

PERSON in NEWS

Persons on Important Posts: Rajasthan

S.No	Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (2018 July)
1	Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Sir Sarat Kumar Ghosh (1949)	Pradeep Nandrajog(32nd)
2	Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan		Ashvini Bhagat
3	State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan		Prem Singh Mehra
4	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)		Suresh Chaudhary
5	RPSC Chairman	Sir Dr. S K Ghosh	Vacant – Dr. Radheshyam Garg (Retired on 1st May 2018)
6	Financial Commission Chairman		Dr. Jyoti Kiran (5 th SFC)
7	Advocate General of Rajasthan	G.C. Kasliwal	Narpat Mal Lodha
8	Lokayukta of Rajasthan	ID Dua (1973)	SS Kothari
9	Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission	Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar	Justice Prakash Chandra Tatia
10	Chief Secretary Rajasthan		D B Gupta
11	Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Kailash Chandra Meghwal
12	Governor	Gurumukh Nihal Singh	Kalyan Singh

Persons on Important Posts: National

S.No	Post - India	First	Current (2018 July)
1	Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)	V. Narahari Rao	Rajiv Mehrishi
2	Chief Justice of India	H. J. Kania	Dipak Mishra (45th)
3	Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)	Sukumar Sen	Om Prakash Rawat
4	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)	Wajahat Habibullah	Radhakrishna Mathur
5	Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	Nittoor Srinivasa Rau	K V Chowdary
6	UPSC Chairman		Vinay Mittal
7	Financial Commission Chairman	K. C. Neogy	Nand Kishor Singh(15th)(2020-2025) Dr. Y. V Reddy (14th)
8	Law Commission Chairman		Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
9	National Commission for SC		Ram Shankar Katheria
10	National Commission for ST		Nand Kumar Sai
11	Chairman - National Commission for Minorities		Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi
12	Chairperson, National commission for backward classes		V Eshwaraiah
13	National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson		Justice H.L.Dattu
14	Chairperson, National Commission for Women		Rekha Sharma
15	Cabinet Secretary	N. R. Pillai, ICS	Pradeep Kumar Sinha

16	National Security Adviser		Ajit Kumar Doval
17	Attorney General of India		K.K Venugopal
18	Speaker Lok Sabha	G. V. Mavalankar	Sumitra Mahajan
19	Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission		Sekhar Basu
20	Chairman, ISRO		Kailasavadivoo Sivan
21	Chairman, University Grants Commission		D.P.Singh
22	Chairman, Central Water Commission of India		Narendra Kumar
23	Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI)		Ajay Tyagi
24	Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India		Subhash Chandra Khuntia
25	Chairman, 7th Pay Commission		Ashok Kumar Mathur
26	Chairman, SIDBI		Muhammad Mustafa
27	Chairman, NABARD		Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
28	Chairperson, State Bank of India		Rajnish Kumar
39	Chairman, IDBI		Mahesh Kumar Jain
30	Chief of Army Staff		General Bipin Rawat
31	Chief of Air Staff (also Chairman of Staff Committee)		Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa
32	Chief of Naval Staff		Sunil Lanba
33	Chief of Integrated Defence Staff		Lieutenant General Satish Dua

Surendra Singh Gurjar

- He was chosen as the Differently Abled Athlete of the Year under in ESPN multi-sport Awards for 2017

Apurvi Chandela

- Apurvi Chandela won a bronze medal in Commonwealth Games 2018 in the 10m Air Rifle event.

Om Prakash Mitharwal

- Om Prakash Mitharwal won Bronze medal in Commonwealth Games 2018 in the 10m Air Rifle event in men category.
- Om Prakash hails from Nimadi village in Sikar district.

Jaswant Singh Bishnoi

- Jaswant Singh Bishnoi has been nominated as the new president of Rajasthan Khadi & Village Industries Board.

Karishma Bansal

- Karisma Bansal, who took education from a government school in the town of Bharatpur, has done a new discovery in space science.
- During the study of P.H.D., she found that two blackholes revolving very close to each other.
- This is the first time that such blackholes are orbiting each other have been discovered.

Mahipal Singh Bhati

- Mahipal Singh Bhati, resident of Jhinjhiyali area of Jaisalmer, has been selected in the Indian basketball team.

Madan Lal Saini

- Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini has been named the new Rajasthan state BJP president.

Ghanshyam Tiwari

- MLA Tiwari has floated his own political party and resigned from his current party BJP.
- His new party has been named - 'Bharat Vahini Party'.

Harikesh

- Wrestler from Jaipur, Harikesh won the Bharat Kesari award in the Bharat Kesari Wrestling championship.

Avni Lekhara

- Avani Lekhara of Jaipur achieved Qualification Junior World Record with 631.7 at the 10 meter Air Rifle Prone Mixed (R3) event of the World Para Sports Championship in Cheongju, Korea.
- 16-year-old Avani has secured 10th position in this event.

Vrinda Kothari

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized the 13th Annual Young Women Achievers Award in Delhi.
- In this award function, Vrinda Kothari of Rajasthan Patrika was awarded for her contribution in media sector by home minister Rajnath Singh.

Places in NEWS

Banswara

- Rajasthan CM inaugurated the Rajasthan Agricultural Loan Waiver Scheme from **Banswara**.

Udaipur

- Udaipur will have state's first Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant.
- An MOU regarding this has been signed between Municipal Corporation, Hindustan Zinc, Center for Policy Research (CPR)

What is Fecal Sludge ?

