

## CURRENT AFFAIRS JAN-FEB 2020

### Rajasthan Budget 2020-21

Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashok Gehlot presented the Rajasthan State Budget for financial year 2020-2021 on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

- The size of the Rajasthan Budget 2020-21 (which is equal to expenditure or receipts of Government of Rajasthan) is INR 2.25 Lac Crore.
- The size of the Union Budget 2020-21 is INR 30.42 Lac Crore.

### Analysis of Rajasthan Budget 2020-21

#### I. Receipts:

- Total = Rs 2,25,764 crore.
- Includes Revenue Receipts (Rs 1,73,404 crore) and Capital Receipts (Rs 52,360 crore).

#### I.1 Revenue Receipts

- Trends:
  - o State Own Tax Revenue > Share in Central Taxes > Union Grant > Non-Tax Revenue
- In State's Own Tax Revenue:
  - o GST > Sales Tax > State's Excise Duty > Tax on Vehicles > Stamps & Registration > Taxes & duties on Electricity > Land Revenue > Other taxes
- In Share in Central Taxes:
  - o Corporation Tax > GST > Income Tax > Custom duty > Union Excise duty > Service Tax > Other Taxes

#### I.2 Capital Receipts:

- Capital Receipts include major component of proceeds from Public Debt, Net Public Account, Contingency Fund.

## II. Expenditure:

- Total = Rs 2,25,731 crore during 2020-21.
- Includes two components Revenue expenditure (Rs 1,85,750 crore) and Capital expenditure (Rs 39,981 crore).

## Budget & Deficit:

- **Budgetary Surplus**

o = (Revenue Receipt - Revenue Expenditure) + (Capital Receipt - Capital Expenditure)  
o = 33 Crore.

- **Revenue Deficit**

o = Revenue Receipt - Revenue Expenditure  
o = 12,345 Crore

- **Fiscal Deficit**

o = Non-Debt creating Receipt - Total expenditure  
o = Revenue Receipt + Recovery of loans + Other receipts - Total Exp.  
o = 33,922 Crore = 2.99% of GSDP

- **Primary Deficit**

o = Fiscal Deficit - Interest Payment  
o = 8,428 Crore

## Highlights of Schemes/Projects Outlay 2020-21:

Rs 1,10,200.82 crore are proposed under Schematic Outlay in Budget Estimates 2020-21. The Sector-wise details of the Schemes outlay is as under:

S. No.	Sector	Proposed Outlay	% to Total
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services	9363.89	8.50
2.	Rural Development	11878.04	10.78
3.	Special Area Programme	76.20	0.07
4.	Irrigation & Flood Control	3620.25	3.28
5.	Power	18505.06	16.79
6.	Industry & Minerals	951.82	0.86
7.	Transport	6834.38	6.20
8.	Scientific Services	12.77	0.01
9.	Social & Community Services	54767.76	49.70
10.	Economic Services	1681.87	1.53
11.	General Services	2508.78	2.28
Total		110200.82	100.00

## New Boards & Funds in Budget 2020

### Rajasthan State Economically Backward Class Board (RSEBCB)

- The RSEBCB will be formed for the welfare of people belonging to economically backward class.

### Board of Investment

- The Board of Investment under the chairmanship of the chief minister has been proposed to expedite approval process for large investment proposals which currently takes 3-6 months.
- As per the existing practices, investment proposals above Rs 100 crore are cleared by a state- level empowered committee, after which they go the cabinet for final

approval. But once the new board gets instituted, the proposals would not require cabinet approval in normal cases.

## **Rajiv@75 Fund**

- The Budget proposed a Rs 75 core fund for startup on the name "Rajiv Gandhi @75 Fund".

## **Pravasi Rajasthani Shramik Kalyan Kosh**

### **Nirogi Rajasthan Management Fund**

- Under Nirogi Rajasthan, a campaign to create awareness among people to prevent all kinds of lifestyle diseases.
- Each village in the state will have two 'swastha mitras' - a male and a female - to spread the door-to-door campaign in the villages.
- Each district will be allocated Rs 1 crore each.

