

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 25 June 2026



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RAJASTHAN



'Farmer Registry-based Fertilizer Distribution System' Implemented in Rajsamand and Sirohi



Why in News?

- On June 25, 2026, the Rajasthan Agriculture Department launched a pilot project to implement the 'Farmer Registry-based Fertilizer Distribution System' in the Sirohi and Rajsamand districts.

राजस्थान सरकार
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Farmer Registry-Based Fertilizer Distribution System Implemented in Rajsamand and Sirohi

A Major Step Towards Digital Revolution in the Agriculture Sector.

Transparency to Increase in the Distribution of Subsidized Fertilizers, Farmers to Directly Benefit.

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Key Points:

- This pilot project has been initiated under the National Fertilizer System, utilizing the Farmer Registry created under the AgriStack scheme.
- It is noteworthy that the Farmer Registry and the Framework for Fertilizer Sales (FFS) are being implemented by the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and the Department of Fertilizers to promote transparency and good governance in the agricultural sector.
- Through this system, the distribution of subsidized fertilizers to farmers will be ensured in a more transparent, effective, and digital manner.
- The implementation of the Farmer Registry-based FFS system will ensure the identification of genuine farmers and strengthen the monitoring of fertilizer distribution and usage.
- This will bring transparency to fertilizer availability, distribution, and stock management, while enabling effective control over any irregularities.

Facts for Prelims:

Farmer Registry:

- The Farmer Registry is a foundational registry of the AgriStack project, under which an 11-digit unique identification number is assigned to every farmer.
- To achieve this, land record databases are consolidated to create online 'buckets' (compiling all relevant information) for farmers sharing the same name and father's name within a revenue village; these are then linked to the farmer's Aadhaar via mobile apps and websites, encompassing all land parcels (khasras) in the state.
- **Objective of the Farmer Registry:** To facilitate farmers' access to government schemes and ensure 100% benefit transfer.
- **Status in Rajasthan:** Farmer IDs have been generated for 86.66 lakh farmers in the state as of June 2026. Rajasthan is among the leading states in the country in terms of generating Farmer IDs.

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Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination

Q. 1 In which districts has the 'Farmer Registry-based Fertilizer Distribution System' pilot project been launched by the Rajasthan Agriculture Department in June 2026?

- A. Jaipur and Jodhpur
- B. Sirohi and Rajsamand
- C. Kota and Bundi
- D. Bikaner and Barmer

Q. 2 Consider the following statements regarding the 'Farmer Registry' being developed under the 'AgriStack Project':

1. Under this, an 11-digit unique identification number is allocated to each farmer.
2. In this system, all information regarding farmers is linked to their Aadhaar numbers.
3. By June 2026, Farmer IDs for more than 85 lakh farmers has been created in Rajasthan.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. All of the above

Amendment to the 'Member of Legislative Assembly - Local Area Development' (MLA-LAD) Fund



Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan Rural Development Department issued new guidelines regarding the 'Member of Legislative Assembly - Local Area Development' (MLA-LAD) fund.



Key Points:

- It is noteworthy that in 2025, the Ethics Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly issued notices to three MLAs regarding allegations of corruption in the 'Member of Legislative Assembly - Local Area Development' (MLA-LAD) fund.

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New Guidelines:

1. An MLA can recommend development works from the MLA fund only when a clear request for the same has been made by the concerned party.
2. Members of the Legislative Assembly shall submit recommendations only to the concerned Collector or the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Zila Parishad. The executing agency will also be determined by the concerned Collector or the CEO of the Zila Parishad.
3. Upon receiving the recommendation, the concerned department will examine the feasibility of the proposed work. Additionally, it will ensure that the said work is not already being implemented under any other government scheme.
4. The ₹5 crore fund allocated to the MLA must be utilized within the same financial year. If any amount remains unspent, it will not be carried forward to the next financial year but will instead lapse.
5. According to the new guidelines, all information regarding recommendations, administrative and financial sanctions, the executing agency, work orders, and work progress will be updated live on the portal.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Chairman of the Petitions and Ethics Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly:** Kailash Verma.
- This committee comprises 12 members.
- **Function:** To uphold integrity and ethics for the 2025-26 session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.
- **High-level inquiry committee constituted by the State Government:**
- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma constituted a 4-member committee, chaired by Bhaskar Sawant, to prevent corruption in the MLA fund.



Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding the recently issued new guidelines for the Rajasthan MLA-LAD Fund (MLA Local Area Development Fund):

1. MLAs will be able to recommend development works from their funds only when there is a clear demand for the same from the concerned party.
2. If any portion of the annual ₹5 crore allocation to an MLA remains unspent, it can be carried forward to the next financial year.
3. All information related to the MLA fund (such as administrative sanctions, work orders, and progress status) will be updated live on the portal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. All of the above



NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (RWSLIP) ■ A state-level workshop was recently organized to strengthen the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (RWSLIP). ■ Venue: State Institute of Agricultural Management (SIAM), Durgapura, Jaipur. ■ The objective of RWSLIP is to improve farmers' livelihoods by enhancing water-use efficiency and increasing agricultural productivity. ■ Funding: Provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
2.	First-time use of 'Mechanical Litter Picker Machine' in Rajasthan ■ For the first time in Rajasthan, state-of-the-art 'Mechanical Litter Picker Machines' have been deployed to make Jaipur clean and beautiful. ■ Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma flagged off these high-tech machines during a ceremony held in Sanganer, Jaipur. ■ These advanced mechanical litter picker machines are capable of effectively collecting waste from footpaths, narrow lanes, and even underneath transformers.
3.	'Toy Bank', 'Praveshotsav' and 'Tree Plantation' programs ■ The Department of Women and Child Development is conducting a special campaign from June 24 to July 1, 2026, at Anganwadi centers across the state to boost enrollment and foster the holistic development of children aged 3–6 years. ■ Activities under this campaign include the establishment of 'Toy Banks' and the organization of 'Praveshotsav' (enrollment drive) and 'Tree Plantation' programs.



4.	‘First Indus Kumbh’ held in Leh-Ladakh ■ The ‘First Indus Kumbh’ was recently organized at the historic Indus Ghat in Leh-Ladakh. ■ Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani participated in this event.
5.	‘Lumpy Vaccination Campaign’: State-level launch from Beawar ■ On June 24, 2026, the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Gopalan, Joraram Kumawat, launched a state-level vaccination campaign from Beawar to protect cattle against Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). ■ Phase: Second. ■ During the year 2025-26, 108.95 lakh cattle were vaccinated in the state. A target has been set to vaccinate 111.51 lakh cattle for the year 2026-27.
6.	Nilima Arora: summited Mount Everest ■ Nilima Arora from Jaipur created history by scaling Mount Everest (8,849 meters), the world's highest peak, despite having Thalassemia Minor. ■ She is the first woman in the world to climb Mount Everest while suffering from Thalassemia Minor.
7.	Purvi Pratap Kachhawa: Gold Medal at ISSF Junior World Championship ■ Jaipur-based shooter Purvi Pratap Kachhawa won the gold medal in the '25m Standard Pistol Women's Team Event' at the ISSF Junior World Championship held in Suhl, Germany. ■ Purvi also holds the national record in the 25m Standard Pistol event.
8.	International AYUSH Conference 4.0: Kathmandu (Nepal) ■ Three doctors from Rajasthan has been honored at the International AYUSH Conference 4.0 held in Kathmandu, Nepal. ■ Honorees: Dr. Swarupanand Sarkar, Dr. T.P. Tiwari, and Dr. Aarti Purohit. ■ Event dates: June 12 to June 14, 2026.

9.

Operation of 50 'Double-Decker e-Buses' in Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government has announced the operation of 50 'double-decker e-buses' to attract tourists to the state.
- These 50 air-conditioned double-decker buses will be operated specifically for tourists. These will connect the historical sites of major tourist cities such as Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur.

Practice Questions for the Preliminary Examination

Q.1 Which international organization primarily funds the Rajasthan Water Sector Livelihood Improvement Project (RWSLIP)?

- A. World Bank
- B. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- C. New Development Bank
- D. Asian Development Bank

Q. 2 Where has the second phase of the state-level 'Lumpy Vaccination Campaign' in Rajasthan been launched?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Beawar
- C. Jodhpur
- D. Bikaner

Q.3 Approval has been granted for the operation of how many 'double-decker e-buses' in Rajasthan for environmental conservation?

- A. 50
- B. 25
- C. 100
- D. 75



Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026.



Key Points:

- The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is conferred annually by the President of India on 'Veer Bal Diwas' (26 December).
- Established in its current form in 2019, this award honors children aged 5 to 18 years for exceptional achievements across six categories: Bravery, Art and Culture, Environment, Science and Technology, Social Service, and Sports.
- To be eligible, the nominee must meet the following criteria:
 - o Must be an Indian citizen residing in India.
 - o Must not have received this award previously.
 - o Must have achieved the recognized feat within the two years preceding the nomination deadline.
- Although the award is generally not conferred posthumously, exceptional cases may be considered.
- This award is the highest civilian honor for children in India.



