

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 08 July 2026



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RAJASTHAN



Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026



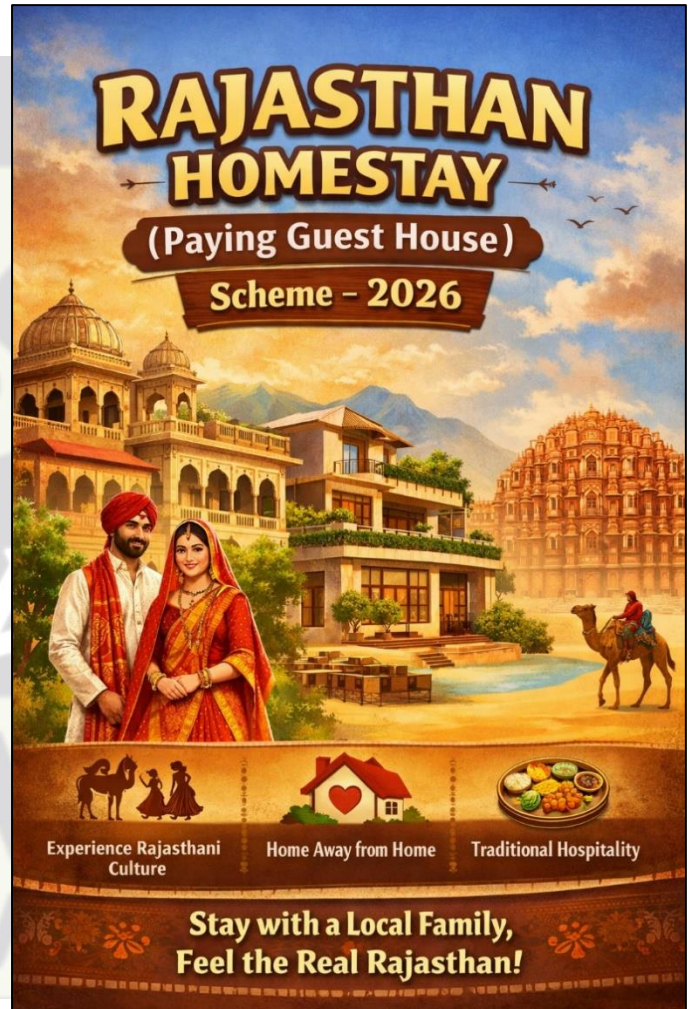
Why in News?

- Recently, the state government made the registration and renewal process for homestays under the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026' completely online.



Key Points:

- It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan government launched the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026' with the aim of promoting tourism development, increasing rural income, and fostering self-employment, while also enhancing 'Ease of Doing Business' and digital governance in the tourism sector.
- The implementation of the online registration system will expedite the registration and renewal process, bring transparency to the disposal of applications, and provide tourists with better accommodation facilities at affordable rates.
- Concerned Department:** Rajasthan Tourism Department.



- This scheme will strengthen the concepts of 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Ease of Living' in the state. It will also boost the tourism sector.
- The scheme has been simplified in line with the Central Government's 'Deregulation 2.0' measures and the spirit of 'Ease of Doing Business'.

Key features and Conditions of the scheme:

- Under the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026', the maximum number of rooms permitted per residential unit has been increased from 5 to 8, while the maximum bed capacity has been set at 24.
- The homestay unit can be operated by the property owner, a leaseholder, or a caretaker appointed according to prescribed standards. Previously, the homestay scheme allowed a maximum of only 5 rooms, and the mandatory presence of the property owner was required.
- **Categories:** Under the scheme, homestays are classified into Silver and Gold categories.
- **Registration Fee:** Fixed at ₹1,000 for the Silver category and ₹2,000 for the Gold category.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme–2026:

1. Under the scheme, the maximum number of rooms permitted per residential unit has been increased from 5 to 8.
2. The maximum bed capacity under the scheme has been set at 24.
3. The homestay unit can be operated only by the property owner.
4. Under the scheme, homestays are categorized into Silver and Gold categories.

Which of the above statements are true?

- (a) Only 1, 2, and 4
- (b) Only 1 and 3
- (c) Only 2, 3, and 4
- (d) All of the above

'Disha' Curriculum Implemented for the First Time in Rajasthan



Why in News?