### **Nehru Bal Protection Fund**

- A separate fund of Rs 100 crore has been proposed for the first time for rehabilitation of children, who are rescued from child labour and other children who needs support and care of the state government.

### **Tourism Development Fund**

- The Rs 100-crore tourism development fund will be used for promoting tourism and developing 'ease of traveling policy' in Rajasthan.
- The tourism department will prepare a plan for detailing the areas where the corpus would be spent.

## State Budget 2020-21: Seven focus areas as pledges

The State Budget, for the first time, announced seven focus areas as pledges.

These are:

- First Pledge: Nirogi Rajasthan - Healthcare
- Second Pledge: Prosperity of farmers
- Third Pledge: Welfare of women, child and senior citizens
- Fourth Pledge: Competent workers, students and youth
- Fifth Pledge: Delivery of education
- Sixth Pledge: Water, power and road
- Seventh Pledge: Skill development and technical education

## Rajasthan State Games 2020 inaugurated

- On 2nd January 2020, Rajasthan Chief Minister, inaugurated the 'Rajasthan State Games 2020' at Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur by lighting the torch.
- After Independence, it is for the first time in Rajasthan that State Games are being organised. The state games will take place from 2nd January and continue till January 6 in which approximately 8,000 sportspersons and coaches from different parts of the State are taking part.
- At the inaugural function of State Games-2020, Arjun Awardees sportspersons and those who had glorified Rajasthan at domestic and international level were felicitated. Apart from this, Dronacharya Awardees coaches were also felicitated.
- The sportspersons who were felicitated include Arjun Awardees athlete Ram Singh Shekhawat, Deenaram, Gopal Saini, Krishna Punia, Jagseer Singh, Sundar Singh Gurjar, Archer Rajat Chauhan, Shooter Shagun Choudhary and Apoorvi Chandela, Kabbadi player Pradeep Narwal, State's famous cricketer Salim Duranni and others.

## Jaipur officially accorded World Heritage City status by UNESCO

- In February 2020, UNESCO presented the certificate of World Heritage City to Jaipur. The city of Parkota Jaipur has been listed in the World Heritage list by UNESCO.

- Being included in the list of the World Heritage City would be more helpful in preserving its cultural heritage.

## **Rajasthan requests National Project Status for ERCP**

- In February 2020, Rajasthan has requested the Centre to declare the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) a national project.
- National project status was necessary to give national project status to the initiative to ensure its early implementation.

## **'Udyam Samagam' to be held in every district**

- The department of Industries, GoR would conduct a month-long campaign in the districts to establish a direct communication with the youth, entrepreneurs and the public.
- Consequently, a two-day enterprise meet named as 'Udyam Samagam' will be organised in all the 33 districts of Rajasthan.

## **No Bag Days**

- In the state budget speech 2020, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has proposed that Saturdays will be 'No Bag Day' in all government schools to reduce pressure on schoolchildren.
- The day will be reserved for parent-teacher meets, games, happiness therapy and personality development.

## **Mukti Caravan' to raise awareness on child rights**

- Rajasthan Director General of Police flagged off 'Mukti Caravan', organised jointly by the state police and Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, to raise awareness about social evils such as child abuse, child labour and child trafficking.
- The 'Mukti Caravan' will travel across the state in the next three months to raise public awareness about child rights.

## **Rajasthan govt to tag cattle to develop e-market**

- In February 2020, to develop a market for the cattle and increase the income of the cattle herders, Rajasthan animal husbandry department has launched a new scheme to develop an e-market.
- Under this scheme, the workers of the department will go door to door, to tag the animals on ear and collect all the information required.
- The information will contain - breed, past diseases, milk quantity, vaccination and price.
- After the process is complete, the farmers will be able to sell their animals from the website.
- The buyers can log on to the website, choose the animal of their choice and can then bid on them.
- At first, the scheme has been launched in Jaipur district. Later, other regions of the state will be joined.