Fecal sludge is a mixture of human excreta, water and solid wastes (e.g. toilet paper or other anal cleansing materials, menstrual hygiene materials) that are disposed in pits, tanks or vaults of onsite sanitation systems. Fecal sludge that is removed from septic tanks is called septage.

Khatushyam ji

- Khatushyam ji Gram Panchayat from Sikar has been declared as Municipality (Nagarpalika).

Bagat Ki Kothi, Jodhpur

- Weekly Humsafar Express between Jodhpur and Tambaram (Chennai) was flagged off on 14th May 2018.
- The train will run via Chennai Egmore, Gudur, Vijayawada, Nagpur, Itarsi, Bhopal, Gota, Jaipur and Jodhpur.

Jaipur, Jodhpur

- Jaipur (12th) & Jodhpur (14th) from Rajasthan came in the list of 15 most polluted cities of the world, released by WHO.

Ralwata, Sikar

- Rajasthan's first defence career institute will open in Ralwata village in Sikar.

Mount Abu

- On 12th April 2018, Mount Abu Municipality was declared open defecation free (ODF) and with this all the municipal corporations & municipalities in Rajasthan became ODF.

Kota

- State's second Railways Security Force (RPF's) major training center would be launched in Kota. State's first RPF center is in Bandikui.

Potash Reserves in Rajasthan

- Potash reserves of about 2480 million tonnes have been discovered in Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner and Nagaur.
- After these reserve's mining, Rajasthan will be the only state with production of Potash.
- Additionally, Rajasthan government has decided to mine Potash in 878 hectares area in the district of Hanumangarh through a joint venture involving 51 per cent stake of Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited.

May 2018

Pink Belt Mission

- The Rajasthan women's commission on 1st May launched mission 'Pink Belt' for training women to be physically and mentally strong and have sound knowledge of the law.
- The mission aims at getting girls from college and school to join the "Pink Belt" clubs which will inform women about their legal rights, self-defence techniques and mental toughness.
- The mission was launched in Jaipur and will be taken to six divisional headquarters.

3 New Welfare Schemes launched by President Kovind

On 13th May 2018, President Kovind launched the 3 new state government social welfare schemes aimed at uplifting the weaker sections of society. These schemes were announced by CM Raje during presentation of budget 2018-19. The President launched the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment's:

- Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Class Swarozgar Yojana,
- Sunder Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana,
- SC-ST, OBC, Sanitation Workers, Divyang Loan Waiver Scheme

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Scheme

- Under the Bhairon Singh yojana, loans of up to Rs 50,000 on 4% cent interest will be given to 50,000 *ST/SC/ OBC and MBC families* for creation of means of livelihood.

Sunder Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana

- Under the Sundar Singh Bhandari yojana, a loan of Rs 50,000 on 4% interest will be given to 50,000 economically backward families of the *general category*.

SC-ST, OBC, Sanitation Workers, Divyang Loan Waiver Scheme

- This scheme provides loan waiver of up to Rs 2,00, 000 to SC, ST, OBC, sweepers and 'divyang' by the Scheduled Caste Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Co-operative Corporation, taken after 1981 for purpose of self-employment.

Fourth phase of 'Nyay Apke Dwar' campaign started from May 1

- The fourth phase of 'Rajsv Lok Adalat: Nyay Apke Dwar' campaign began in Jaipur district from May 1, 2018.
- As a part of the campaign, revenue courts will be set up at several villages and the grievances regarding land disputes will be catered at the Gram Panchayat level.
- This campaign will include facilities like division accounting, marking of boundaries, registration of nominees, and making an update in the current land documents, among others.
- The campaign is to be organised for two months, until June 30, 2018.

Child Care leave policy

- In line with budget announcement, the Rajasthan Government has implemented 730 days leave allowance for child care.
- These total leaves can be taken anytime before the child becomes of 18 years.

Rajasthan 2nd in generating NREGA work days

- Rajasthan ranks second in the country for generating man-days under MGNREGA after West Bengal as per the latest data issued by the Union panchayati raj ministry.
- The state exceeded the target by 9% on man-days as against the revised annual target of 22 crore and generated close to 24 crore man-days in 2017-18.

State Government plans to develop 'Beti Gaurav Udyan' to promote girl child in Rajasthan

- In a first of its kind project in the country, the state government plans to develop 'Beti Gaurav Udyan' (BGU) to promote the girl child in Rajasthan.

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- The objective of developing these parks is to celebrate the birth of a girl child, maintain her dignity and to tell people about the importance of girls in the society.
 - 25% of the park will be developed through public private partnership (PPP) mode for making it self-sustainable, while the remaining 75% area will be developed through community participation and corporate social responsibility.
 - These parks will help increase the happiness index and encourage children to get play outdoors.

State government will start 13 new police circles and 28 police stations

- In order to control law and order in the state, 13 new police circles and 28 new police stations will be launched soon. Additionally, 26 police outposts for better surveillance will be started in the coming days.

Rajasthan government launches ration card portability under food Act

- The state food and civil supplies department has issued a circular facilitating ration card portability at the district level.
- Now a cardholder could obtain food article from any of the ration shops in the district.

State Government to electrify all households by September this year

- The Rajasthan government aims to electrify 19,000 dhanis (hamlets) and about 10 lakh rural households under rural electrification schemes by September this year.
- As per 2011 census, there are 43,199 inhabited villages and 1.14 lakh dhanis. Electrification has been done in all 43,199 inhabited villages, 95,000 dhanis and about 83 lakh households in the rural regions.
- *Note: A village is said to be electrified if at least 10% households get electricity.*
- In terms of overall electrification status, the worst districts are Dholpur at 60% and Barmer at 61% while the best districts are Sawai Madhopur at 97.62% and Jaipur at 96.55%.