- For the first time in Rajasthan, the 'Disha' curriculum model is being implemented for the education and skill development of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



विद्यार्थीजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग
Department of Empowerment
of Persons with Disabilities
सत्यमेव जयते



नियोजित
सुशिक्षित



NIEPID

DISHA

Education for Children with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD)



The curriculum is built on the belief that each child is unique. It is designed for holistic development of the children working towards development of cognitive, self-help and social skills. It promotes learning in a manner that is relevant, meaningful and enjoyable while bearing in mind the uniqueness of each child's pedagogical requirements.

Holistic development of students by focussing on multiple domains

- Activities of Daily living, Communication, Education, Recreational, Social Behaviour, Life Skills

Uniform Assessment Checklist for Individual Education Program

- E** Ease of planning and teaching
- R** Relevant curriculum for students from 3-18 years and for entire spectrum of ID
- T** Teacher manuals based on multisensory teaching pedagogy



Key Points:

- Rajasthan is the ninth state in the country to adopt this national model.
- **Commencement of the first phase:** Training of 100 special educators from 52 special schools across 23 districts in Jaipur from July 7 to July 9, 2026.
- **Training venue:** Apex University, Jaipur.

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Objective and Nature of the 'Disha' Curriculum:

- The 'Disha' curriculum is a standardized and multi-sensory educational framework in the field of special education. It has been jointly developed by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID) and the Jai Vakeel Foundation.
- **Target Group:** It is specifically designed for the academic, social, and vocational development of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities aged 3 to 18 years.
- **Approach:** Methods involving Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic and Tactile (VAKT) approach are used to teach children daily living skills, communication, social behavior, mathematics, environmental science, digital literacy, art, etc.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination:

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Disha' curriculum model being implemented in Rajasthan.

1. Rajasthan is the ninth state in the country to adopt the 'Disha' curriculum model.
2. In the first phase, 100 special educators from 52 special schools across 23 districts are being trained in Jaipur.
3. The 'Disha' curriculum is designed exclusively for neurotypical children in the 6 to 14 age group.
4. This curriculum is based on the VAKT (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic and Tactile) learning method.

Which of the above statements are true?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Agreement on the Settlement of Outstanding Payments Related to the Narmada Award



Why in News?

- Recently, an agreement regarding the settlement of outstanding payments related to the Narmada Award was concluded between Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra in New Delhi, in the presence of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.



Key Points:

- This agreement paves the way for a final settlement (one-time settlement) of outstanding disputes concerning the states' share in the construction costs of the Sardar Sarovar Project.
- Water allocation among Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra was determined through an award issued by the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal in 1979.
- Under the provisions of Clause IV/5 of this award, any state may utilize surplus water available during the monsoon season within its own territory. This surplus water will not be debited against that state's allocated share.

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- A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for the storage of surplus water received during the monsoon season, in pursuance of the 2026–27 budget announcement. This will enable the provision of drinking water to the deprived regions of Western Rajasthan.

Facts for Prelims:

Narmada Canal Project:

- The Narmada Canal Project is a joint venture between Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- **Total Length:** Originating from the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat, the total length of this canal is 532 kilometers (Gujarat – 458 km, Rajasthan – 74 km).
- **Entry into Rajasthan:** Through Silu village in Sanchores.
- **Length of main canal in Rajasthan:** 74 kilometers.
- **Beneficiary Districts:** Jalore and Barmer.
- **Sprinkler Irrigation:** This is the only irrigation project in Rajasthan where the use of sprinkler or drip irrigation methods for agriculture is mandatory.

Practice Question for Preliminary Examination:

Q. At which village does the Narmada Canal enter Rajasthan?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Silu village | (b) Mohangarh village |
| (c) Gadra Road village | (d) Bakhasar village |

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Narmada Canal Project

1. The Narmada Canal Project is a joint project of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
2. The total length of this canal, originating from the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat, is 532 kilometers.
3. It is the only irrigation project in Rajasthan where the use of sprinkler or drip irrigation methods for agriculture is mandatory.

