



## RAJASTHAN CURRENT AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2021

### Environment

#### State Government allows busting of Green Crackers

In a revised advisory issued by the home department in October 2021, the state government has allowed residents to burst green crackers for two hours (from 8 to 10 pm) during Diwali in Rajasthan barring places which fall under the National Capital Region (NCR).

According to the advisory, green crackers will also be allowed from 6 to 8 am during Chhath Puja, from 8 to 10 pm on Gurburb, and from 11.55 to 12.30 pm on Christmas and New Year's.

The Council of Scientific And Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), a central government agency, does the certification of green crackers. The certificate has been issued to 12 firecracker producers in the state. The producers are also required to obtain a license from the PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation) to manufacture firecrackers. Nine producers in the state have got their licenses so far.

#### What are green crackers?

The green crackers are eco-friendly firecrackers that have been developed keeping in mind the pollution hazard and health risks, which the regular firecrackers pose. These are advertised as ecofriendly alternatives to regular fire-crackers and will help in celebrating diwali in eco-friendly manner.

Green crackers are "less harmful" to the environment, with about 15 to 30 per cent less emission than regular crackers. Additionally, the emitted sound has also been reduced from 160 decibels to 125 decibels.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has been at the forefront of green cracker research. CSIR-NEERI has developed new formulations that are chemically different from traditional ones & have lower aluminium, barium, potassium nitrate and carbon

content. The green firecracker boxes possess a green colour NEERI logo and QR code, which can be scanned.

## **JDA to develop mini-forests using Miyawaki technique**

Mini forests will be springing up in different corners of Jaipur as JDA has started plantation using popular Japanese Miyawaki technique. UDH minister Shanti Dhariwal inaugurated the project from Jawahar Circle to create urban forests.

### **Miyawaki Technique**

The method involves planting two to four trees per square metre. This method includes planting trees (only native species) as close as possible in the same area which not only saves space, but the planted saplings also support each other in growth and block sunlight reaching the ground, thereby preventing the growth of weed. The native trees of the region are identified and divided into four layers — shrub, sub-tree, tree, and canopy.

Miyawaki forests grow in two to three years and are self-sustaining. They help lower temperatures in concrete heat islands, reduce air and noise pollution, attract local birds and insects, and create carbon sinks.

In 2019, Telangana government has introduced the Japanese “Miyawaki” method of afforestation to grow urban forests and expand the green cover as well as to meet the stipulated plantation target under the Telanganaku Haritha Haaram (TKHH).

### **Take Back Web Portal**

In October 2021, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) Chairman Veenu Gupta launched the e-waste “Take Back Web Portal”. The portal will help individuals or organizations to dispose of ewaste from home similar to e-commerce site and can get fair price for e-waste online. Further, she also launched the mobile van at divisional headquarters for door-to-door collection of e-waste.

Rajasthan has also signed a MoA signed Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad for the study of e-waste in the state. Under this, five cities of the state

Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Kota and Udaipur e-waste collection will be studied so that the quantum of e-waste generation and disposal could be accurately calculated in the state.

“International E-Waste Day-2021” has been organized for the first time by the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board. “E-Waste Collection Drive” is being organized for various industrial areas and residential colonies of Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Alwar and Bhiwadi, residential welfare association, shopping malls and other commercial institutions.

## **Caracal**

An endangered caracal has been reported from the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary. It is the country's second wildcat species facing the threat of extinction after cheetahs. Caracal is a medium-sized wild cat, which is shy, nocturnal, elusive and difficult to spot in the wild. They prefer dry deciduous forest with water bodies having severely eroded river banks, adjacent to ravine habitats. Also, they inhabit dry, arid regions and moist woodlands.

The caracal is a native of Africa, Middle-East, Central Asia and India, listed in the IUCN Red List as a threatened species. In India, they are protected under Schedule (I) of the Indian Wildlife Act for being critically endangered due to the loss of habitat in many states.

## **Monsoon 2021 in Rajasthan**

Rajasthan which usually gets an average rainfall of 526.62mm, received 588.82mm this year. The state has received almost 11.8% more rainfall this year. Excluding Sirohi and Sriganganagar, which have received deficit rains, majority of the places have received abnormal, excess or normal rainfall.

- Churu district has received abnormal rainfall. Compared to 319.10 mm average rains, the district has received 532.73mm, almost 66.9% higher. Note: Rainfall, which is 60% higher than normal, is considered as abnormal rainfall.
- Kota has received 1144.44mm rains, the highest among all districts.

## Leopard Habitat in Galta Region

The forest department of Rajasthan has started an exercise to develop a leopard habitat in Galta region, which is located adjoining Jhalana leopard reserve. The department is also planning a proposal to start a safari for tourists, once the area is developed.

As per news reports, there are around 15 leopards inhabiting the Galta and Amargarh forest block. However, there were no routes to monitor the wild cats. Two routes have been developed in the 16 sq km area. Forest Department is contemplating opening up tourism there after six months.

The Jhalana forest spreads over just 20 sq km on the Southeast of Jaipur. It houses a healthy population of 44 leopards including including 31 adults and 13 cubs. Apart from leopards, the forest has various attractions such as 132 species of avifauna, 220 species of flora, 20 species of reptiles, to name a few.

## 6 demoiselle cranes die in Jaisalmer

6 demoiselle cranes were killed after hitting electricity wires in *Degrai Oran* area in Jaisalmer. In similar incidents, peacocks, Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) and other birds have died after hitting the hightension wires in the area. Thousands of migratory demoiselle cranes come from colder regions to Jaisalmer after monsoon. The threat of these birds dying by hitting electricity wires put up for solar and wind mills is high in *Degrai Oran* area.

Demoiselle cranes, also known as *kurja*, come to Rajasthan from Siberia via Mongolia, crossing the Himalayas. These birds come in September and camp here at various places.

## Economy

### Best Industrial Parks of Rajasthan

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the 2nd edition of the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) Report was launched by the Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Som Prakash. The IPRS 2.0 Report is expected to enhance India's industrial competitiveness and attract investment.

As per the IPRS 2.0 report released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT),

- 41 Industrial Parks have been assessed as "Leaders",
- 90 Industrial Parks have been rated as under Challenger category
- 185 have been rated as under "Aspirers".

These ratings are assigned on the basis of key existing parameters and infrastructure facilities etc. IPRS 2.0 ratings will be instrumental to contribute to India's growth story and to chart out the path of progress for both the industry and the country.