Vijay Prahar Exercise

- More than 20,000 troops of strike formations of Indian Army's South West Command took part in the 'Vijay Prahar' exercise to fine-tune the jointmanship with the Indian Air Force near Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

24 state monuments identified for 'adopt a heritage' scheme

- 24 sites in Rajasthan have been identified under the centre's 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme which invites private and public companies, individuals and agencies to adopt the sites and provide basic and advanced amenities and look after the operations.

5 sites in Rajasthan under Adarsh Monuments Scheme

- Archaeological Survey of India has declared 100 famous monuments in the country as Adarsh monuments in which 5 are in Rajasthan.
- In first phase, 27 monuments have been declared as ideal monuments in the country in which Kumbhalgarh fort was included.
- In the next phase, 73 more were added in which four are from Rajasthan including Chittorgarh, Arthuna (Baanswada), Saas Bahu (Udaipur Eklingji) temple and Ranthambore.
- Plans are afoot to provide basic facilities like information centre, drinking water, souvenir shop, dustbin, signage, light & sound show, toilets, etc.

Folklore of Mumal-Mahendra staged in JKK

- On the concluding day of the five-day 'Young Directors Theatre Festival', an immortal folk tale of Mumal-Mahendra (Ek Prem Katha) was staged at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK).
- The play is based on a folklore of 'Mumal Mahendra'. Mahendra is the prince of Amarkot. One day while chasing a prey, along with his brother-in-law, Hamir he arrives at Lodarva in Jaisalmer. Here Mahendra meets Mumal and falls in love with her.

Yuva Shakti Diwas

- The 20th anniversary of Pokharan nuclear tests was celebrated as 'Yuva Shakti evam Shaurya Diwas' at the Shakti Sthal at Pokharan in Jaisalmer on 11th May.
- 20 years ago, on May 11 and 13, 1988 five nuclear explosions were carried out in the Pokharan range. On Budh Purnima, India proudly stood with the countries of nuclear power.

Startup program launched by DoIT&C for Students

- A Student Startup Exposure Program was launched by Department of Information Technology and Communication, Government of Rajasthan, to encourage entrepreneurial skills among the youth of the state.
- As a part of the program, up to 100 students will be selected for a two-week residential program under which they will be taken to Silicon Valley, USA, where they will have direct interaction with experts.
- Any college-going student across the state is eligible for the program. However, the Startup has to undergo a selection procedure in order to be among the selected 100.

Kota Railway Station becomes 3rd most Beautiful Station in the country.

- Kota railway station has bagged a national level award for being the third most beautiful railway station in the country.

HIV testing Facility

Soon, government medical colleges in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur will have machines to test the HIV/AIDS patients for Viral Load. Currently, samples are being collected at ART centres and sent to Mumbai for testing.

State gets approval from MCI to start 5 new medical colleges

- Rajasthan will now have 13 government medical colleges as there are eight existing colleges in the districts of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jhalawar along with the RUHS Medical College in Jaipur.

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- The new colleges are expected to improve medical and healthcare facilities in Pali, Dungarpur, Churu, Bharatpur and Bhilwara.
 - Out of the seven proposed medical colleges, the two proposed in Barmer and Sikar have not received MCI's permission.

Air Ambulance

- Jhalawar government hospital will be the first in the state to have air ambulance service.

Rajasthan on fifth rank in housing construction

- Rajasthan is ranked 5th in the country in housing construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.
- Government of India has allocated the targets for building additional housing for 70 thousand families in the year 2018-19.

e-Sakhi digital Project

- Rajasthan government aims to provide free digital training to 1.5 lac women through e-Sakhi program and make them digital torchbearers of digital education in our state.
- The project aims to ensuring that at least 1 person from every rural family is made digitally literate.
- Under this, 1.5 lac self-volunteers will be enrolled as eSakhis, who will further train at least 100 people from respective village/urban areas to access digital services.
- This digital literacy mission will started from May 2018 and continue till December 2018 under which 1.5 crore people will be made digitally literate.
- The scheme will be launched at the Atal centers of Panchayats of the entire state, where five young women will be selected at every Panchayat level (and 10 from every ward in urban or suburbs).
- Girls in the age group of 18-35 who have passed Class XII and have Bhamashah ID are eligible to apply. They also need to have a smartphone along with email IDs

Scheme for Adolescent girls

- The state government has decided to implement Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) in all 33 districts of the state from June 1.

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- The scheme will facilitate, educate and empower adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years to enable them to become self-reliant and aware citizens.
 - The central government introduced SAG on a pilot basis in 2010-11.
 - The scheme, which has two major components nutrition and non-nutrition and was operational in 508 districts across the country, phasing out Rajeev Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls –‘Sabla’, which too aimed at empowering adolescent girls between 11 and 18 years.
 - The central government has decided to extend SAG to all the districts of the country from April 1, 2018, and SABLA has been phased out.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan (SMSA)

- Rajasthan government has given nod to constitute ‘*Rajasthan Council for School Education*’ (RCSCE) with merger of ‘Rajasthan Council for Elementary Education’ (RCEE) and Rajasthan Council for Secondary Education (RCSE) which were looking after SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan (RMSA), centre sponsored schemes, respectively.
- Now this single body will be monitoring, operating and implementing education schemes meant from pre-nursery to 12th class in Rajasthan.
- As of now the RERC was tasked to supervise education from pre-school to upper primary (class 8) in SSA while the RSEC was assigned to look after education from classes 9 to 12 under RMSA. These two segregated tasks now will be executed by the new body, RCSCE, which will be sole entity to monitor, supervise and implement education from pre-education to class 12 under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan (SMSA).