Which of the above statements are true?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (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.	Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reference Station: Bikaner ■ A 'Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reference Station' will be established at the Bikaner Technical University (BTU) campus in Bikaner under an agreement between BTU and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. ■ The station will collect high-quality scientific data regarding long-term climate, weather, and greenhouse gases in the arid and desert region. ■ Research concerning challenges such as climate change, global warming, heatwaves, and desertification will be conducted at this station. It will provide high-quality scientific data on the climate of the Thar region.
2.	Rajasthan in National Ice Hockey Championship ■ Rajasthan's men's team reached the quarter-finals of the National Senior Ice Hockey Championship 2026, held at the Himadri Ice Hockey Rink in Dehradun. ■ In the quarter-finals, Rajasthan was defeated 8-3 by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). ■ This was the best performance by Rajasthan's ice hockey team in the last five years.
3.	Nilesh Kumar: Bronze Medal at Asian Bodybuilding Championship ■ Rajasthan's Nilesh Kumar won a bronze medal at the 16th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship. ■ The competition was held in Thimphu, Bhutan.

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4.	World's Smallest Gold and Silver Jagannath Chariot ■ Dr. Iqbal Sakka (Udaipur) created the world's smallest gold and silver Jagannath chariot. ■ Chariot dimensions: 1×1 centimeter. ■ Weight: 7 grams of silver and 300 milligrams of gold were used to craft it. ■ An idol of Lord Jagannath, smaller than a grain of moong dal (green gram), is installed in the chariot; a lens is required to view it.
5.	Four major parks named after Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee ■ On July 6, 2026, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced that four major parks in the state would be named after him: 1. Woodland Park, Jaipur. 2. Central Park (Vivek Vihar), Jodhpur. 3. Park in the Sector-12 scheme area, Udaipur. 4. Park in Ramchandrapura Atwal Nagar, Kota.
6.	2nd North-West Regional Agrivision Conference–2026 ■ Event: Held in Udaipur on August 8 and 9, 2026. ■ Main Theme: "Role of Youth in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture and Allied Sectors."
7.	Operation Vishvahini ■ Operation Vishvahini is an anti-drug campaign jointly conducted by the Rajasthan Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). ■ Its primary objective is to dismantle networks involved in the trafficking of illegal narcotics and banned chemicals within the state.
8.	Zero Fatality District Action Plan ■ Recently, a workshop on the 'Zero Fatality District Action Plan' was organized with the resolve to eliminate road accident fatalities in the Kota-Bundi parliamentary constituency. ■ Venue: Kota.



Geography and Geology



Sensitive Regions of the Himalayas



Why in News?

- Severe floods and landslides occurred in the Chenab Valley of Jammu & Kashmir due to heavy rainfall.



Key Points:

Flash Floods

- **Definition:** Sudden, short-lived, and highly localized floods occurring within a few hours triggered by intense rainfall, rapid snowmelt, dam/embankment failure, or ice jams leaving very little time for warning and response.
- **Other incidents:** Chennai (2015), Kerala (2018), Assam (2024), etc.

Major Causes of Flash Floods in the Himalayas

- **Climatic and Meteorological Factors:** Cloudbursts, intense rainfall, the interaction between Western Disturbances and the monsoon, climate change, and atmospheric aerosols contribute to extreme rainfall and flash floods.
- **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs):** Sudden release of large volumes of impounded water from glacial lakes due to the melting of ice masses.
- **Geographical Factors:** High altitudes and steep slopes facilitate intense rainfall and rapid surface runoff.
- **Anthropogenic Factors:** Unplanned infrastructure (dams, roads), unscientific hill cutting, inadequate slope stabilization, and improper disposal of construction debris destabilize slopes, obstruct drainage, and intensify flash floods.

MODEL RAS MAINS QUESTION:

- Q. How do the geographical and topographical characteristics of the Himalayas intensify flash floods? Explain.

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Water Security in India



Why in News?

- Research by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) indicates that 11 of India's 15 major river basins are facing a water crisis (defined as annual per capita water availability of less than 1,700 cubic meters).



Key Points:

- The water crisis has evolved from a seasonal inconvenience into a permanent structural risk, threatening households, agriculture, industry, and urban economies.

