

DECEMBER 2021

Diversion of Water from Sabarmati Basin to Rajasthan

In the winter session of Parliament, Pali MP PP Choudhary had raised a question on delay in diversion of water from Sabarmati Basin to Jawai Dam leading to a severe water crisis in the three districts of Rajasthan. The MP sought the speaker's attention on the issue which also involves Gujarat.

The Sabarmati River Basin is spread in four districts in the state — Dungarpur, Pali, Sirohi and Udaipur — while the remaining part is in Gujarat. An enormous amount of water from the basin goes to the Arabian Sea in the absence of the implementation of the proposed diversion of additional water.

This could provide drinking water in 700 villages and nine cities spread in Pali, Jalore and Sirohi.

Genome Sequencing Labs in Rajasthan

With the emergence of Omicron in South Africa, genome sequencing has become important to identify the new variant. In December 2021, the health department has decided to set up genome sequencing laboratories in all medical colleges run by the government. At present, the genome sequencing facility is available only at Sawai Man Singh Medical College in Jaipur.

New Schemes Launched

On the occasion of completion of three years of the tenure of the state government, chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the following new initiatives:

- I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana
- Jagriti-Back to Work Scheme
- Newly created Sakhi Centres in four districts of Jhunjhunu, Churu, Bundi and Hanumangarh.

I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana

On the birth anniversary of the country's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (November 19), the Rajasthan government launched 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 two 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.

Jagriti-Back to Work Scheme

On 30th November 2021, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the state government's 'Back to Work' scheme for women who had to quit their jobs due to family reasons. CM had announced the launch of the 'Back to Work' scheme during the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill for the budget 2021-22.

Salient Features of Back to Work Scheme

- Regular or work-from-home job opportunities will be provided to such women with the help of the private sector.
- A target to provide 15,000 jobs in three years has been fixed. Priority will be given to widows, divorcees and victims of violence.
- Those women who will not be able to do regular office job will be provided work-from-home job opportunities.
- A single window system will be developed by the Directorate of Women's Empowerment and CSR organization to help them in job facilitation.
- Skill and training will also be provided to women through Rajasthan knowledge Corporation Limited (RKCL), to make them employable.

Wheel-chair Clinic

A fully-equipped model wheel-chair Clinic, as per World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, has been developed at the government-run Jaipuria Hospital. The initiative ensures that people don't just get any wheelchair, rather they get the right wheelchair, in the right way - essential for health and mobility.

According to Census 2011, in the state, there are an estimated 15,63,694 persons with disabilities out of which 2,41,049 are persons with mobility disability. The total number of people with mobility disability in Jaipur urban is 6,968 and in Jaipur rural is 10,957.

Covid Vaccine at doorstep

Rajasthan was among the leading states in vaccination, but as of November 2021 end, it has slipped to the ninth position. Now, for scaling up vaccination, the health department is facilitating the availability of vaccines for the beneficiaries at the doorstep. Just call 181 and the health department teams will reach the doorsteps for vaccination camps.

UN body recognises farming practices by tribals in 3 districts

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recognised the farming practices of the tribals in Banswara, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh done without damaging the health of the soil. The UN-funded FAO has found the measures innovative and sustainable for areas that don't have enough resources.

The traditional farming approaches are organic, such as mixed farming, agro approach, the spray of buttermilk, jaggery solution and liquid manure.

A report published on the subject titled, 'Participatory learning action is important for community action to improve soil biodiversity' highlighted how the practice is revitalising soil health. The report was published by VAAGDHARA in Italy on April 19-22. The VAAGDHARA started a campaign - Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) to document the traditional nutrition-sensitive farming practices which are being lost with time.

RSRTC Smart Cards

Prashasan Gaon ke Sang was launched on 2nd October in which 1.08 lakh Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) smart cards were issued by RSRTC to the general public by registering 1.24 lakh in two months for 42 categories of free and concessional travel facility for the convenience of people. These cards were issued to various categories like freedom fighters, armed forces medallists, international medal winners, gallantry awardees, Padma awardees, etc.

Online facility for registration of smart card made by RSRTC for concessional and free travel facility was made available from August 1. Previously people had to physically go to the department office to get it made but now it is being done online and is beneficial especially for senior citizens and persons with disability.

The person availing concessional and free travel facility can upload the original documents for online registration and deposit the prescribed fee online. After uploading, the online documents will be examined and approved by authorised officer. After approval, the RFID card will be made available at the roadways office/house/RFID centre identified by the applicant. From there, the person concerned will be able to get the card.



Panchayat Elections in December 2021

In December 2021, elections to members of panchayat samiti & zila parishad will be conducted in four districts of Baran, Karauli, Ganganagar, and Kota. The elections will be held for 106 zila parishad members, 568 panchayat samiti members, four zila pramukhs/up-zila pramukhs and 30 pradhans./up- pradhans.

The polls will be held in three phases on December 12, 15, and 18. The counting of votes will take place on December 21 at all the district headquarters.

Eliminating AIDS in Rajasthan

Addressing a state-level function on World AIDS Day (01 December), Rajasthan Health minister Parsadi Lai Meena said the government was aiming to eliminate AIDS by 2030. The health department is distributing free medicines and screening for HIV under Prashasan Sheharon and Gaon ke Sang campaigns.

The health department has launched a massive campaign against HIV. The department is running public awareness campaigns at an extensive level in the state. The facility of testing and medicines are available in all medical institutions and any patient without any hesitation can get the treatment. The department is benefiting people living with HIV/AIDS with various social security schemes.

Shiv Singh Rathore

In December 2021, Governor Kalraj Mishra has appointed senior-most member of Rajasthan Public Service Commission Shiv Singh Rathore to perform the duties of the vacant post of chairman in addition to his work. He was given the additional charge of the commission's chairman after the retirement of RPSC chairman Bhupendra Yadav.