

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 29 June 2026



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RAJASTHAN



Rajasthan Ranked Fourth in the Country in MSMEs



Why in News?

- With over 33 lakh MSME units, Rajasthan emerged as the fourth-largest state in the country in terms of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

RAJASTHAN

is the **fourth-largest** state
in the country

In terms of

**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
(MSMEs)**



33 lakh
MSME units
active in Rajasthan



Key Points:

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma shared this information during the first 'State-level International MSME Day' celebration held in Jaipur.

Other major announcements made during International MSME Day:

- **Development of Haats:** Haats (Markets/Bazaars) will be developed and operated based on the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model for products made by artisans, weavers, and micro-enterprises. (First Phase: Haats will be developed in Pushkar, Nathdwara, Jaisalmer, and Alwar.)

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- **Panch Gaurav Yojana:** Financial assistance will be provided under the 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) scheme to processing units dealing with species and vegetation identified under the state government's 'Panch Gaurav Yojana'.
 - **Amendment to RIPS-2024:** Announcements were made regarding significant changes to the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) launched by the Rajasthan government. For instance:
 1. The tenure for capital subsidies for MSMEs under the policy has been reduced from 10 years to 7 years.
 2. Under the manufacturing package for the electronics and semiconductor sector, the minimum investment threshold for selected component categories in RIPS-2024 has been lowered to ₹15 crore.
 3. Currently, investment is permitted in a maximum of 3 phases under RIPS-2024. According to the new provisions, projects covered under the Central Government's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) will be allowed to invest in 5 phases.
 - **Increase in allowance for skill development and training:** Announcement was made to raise the maximum monthly allowance for women and differently-abled personnel undergoing skill development and training in the electronics and semiconductor sector from ₹4,000 to ₹6,000.
 - **Financial assistance for new startups:** An announcement was made to provide financial assistance to 25 new startups during the 2026-27 financial year through the Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund (RVCF).
- Other key points:**
- **Direct Allotment Policy-2025:** The state government has implemented the 'Direct Allotment Policy-2025' to promote MSMEs in Rajasthan; consequently, over 1,600 industrial plots have been allotted across the state in the past year. Additionally, necessary reforms have been implemented in 23 priority sectors.

- Furthermore, the state government has reduced the timeline for 'land use approval' for MSME units in urban areas from 60 days to 30 days, and the timeframe for issuing approvals required to start an industry has been cut from 120 days to 30 days.
- The state government has expanded the 'White Category list' of non-polluting industries from 104 to 877 industries.

Facts for Prelims (International MSME Day):

- 'International MSME Day' was celebrated in Rajasthan for the first time on June 27, 2026.
- **Venue:** Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- **Organizer:** Department of Industries and Commerce, Rajasthan.
- **Theme for 2026:** Empowering MSMEs through innovation and sustainable industrial development.
- During this event, the 'Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy', the 'One District, One Product (ODOP) Coffee Table Book', and the 'Rising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Portal' were launched.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination:-

- Q1. Under the first phase announced during International MSME Day 2026, at which locations will 'Haats (markets)' be developed based on the PPP model?**
- (A) Jaipur, Kota, Bikaner, and Udaipur
(B) Pushkar, Nathdwara, Jaisalmer, and Alwar
(C) Ajmer, Bharatpur, Sikar, and Bundi
(D) Chittorgarh, Barmer, Nagaur, and Tonk
- Q2. How many new startups were announced to receive financial assistance through the Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund in the financial year 2026-27?**
- (A) 15
(B) 20
(C) 25
(D) 30

29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026: Jaipur



Why in News?

- The 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) will be held on July 1 and 2, 2026, at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- **Theme:** 'Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-Enabled, Data-Driven, and Secure Digital Governance'.
- **Organizers:** Jointly organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Rajasthan.
- **Knowledge Partners:** NASSCOM and Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur.

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- **Awards:** A total of 17 awards will be presented by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, to those who have performed outstandingly in the field of e-Governance. These include 10 Gold awards, 6 Silver awards, and 1 Jury award.
- **Key sessions proposed during the conference:** 'AI-based Governance for All', 'Bridging the Digital Divide – Voice-First Solutions in Key Public Services', 'Driving Urban Transformation through Technology', 'AI for Smart Policing and Public Safety', 'Citizen-Centric Governance: Inclusive Governance', and 'Digital Interventions to Enhance Access and Quality of School Education'.
- **e-Governance:** The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) such as the internet, computers, and mobile phones by the government to deliver administrative services and information to citizens, businesses, and other government departments is known as e-Governance.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination:

Q1. What is the theme of the '29th National Conference on e-Governance – 2026' being held in Jaipur?

