed solar energy markets.
- High-performing power distribution companies.
- Adequate availability of vendors and financial institutions.

Eastern India

- Despite the availability of ample sunlight, the expansion of rooftop solar energy in eastern states remains relatively slow.

Reasons:

- Power distribution companies grappling with financial crises.
- Shortage of installation agencies.
- Limited access to credit facilities.
- Lack of consumer awareness.
- Delays in net-metering approvals.

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North-East India

- Despite increasing support from the Central Government, rooftop solar installations remain limited in this region.

Key reasons:

- Shortage of vendors.
- Limited capacity of power utility entities.
- Delays in the approval process.
- Lack of financing options.
- Lack of public awareness.

Major challenges hindering expansion

Institutional challenges

- Weak financial health of power distribution companies.
- Delays in net-metering approvals.
- Lack of coordination among various state departments.

Economic challenges

- Limited access to financial resources.
- High initial costs despite subsidies.

Market-related challenges

- Inadequate availability of installation agencies in backward areas.
- Lack of after-sales service networks.

Social challenges

- Limited information regarding subsidies and cost savings.
- Low consumer confidence.
- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Renewable Energy Statistics 2025:
 - India ranks third globally in solar energy capacity.
 - It ranks fourth in wind energy capacity.
 - It also ranks fourth in total installed renewable energy capacity.
 - India's total solar energy capacity including projects under implementation and those proposed has crossed 150 GW.

- India has surpassed its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target set for 2030 ahead of schedule and is progressing towards achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030.

According to NITI Aayog:

- Under the current policy scenario, solar energy capacity could reach approximately 1,500 GW by 2050.
- In a net-zero scenario, this capacity is likely to reach approximately 2,400 GW.
- Therefore, solar energy will play a crucial role in achieving the net-zero target by 2070.

India's Climate Commitments

- Approval has been granted to submit India's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in March 2026, under which India has set the following targets:
- A 47% reduction in the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Sourcing 60% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2035.

🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

Central Government Tightens FCRA Rules for NGOs



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, issued under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA).



Key Points:

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010

- The objective of the FCRA is to regulate the receipt and utilization of foreign contributions to prevent activities detrimental to national interest.
- The Act was first enacted in 1976 but was subsequently repealed and replaced by a new law in 2010. It was further amended in 2020.
- Registration obtained under the FCRA is valid for five years, and renewal is mandatory before the expiry of this period.

Key Amendments to FCRA Rules

- **Classification of NGO activities:** NGOs seeking to receive foreign funds must now register under one of the following five permitted categories
 - o Social
 - o Economic
 - o Educational
 - o Cultural
 - o Religious
- This is the first time that distinct activity lists have been prescribed for NGOs under each category.
- **Mandatory disclosures:** NGOs are now required to submit the following details
 - o Description of their activities
 - o Geographical scope of their programs
 - o Information regarding their websites
 - o Details of social media accounts
 - o Information on publications
- Additionally, NGOs must pay separate fees for each category and for each state and Union Territory where they operate.

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- **Expanded definition of key functionaries:** The definition of an NGO's "key functionary" has been expanded under the amended rules. Now, this will include not only office-bearers and directors but also the following individuals
 - o Trustees
 - o Partners
 - o The head of a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF)
 - o Members of the governing body
 - o Any other person controlling or managing the organization
- Additionally, entities whose key office-bearers include foreign nationals excluding Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) will generally not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission unless special permission is granted by the Central Government.
- **State-wise and category-wise registration:** According to the amended rules
 - o The registration certificate or the application for fresh registration must clearly specify the objectives for which the registration is granted.
 - o These objectives can only be selected from the list specified in the schedule to the rules.
 - o NGOs must also specify the states or Union Territories where they intend to conduct their activities.
 - o The rules prescribe separate fees for each specified objective and for operations in each state/Union Territory.

Significance of the amended rules

- Transparency will increase through greater disclosure regarding NGO activities and foreign funding.
- The objective-specific and state-specific approval system will strengthen monitoring and accountability.
- The expanded definition of key office-bearers will enhance organizational governance and accountability.
- Traceability of foreign funds will improve, and regulatory oversight will become more effective.



Schemes and Policies



BHARATI Programme



Why in News?

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has successfully concluded the first phase of the BHARATI programme.



Key Points:

BHARATI Programme

- BHARATI (Bharat Hub for Agri-tech, Resilience, Advancement, and Incubation for Export Innovation) is APEDA's flagship export promotion programme, aimed at transforming Indian agri-food innovative enterprises into globally competitive exporters.

Objectives:

- To foster an 'Export-first' approach among agri-food innovative enterprises.
- To develop export-ready enterprises to achieve the export target of US\$ 50 billion for APEDA-scheduled products by 2030.
- To address challenges related to product development, quality standards, sustainable development, logistics, and export compliance.



INTERNATIONAL



Permanent Seat in the UN Security Council



Why in News?

- The need to make the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) more representative and aligned with contemporary geopolitical realities has refocused attention on India's bid for permanent membership.