The Report is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank which features more than 4,400 industrial parks in a GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment. The portal is currently integrated with industry-based GIS system of 21 States and UTs and plot-wise information in these are updated on a real-time basis. With this system, the investors can even remotely refer to this report to identify the suitable investable land area, as per the various parameters of infrastructure, connectivity, business support services and environment and safety standards and make informed investment decisions.

The IPRS 2.0 Report is part of the Commerce & Industry Ministry's AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, and comes during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav festival. The India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) provides details of more than 5.6 lakh hectares, roughly the size bigger than 30-40 countries, on the click of a button and prospective entrepreneurs can apply sitting from anywhere across the world.

The GIS-enabled IILB acts as a one-stop source of information on Industrial Infrastructure. Significant scaling up in coverage of Industrial Parks on this Land Bank has played a key role in facilitating the IPRS.



The IPRS pilot exercise was launched in 2018, with an objective of enhancing industrial infrastructure competitiveness and supporting policy development for enabling industrialization across the country as the Government pushes ahead a high-growth trajectory with an aim to scale the \$5 trillion mark for the Indian economy by 2025.

Based on the learnings from the pilot stage, the Government started the IPRS 2.0 in 2020. All the States of India and 51 SEZs, including 29 Private, have participated the IPRS 2.0 Report. 24 Private Sector Industrial Parks have also been nominated. Ratings have been undertaken for 449 out of 478 nominations received. The feedback survey involved responses from 5,700 tenants.

### **Ranking of Industrial Parks of Rajasthan**

Out of the 41 Industrial Parks rated as Leaders (best performing) across the country - 17 parks (41%) are from Rajasthan, while Maharashtra topped the list with 18 parks.



Rank	Industrial Park Name
3	Agro Food Park, Boranada, <a href="#">Jodhpur</a>
5	Boranada, Phase IV, <a href="#">Jodhpur</a>
10	EPIP Boranada, <a href="#">Jodhpur</a>
12	Export Promotion Industrial Park
16	Industrial area Sitapura Ph-III, <a href="#">Jaipur</a>
17	Industrial Neemrana Phase-II, <a href="#">Alwar</a>
18	Kaladwas (extension), <a href="#">Udaipur</a>
20	Karoli, <a href="#">Alwar</a>
21	Kishangarh Phase IV, <a href="#">Ajmer</a>
25	Manda Phase - I, <a href="#">Jaipur</a>
26	MIA Extension - <a href="#">Alwar</a>
27	MIA - <a href="#">Udaipur</a>
28	New Industrial Complex (Majrakath) Neemrana, <a href="#">Alwar</a>
32	RIICO I/A Balotra Phase -I, II, III & III extension, <a href="#">Barmer</a>
33	RIICO Industrial Area, Choupanki, <a href="#">Alwar</a>
34	RIICO Industrial Area, Tapukara, <a href="#">Alwar</a>
35	RIICO Industrial Area, Ghiloth ( <a href="#">Alwar</a> )

### Industrial Parks of Rajasthan - in featured in Leaders Category

For land availability, Rajasthan came fourth (19.58 lakh hectares), not far behind Tamil Nadu (21.45 lakh hectares), the top state in the category.

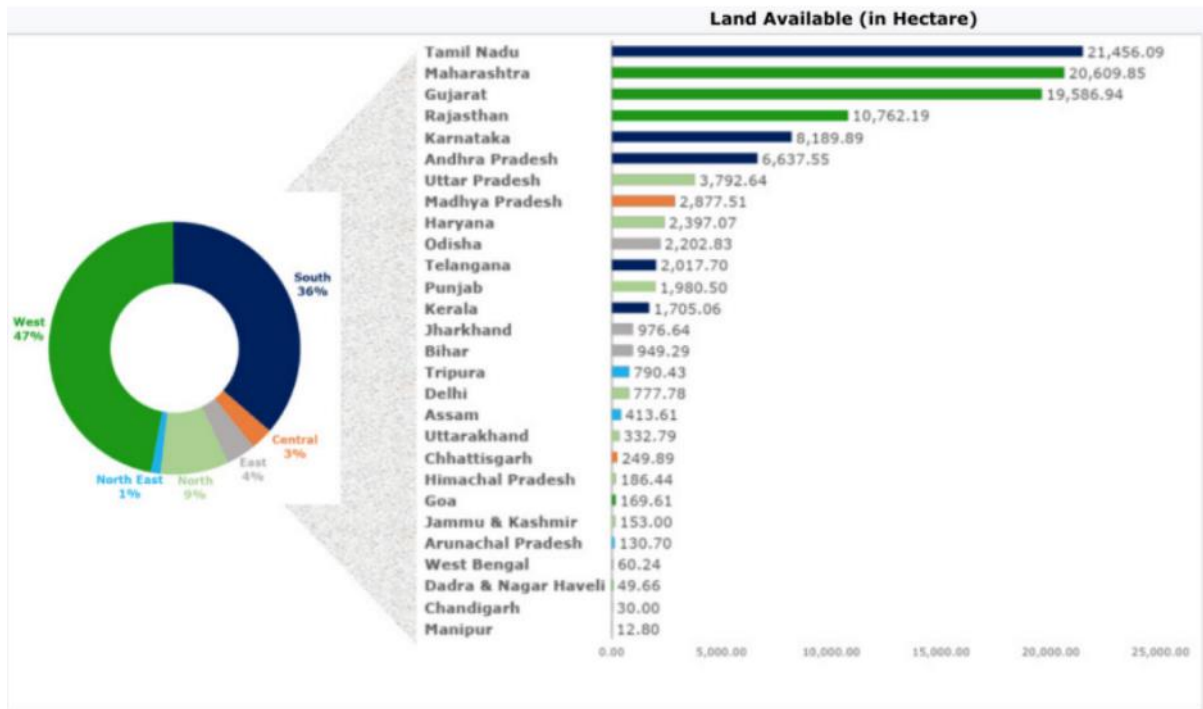


Figure 7: Land availability by region and state  
Source: IILB Portal as on 31 May 2021

In the special economic zone (SEZ) ratings, the Mahindra World City Jaipur found a place in the leaders category.

In product-specific parks, Rajasthan secured No. 1 position in four sectors out of 21. The textile parks in the state have the largest used or occupied area than any other park in the country. Similar is the case with gem and jewellery, software, and construction parks in the state.

### Invest Rajasthan-2022 Summit

The state government has finalised dates for the two-day investment summit "Invest Rajasthan-2022 Summit" which happen in coming January 20-21 at Sitapura.