- A. Digital India: Secure and Inclusive India.
- B. Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-enabled, Data-driven, and Secure Digital Governance.
- C. Smart India: Technology for all.
- D. E-governance for urban development.

Completion of 18 Years of Sariska Tiger Reserve Re-establishment (National Workshop Organized)



Why in News?

- A national workshop was organized on June 28, 2026, to mark the completion of 18 years since the reintroduction of tigers at the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar.



Key Points:

- **Organizers:** National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with the Rajasthan Forest Department.
- **Theme:** 'Tiger Re-establishment: Opportunities and Challenges'.
- **Releases:** Launch of three publications 'Roadmap for Active Management of Tigers in India', a booklet titled 'Tiger Re-establishment and Recovery in India', and the 'Project Cheetah Annual Report'.

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- Tigers had been completely wiped out from Sariska Tiger Reserve by 2005 due to poaching. On June 28, 2008, tigers were airlifted from Ranthambore to Sariska; this was the world's first successful tiger translocation project.
- **Tiger population in Sariska Tiger Reserve: 56** (data as of June 28, 2026).

Facts for Prelims:

Tiger Reserves located in Rajasthan: -

S. No.	Tiger Reserve	Year of Declaration	Districts Included
1	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve	1973	Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi, Tonk
2	Sariska Tiger Reserve	1978	Alwar, Jaipur, Kotputli-Behror
3	Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve	2013	Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh
4	Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve	2022	Bundi, Kota
5	Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve	2023	Dholpur, Karauli

Q 1. Consider the following statements regarding the reintroduction of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve:

1. By the year 2005, tigers had been completely wiped out from Sariska due to poaching.
2. On June 28, 2008, tigers were airlifted from Ranthambore to Sariska.
3. This was considered the world's first successful tiger translocation project.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

‘National Pulse Polio Campaign’ in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- The state-wide phase of the ‘National Pulse Polio Campaign’ is being conducted in Rajasthan from June 28 to June 30, 2026.

राष्ट्रीय पल्स पोलियो अभियान का शुभारंभ

- 59217 बूथों पर 61.15 लाख से अधिक बच्चों को पिलाई पोलियो रोधी खुराक
- अभियान के अगले दो दिन घर-घर जाकर बच्चों को पिलाई जाएगी पोलियो की खुराक
- अभियान 30 जून तक चलेगा

पोलियो दिवस
28 जून 2026
रविवार



Key Points:

- **Launch of the campaign:** By the Chief Minister from Jaipur on June 28, 2026.
- The Chief Minister unveiled the Pulse Polio campaign poster bearing the slogan: "Do Boond Har Baar, Polio Par Jeet Rahe Barkaraar"

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- **Campaign conducted by:** Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan.
- **Target:** Under this campaign, polio drops will be administered to approximately 1.04 crore children in Rajasthan. For this purpose, 59,217 booths have been set up across the state.
- It is noteworthy that the Pulse Polio campaign was launched in India in 1995. Since January 2011, no new case of polio has been detected in India over the past 15 years.
- India received the Pulse Polio-free certification on March 27, 2014.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination

Q1. When is the state-wide phase of the 'National Pulse Polio Campaign' being conducted in Rajasthan?

- A. March 27 to March 29, 2026
- B. June 28 to June 30, 2026
- C. July 1 to July 3, 2026
- D. January 15 to January 17, 2026



Rajasthan in '65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship'



Why in News?

- Recently, athletes from Rajasthan won 1 silver and 3 bronze medals at the '65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship' held in Odisha.



Key Points:

- Silver Medal:** Yashvir Singh in the Men's Javelin Throw with a throw of 83.72 meters.
- Bronze Medal:** Uma Chaudhary in the Women's Javelin Throw with a throw of 53.06 meters.
- Bronze Medal:** Rahul Baloda in track events, completing the Men's 1500m race in 3 minutes 40.07 seconds.

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- **Bronze Medal:** Kumari Paru in the Women's 3000m Steeplechase with a time of 10 minutes 52.28 seconds.
- **Competition Venue:** Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.
- **Event Duration:** June 24 to June 28, 2026.
- A total of 48 athletes from Rajasthan participated in this competition.

Practice Questions for Preliminary Examination

Q1. How many medals in total did Rajasthan win at the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship 2026?