Key Points:

Need for Reform in the UN Security Council

- **Unrepresentative Membership:** When the UN was established in 1945, the Security Council had 11 members out of 51 member nations approximately 22%.
- Today, the UN has 193 member nations, whereas the Security Council has only 15 members, representing less than 8% of the total membership.
- **Inability to Resolve Conflicts:** The Council's current structure is not sufficiently capable of effectively resolving major conflicts or maintaining international peace and security.
- **Changes in World Order:** The global order has undergone vast changes since 1945; therefore, these new realities should be reflected in the composition of permanent membership.
- **Veto Power:** Currently, only five permanent members possess veto power; its use has frequently hindered Security Council action regarding global crises and conflicts, such as those in Ukraine and Gaza.
- The remaining 10 members of the Council are elected as non-permanent members for two-year terms and do not possess veto rights.
- **Imbalance of Power:** The Council's current structure places excessive emphasis on the global balance of power as it existed at that time.
- **Question of Legitimacy:** The disproportionate concentration of power among the five permanent members particularly due to their veto power raises questions regarding the Council's impartiality and legitimacy.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, tasked with maintaining international peace and security.
- Its first meeting was held on January 17, 1946, in Westminster, London.
- **Headquarters:** New York
- **Membership:** The Security Council consists of a total of 15 members.
- 5 permanent members (with veto power): China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

10 non-permanent members

Election of non-permanent members

- Each year, the General Assembly elects 5 of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.

Regional distribution of the 10 non-permanent seats

- For African and Asian countries 5 seats
- For Eastern European countries 1 seat
- For Latin American and Caribbean countries 2 seats
- For Western European and other countries 2 seats
- India last held a seat in the Security Council as a non-permanent member during 2021–22.

Factors strengthening India's bid for permanent membership

- Demographic significance
- Economic strength
- Military capability
- Contribution to international peace and security
- Voice of the Global South
- **Maritime security:** India's role in the Indian Ocean region demonstrates its commitment to freedom of navigation, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and associated institutions such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

India-Türkiye Relations



Why in News?

- India-Türkiye relations had hit a low point due to Türkiye's support for Pakistan during 'Operation Sindoor'.



Key Points:

- A year later, both nations are moving towards strengthening their ties through diplomatic dialogue and security cooperation.

Background

- **Support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue:** Following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the Turkish President repeatedly raised the Kashmir issue at various international forums. Türkiye backed Pakistan's stance and advocated for UN-mediated talks on Kashmir.
- Following the Pahalgam terror attack, Türkiye criticized India's 'Operation Sindoor', terming it an act of "unprovoked aggression."
- **Defense cooperation with Pakistan:** Reports of Pakistan using Turkish-made drones during 'Operation Sindoor' further heightened India's security concerns.

Diplomatic and economic impact: In response, India took the following measures

- Strengthened ties with Cyprus and Greece.
- Cancelled an aircraft maintenance contract Air India had with a Turkish company.
- Suspended several academic MoUs; a 37% decline was recorded in the number of Indian tourists visiting Türkiye.

Recent engagement between the two countries

- **Resumption of diplomatic dialogue:** After a four-year hiatus, India and Türkiye resumed Foreign Office Consultations in April 2026. Discussions covered topics such as trade and investment, tourism, technology and innovation, energy cooperation, counter-terrorism, and security.

- **Security cooperation:** Türkiye assisted in the extradition of fugitive drug trafficker Salim Dola to India. Both countries are also cooperating on other extradition requests.
 - **Economic Cooperation:** Türkiye acknowledges India as a key economic partner, with annual bilateral trade exceeding US\$ 10 billion.
 - India is a significant importer of machinery, marble, and agricultural products from Türkiye.
 - Turkish companies are exploring opportunities in India's infrastructure and construction sectors.
 - Tourism and investment ties are also economically vital for both nations.
- India's Interest in Re-engaging with Türkiye**
- **Strategic Geographical Location:** Türkiye serves as a bridge between Europe, West Asia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. This is crucial for India's strategies regarding connectivity, trade, and energy security.
 - **Key Economic Partner:** Annual trade between the two nations exceeds US\$ 10 billion. India exports chemicals, textiles, automobiles, machinery, and pharmaceuticals to Türkiye.
 - **Security of Trade Routes:** Maintaining relations with Türkiye offers India strategic flexibility amidst uncertainties surrounding the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
 - **Influence in the Islamic World:** Constructive relations with Türkiye help India further strengthen ties with West Asian and Islamic nations.
 - **Türkiye's Assurance:** Türkiye clarified that its military cooperation with Pakistan during 'Operation Sindoor' was part of pre-existing agreements rather than new assistance. It also stated that it has no bilateral disputes with India.

Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence



Why in News?

- Professor B. Ravindran of IIT Madras has been appointed as a member of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence established by the United Nations.



Key Points:

Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence

- This is the world's first global scientific body established for Artificial Intelligence (AI); it brings leading experts together on a single platform to assess how AI is transforming human life.