Officials from the state government are going to participate in Dubai Expo between November 12-18 and meet investors from the US, Germany, South Korea, France and the UK.



## Justice Akil Khureshi

Justice Akil Kureshi, Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court, as been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. Further, Justice Indrajit Mahanty has now been posted as chief justice of the Tripura High Court.

Later on 11th October 2021, the centre cleared the appointment of five new judges to the Rajasthan High Court, taking its working strength to 28 out of a sanctioned strength of 50. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the names of Bharwani, Vyas, Dhand and Bansal on 01 September 2021.

Those appointed to the Rajasthan High Court include:

- Advocates
  - o Farjand Ali
  - o Anoop Kumar Dhand
  - o Sudesh Bansal
- Judicial officers
  - o Vinod Kumar Bharwani
  - o Madan Gopal Vyas

The newly appointed judges were administered oath of office by chief Justice Akil Kureshi

## Rajeev Swarup

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change has constituted state level environment impact assessment authority (SEIAA) under chairmanship of former chief secretary and retired IAS officer Rajeev Swarup.

Other members of committee are retired IFS officer Dr Suresh Chandra and secretary in state forest and environment department acting as member secretary. The chairman and members of authority will hold office for a term of three years from date of publication of notification in official gazette.

## **Shivangi Swarnkar**

With the Covid situation getting better and more non-Covid patients visiting hospitals, the state health department has constituted a nine-member committee with medical education commissioner Shivangi Swarnkar as its chairperson to ensure better healthcare facilities.

The committee will make the processes of registration, consultation and admission in hospitals attached to medical colleges, district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, satellite hospitals and community health centres easier and accessible.

## **Empanelment to Secretary Level**

In October 2021, the appointments committee of the cabinet approved empanelment of 12 IAS officers, including two IAS officers of Rajasthan cadre, Rohit Kumar Singh and Veenu Gupta, for holding secretary level posts at the Centre. At present, Rohit Kumar Singh (RJ 1989) holds the post of additional secretary, ministry of culture, government of India and Gupta (RJ 1987) is the chairperson of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

## **New Medical Colleges**

PM Modi laid the foundation stone for four new medical colleges in the Banswara, Sirohi, Hanumangarh & Dausa districts of Rajasthan. Post 2014, 23 medical colleges have been approved by the central government for Rajasthan, out of which 7 medical colleges have already become operational.

## **Jodhpur City Knowledge and Innovation Cluster**

The Jodhpur City Knowledge & Innovation Cluster (JCKIC) has been established under the Aegis of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India. In September 2021, Vice-President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurated the JCKIC.

The main focus of the cluster is to provide a necessary platform to create synergy between all the stakeholders to make use of available knowledge as well as to develop advanced technologies, creative skills, state of the art infrastructure and innovative environment in an organized manner so as to ensure sustainable and systematic development of city of Jodhpur.



The Vice President also laid the foundation stone of the Artificial Intelligence of Things (AIOT) Hub at IIT-Jodhpur.

## **Medical Devices Park**

In October 2021, RIICO signed a MoU with Indian Institute of Technology-Jodhpur (IIT-Jodhpur) and Jodhpur City Knowledge and Innovation Foundation (JCKIF) for development of a medical devices park.

The Medtech Medical Devices Park will be an exclusive zone for setting up of manufacturing units in medical devices domain. The park is under development over 223 acre land and will have 73 plots in first phase where plug & play facilities will also come up.

## **Kishan Bagh**

The state's first desert park, Kishan Bagh, which is spread across 64 hectares on the outskirts of the Jaipur, will open for tourists before Diwali. The park is one of its kind in the country, where sand dunes and desert species are grown and preserved. The ecotourism project has natural features preserved by the forest department and the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA).

The park has dhok habitat, granite habitat, nursery, rock and fossil exhibits to name few. Seeds and sand were brought from Jaisalmer to develop flora in the park. A total of 18 native species of trees have been planted. Trees from Barmer, Sirohi, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Chittorgarh and Banswara are also being planted at the park. The area was developed without disturbing the topography. The park will represent a unique desert ecosystem.

## **Pushkar**

After two years, the international cattle fair will be held in Pushkar from 05 November 2021. It is one of the world's largest camel fairs. Apart from the buying and selling of livestock, it has become an important tourist attraction.

The 15-day Pushkar fair will start after Diwali and with that, cattle owners will start coming to Pushkar. There will be religious rituals, cultural programmes and other activities at the fair, which will end with a holy dip in the Pushkar Sarovar on the full moon of Kartik month.

## **SMS Hospital**

The state government is planning to construct inpatient department (IPD) tower at SMS Hospital in two phases. The building will be one of-its-kind as it will have an air ambulance landing facility for helicopters, basements including parking and hospital services and 20 operation theatres. The project was announced in the budget speech.

## **BITS Pilani & Banasthali Vidhyapeeth**

According to the NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) ranking, 2021 released by the Union ministry of education, BITS-Pilani, Banasthali Vidyapeeth and MNIT Jaipur — were ranked 29, 66 and 72, respectively.

While BITS-Pilani and Banasthali Vidyapith are private organisations, MNIT-Jaipur is a central government institution. Similarly, IIT-Jodhpur, National Law University-Jodhpur and AIIMS-Jodhpur, which have bagged ranks in the top 100 in various categories, are all governed by the central government. Only Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, which is run by the state government, managed to get a place in top 200 of NIRF in overall category and its pharmacy institute managed the 67th rank.

## **Gadh Ganesh Temple, Jaipur**

The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) of the Union Environment Ministry has given nod to the construction of a passenger ropeway connecting Rajasthan's Jaipur city to the famous 18th century temple of Mandir Shree Ganesh located on the hills near Nahargarh Fort and Jaigarh Fort.

Other existing ropeways in Rajasthan include – Hanuman Temple, Samode | Savitiri Mata Ropeway, Pushkar | Manshapurna Karni Mata, Udaipur | Sundha Mata Jalore

## **Railway Station Jodhpur**

Jodhpur station has been awarded Platinum Green Railway Station rating on the basis of 90 points. This rating has been given by the Indian Green Building Council - Confederation of Indian Industries (IGBC-CII) for the best environmental friendly practices and systems.

## **Shrinath Peeth campus**

Governor Kalraj Mishra will lay the foundation stone of Shrinath Peeth campus on October 25 at Dabio Ka Guda village near Nathdwara, Rajsamand. The campus will be the second campus of Mohanlal Sukhadia University.