Mission Indra-dhanush under Gram Swarajya Abhiyaan

- As part of mission, children up to 2 years and pregnant women will be vaccinated for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B.
- Rajasthan Government launched the mission on 23rd April 2018 in 599 villages of 30 districts of Rajasthan (except Banswara, Dungarpur & Pratapgarh) under the Gram Swarajya Abhiyaan.
- Vaccination campaign under Mission Indrhanush will begin from July 16 in the selected 5 districts (Sirohi, Jaisalmer, Baran, Dholpur, and Karauli) under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.

Intra-State e-Way Bill

- Rajasthan are rolled out the e-way bill for intra-state movement of goods from 20th May 2018.
- The State became 20th state in country to roll out the e-way bill.
- **What is an e-Way Bill:** GST e-Way Bill is an electronically generated bill system, which is important to be carried along with the products with value more than 50,000 rupees. All the goods transported through mechanical vehicle except non-motorized vehicles are liable to carry E Way Bill with the driver.

June – July 2018

State Government hikes minimum daily wages for labourers by Rs 6

- Rajasthan government has increased the minimum daily wages for labourers of all categories by Rs 6. Now an unskilled labourer will get a minimum daily wage of Rs 213, semiskilled Rs 223, skilled Rs 233, while a highly skilled labourer will get Rs 283 a day.
- The increased rates will be implemented with retro effect from January 1, 2018.

Gaushala biogas participation scheme

- Biogas plant with a capacity of more than 100 cubic metres will be set up at 25 gaushalas (cow shelters) in Rajasthan and each biogas plant will produce 5-10 metric tonne bio manure every day.
- Each gaushala will be given a subsidy of 50% of the investment cost or maximum up to ₹40 lakh by the gaupalan department for setting up a biogas plant.
- In the first phase, 25 gaushalas will be selected and will be provided ₹10 crore to them.

Eco-Tourism Circuit in Rajasthan

- Under the eco-tourism circuit, Rajasthan Government will develop various facilities in Sariska Tiger Reserve (Alwar), Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (Karauli), Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary (Rajsamand), Raoli Tadgarh Sanctuary (Rajsamand), Mount Abu Sanctuary (Sirohi), Jhalana Safari Park (Jaipur), and Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Pratapgarh.
- The fund requirement has been estimated at Rs 99.97 crore.

Rajasthan CM launches 'Annapurna Milk Scheme'

- The scheme will benefit 62 lakh students studying in government schools and madaras across the state.
- The scheme is intended to counter malnourishment of children and increase the enrolments in government schools.

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- The scheme will be launched at a state-level function organised at government model senior secondary school, Dahmi Kalan in Jaipur.

About Annapurna Milk Scheme:

- Students up to Class-V will get 150 millilitres and those in Class VI-VIII will get 200 millilitres of hot milk 3 times every week.
- The government has allocated Rs 218 crore for procurement of the milk.'
- It has been made compulsory that each teacher and parent has to taste the milk before distribution to ensure its quality. The milk will be distributed only after it gets an approval from a school nominee and a parent.

Gramin Gaurav Path Scheme: Update

- Under the Gramin (Rural) Gaurav Path Scheme, the construction of 5092 km roads has been completed by the government by spending 2 thousand 191 crores under various stages in the state. The work will be completed in the remaining places shortly.

Cow Safaris in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan government is planning to organise cow safaris to let people stay and interact with the bovines.
- The government is planning to let people stay at the state-run Hingonia Gaushala on the outskirts of Jaipur. A report in the Times of India stated that the safari includes allowing people to watch cows graze, massage them, milk them and clean them.
- Note: Rajasthan is the only state to have a ministry dedicated to welfare of cows.

District Health Ranking will now be done through 'Rajdhara' mobile app

- The status of the health status of the districts in the state will be online. The online system Rajdhara Mobile app will be used for ranking. In this, the score card of the district of various parameters including maternal, newborn, infant health index, complete immunization coverage, patient satisfaction, percentage of institutional deliveries, coverage of pre-

examination, family welfare program, Bhamashah health insurance scheme, TB will be accounted.

- At the same time, the Institute will be examined on the parameters like medicines, availability of checks, doctor's presence, online monitoring by officials, medical mobile units camps, and on state medical institutions.
- Increasing competitiveness in health services in districts is expected to improve health centers.
- In the District Health Ranking of May, Sikar district has secured first position, Ajmer second, and Sri-ganganagar district third place.

M-Sand, a substitute for River Sand

- Considering the ban by Supreme Court on mining of river sand, the Department engineers presented a model of 'Manufactured Sand' also known as M-Sand.
- The M-Sand is derived from locally available materials in abundance like granite, quartile, basalt, silica and sandstone in different regions of the state.
- Information shared by the DMG says that state requires 37 million metric tonnes (MMT) of sand every year for its infrastructure projects. "The estimated reserves of raw material for manufacturing M-Sand is 800 (MMT).