Challenges in Ensuring Water Security in India

- **Limited freshwater resources:** India is home to approximately 18% of the world's population but possesses only about 4% of global freshwater resources.
- **Decline in urban water availability:** In Delhi, actual water supply has dropped to about 70% of the total daily demand of 1,250 million gallons.
- **Seasonal rainfall patterns:** Approximately 70% of annual rainfall occurs within a three-month period, leading to highly uneven water availability across seasons.
- Monsoon rainfall also saw a 40% deficit in June 2026 due to factors such as El Niño.
- **Infrastructure deficiencies:** Such as inadequate facilities for wastewater treatment, high levels of water pollution, etc.

Strategies to Achieve Water Security in India

- **Climate resilience:** Conducting climate risk mapping of water infrastructure to protect critical urban infrastructure in low-lying or coastal areas.
- Leveraging existing mechanisms, such as the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), to finance resilient municipal water systems.

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- **Urban water reuse:** Moving towards a circular water approach by treating and reusing wastewater for activities such as cooling data centers.
- **Expanding micro-irrigation:** This requires redesigning subsidies for small farmers and providing low-cost insurance under the PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana).
- **Preparing river basin-level data:** Addressing metric-related gaps by leveraging large-scale artificial intelligence technology to measure actual consumption, withdrawals, and losses, rather than merely estimating water availability.

RAS MAINS MODEL QUESTION:

- Q. What is meant by the 'Circular Water Approach' in the context of water management?

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🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

Right to Vote



Why in News?

- Recently, a demand was raised to recognize the right to vote as a fundamental right.



Key Points:

- **Right to vote in India**
 - o It is a constitutional right.
- **Related constitutional provisions:**
- **Article 325:** No person shall be ineligible for inclusion in the electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex.
- **Article 326:** Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are based on adult suffrage (age above 18 years).
- **Relevant sections under the Representation of the People Act (RPA)**
 - o **Section 62 of RPA, 1951:** It deals with the right to vote and specifies restrictions such as the inability to vote in more than one constituency, the denial of voting rights while in jail, etc.
 - o **Section 16 of RPA, 1950:** It specifies disqualifications for registration in the electoral roll.

Key Judgments

- **People's Union for Civil Liberties case (2003):** The right to vote is statutory, but the freedom to vote is a fundamental right (Article 19(1)(a)).
- **Anoop Baranwal vs. Union of India (2023):** It was recognized as a constitutional right, not as a statutory or fundamental right.



MCQ:

- Q. Which statement regarding the constitutional provisions for the right to vote in India is incorrect (false)?**
- (a) Article 325 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex.
 - (b) Currently, the minimum age for voting is 18 years.
 - (c) Recently, the right to vote has been declared entirely a 'fundamental right'.
 - (d) Elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies are held on the basis of adult suffrage.

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Schemes and Policies



Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)



Why in News?

- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted the role of 'MY Bharat' in nurturing the talent of the youth and channeling it towards nation-building.



Key Points:

MY Bharat

- MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) was launched in October 2023 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- It functions as a digital platform connecting the government, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and the industry to foster meaningful youth engagement.
- Its objective is to place the youth at the core of nation-building by providing opportunities for volunteering, skill development, leadership, and civic engagement.