## **Mission Possible**

A 15-day campaign, Mission possible, started by a radio jockey to inspire pet lovers to adopt stray dogs concluded in Udaipur. 'Adopt, don't shop' was the theme of the campaign, which is internationally popular and is meant to raise awareness about the benefits of adopting rescued pets. It is promoted by a growing number of animal rights' proponents.

## **Fatty Acid Profile Test made Compulsory**

Conventionally, the health department's laboratories checked butyro refractometer (BR) and Reichert Meissl (RM) values of the sample collected from the market for quality check of the ghee. However, with use of certain chemicals, the firms producing the adulterated ghee using vanaspati oil, have been successful in maintaining the values of BR and RM of good quality desi ghee.

As per the food safety and standards (food products standards and food additive) regulations 2011, the BR value should be in the range of 40 to 43 and the RM value should be minimum 26.

For countering the malpractice, the health department has made fatty acid profile test compulsory of the ghee samples. Fatty acid profile is an effective way of identifying foreign fat in ghee. The fatty acids in milk is different from the fatty acid in Vanaspati ghee.

## **Cyber Awareness Day**

The state government has launched a campaign for general public, especially students, to curb cybercrime. Rajasthan chief secretary Niranjan Arya announced that the first Wednesday of every month will be celebrated as Cyber Awareness Day (from 11 am to 12 noon) in Rajasthan and an annual calendar will be prepared.

He declared that the day will be celebrated in collaboration with the district administration, education, police, health, information and technology departments along with common service centres, ASHA workers, Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities.

## **Alwar, Bharatpur districts may lose NCR status**

As per the draft Regional Plan 2041, areas beyond the 100km radius are not likely to be the main part of NCR and this may result in the exclusion of both the districts of Rajasthan. At present, the NCR is spread around 150-175km, covering the entire districts and rural areas. However, the new delineation is proposed to be carried out based on the principle of 100km radius from Rajghat in Delhi, plus 1km in each direction along major transport corridors. Major transport corridors include national highways, expressways, state highways and regional rapid transit systems.

Under the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act 1991, the NCR zone was created by combining capital Delhi and some adjoining areas. Alwar was in NCR since inception, while Bharatpur became a part in 2013.

## **Zonal development plan**

After the Rajasthan High Court banned the regularisation of illegal colonies in cities without having zonal development plan, the Urban Development and Housing (UDH) department is now planning to notify zonal development plan of 28 cities.

As per the mandatory rules, cities having more than 1 lakh population can only be regularised after the implementation of zonal development plan.

The state government recently launched the ambitious six-month special campaign, 'Shahar-2021' to issue lease deeds. However, its plan was stalled after Rajasthan High Court banned the regularisation of illegal colonies in cities without having zonal and sector plan.

## Operation Clean Bowled

In October 2021, Jaipur Police launched Operation Clean Bowled to crackdown on person with illegal firearms, liquor, drugs and property documents.

## Rajasthan Rural Olympic Games

During the budget of 2021-22, the chief minister had announced to organise competitions of Kabaddi, Tennis Ball Cricket, Volleyball and Hockey at gram panchayat, block, district and state level under Rajasthan Rural Olympic Games. For this, financial sanction of Rs 30.10 crore was proposed.

Recently, the chief minister had approved the inclusion of shooting ball and Kho-Kho sports in the Rajasthan Rural Olympic Games. Hence, an additional financial sanction of Rs 10 crore has now been given for organising these games.

## 16 years of RTI Act in Rajasthan

The State Information Commission (SIC) commemorated 16 years of Right to Information (RTI) Act being introduced in Rajasthan on October 12.

## State Transport Department Renamed

The state transport department's name has been updated to transport & road safety department. The name change is expected to create awareness among people as well as officials who would strive towards curbing accidents particularly on national highways which is a cause of major concern for us.

The transport department is the nodal agency for road safety and even has a special cell - "road safety cell" for the same according to the guidelines issued by Supreme Court Committee. The road safety cell continuously keeps taking fresh initiatives and now there is a Road Safety Board at the national level, which might soon be replicated in states also in which case it is better to have just one body rather than multiple ones working towards the same purpose.

## **Prashashan Gaon-Sahar Ke Sangh Abhiyaan & Persons with Disabilities**

Under the Prashashan Gaon-Sahar Ke Sangh Abhiyaan, the state government had declared to identify specially abled persons left out of the social justice and empowerment department's pension scheme.

However, now it has been notified that that people with only 8 categories of disabilities, out of 21 listed categories, will benefit during the campaign.

Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, there are 21 categories of disabilities. The state has identified eight categories, including blindness, low vision, people cured of leprosy, hearing impaired, locomotor disability, mental retardation, mental illness, and dwarfism.

## **Mahatma Gandhi Statue**

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot unveiled the statue of 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi in the Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board premises. Further he also inaugurated a picture exhibition based on the life of 'Bapu' at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur.

## **Clean Street Food Hub**

To ensure safe and hygienic street food, the health department will now give a tag to cluster of street food vendors of 'clean street food hub' but only after ensuring that they are following all hygienic practices. Places with cluster of eateries will be declared as 'clean street food hub', after the health department conducts training of such vendors to follow best hygiene practices so that their food is safe and clean for consumption.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is helping the state as it has already issued guidelines for declaration of 'clean street food hub' on upgrading of infrastructure of existing food streets. The initiative will also help in popularising and promoting local and regional cuisines.



## **Campaign against food adulteration in Rajasthan**

With festive season about to kick in, the demand for milk products such as sweets and mawa is increasing. With increase in demand the state health department is apprehensive that markets may witness an influx of adulterated milk and other milk products such as sweets and mawa. Aiming to prevent sale of such adulterated products, the health department will launch a campaign from October 14 to November 4.

Under the campaign, samples of food items will be taken from the market for testing in laboratories. The food safety officers will take the help of police and dairy departments.

## **Watch Riders**

Sanitation condition of Jaipur Municipal Corporation-Heritage will now be monitored by 'watchriders' in the city. These riders will go around the JMC-Heritage area, spreading awareness on sanitation and the riders will also challan anyone found spreading garbage.

On October 2, employees of JMC-Heritage were given motorcycles, using which they will drive around the city and make people aware about maintaining better sanitation conditions. Since they will do so while taking rounds on motorcycles, they have been called 'watch-riders.'

## **Suratgarh Thermal Power Station Unit 8**

On 9th October 2021, Unit 8 of Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Project with capacity of the 660 MW began generating energy commercially. The power unit will generate 1.584 crore units of electricity per day. With this, the power generation capacity of the plant increased from 7937.35MW to 8597.35 MW.