How is M-Sand Manufactured:

- Sand is produced by crushing of rocks, quarry stones into a size of 150 microns. The crushed material is segregated and can be used into the different use on the basis of its size and composition.
- The sand obtained through this process is washed to remove impurities making it a durable and ideal for all forms of construction purposes.
- The manufacturing cost of producing one ton of sand is about Rs 500 which is almost similar to the river sand. The RSPCB study has approved that sand doesn't contain any harmful material such as pyrites, coal, lignite, mica, shale or similar laminated material, clay, alkali, soft fragments, sea shells and organic impurities.

Additional 1% quota granted to Rajasthan Gujjars

- The state government recently issued an order asking the departments to grant 1% additional quota to Gujjars and other four communities, which already get reservation under the OBT category.
- For the 1% extra quota, the Gujjars and four others will be clubbed under the “most backward classes” (MBC). With this, the overall reservation in the state has reached 50%.
- The order issued by the secretary of department of personnel said that though the state government had issued an order on December 21 last year stipulating 1% additional quota to five communities under the MBC, there were complaints that the reservation provision was not being implemented properly and hence the order has been released again.

How reservation would work:

- Meritorious MBC candidates who were eligible for selection without any relaxation in merit or in age limit or physical fitness should be first considered in the general category.
- If they do not fit into the general category, then they should be considered in the OBC category, which is entitled to 21 % quota.
- They should be considered for the MBC quota only if the merit of the candidate is less than that for the OBC quota.

Swachh Survekshan 2018 Rankings

- From a lowly rank of 215 last year, Jaipur has risen to rank of **39th cleanest city** in Swachh Survekshan 2018.
- Hence, Mayor of Jaipur Ashok Lahoty and CEO of Jaipur Municipal Corporation Ravi Jain will accept the award given to the city by Prime Minister at Indore for being the fastest mover state capital of India in Swachh Survekshan 2018.
- Apart from Jaipur, Udaipur with a ranking of 85 was the other city from Rajasthan under 100.

20% Surcharge on Liquor in Rajasthan

- The State Government has imposed a 20% surcharge for cow protection on taxes of all kinds of liquor sold in the state.

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- The order has been issued under the provisions of the Rajasthan Value Added Tax Act 2003 with effect from July 23, 2018.
 - This is in addition to the 20% surcharge on stamp duty for the cow protection.

GIB breeding center to be setup in Baran

- A centre for breeding the dwindling number of Great Indian Bustard (GIB), which comes under Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, will be set up at Sorsen in Baran district.
- This centre will be set up under the supervision of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) GIB experts.
- The MoU was signed by inspector general of forest Sumitradas Gupta on behalf of ministry of forest and environment, WII director V V Mathur and Rajasthan chief wildlife Warden G V Reddy at New Delhi.

Bofors Dhanush's trial completed successfully in Pokhran

- Trial of India's first long-range artillery gun, indigenous Bofors Dhanush was completed recently at Pokhran Field Firing Range of Jaisalmer district.

National Highways under Bharatmala Project in Rajasthan

Under the Bharat Mala Scheme, construction of 1,900 km of national highways proposed in Rajasthan. The Union Government has recently approved 3 national highways. These are:

- NH 25: Gagaria-Sata-Bakhasar-Gandhav - 197 KMs
- NH 11: Jaisalmer District HQ – Banasar – Ramgarh – Tanot Mata – Sarkarithala 193 Kms
- 3rd NH: Rajariya-Abha-Mangal - 162 Kms in Bikaner District.

Additionally, Rajasthan will also get 3 express highways.

- Bhatinda-Ahmedabad expressway.
- Delhi-Vadodara expressway via Jaipur
- Amritsar-Kandla expressway

State Government plans to expand 'Naveen Vayoshri Yojana'

- State government is all set to expand Central Government's ambitious 'Naveen Vayoshri Yojana' in Rajasthan.
- Under this scheme, devices for senior citizens belonging to BPL category' are given at free of cost.
- A PSU under the Central government takes care of one-year free maintenance of the aids and devices including walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers, tripods, hearing aids, artificial dentures, and spectacles.
- Currently, the scheme has its presence in Jhalawar and Bikaner and now the state government eyes to make it Pan Rajasthan.

Food Processing Industries in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is India's largest state by area (342,239 square kilometers and 10.4% of India's total area). The state, with its diverse agro-climatic conditions is richly endowed with the cultivation of a variety of crops. Agriculture & allied activities make up for 24% of the State's GDP, with 62% of total working population of the State dependent on this for livelihood. Together, [Rajasthan](#) has good scope for food processing Industries.

Major strength of Rajasthan for food processing industry:

Geography and Climate:

- Rajasthan has a wide range of climate varying from extremely arid to humid.
- The state has 10 agro-climatic zones, suitable for wide variety of cereals, fruits, vegetables and a large number of livestock.

Raw Materials:

- State is largest producer of Psyllium, Cluster bean, Fenugreek, cumin, mustard, pearl millet, moth bean and Coriander.
- Rajasthan has 10% of the total livestock in India and is the second largest producer of milk in India.

Agricultural Marketing:

- 141 main market yards and 315 sub market yards, 4 big pack houses, 5 small pack houses and 7 cold storages are in operation and one walk-in cooling chamber at Jaipur Airport. 8 AGMARK (a certification mark embossed on agricultural products in India) laboratories for grading of the produce.