## **Rajasthan reconstitutes State Wildlife Board**

- Rajasthan State Government has reconstituted State Wildlife Board with 13 members.
- Rajasthan State Wildlife Board has been constituted under Section-6 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, for effective implementation of wildlife projects and efficient management of protected areas
- The Board will be headed by chief minister Ashok Gehlot. The members include government officials, forest department authorities and others along with wildlife experts.

## **Silicosis-affected families to get benefit of Palanhar scheme**

- The Rajasthan government has decided to extend the benefit of the Palanhar scheme to the children of those suffering from silicosis. This will benefit 15, 828 children of silicosis-affected families in the state.

## Palanhar Scheme:

- Under the Palanhar scheme of the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, the state government provides a grant of Rs 500 per month per child between 0-6 years and Rs 1,000 per month per child aged between 6-18 years.

## Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha extends SC, ST reservation quota in assembly

- On 25th January 2020, Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha approved the extension of SC and ST reservation quota in the state assembly by another 10 years in the state.
- The parliament had passed the Constitution (126th) Amendment Act for the extension of SC/ST quota in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies on December 12, 2019. Thereafter, the Act was sent to the states for rectification.

## Ration card to club with Jan Aadhaar card

- The Rajasthan IT department is working on amalgamation of ration card with the Jan Aadhaar card.
- The ration card is all set to be revised and the state government has decided to introduce smart ration cards in the state.

## SMS becomes State's first government hospital to conduct heart transplant

- In January 2020, Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur became the first government hospital to conduct heart transplant in Rajasthan. Also, this was fifth such operation in the city.
- On August 2, 2015, the first heart transplant of the state was conducted at a private hospital - Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Hospital (MGMCH) in Jaipur.

## Eco-Sensitive Zone around Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve

- In January 2020, the MOEFCC has issued a draft notification to declare a 1 km eco-sensitive zone around Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (MHTR) spread over 759.99 sq. km covering the four districts of Kota, Bundi, Chittorgarh and Jhalawar.



- The eco-sensitive zone will be treated as a 'breathing space' for wildlife. It is demarcated based on their ecological importance which reigns in development activities inimical to wildlife and their habitats.
- While the zone will be completely compatible to livelihoods of local communities living around the tiger reserve, it will bring the order on tourism, mining activities, industries and other footloose development activities disrupting wildlife corridors outside reserve boundary.

### **'Ghoonghat Mukht Jaipur' Campaign**

- The district administration of Jaipur kicked off its 'Ghoonghat Mukht Jaipur' campaign in the city.
- Under the campaign, awareness will be created among both men and women about the regressive practice which stands as an obstacle to women empowerment and gender equality in society.
- Women in the district will also be motivated not to wear ghoonghat when they come to vote during panchayat elections.
- Besides, awareness will be created through WhatsApp and other social media platforms, Gargi and Meena Manch in schools and Mahila Gram Sabhas in the villages.

### **State Health Minister launches Campaign against Teenage Pregnancy**

- In January 2020, Rajasthan government launched a programme to discourage teenage pregnancy to bring down the number of maternal and infant mortalities in the state.
- Rajasthan is one of the states reporting the highest number of child marriages resulting in early motherhood.
- As per the National Family Health Survey-4 data, 35 per cent of girls in the state were married before the age of 18 and more than six per cent of these girls either had children or were pregnant at the time of the survey.