## **Biomass based Power Projects**

Two new plants for biomass-based power generation will be set up in the state near Fagi in Jaipur district and Chhatarpur in Bikaner district. About 22.9 MW of electricity will be generated from these projects

## **NGT Bans Commercial Activities at Nahargarh**

In October 2021, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Bhopal, has banned all commercial activities, including restaurant, hotel and bar, in Nahargarh Fort located in the Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary (NWS).

The tribunal has called business activities illegal and ordered them to stop operations as they are non-forestry activity. The order was given on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by environmentalist Rajendra Tiwari.

In 1961, the Nahargarh forest was declared as a reserve area, on the basis of which the forest department was given the right of control it. In August, NGT had appointed a high-level committee to probe into the matter. The committee included Jaipur district collector, chief wildlife warden of the forest department, and members of the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board (RPCB).

## **Helicopter borne Survey for Ground Water**

Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Jitendra Singh jointly launched a heli-borne survey for water management in arid areas of the State.

The survey to locate groundwater in the arid regions of the state, including Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, under the Centre's under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.

In some areas, this survey will also provide information about level, quantity, quality and information of ground water present as deep as 500 metres.

The survey is the outcome of an agreement between the Central Groundwater Board, Jal Shakti Ministry and the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.

## **SC issues Contempt Notice**

The Supreme Court issued contempt notice to Rajasthan High Court Bar Association in Jaipur over its decision to boycott Justice Satish Kumar Sharma till his roster was changed after the judge did not take up a case involving a lawyer with immediate effect.



## Cinemasthan

Cinemasthan, the first OTT platform for content in Rajasthani languages was launched recently. It is a video-streaming platform initiated by the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF)'s Film Club.

## Pump Hydro Storage Project

The Government of Rajasthan has been advancing to establish a first-of-its-kind 3.6 GW integrated project including 3,600 MW solar, 900 MW wind and 2,520 MW pump hydro storage plant. The solar and wind projects will be set up in Pali and Jaisalmer; and Pump Hydro Storage will be set up in Shahpur, Baran District of the state.

The excess solar-generated electricity will be used to pump water in a reservoir at a designated height.

The potential energy of the water will be reclaimed using turbine-driven generators. It will be the first of its kind integrated project in the country with a combination of solar, wind and hydropower for uninterrupted power supply

## **New Schemes & Policy**

### **Udaan Scheme for Sanitary Pads Distribution**

On the birth anniversary of the country's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (November 19), the Rajasthan government is going to launch the 'UDAAN scheme'.

Free sanitary pads will be distributed to the women of the state on day through schools, colleges, Anganwadi. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has decided to run this scheme to make women aware for better health and personal hygiene and to prevent diseases. This scheme was announced in the state budget 2021-22.

A budget provision of Rs 200 crore has been made for 'Udaan Scheme'. Along with girl students and adolescent girls, women of the state have also been brought under the ambit. Pads will be provided in different phases. In addition, a special awareness campaign regarding women's health will also be conducted through women's self-help groups, social and government organizations.

The nodal department of the UDAN scheme will be the Directorate of Women Empowerment. Its implementation will be done in collaboration with Medical-Health, School Education-College Education Department, Technical-Higher Education Department, Tribal Regional Development Department, Panchayati Raj Department, Rural Development Departments.

At the state level 2 brand ambassadors will be made and 1 brand ambassador will be selected at the district level. Awards will also be given to the NGOs and Brand Ambassadors associated with the scheme for doing good work. Complaints for napkins can be made on the helpline number 181.

### **Chiranjeevi 104 Janani Express ambulances**

In October 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off 11 Chiranjeevi 104 Janani Express Ambulance from CMO. According to news reports, total 600 Janani Express ambulances are being operated in the state to provide referral transport services to pregnant women and infants up to a year.

## **Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence (RGS)**

The state government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence (RGS) scheme to help 200 meritorious students pursue higher education at 50 select universities located across the globe. Further, out of the 200 meritorious students, 30% seats will be reserved for girls.

Under the programme, financial assistance will be provided for studies at undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels at 50 reputed institutes of the world, including Oxford, Harvard and Stanford University. For the undergraduate-level, scholarship will be provided only for the study of subjects related to humanities.

Under the scheme, preference will be given to the candidates with family income less than 8 lakh per year. 150 students from Humanities, social science, agriculture and forest science, nature and environmental science and law will be selected, 25 students will be from management, business administration, economics and finance; and 25 students from pure science and public health subjects will be given scholarships.

## **Anmol Jeevan**

Barmer administration and police along with UNICEF and Action Aid have launched an awareness campaign, Anmol Jeevan, to prevent suicides in the district.

The administration will also identify people affected with depression affected with the help of public representatives, intellectuals, ANMs, ASHA sahayoginis, and anganwari workers and persuade them for treatment. A helpline will also be launched soon.

## **M-Passport App**

In October 2021, Chief secretary Niranjana Arya launched the M-Passport app under joint aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and state home department. Mapping of all the police stations in the state with the app has also been done. Now, the police verification will be completed within a week.

## **Mukhya Mantri Corona Bal Kalyan Yojana - Extended**

The state government will now provide free education and admission in college hostels to children orphaned due to Covid. Chief minister Ashok Gehlot has approved free education to 306 such students in government colleges and free admission in hostels.

Earlier, under the Chief Minister's Corona Assistance Scheme, provision was only to provide free education in government schools and free admission in residential school hostels till class 12 to children orphaned due to corona. Now expanding its scope, the chief minister has decided to provide free education to such children in government colleges and free admission in government college hostels

### **Mukhya Mantri Corona Bal Kalyan Yojana Other Provisions:**

- Under the package, orphaned kids will be paid ₹1 lakh as immediate assistance apart from a sum of ₹5 lakh, to be given when they turn 18.
- They will also receive a monthly sustenance amount of ₹2,500.
- The girl students studying in the college, destitute due to the Covid-19 epidemic, will be given admission on priority basis in the hostels run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### **SC & OBC Development Fund**

In October 2021, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot approved the formation of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Class (OBC) Development Funds to ensure inclusive growth of youth belonging to these categories, read an official statement.

The Chief Minister also sanctioned Rs 5.57 crore from the Valmiki Fund with the objective of creating better job and educational opportunities for children belonging to the community.

In addition, financial assistance of Rs 5,000 each will also be provided to the children of sanitation workers on the basis of merit.