Marketing Reforms:

Marketing Reforms in Rajasthan to ease procurement of raw materials:

- Contract Farming: Allow contract farming for fruits, vegetables, medicine plants, barley, maize and aromatic plants.
- E-Commerce: Permit the setting up of private sub e-markets.
- Direct Purchase: The state has allowed to remove all restrictions on direct purchase of agriculture and horticulture products produced in the State by the agro-processing enterprises
- Market Fee: The market fee on fruits and vegetables has been exempted and trade outside yard is free.
- Private Market Yard: Private sector can establish market yards to enhance supplies to industries.

Supporting Infrastructure:

- State has 6 Inland Container Depots
- 2 Agri Export Zones - 1 for Coriander covering Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar & Chittorgarh and 1 for Cumin covering Nagaur, Barmer, Jalore, Pali and Jodhpur
- Out of 344 Existing Industrial Areas, (as per RIICO -Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corp), there are 26 Industrial areas marked suitable for food processing industry.
- There are 6 food parks in Rajasthan. One Mega Food Park in Ajmer and five other in, Alwar, Kota, Jodhpur and Sri Ganganagar.

Policy Support:

- The state has released "Rajasthan Agro-Processing and Agri-Marketing Promotion Policy – 2015".

- Food Processing sector has been accorded the status of a Thrust Sector under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2014 (RIPS 2014).
- 5% Interest Subsidy for 5 years for various categories food processing enterprises

Food Processing Industry in Rajasthan

- About 10,000 units are operational in the micro and small scale sector and approximately 75 units in the medium and large scale sector. Rajasthan has several districts known for processing. However, Most of the raw material produced in Rajasthan are processed outside the state.

Important Food Processing Companies in Rajasthan

- Lotus Dairy - Bikaner, Sikar, Jaipur, Shri Ganganagar
- Paayas Dairy - Jaipur
- Adani Wilmart Pvt. Ltd. - Bundi
- Advantage Overseas Pvt. Ltd. - Bundi
- Mahesh Edible Agro oil India Pvt. Ltd. - Kota, Alwar
- Goyal Protein Ltd. - Kota
- Otekar India Pvt. Ltd - Alwar
- Barmalt Malting Ltd. - Alwar

Food Processing Clusters in Rajasthan

Spices and Condiments Processing	Kota, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur
Milk Processing	Alwar, Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner
Pulses Processing	Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur
Snacks Processing	Bikaner, Jaipur
Mustard & Soybean Processing	Kota , Bundi
Barley Processing	Jaipur, Sikar, Dausa, Tonk, Bundi
Maize Processing	Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Banswara

Prepared Foods	Alwar, Jaipur , Ajmer
Wheat Processing	Jaipur, Alwar, Shri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Kota, Bundi, Baran
Oil Processing	Alwar, Ganganagar, Bharatpur, Bundi, Kota
Fruits & Vegetable Processing	Sikar, Ajmer, Banswara, Chittorgarh

Science & Technology

Oxytocin:

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has banned manufacture and sale of Oxytocin drug formulations for domestic use in private sector to prevent its misuse from 1st July 2018. Its import also has been banned.
- Henceforth, Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd will only manufacture the drug and supply it directly to registered private and public hospitals.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In certain animals, especially farm animals, it is used to achieve 'milk let down'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxytocin is believed to stimulate the mammary gland and induce milk production in farm animals, provided the udder is prepared to do so	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxytocin is a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland• It plays a role in reproduction, child birth and lactation, apart from social interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxytocin is used both for humans and animals, to accelerate normal labour• It is supposed to act directly on the uterus to induce rhythmic contractions
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Saposhi:

- Cybersecurity agencies have detected a new malware called Saposhi that can take over electronic devices and use them for Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks.
- Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), a Central government body that deals with cyberattacks has so far has not issued any alert regarding Saposhi malware.
- Other similar malware are Reaper, Mirai etc.

Tiangong-1 & spacecraft cemetery

China's out-of-control Tiangong-1 space lab landed in middle of the South Pacific Ocean near world's 'spacecraft cemetery or graveyard'. Most of its parts were burned up during gravity-propelled re-entry process.

Space Craft Cemetery

The spacecraft cemetery also known as Point Nemo — considered the most remote place on Earth (at about 2400 km from any spot of land). It often used to crash-land defunct satellites. Between 1971 and mid-2016, space agencies all over the world have dumped between 260 and 300 spacecraft into the region.

Floating Nuclear Power Plant

Russia unveiled world's first floating nuclear power station at port city of Murmansk. It will be loaded with nuclear fuel at Murmansk and will be towed to port of Pevek in autonomous Chukotka region in Russia's far northeast in Arctic Circle region.

Remove DEBRIS

- The first satellite named RemoveDEBRIS was successfully deployed from International Space Station (ISS) and to demonstrate a range of innovative technologies to clean up space debris orbiting Earth.
- It was transported to ISS via SpaceX CRS-14 launch in early April 2018.
- The satellite was designed, built and manufactured by consortium of space companies and research institutions led by Surrey Space Centre at University of Surrey, United Kingdom.
- The project is co-funded by European Commission.

106th Indian Science Congress

- The 106th Indian Science Congress will be held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab from January 3 to 7, 2019.
- It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi.
- The theme for the five-day science congress is Future India: Science & Technology.
- It is organised by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), a premier scientific organisation of India.
- French state-run power utility EDF and American conglomerate General Electric (GE) have signed strategic cooperation agreement with State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) to build for construction of 6 EPR (European Pressurized Reactors) type nuclear reactors of capacity 1,650 megawatt (MW) each at **Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra.**
- The world's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was launched in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The centre is joint venture of Regional delegation of International Committee of Red Cross (ICCR) in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives and also Gujarat Forensic Science University.