### **Govt's new initiatives to boost higher education**

- Under '**New Initiatives in College**' initiatives will be taken in colleges and enhance the quality of higher education.
- '**Commissioner Ki Class**' will be started, under which education commissioner will take classes in government colleges to prepare students for competitive exams.
- Under '**Rajasthan Healthier Youth and Moral education**' which is meant for students of all the private and government colleges in Rajasthan, health issues and moral values will be discussed.
- A programme titled '**Girls Empowerment and Mentoring**' for the young girls, will start which will focus on the overall development of girls especially revolving around health and safety issues. Women teachers will be trained who will further mentor the girls.
- "**Administrative Efficiency and Progressive Learning Effort**" programme to provide quality education to students and this will incorporate the principals and senior faculty members of the colleges.
- Various inter-state games and sports tournaments will be organised under the "**Arjun Drishti Programme**" to provide better opportunities to students interested in sports.
- Following the footsteps of '**Pratiyogita Dakshta Programme**' in government colleges, similar classes will be organised even in private colleges, which will be available to students for free.

## **NCRB releases Rajasthan's Crime Data for 2018**

- In January 2020, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released data in relation to registered crimes in state of Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan witnessed a marginal increase of 1.9% in crimes registered in 2018 in comparison to 2017.
- There was a dip in the cyber-crimes recorded in the state with the number decreasing from 1,304 cases in 2017 to 1,104 in 2018.
- Rajasthan (now 2nd) has been replaced by Uttar Pradesh as the state with most economic offences. The state accounts for 13.6% of total economic offences in the country.

- The biggest increase was observed in the crimes committed by foreigners which went up from 9 to 33 from 2017 to 2018.
- A total of 86 cases of human trafficking were also recorded which made of up 3.5% share of the country with a crime rate of 0.1 cases per lakh population.
- According to data, Rajasthan ranks fifth in the country when it comes to crime against women. With 27,866 cases registered, the number of cases spiked by 1,873 as compared to previous year.
- In crime against children, the figures decreased from 5,180 cases in 2017 to 5,150 in 2018.
- Crime against senior citizens also came down with 102 lesser cases recorded in 2018.
- Rajasthan has an average of 327.1 cases registered per lakh population.

## Locust Problem in Rajasthan

- Locust attack in Rajasthan and Gujarat during 2019-20 is believed to be one of the worst in last 60 years. It has been estimated that locusts have damaged crops across an area of at least 3.6 lakh hectares in 10 districts of Western Rajasthan.
- According to LWO, the last major locust attack in Rajasthan was witnessed in 1993.

## What are Locusts?

- Locusts are a collection of certain species of short-horned grasshoppers that have a swarming phase. These insects are usually solitary, but under certain circumstances they become more abundant and change their behaviour and habits, becoming gregarious.
- **Locust Swarm:** Locust swarm can fly at speed of more than 15km/hr and cover a distance of more than 100 Km / day. These swarms can be as large as 80 million individuals.

## Damage due to Locust attack

- According to FAO, a swarm of locusts, which contains about 40 million insects and can eat the same amount of food in one day as 35,000 people.

- Locusts devour leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, bark, & growing points and can also destroy plant by their sheer weight as they descend on them in large numbers.

### **Area under attack of locust in Rajasthan**

- In Rajasthan, the districts of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu, Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh and Nagaur are under locust threat.

### **Government Action**

- Locust Warning Organisation (LWO), Jodhpur has launched efforts on a war footing to control locusts. Teams carrying equipment have been rushed to the villages to spray high-intensity malathion insecticide to prevent the spread of locusts to other areas.
- 54 teams of the Agriculture Department are surveying and monitoring the situation. The LWO has set up a helpline for farmers in the State.

### **Swasthya Mitras to be deployed in Rajasthan**

- Apart from the existing fleet of auxiliary nurse midwives, ASHA and anganwadi workers in every village, the health department of Rajasthan is planning to deploy 'swasthya mitras' in each village to bridge the gap between the health department and patients.
- The move also aims to bring down maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality rate along with improving other health indicators such as immunisation, institutional deliveries, ante-natal check-ups and also aimed at encouraging people to adopt family planning measures.
- There are more than 40,000 villages in the state. The department is planning to have two swasthya mitras— one man and a woman in each village. A total of 80,000 swasthya mitras, on voluntary basis, will be selected from the villages.

### **Social justice department portal to be integrated with CCTNS**

- The department of social justice and empowerment will be integrating its web portal, meant for financial assistance to the victims under SC/ST Prevention of

Atrocities Act, with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) of police department.