## Science & Technology

### China Tests Hypersonic Missile

As per report of financial times, China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in August 2021, demonstrating an advanced space capability. Countries like Russia, China and US are developing hypersonic missiles that travel at the speed five times that of sound. However, they run slower than ballistic missiles. These missiles are harder to intercept and can be manoeuvred.

**Note** - Supersonic is greater than Mach 1 speed while hypersonic is greater Mach 5 speed, this means that supersonic speed is greater than the speed of sound while hypersonic is greater than 5 times the speed of sound.

### Happy Smile- App

A bilingual mobile application 'Healthy Smile' was launched by AIIMS in a bid to raise awareness on maintaining oral hygiene among children. This app is an initiative of the Department of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry, with the help of AIIMS intramural research grant.

### MyParkings – App

In October 2021, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, launched the 'MyParkings' app. The app can help people book people parking slots online in areas under the jurisdiction of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

### CRISP-M tool

In October 2021, Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh, launched the "Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool" through a virtual event. This tool will help in embedding climate information in GIS based planning as well as implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA (MGNREGA).

## Driver less Train

In October 2021, German rail operator, Deutsche Bahn and industrial group, Siemens launched the world's first automated & driverless train in Hamburg.

## Mobile E-Voting System

The Telangana State Election Commission has planned to conduct a dry run of a "Mobile-Based e-voting system". The dry run will be held in Khammam district of Telangana on October 20. It will be India's first smartphone-based e-voting process.

The state election commission of Telangana is implementing the system in association with the emerging technologies wing of IT Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) department of Telangana government and technical development by 'Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)'.

## MUDRA Toolbox

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) released "Multilingual Dementia Research and Assessment (MUDRA) toolbox" in five Indian Languages on October 5, 2021. Toolbox has been launched, in 5 languages namely Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam, in order to expand the care and outreach to people suffering from dementia

## Vaccine for Malaria

In October 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 6, 2021 endorsed the Malaria Vaccine called "RTS,S/AS01". This decision was taken following a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 across the countries like Kenya, Ghana, and Malawi where more than two million doses of the vaccine were given.

WHO has recommended that, children up to the age of two, in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions having moderate to high malaria transmission should get four doses.



## Face Recognition Software

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, MK Stalin, launched face recognition software on October 4, 2021 for assisting police officials in their investigation. “Face recognition software” will help the police personnel in comparing the photos of suspects with “data resource” that have been uploaded in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

## New Biodegradable Polymer

A team of Indian scientists have developed a non-toxic, environmentally friendly, biodegradable polymer using guar gum and chitosan. Guar gum and Chitosan are polysaccharides that are extracted from guar beans and shells of crab & shrimps.

## Pension Payment Order integration with DigiLocker

Department of Ex-servicemen welfare working under ‘Ministry of Defence’ has integrated ‘Electronic Pension Payment Order’ (EPPO) with the Digi Locker.

## About DigiLocker

DigiLocker is an Indian digitization online service under the Digital India initiative, provided by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The locker provides a cloud account to every Aadhaar holder and enable them to access authentic documents or certificates like vehicle registration, driving license, academic mark sheet etc in digital format. All these documents are accessed from the original issuers of these certificates. Locker has 1GB storage space for each account for uploading scanned copies of legacy documents.

## Lucy Spacecraft

NASA, launched the first-of-its kind mission on 16th October 2021 to study the Trojan asteroids of has been named as Lucy. It was named after an ancient fossil, which provided

insights into the evolution of human species. Spacecraft was launched from “Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida”.

Mission Lucy has been launched with the objective of investigating the group of rocky bodies that are circling the Sun in two swarms- one preceding Jupiter and the other trailing behind it.

### **What are Trojans?**

Trojans are small celestial body or asteroids, sharing the orbit of larger one. They remain in a stable orbit, nearly 60° ahead or behind the main body. Most of the known trojans in solar system share the orbit of Jupiter.

### **DART Spacecraft**

NASA has announced to launch “asteroid-killing Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft” on November 24, 2021. The spacecraft will be launched, aboard SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket. It will be launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

### **Astronaut Crew launched**

China launched a three-person crew for a mission of six-month on board the Shenzhou-13 spaceship to its space station on 16th October 2021. The spaceship was launched through a Long March-2F rocket.

### **Asteriod Probe by UAE**

United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced its plan to send a probe on an asteroid between Mars and Jupiter for collecting data regarding origins of the universe. If this mission is successful, UAE will join the elite club of the European Union, Japan and the United States. These countries have already completed its mission either an asteroid or a comet.

## **Solar Conjunction**

American Space Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently decided to stop sending active commands to its missions on the MARS for next few weeks till the time Mars solar conjunction remains in effect.

As per NASA, during the Mars solar conjunction period, Earth and the MARS will be on opposite sides of the Sun. This position of both the planets will affect any communication attempt made by NASA for connecting with its Mars missions because Sun radiates hot & ionized gas from its corona.

## **Psyche Mission**

NASA, is set to send its “Psyche Mission” to visit a giant asteroid called Psyche, which could be the frozen remains of molten core of a bygone world. Psyche asteroid orbits around the Sun in main asteroid belt, in between Mars and Jupiter.

## **Use of Covaxin on Children**

The Subject Expert Committee on Covid-19 has approved the “emergency use” of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin vaccine for children aged between 2-18 years old. This was done after, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech submitted the trail data of Phase-2 & Phase-3 trails on children below age of 18 to the Drugs and Comptroller General of India (DCGI).

Covaxin is codenamed as BBV152. It is an inactivated virus-based COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine was developed by Bharat Biotech in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

## **Molnupiravir**

Pharmaceutical company “Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics” announced the early results of Phase-3 trials of its anti-viral drug called molnupiravir. As per the results, Molnupiravir has reduced the chances of hospitalisation by half among COVID-19 patients with mild or moderate symptoms.

Molnupiravir drug has been named as 'EIDD 2801' by the company, where 'E' indicates it was developed at Emory University. The antiviral drugs work by inhibiting a process by which the virus replicates. In case of molnupiravir drug, when tested on cultured cells, it works by altering critical enzymes which are necessary for virus to start replicating the host cells of body.

## **Bal Raksha Kit**

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the AYUSH ministry, has developed "Bal Raksha Kit" which is an immunity boosting kit. This kit has been developed with the aim of amplifying the immunity of children in order to help them fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, that causes covid-19 disease.