- Scientists from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad have discovered for first time distant planet revolving around Sun-like star. Both the planet and the star have been named EPIC. With this discovery India joins handful of countries which have discovered planets around stars.
- Andhra Pradesh is set to become first state in India to use auto-disable syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection. The decision will come into force from the World Hepatitis Day, observed every year on July 28. Auto Disable Syringe is medical syringe that cannot be reused.
- Scientists from Newcastle University, UK have created world's first 3D printed human corneas (3D printed thin protective film over eye) that could solve problem of shortage of available eye donors and help millions of blind people gain sight again
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its draft Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference Regulation, 2018 has proposed use of blockchain technology to check menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) or spam calls and messages.
- Scientists from University of Minnesota, US have discovered that chemical element **Ruthenium (Ru)** is fourth element to have unique magnetic properties (ferromagnetism) at room temperature. So far only three periodic table elements Iron (Fe), Cobalt (Co), and Nickel (Ni) have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature.
- The World Thyroid Day is observed every year on May 25 to spread awareness of thyroid health and educating about prevention and treatment of thyroid disease.
- SpaceX has successfully launched twin NASA satellites GRACE-FO (Follow-On) that will track Earth's water Cycle i.e. water movement and icemelt.
- Scientists have discovered world's second oldest grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) from Champua from Singhbhum rock sample in Odisha's Kendujhar district. It is an estimated 4,240 million years old, making it world's second oldest rock ever to be discovered. It is oldest magmatic zircon on earth.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi has installed Massive Multiple-Input, Multiple-Output (MIMO) lab on campus for standardisation, R & D and manufacturing of 5G equipment. It

will be the first of its kind 5G lab in the country and has been set-up at Bharti School of Telecommunication Technology and Management.

- Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee have identified two small potent molecules Pep-I and Pep-II, for their inhibitory activity to treat Chikungunya disease.
- Researchers have discovered the world's smallest land fern named Malvi's adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum malviae*) in Ahwa forests of Western Ghats in Gujarat's Dang district. Ferns are seasonal and mostly grow with first monsoon rains.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has entered into Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to transfer technology for manufacturing space grade Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) cells.
- Marshall Islands in Pacific Ocean is set to become first country in world to recognize cryptocurrency as its legal tender. The parliament of island passed law to create the digital currency called "Sovereign"; with symbol SOV. SOV is based on permissioned protocol, dubbed "Yokwe", which requires blockchain users of this digital currency to authenticate and identify themselves, thus avoid anonymity that has kept other cryptocurrencies from gaining support from governments.
- The Chinese electronic device and smartphone maker Huawei unveiled Balong 5G01, world's first 5G chip at Mobile World Congress 2018 held in Barcelona, Spain.
- Scientists from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified new plant species named *Drypetes kalamii* from Buxa and Jaldapara National Parks in West Bengal. It has been named after former President of India, Dr APJ Kalam. The new species is close relative of medicinal plant known in Sanskrit as Putrajivah.
- Bharti Airtel and Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei successfully conducted India's first 5G (fifth generation) network trial. The trial was conducted at Airtel's network experience centre in Manesar, Gurugram (Haryana) and was able to achieve over 3 gigabit per second (Gbps) data speed.