- A. 01 Gold and 03 Bronze
- B. 01 Silver and 03 Bronze
- C. 02 Silver and 02 Bronze
- D. 04 Bronze

Q2. Consider the following pairs regarding the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship:

1. Yashvir Singh – Men's Javelin Throw – Silver Medal
2. Uma Chaudhary – Women's Javelin Throw – Bronze Medal
3. Rahul Baloda – Men's 1500m Race – Bronze Medal

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only 1 and 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3



NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	ICAI Organizes 'Kshitij' Event in Jaipur ■ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organized the 'Kshitij' national conference for CA students in Jaipur. ■ Venue and Dates: Birla Auditorium, Jaipur; June 27 and 28, 2026. ■ Theme: "Kshitij – Inspiring Excellence for India 2047"
2.	Shooter Chiransh Chaumia ■ Young deaf shooter Chiransh Chaumia won 4 gold medals at the '24th Rajasthan State Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championship – 2026' held at the Jagatpura Shooting Range in Jaipur.
3.	State-Level Senior Colvin Shield Tournament ■ Men's Category Winner: Sikar. Runner-up: Udaipur. ■ Women's Category Winner: Sikar. Runner-up: Jaipur. ■ Finals Organized by: Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.



Mahesh Dixit Appointed as New Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB)



Why in News?

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the appointment of Mahesh Dixit as the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a period of two years. He will succeed Tapan Kumar Deka.



Key Points:

- Mahesh Dixit is a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer belonging to the Andhra Pradesh cadre.
- Although his retirement was originally scheduled for August 2027, he has been granted an extension of service under Fundamental Rule (FR) 56(d) and Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.
- Under these provisions, the Central Government can extend the services of the heads of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the Cabinet Secretary, the Home Secretary, etc., beyond the retirement age of 60 years in the public interest.



Geography and Geology



Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project



Why in News?

- The Forest Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended 'in-principle' approval for the use of forest land for the 820 MW Kirthai-II hydroelectric project.



Key Points:

- Kirthai-II is a proposed run-of-the-river hydroelectric project on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- A 121-meter-high concrete gravity dam will be constructed as part of the project.
- This is the third hydroelectric project on the Chenab River to receive approval following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- The project will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited, a joint venture between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and the Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC).
- The Kirthai-I project is located upstream of Kirthai-II, while the Kiru hydroelectric project is located downstream.
- **Other major hydroelectric projects proposed on the Chenab River are**
 - o Sawalkote
 - o Dulhasti-II
 - o Ratle
 - o Pakal Dul
 - o Kwar
 - o Kiru
 - o Kirthai Stage-I



Economic Developments



Tourism-led Economic Development in India



Why in News?

- Tourism has been a key driver of India's economic transformation.



Key Points:

Current Status

- According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), tourism contributes approximately US\$ 231.6 billion to India's economy, placing India among the world's leading tourism economies.
- Between 2014 and 2025, India recorded 181.25 million international arrivals and 93.35 million foreign tourist arrivals.
- In 2024, India recorded 20.6 million international arrivals; consequently, India rose from the 25th position in 2016 to the 20th position in the global tourism rankings by 2024.

Significance of Tourism

Economic Development and Employment Generation:



- **Example:** In Goa, tourism provides employment in the hotel, taxi, and restaurant industries and serves as a major source of livelihood for local artisans.

- **Regional Development:** Tourism has emerged as a vital tool for balanced regional development.

Preservation of Culture and Heritage:

- **Example:** Tourism at the Khajuraho temples and Hampi has fostered the preservation of these World Heritage Sites.

Building Soft Power:

- **Example:** During India's G20 presidency, the country's rich cultural heritage and traditions were effectively showcased to the global community.

Community Empowerment and Inclusive Growth:

- **Example:** Homestay tourism in Sikkim and Kerala has become a significant source of income and employment for local residents.

Environmental Conservation through Sustainable Tourism:

- **Example:** Eco-tourism activities in Kerala's Periyar Tiger Reserve provide employment to local communities while simultaneously supporting the conservation of the area.
- Mamallapuram has become the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in South Asia to be awarded the Green Destinations Silver Certification.

Key Initiatives

- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme, 2014:** A Central Sector Scheme aimed at developing integrated and theme-based tourism circuits in India.
- **Swadesh Darshan 1.0:** Over 76 projects worth more than ₹5,000 crore were sanctioned across 15 different thematic tourism circuits.
- **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (2022):** Aims to develop sustainable and experience-based tourism.