History and Culture



Kheer Bhawani Fair



Why in News?

- The annual Kheer Bhawani fair is being celebrated with religious fervor and enthusiasm in the Kashmir Valley on the occasion of Jyeshtha Ashtami.



Key Points:

- It is one of the most significant festivals for the Kashmiri Pandit community, during which devotees offer kheer (rice pudding), milk, flowers, and fragrant leaves to Mata Ragnya Devi.

Kheer Bhawani Temple

- It is dedicated to Goddess Ragnya Devi, who is considered an incarnation of Goddess Durga.
- The original temple was constructed by Maharaja Pratap Singh around 1912 AD in Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir. Later, Maharaja Hari Singh undertook its beautification and renovation.
- A distinctive feature of the temple is a hexagonal spring located at its center, which is revered for its sacred water.



Schemes and Policies



Nirbhay Chetna



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program on 'Nirbhay Chetna'.



Key Points:

- 'Nirbhay Chetna' is a key intervention under the 'Nirbhay Raho' initiative launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 2026.

It comprises three complementary components:

- 'Nirbhay Netri' focuses on capacity building and legal awareness among elected women representatives;
- 'Nirbhay Chetna' aims to sensitize elected male representatives towards gender equality and women's safety; and
- The 'Nirbhay Drishti' scheme envisages the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic rural locations to strengthen technology-based safety infrastructure in Panchayats.

Q. Which Ministry has launched the 'Nirbhay Chetna' initiative?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Rural Development
- C. Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D. Ministry of Home Affairs



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY



Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)



Why in News?

- The Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework under India's Biological Diversity Act, 2002, has generated over ₹266 crore since 2008, out of which approximately ₹145 crore has been distributed to beneficiaries.



Key Points:

What is Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)?

- ABS refers to the framework through which benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge are shared fairly and equitably with the communities that have conserved these resources.
- It is a principle under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- India implements measures regarding biological diversity through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and its recent amendment, the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Significance of ABS framework

- India's ABS framework advances the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol, supports the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2030, and contributes to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

- This Act was introduced to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992.
- It provides a framework for access to biological resources and the sharing of benefits arising from such use and access. It aligns with the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

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Nagoya Protocol

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- It was adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, and entered into force in 2014.

Q. "The conservation of biological resources is not merely a scientific endeavor but also a matter of social justice towards communities." In light of this statement, critically analyze India's ABS framework and its significance.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The CRED-Meta Deal in the Fintech Sector



Why in News?

- Kunal Shah, a prominent Indian fintech entrepreneur, has been appointed as the Global CEO of WhatsApp.



Key Points:

- Meta is also investing \$900 million in CRED, raising concerns about the growing control of US technology companies over India's fintech sector and the data generated by Indian consumers.
- This Meta-CRED transaction comes at a time when platforms linked to US companies are increasingly dominating India's digital payment ecosystem.
- Walmart holds an approximately 72% stake in PhonePe, Google owns Google Pay, and Meta owns WhatsApp Pay.
- The proposed investment in CRED will further strengthen the control of foreign technology giants over a sector built upon India's public digital infrastructure.
- Many Indian fintech startups appear more interested in building companies for eventual sale to foreign buyers than in creating long-term, Indian-owned digital champion companies.

What is Fintech?

- In India, the fintech sector refers to the use of technology to improve, innovate, and streamline financial services.
- This sector encompasses a wide range of technology-driven financial products and services, including digital payments, lending, insurance, wealth management, and personal finance.

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The Fintech Sector in India

- The Indian fintech industry is estimated to be worth approximately US\$110 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach around US\$420 billion by 2029.
- India ranks third globally in terms of the number of fintech companies and leads the world in digital payment volumes.
- Starting with just 1 million transactions in 2016, UPI has since crossed the historic milestone of 10 billion transactions.
- **Government initiatives for the fintech sector in India**
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
 - India Stack
 - Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)
 - Central KYC (Know Your Customer)
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
 - Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)
 - Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for fintech
 - National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) and related initiatives
- **Regulatory Sandbox:** Launched by the Reserve Bank of India and subsequently by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
 - It allows fintech companies to test innovative products in a controlled regulatory environment before full-scale deployment.
- **Fintech Hub at IFSC, GIFT City:** A world-class fintech hub has been developed in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to promote India as a global fintech leader.

Q. What is 'Digital Public Infrastructure' (DPI)? What role does it play in India's progress within the fintech context?