Bal Raksha kit contains a syrup made up of basil, giloy, liquorice, cinnamon and dry grapes, which are have amazing medicinal qualities. The kit also comprises of Annu oil, Sitopaladi and Chyawanprash. These products help in boosting the immunity level with regular consumption.

This kit has been developed under the strict guidelines of ministry of Ayush and manufactured by Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) in Uttarakhand.

Apart from Bal Raksha Kit, AIIA has previously developed 'Swasthya Raksha Kit', 'Arogya Raksha Kit' as well as 'Ayu Raksha Kit'.

## **Covid-19 Vaccine delivery through Drones**

In October 2021, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched an initiative to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine delivery using "made in India drones" in the tough & hard-to-reach terrains of Northeast. For the purpose, ICMR has designed a delivery model called "Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)".

This initiative has been launched in line with government's commitment to "Antyodaya in health" that makes healthcare accessible to every citizens in India. This was the first time that a "Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia for transporting COVID-19 vaccine for an aerial distance of 15 km.

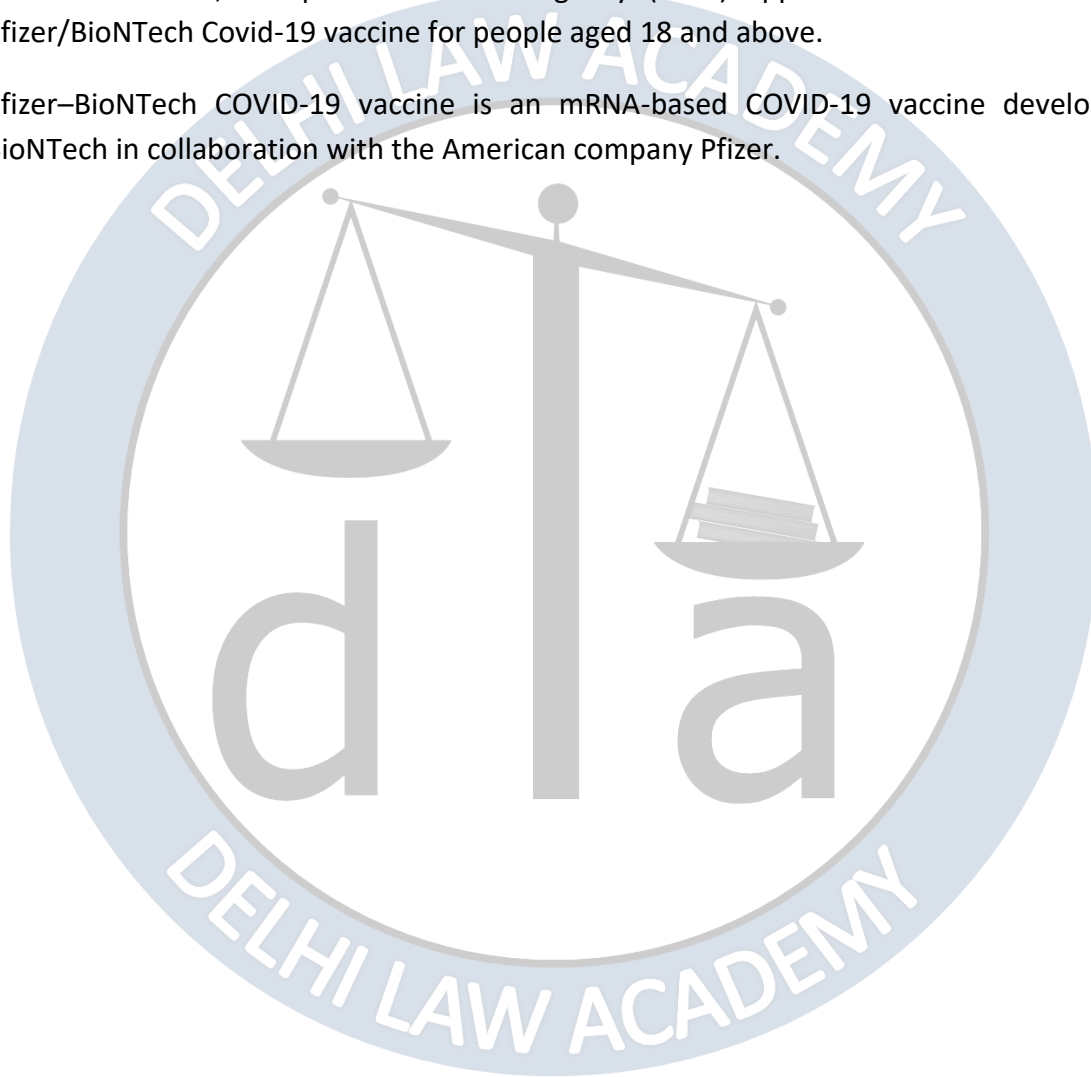


This distance was covered in 12-15 mins from Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur.

### **Covid-19 Booster Doses:**

In October 2021, European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the booster doses of Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for people aged 18 and above.

Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech in collaboration with the American company Pfizer.



## Important Days:

### **04<sup>th</sup> October: World Habitat Day [First Monday of October]**

This day is an initiative of United Nations. This day is observed with the aim of promoting the basic right of adequate shelter and housing for everyone across the world which is densely populated and have been affected due to rapid urbanisation.

The World Habitat Day in 2021 was observed under the theme “Accelerating urban action for a carbonfree world”.

### **7<sup>th</sup> October: World Cotton Day**

World Cotton Day was observed on October 7, across the world, in a bid to raise awareness regarding the cotton sector among people. World Trade Organisation (WTO) had launched the “World Cotton Day” in 2019 at the initiative of four cotton-producing sub-Saharan African states namely Benin, Chad, Burkina Faso and Mali. The day offered an opportunity of sharing knowledge and showcasing cottonrelated activities.

World Cotton Day 2021 was observed under the theme- “Cotton for Good”. This theme celebrates the enduring positive impact of cotton, such as providing employment, giving us natural fibres and protecting environment.

Additionally, according to experts, cotton has a negative carbon footprint because it degrades 95 per cent faster as compared to polyester in wastewater. Thus, it helps in keeping the environment clean.

### **10<sup>th</sup> October: World Mental Health Day**

World Mental Health Day was observed across the world on October 10, 2021 with the objective of raising awareness on mental health issues. The campaign is being organised by the World Health Organisation under the slogan: “Mental health care for all: let’s make it a reality”.

## **12<sup>th</sup> October: World Arthritis Day**

The World Arthritis Day is observed on October 12, each year in a bid to raise awareness regarding the joint diseases which causes suffering from pain and stiffness.