## **State Government to form guidelines for using M-sand for construction**

- The state government said since sand mining on riverbed is banned by the Supreme Court, it will form guidelines to use manufactured sand (M-sand) for constructions undertaken by its departments/agencies.

## **What is M-Sand ?**

- 'Manufactured Sand', also known as M-Sand, is derived from locally available materials in abundance like granite, quartzite, basalt, silica and sandstone in different regions of the state.

## **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.

## **Nine new privately run trains from Rajasthan**

- The Union budget announcement of allowing private players to operate 150 trains on 100 identified routes will also benefit rail passengers of six cities in Rajasthan in getting connected to other cities.
- Six trains would operate from Jaipur and one each from Ajmer, Kota and Jodhpur to various destinations across the country. Trains would run from Jaipur to Kota, Jaipur to Ajmer, Jaipur to Udhampur, Jaipur to Mumbai, Jaipur to Delhi and Jaipur to Bengaluru to start with.

- The private players will have to give Rs 668 per km and will also give a bigger chunk of revenue sharing on the route.

## Navjaat Suraksha Yojana

- The health department of Rajasthan Government is formulating a policy named 'Navjaat Suraksha Yojana' for care of neonates. The scheme aims to bring down infant mortality rate (IMR) in the state.
- In the state, the infant mortality rate is 35 deaths per 1,000 live births. According to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, the IMR in the state was 41 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The health department is aiming to bring down IMR further by formulating a 'Navjaat Suraksha Yojana', Nirogi Rajasthan and initiatives like kangaroo mother care.

## Promoting Kangaroo Mother Care

- Aiming to improve healthcare facilities for neonates, the health department has decided to also include kangaroo mother care in 'Nirogi Rajasthan' initiative of the state government.
- The health department is promoting the technique claiming that it provides continuous skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby and exclusive breastmilk feeding to keep the baby healthy.
- The State health department is promoting it as it does not require separate funds. It is a low-cost technique which is highly practical and has potential to save millions of new-borns without any burden on healthcare cost.
- The department has 77 master trainers in kangaroo mother care and they will go to district and block level to train the healthcare staff.

## Persons & Places in News:

## Yash Mishra

- Yash Mishra, a student of Class IX in Kota, has been felicitated with Bal Shakti Puraskar 2020 by president Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on January 22.

## Dharpal Jalori

- Dharpal Jalori took charge as chairman of Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (RBSE). The post was vacant since 2018.

## Gulab Kothari

- Rajasthan Patrika group Chairman Gulab Kothari was chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.

## C. P. Joshi

- Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha Speaker, C. P. Joshi, has been appointed as the head of three-member committee to review the powers of presiding officers under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law)

## Hridayeshwar Singh Bhati

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2020 award to Hridayeshwar Singh Bhati in the Innovation category

## Ruma Devi

- Born near Rajasthan's Barmer district, 31-year-old handicraft artisan Ruma Devi, was recently honoured by the IMC Ladies' Wing with their prestigious Jankidevi Bajaj Puraskar.

- Her entrepreneurial movement has now touched over 22,000 women at the grassroots and led her to the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar', the highest civilian honour for women in India.

### Inderjeet Singh

- President Ram Nath Kovind awarded Alwar district collector Inderjeet Singh on the occasion of the 10th National Voters' Day (25<sup>th</sup> January), for conceptualising and implementing m-SVEEP mobile application during Lok Sabha elections in the district.

### Hindu Singh & Mukut Singh

- Hindu Singh and Mukut Singh of Rajasthan Police were awarded President's Police Police Medal for outstanding work in various fields on the Republic Day.

### Vijaydaan detha

- English translation of author, Vijaydaan Detha's book "Baatan Ri Phulwari" was released by Rajasthan's Chief Minister during Jaipur Literature Festival, 2020.