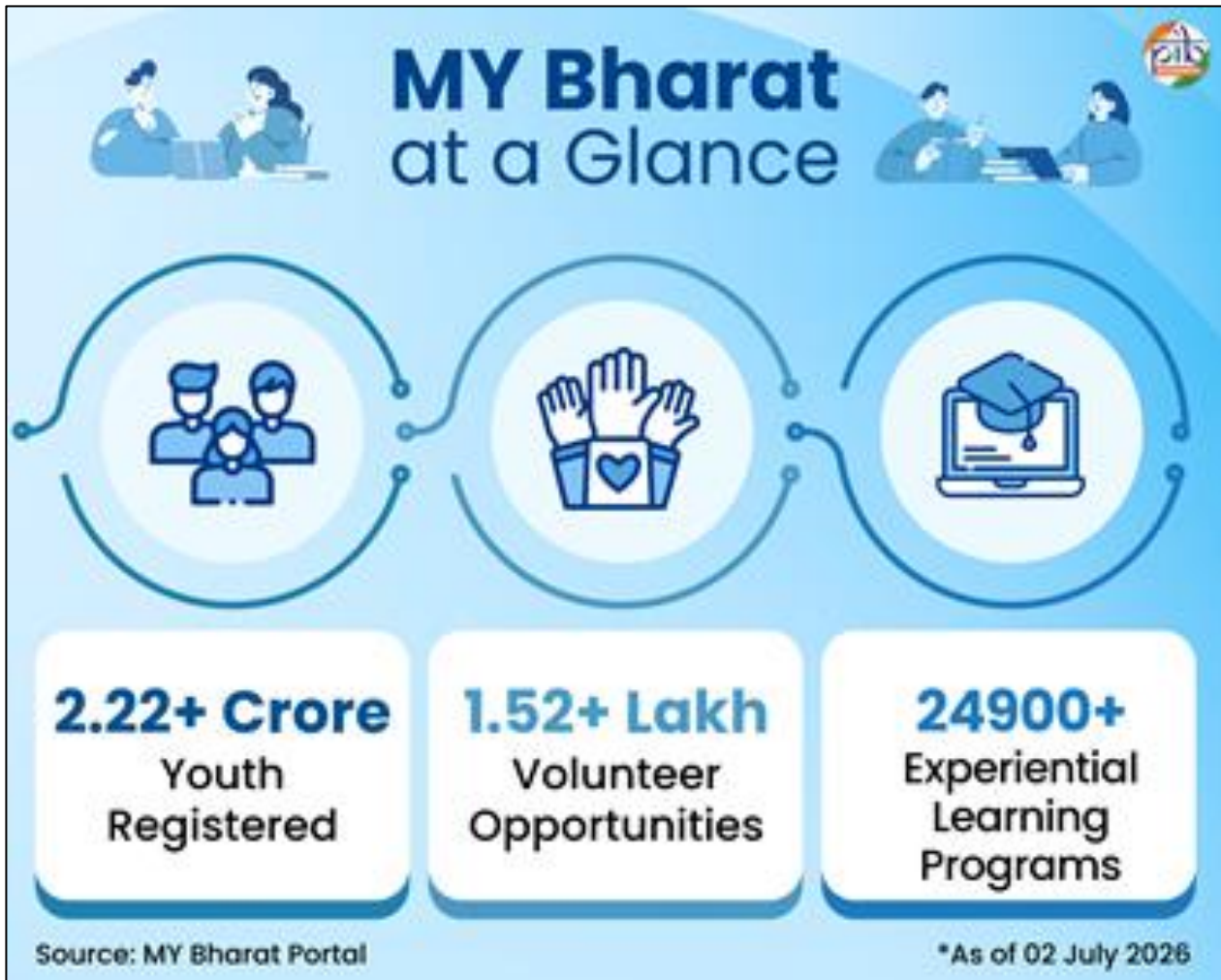


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- Aligned with the National Youth Policy, this initiative primarily engages individuals in the 15–29 age group, while also encouraging adolescents aged 10–19 to participate early and develop civic awareness.



MCQ:

- Q. What is the full form of 'MY Bharat', which has recently been in the news?
- (a) Mera Yuva Bharat
 - (b) Mission Youth Bharat
 - (c) Make Youth Bharat
 - (d) Modern Yuva Bharat

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mahendragiri Stealth Frigate



Why in News?

- The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Mahendragiri, its sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, in Visakhapatnam.



Key Points:

- Project 17A is an Indian Navy initiative under which seven advanced Nilgiri-class stealth frigates are to be constructed.

Mahendragiri Stealth Frigate

- It is named after the Mahendragiri hills in the Eastern Ghats.
- **Manufacturer:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- **Designer:** Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB).

Key Features:

- Powered by Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion for high speed and long endurance.
- Advanced stealth design with a low radar signature.
- Surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile systems.
- State-of-the-art electronic warfare capabilities.
- Comprehensive anti-submarine warfare systems.
- Integrated combat management system.

MCQ:

Q. INS Mahendragiri is the sixth indigenous stealth frigate built under which Indian Navy project?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Project 75 | (b) Project 15B |
| (c) Project 17A | (d) Project 28 |