## **13<sup>th</sup> October: International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The day is observed with the aim of promoting a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction. It celebrates how people and communities across the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness regarding the importance of reining in risks that they are facing.

2021 edition of the day focusses on international cooperation of developing countries in order to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses.

## **14<sup>th</sup> October: International e-Waste Day**

The International E-Waste Day (IEWD) is celebrated every year since 2018, to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world with the aim to increase re-use, recovery and recycling rates.

2021 is the fourth edition of the International E-Waste Day. WEEE Forum, an international association of e-waste collection schemes, with the support of its members, initiated the day in 2018.

The theme for 2021 IEWD is “Consumer is the key to Circular Economy!”. This year’s International E-Waste Day will focus on the crucial part each of us has in making circularity a reality for e-products.

## **15<sup>th</sup> October: Global Hand-washing Day**

On October 15, Global Handwashing Day was observed across the world in order to raise awareness and develop better understanding on the importance of hand hygiene in keeping people safe and healthy. Theme of the ‘Global handwashing Day’ in year 2021 is “Our Future is at Hand – Let’s Move Forward Together.”



## **15<sup>th</sup> October: International Day for Rural Women**

International Day for Rural Women 2021 is observed under the theme “Rural women cultivating good food for all”.’

## **16<sup>th</sup> October: World Food Day**

Year 2021 marked the 76th World Food Day. United Nations had found the ‘Food and Agriculture Association (FAO)’ on October 16, 1945. This day in 2021 was celebrated under the theme- “Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow”.

## **17<sup>th</sup> October: International Day for Eradication of Poverty**

The day is observed to recognize and acknowledge the efforts and struggles faced by people, who are pushed to live in poverty. Poverty was proclaimed as violation of human rights on October 17, 1987.

On this day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was also signed in the year 1948. Finally on December 22, 1992, UN General Assembly adopted its resolution 47/196 and proclaimed October 17 as “International Day for the Eradication of Poverty”.





Post (Rajasthan)	First	Current (October 2021)
Chief Justice of Rajasthan	Kamal Kant Verma	Justice Akil Khureshi (38th)
<a href="#">Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)</a>	M. D. Kaurani	D B Gupta
RPSC Chairman	Sir Dr. S K GHOSH	Dr. Bhupendra Singh Yadav
<a href="#">Advocate General of Rajasthan</a>	G.C. Kasliwal	Mahendra Singh Singhvi
<a href="#">Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission</a>	<a href="#">Kanta Kumari Bhatnagar</a>	Gopal Krishan Vyas
<a href="#">Lokayukta of Rajasthan</a>	ID Dua (1973)	Pratap Krishna Lohra
<a href="#">Chief Secretary Rajasthan</a>	K. Radhakrishnan	Niranjan Kumar Arya
Pro-Term Speaker	Maharav Sangram Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
Speaker Vidhan Sabha	Narottam Lal Joshi	Dr. C. P. Joshi
Leader of Opposition	Jaswant Singh	Gulab Chand Kataria
<a href="#">Governor of Rajasthan</a>	Maharaj Man Singh II (1949) Gurumukh Nihal Singh (Reorganised State 1956)	Kalraj Mishra
Rajasthan Financial Commission Chairman		Pradhyuman Singh
Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan (CEO)		Praveen Gupta
State Election Commissioner of Rajasthan (SEC)		Prem Singh Mehra
Chairperson <a href="#">State Commission for Women</a>		-
Chairperson Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights		Sangeeta Beniwal
DGP Rajasthan Police		M L Lather
Deputy Chairman - <a href="#">Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council</a>		Arvind Mayaram



Post (India)	First	Current (October 2021)
<b>Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)</b>	V. Narahari Rao	Girish Chandra Murmu
<b>Chief Justice of India</b>	H. J. Kania	N. V. Ramana
<b>Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)</b>	Sukumar Sen	Sushil Chandra
<b>Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)</b>	Wajahat Habibullah	Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
<b>Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)</b>	Nittoor Srinivasa Rau	Sanjay Kothari
<b>UPSC Chairman</b>	Sir Ross Barker	<a href="#">Pradeep Kumar Joshi</a>
<b>RBI Governor</b>	Osborne Smith	Shaktikanta Das
<b>Lokpal of India</b>	Pinaki Chandra Ghose	Pinaki Chandra Ghose
<b>Financial Commission Chairman</b>	K. C. Neogy	Nand Kishor Singh (15th) (2020-2025)
<b>Speaker Lok Sabha</b>	G. V. Mavalankar	Om Birla
<b>Cabinet Secretary</b>	N. R. Pillai, ICS	Rajiv Gauba

Post (India)	Current (July 2021)
<b>Law Commission Chairman</b>	Balbir Singh Chauhan (21st)
<b>National Commission for SC</b>	Vijay Sampla
<b>National Commission for ST</b>	Harsh Chouhan
<b>Chairman - National Commission for Minorities</b>	<i>Sardar Iqbal Singh Lalpura</i>
<b>Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes</b>	Bhagwan Lal Sahni
<b>National Human Rights Commission - Chairperson</b>	Arun Kumar Misra



<b>Chairperson, National Commission for Women</b>	Rekha Sharma
<b>National Security Adviser</b>	Ajit Kumar Doval
<b>Attorney General of India</b>	K.K Venugopal
<b>Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission</b>	Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
<b>Chairman, ISRO</b>	Kailasavadivoo Sivan
<b>Principal Scientific Adviser</b>	<a href="#">K. VijayRaghavan</a>
<b>Chairman, University Grants Commission</b>	D.P.Singh
<b>Chairman, Central Water Commission of India</b>	S K Haldar
<b>Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI)</b>	Ajay Tyagi
<b>Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India</b>	Subhash Chandra Khuntia
<b>Chairman, 7th Pay Commission</b>	Ashok Kumar Mathur
<b>Chairman, SIDBI</b>	Sivasubramanian Ramann
<b>Chairman, NABARD</b>	Govinda Rajulu Chintala
<b>Chairperson, State Bank of India</b>	Dinesh Kumar Khara
<b>Chairman, IDBI</b>	M R Kumar
<b>Chief Economic Advisor</b>	Krishnamurthy Subramanian
<b>Chief of Army Staff</b>	Manoj Mukund Naravane
<b>Chief of Air Staff</b>	V.R. Chaudhary
<b>Chief of Naval Staff</b>	Karambir Singh
<b>Chief of Integrated Defence Staff</b>	R Hari Kumar
<b>Chief of Defence Staff</b>	Bipin Rawat