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- **PRASHAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) Scheme & Spiritual Tourism:** Aims to develop basic infrastructure at major pilgrimage sites across the country.
- **Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme:** Being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
- **Capacity Building Scheme for Service Providers:** Training has been provided to over 4.5 lakh individuals by the year 2025.
- **The Union Budget 2026-27** proposes the establishment of a National Hospitality Institute and skill upgradation for 10,000 tourism guides.
- **Technology, Connectivity, and Global Competitiveness:** India has made tourism more accessible through the expansion of the e-Tourist Visa facility, digital platforms like NIDHI and NIDHI Plus, and digital promotion via the 'Incredible India' campaign.
- **Tourism connectivity** has been strengthened through the expansion of national highways, modernization of railway stations, Vande Bharat trains, the UDAN scheme, airport upgrades, and improved last-mile connectivity.
- **Sustainable Tourism Initiatives:** Environmentally responsible behavior among tourists and the tourism industry is being encouraged through the 'Travel for LiFE' initiative.





Schemes and Policies



Index of Service Production (ISP)



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is set to launch the Index of Service Production (ISP) in July 2026.



Key Points:

Index of Service Production (ISP)

- The ISP is a monthly high-frequency indicator developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), aimed at assessing short-term changes in the real output of India's formal service sector.
- It has been developed to complement the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the service sector.
- It was developed by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chaired by Debjani Ghosh.

Need for this Index

- India's service sector contributes more than 50% to the Gross Value Added (GVA), yet until now, there was no monthly indicator available to monitor its real growth.
- The ISP will provide timely and reliable data for economic monitoring, policy formulation, and economic forecasting.

Key Features of the ISP

- **Coverage:** It covers only the formal service sector.
- It does not include the informal sector or non-market-based government services.
- **Base Year:** 2024-25
- **Methodology:** It utilizes a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index with weights based on Gross Value Added (GVA).
- **Measurement of Real Growth:** It converts nominal service output into real output using price deflators such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Robotics Revolution



Why in News?

- The rise of advanced robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based "embedded intelligence" could fundamentally alter India's traditional economic competitive advantage.



Key Points:

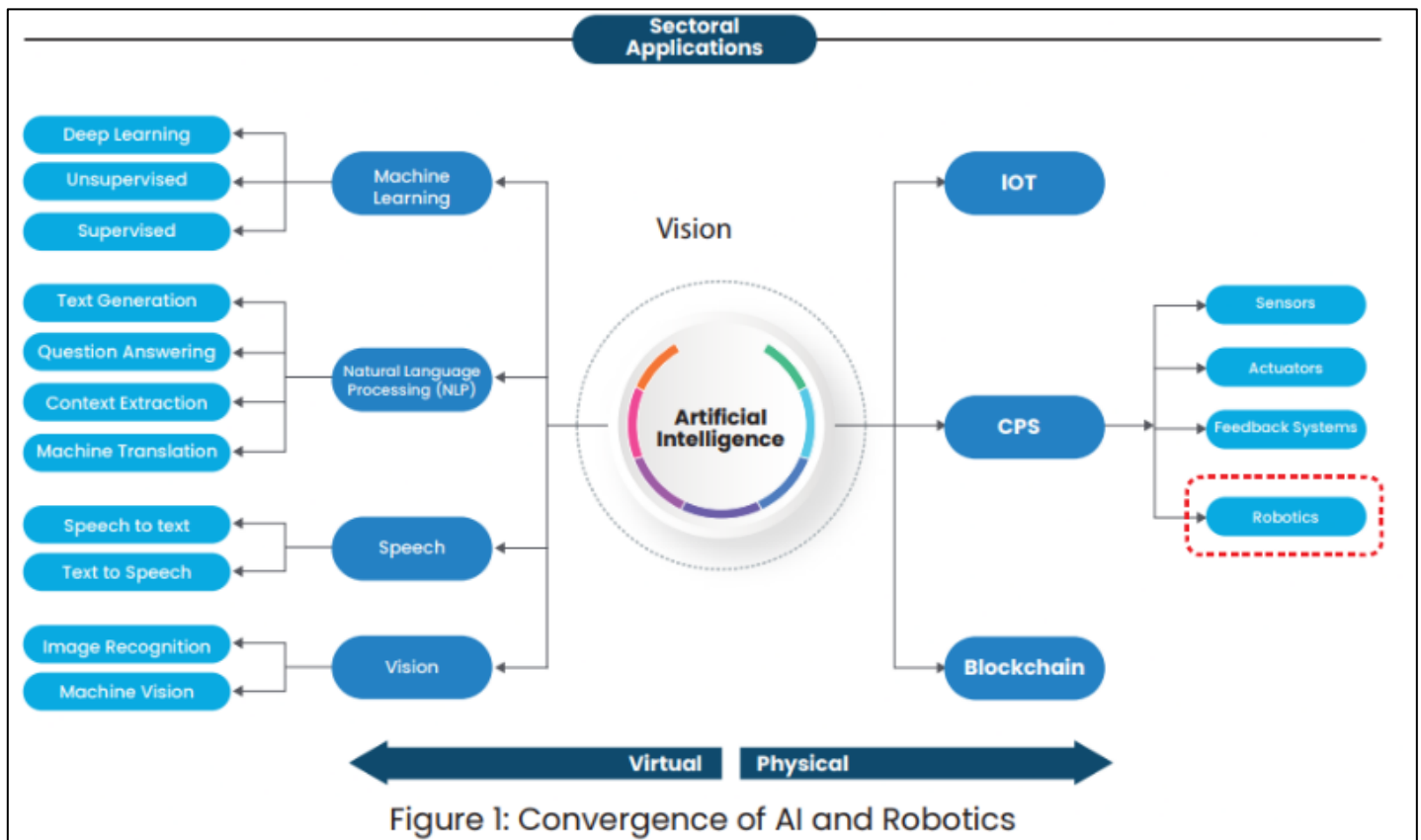
India's Traditional Advantage

- For decades, India has benefited from the availability of an abundant, low-cost workforce.
- Many industries chose India as a manufacturing hub because labor costs here were lower compared to developed nations.
- However, if the use of robots replaces human workers in industries and factories, the significance of India's competitive advantage based on low labor costs will diminish.

What is Robotics?

- Robotics is the technology involving the study and development of the design, construction, operation, and use of robots.
- Advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning have led to the development of advanced robots capable of performing tasks such as visual recognition, speech recognition, and decision-making capabilities previously considered exclusive to humans.

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Global Robotics Landscape

- China dominates the global humanoid robot market, producing approximately 85% of the world's humanoid robots.
- According to the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), China accounted for 54% of the industrial robots installed worldwide in 2024.
- The United States leads in advanced AI, cutting-edge chip design, and the software architectures that will serve as the "brains" of future humanoid robots.

India's Position in Robotics

- India installed 9,100 industrial robots in 2024, a 7% increase compared to the previous year.
- India ranks sixth globally in terms of annual robot installations, trailing the United States, Japan, China, South Korea, and Germany.

- India's robot density is approximately 10 robots per 10,000 manufacturing workers, which is significantly lower than the global average of 132 robots per 10,000 workers.
- SSI Mantra is India's first indigenous surgical robotic system that has successfully conducted telesurgery over a distance of thousands of kilometers.
- Several Indian companies, including GreyOrange, are active in robotics development; however, the challenge lies in large-scale robot manufacturing at an industrial level.
- According to the National Robotics Policy (Draft), 2023, India aims to establish global leadership in robotics across the manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and national security sectors by 2030.

Key Challenges Facing India

- **Shortage of skilled human resources.**
- **Over-reliance on imports.**
- **High costs:** Expenses related to installation, integration, maintenance, and service provision are high.
- Low affordability discourages the adoption of robotics, particularly among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Technical limitations:** Research on fundamental robotics technologies is still in its nascent stage.
- Lack of advanced manufacturing, prototyping, and testing facilities.
- **Limited regulatory framework:** Absence of a comprehensive and dedicated regulatory structure for robotics.
- Persistent concerns regarding privacy, cybersecurity, safety standards, and liability.
- **Ethical and social challenges:** Apprehensions regarding job losses due to automation.



Government Initiatives

- **FutureSkills Prime:** A robust online platform has been developed under this initiative to promote remote and self-paced learning in the field of emerging technologies.
- **Atal Innovation Mission:** Under this mission, Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are being established in schools across the country.
- 'Do-It-Yourself' (DIY) kits based on emerging technologies like robotics and the Internet of Things (IoT) have been made available in these laboratories to provide students with hands-on experience.
- **e-YANTRA:** This is a robotics outreach program funded by the Ministry of Education and operated by IIT Bombay.
- **Make-in-India Robots:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) named 'Daksh', which serves as an automated mobile platform for multi-purpose tasks.
- Vyommitra is a humanoid space robot developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for use in the Gaganyaan mission.
- Manav is India's first 3D-printed humanoid robot; it features built-in vision and sound processing capabilities, enabling it to walk, speak, and dance in response to human instructions.



Airborne Early Warning and Control System 'Netra'



Why in News?

- The Indian Air Force has received Final Operational Clearance for the indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, 'Netra'.



Key Points:

- The Netra system was granted Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) in 2015 and was inducted into the Indian Air Force in 2017.
- It has been developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is based on the Brazilian-made Embraer EMB-145I aircraft platform.
- It is equipped with an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, which has a surveillance range of 240–300 kilometers.
- **Significance:** India has become the fifth country in the world to develop this type of capability.
- The Netra system is capable of detecting, tracking, identifying, and monitoring aerial and maritime targets.