### Padma Shri 2020 Awardee from Rajasthan

Personality	From	Field
Himmata Ram Bhambhu	Nagore	Social Work
Munna Master	Bagru, Jaipur	Art
Sundaram	Sikar	Social Work
Usha Choumar	Alwar	Social Work
Anwar Khan Mangiyaar	Jaisalmer	Art

### Ashutosh Sharma

- Ashutosh Sharma has been given additional charge of Rajasthan State's Chief Information Commissioner



## **Nandkishore Acharya and Ramswaroop Kisan**

- Nandkishore Acharya of Bikaner and Ramswaroop Kisan of Hanumangarh were awarded the prestigious Sahitya Academy Award 2019.
- Nandkishore Acharya — (Chilte hue Apne ko)
- Ramswaroop Kisan — (Barik Baat)

## **Divyansh Singh Panwar**

- Shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar, was presented the Golden Target award by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) at its headquarters in Munich, Germany.

## **Kachnar Chaudhary**

- Kachnar Chaudhary won Bronze Medal in Shotput in the 13<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## **Shri Krishna Sharma**

- Rajasthan Police Constable Shri Krishna Sharma won gold medal (91 kg weight category) in the Asian Grand Slam boxing tournament held in China.

## **IIT Jodhpur**

- IIT Jodhpur has developed Rajasthani clay-based solid lubricant for industrial applications.
- This lubricant works well in temperatures ranging between -50 and 1,100 degrees with very low friction, resulting in less wearing of machines.

## **Bagru, Jaipur**

- An artisan from Bagru village, belonging mostly to the Chippa caste (a community of painters), has been served a legal notice for using the word 'Bagru' for selling his

product. The artisans of Bagru have countered the claim and said that they have already received the Geographical Indication (GI) in 2009.

## **MBM College, Jodhpur**

- The MBM Engineering College in Jodhpur is set to run as a petroleum and earth sciences university from the coming session aimed at tapping the growing demand for engineers in the sectors related to crude oil.
- This will be state's second subject specific university after Rajasthan Sports University in Jhunjhunu.

## **Jaipur, Airport**

- The terminal 2 of the Jaipur airport has secured third position in cleanest and safest airport category, handling more than 50 lakh passengers per year.
- The survey was conducted by the ministry of civil aviation and it was named as Swachhata Awards 2019.
- Kolkata secured top slot, while Chennai came second.

## **Menar Lake, Udaipur**

- Menar, famous as bird village has been listed as Important Bird Area (IBA).

## **Dadiya, Jaipur**

- Dadiya village in Jaipur is being planned to develop as the first organic village of Rajasthan. The initiatives have been taken under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana & Doubling farmer's income by 2022.

## **Mahajan Field Range, Bikaner**

- More than 40,000 soldiers of strike core number 2 of Indian army tested their firing power and fighting skills at Mahajan firing range in Bikaner district in war exercise Khadag Shakti.

## Jaisalmer

- The Union government will set up Ultra-mega renewable energy parks of a total of 50 gigawatt (GW) in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The ministry has identified Khavada in Gujarat and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan for renewable energy parks of 25,000 megawatt each.

## Nokh, Jaisalmer

- The Rajasthan Government announced that it is in discussion with NTPC Ltd to ink a pact, to deliver a 925 Mega Watt (MW) solar park in Nokh, Jaisalmer, which would fetch investments worth Rs 4,000 crores. As per the State Solar Policy 2019, it is aimed to achieve a target of 30,000 MW solar power projects for the state.

## Rohili, Sikar

- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is gearing up to mine uranium ore discovered at the Rohili in Rajasthan's Sikar district.
- The deposit, spread across 22 hectares of land in the Aravalli ranges in Rajasthan, is estimated to yield 10,000 tons of uranium ore to fuel India's nuclear reactors.
- It the fourth largest in the country after Tummalapalle, Chitrial and Peddagattu extension in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Uranium Corporation of India Eimited (UCIE), is currently working to construct new tunnel shafts to source out the uranium ore.