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- India's indigenous developed **light transport** aircraft SARAS PT1N has successfully completed second test-flight.
 - Richard Branson's Virgin Group has signed an intent agreement with Maharashtra Government to build world's first hyperloop transportation system. Consequently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on first day of Magnetic Maharashtra investor summit laid the foundation stone for project, to be developed between Mumbai and Pune.
 - Scientists have confirmed discovery of nearly 100 new exoplanets outside our solar system based on data from second mission of NASA's Kepler Space Telescope (K2 mission) released in 2014. With this total number of exoplanets found using NASA's K2 mission has reached almost 300.
 - Russian space agency Roskosmos successfully launched Progress MS-08, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space Station (ISS).
 - Google launched '#SecurityCheckKiya' campaign in India to create awareness around Internet safety. It was launched on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (6 February).
 - Rotavac became first Indigenously developed vaccine from India to be pre-qualified by World Health Organisation (WHO). Rotavac protects against childhood diarrhoea caused by the rotavirus. It was developed under the joint collaboration between India and United States in area of medical research.
 - India's fastest and first multi-petaflops (PF) supercomputer named Pratyush was unveiled at Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
 - California-based Private spaceflight company SpaceX has launched secret Zuma Mission for US government. It was launched on board of SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US.
 - State owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to introduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection technology in its Gandhar oil field in Gujarat. It will be first large scale CO₂-injected project in Asia.
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- This year, NASA will launch two missions — GOLD and ICON to explore the ionosphere, located 96 km above Earth's surface.
 - The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given its pre-qualification to Typbar Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TVC) developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech. Typbar TCV is world's first typhoid vaccine clinically proven to be administered to children from six months of age to adults, and confers long-term protection against typhoid fever.
 - China's indigenous AG600, also known as 'Kunlong', the world's largest amphibious aircraft took off from the southern city of Zhuhai and landed after roughly an hour-long flight.
 - India ranked 109th out of 122 countries in the mobile internet speed and 76th out of 133 countries in broadband speed in the November 2017 Speedtest Global Index. The index was released by Ookla. Norway had the highest mobile internet speed.
 - Scientists from New Zealand have developed world's first artificial intelligence politician named SAM.
 - ISRO is set to launch first solar mission Aditya-L1 in 2019. It will be India's first dedicated scientific mission to study Sun.
 - AGCuTe: Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, have developed silver copper telluride (AgCuTe), a novel compound that exhibits poor thermal conductivity but shows good electrical conductivity.
 - AYUSH QOL-2C: The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has undertaken development of coded drug AYUSH QOL-2C for improving quality of life in cancer patients.
 - India-United Kingdom (UK) Joint Team has won Newton-Bhabha Fund for project on Groundwater Arsenic Research in Ganga River Basin. The project was undertaken by Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UK to find solutions to water challenges faced in pervasively arsenic-affected Ganga River Basin.
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- The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF's) has given environmental clearance to India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project to be set up in Bodi West hills in Tamil Nadu.
 - Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 105th session of Indian Science Congress (ISC) at Manipur Central University in Imphal. The focal theme of 5-day ISC is "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology".
 - Scientists have discovered new frog species named *Microhyla kodial* or Mangaluru narrow-mouthed frog in a small industrial region in coastal Karnataka. It is christened *Microhyla kodial* after city of Mangaluru (called kodial in Konkani language) from where they spotted it two years ago.
 - The Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) has claimed that India's first cloned Assamese buffalo male calf named **Sach-Gaurav** was born in Hisar, Haryana. It was born to Murrah buffalo, at Hi Tech Sach Dairy Farm, 100 kms from cloning laboratory, making it *first buffalo calf to be born in field*. This is second cloned male buffalo produced by ICAR-CIRB after Hisar-Gaurav, born in December 2015.
 - India's Department of Space (DoS) and European Union (EU) have signed cooperation agreement related to sharing of earth observation satellite data. The agreement aims to strengthen and stimulate cooperation on earth observation and mutual access to data from EU's Sentinel series of satellites and from Indian earth observation satellites.
 - The Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), an Indore-based unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has developed an instrument called **Fluorimeter**, to measure traces of uranium in water.
 - Scientists at ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) are developing environment-friendly propellant blend based on hydroxylammonium nitrate (HAN) to power satellites and spacecraft. It seeks to replace conventional hydrazine fuel for future missions.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched GSAT 6A communication satellite on board of GSLV-F08 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was overall 12th GSLV flight (and fifth successful) and sixth flight with indigenously built cryogenic upper stage engine. ISRO lost contact with the satellite 48 hours later.
- **InSingh Mission:** NASA will send first-ever mission named as InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars.
- NASA successfully conducted Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) to test supersonic parachute that will help its space exploration missions to land on Mars. The parachute was launched aboard of sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in US. It was tested in sky, mimicking conditions of entering red planet.
- NASA's will launch humanity's first mission Parker Solar Probe (PSP) to the Sun in July 31, 2018.



Nipah Virus

Recently, there has been NEWS about Nipah Virus outbreak in Kerala. There has been as many as 12 deaths and more than 90 people have reportedly been quarantined after showing Nipah symptoms. Precautionary advisory has been issued in other states like Maharashtra.

What is Nipah Virus

Nipah Virus is an emerging infectious disease that broke out in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998 and 1999. The infection gets its name from the *village (Kampung Sungai Nipah, 1998) in Malaysia* where the person from whom the virus was first isolated succumbed to the disease. It first appeared in domestic pigs and has a mortality rate of about 70%.

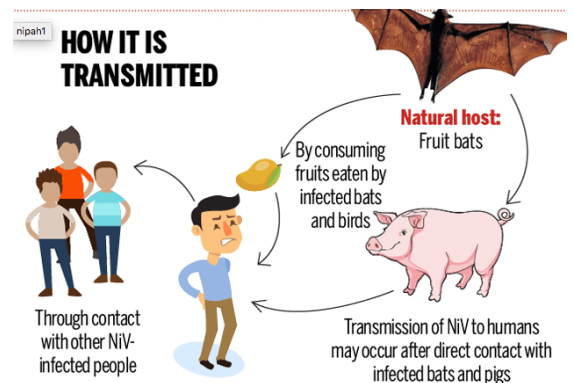
Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family, Pteropus genus.

Previous Outbreaks

- In India the disease was first reported in 2001 (Siliguri, West Bengal) and in 2007 (Nadia, West Bengal) with the two outbreaks claiming 50 lives.
- In 2004, people in Bangladesh were infected with Nipha after consuming date palm which was infected by fruit bats.

Transmission

- The disease mainly spreads through fruit bats or flying foxes. The virus is present in bat urine and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.
- The virus can spread to humans through pigs or by eating fruit or drinking palm wine contaminated by infected bats.
- Human-to-human transmission has also been documented, including in a hospital setting in India.



Symptoms

- High Fever, Headache & Drowsiness
- Disorientation & mental confusion

Signs and symptoms can progress to **coma** within 24-48 hours

Vaccination

There is no vaccine available for the infection, hence, preventive measures are a key to control the spread.

- Farm animals should be prevented from eating fruit contaminated by bats.

Treatment & Cure:

There is no specific treatment for Nipah Virus. The primary treatment for human cases is intensive supportive care. Hence, to avoid virus infection:

- Avoid contact with infected person
- Medical persons doing treatment should take basic precautions like washing hands, using a gown, cap mask and wearing gloves.

What is government doing

- A multi-disciplinary central team from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is in Kerala and is constantly reviewing the situation.
- Samples collected from the virus have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for testing.

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