

## RAJASTHAN CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY – JUNE 2020

### PERSONS IN NEWS

#### Shri Rajeeva Swarup

- On 2nd July 2020, the State Government has appointed Shri Rajeeva Swarup as the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan. He was currently additional chief secretary (home).
- ACS (health) Rohit Kumar Singh, who has been heading the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Rajasthan, will replace Rajeeva Swarup as ACS (home).
- Akhil Arora, who was principal secretary, social justice and empowerment department, will now hold the charge of medical, health and family welfare department.

#### Murlidhar Pratihar

- Bundi Zila Parishad's chief executive officer (CEO) Murlidhar Pratihar has been selected for the state level e- governance award 2018 - 19 by department of information technology and communication (IT&C) for the better execution of online government schemes of the department of rural development and Panchyatiraj on Panchyat Enterprise Suit.

#### Bhavna Jaat

- Rajasthan's Bhavna Jat, India's race walker created a new national record and won her seventh National Pedestrian Championship at the 7<sup>th</sup> National Open Race Walking Championships in Ranchi. She is from Kabra village in Rajsamand district. Bhavna has also confirmed the ticket for this year's Tokyo Olympics.

#### Ravi Bishnoi



- Ravi Bishnoi from Jodhpur, who was part of India's Under-19 World Cup squad, emerged the leading wicket taker of ICC U19 World Cup in South Africa. He is a right-arm leg spin bowler.

## Karraj Mishra

- Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu released the book written by Rajasthan Governor Shri Kalraj Mishra titled "Bharat mein Udhya mata".

## Ruma Devi

- Ruma Devi from Barmer delivered lectures on women empowerment & handicrafts at Harvard India Conference.

## Vishwas Mehta

- 1986 batch IAS officer Vishwas Mehta from Dungarpur Rajasthan, took over as the new Chief Secretary of Kerala.

## Rukmeya Meena

- Rukmaiya Meena hailing from Kaspuria in Nainwa subdivision of Bundi district, Rajasthan, has been awarded the World Peace Award by the United Nations Organization as an International Liaison Officer. Rukmeya is a senior administrative officer in railway at Prayagraj.

## PLACES IN NEWS

### RISU Jaipur

- Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) will allot 23 acres free of cost to establish the Rajasthan ILD Skills University (RISU) at Chop village on Sikar Road under 'Knowledge City' project.
- Additionally, the state government had allotted 30 acres for free near the petroleum refinery near Pachpadra Village in Barmer district to the university which will be developed as an energy village.

## MPUAT, Udaipur

- An MoU has been inked between Udaipur's Maharana Pratap University for Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) and Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner, for joint collaboration in the field of organic farming, animal husbandry and good farming practices for five years.

## 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. The airport authorities would be getting an appreciation award in this regard. Kolkata secured top slot, while Chennai came second.

## Shark teeth fossils discovered in Barmer

- In a major discovery, geologists have found a large number of shark teeth fossils in Barmer district proving that the entire area was under the sea some 58 million years ago. The experts found the fossils in late Palaeocene rocks aged around 58 million years old exposed in a Fuller's Earth (locally known as Multani Mitti).
- The site of discovery is near Giral lignite mine, around 40km from Barmer district headquarters. Geologists have also found fossils of shark and other animals at Sultana village and Bandha village in Jaisalmer.

## ENVIRONMENT

### GIB included in Appendix I of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

- The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India had proposed to include three species- the Asian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal Florican in the list of 'migratory species threatened with extinction', under the CMS-COP 13.

- Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13. Seven species were added to Appendix I, which provides the strictest protection: the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Florican, Little Bustard, Antipodean Albatross and the Oceanic White-tip Shark.
- The Urial, Smooth Hammerhead Shark and the Tope Shark were listed for protection under Appendix II, which covers migratory species that have an unfavourable conservation status and would benefit from enhanced international cooperation and conservation actions.

### CMS COP13

- The theme of CMS COP13 is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home."
- The Government of India also issued a special stamp edition featuring the Great Indian Bustard - the mascot of COP13.
- CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by '**Kolam**', a traditional art form from southern India. In the logo of CMS COP-13, Kolam art form is used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur falcon, humpback whale and marine turtles.
- The mascot for CMS COP13, "**Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard**" is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



'Gibi' the enchanting Great Indian Bustard, representing all the endangered species that need our love, care, and protection.



## About CMS

- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention is an international treaty concluded under aegis of UN Environment Programme (UNEP), concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.
- Bonn Convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn (H.Q), Germany and entered into force in 1983. It aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- CMS is only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

## Other Relevant Information

- India is Signatory to the CMS since 1983. As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years.
- The Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Fly way (CAF) that covers areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and covers at least 279 populations of 182 migratory water bird species, including 29 globally threatened species.

- India is home to several migratory species of wildlife including snow leopard, Amur falcons, bar headed Geese, black necked cranes, marine turtles, dugongs, humpbacked whales, etc.
- India has signed non legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).

### **Helicopter for Locust Control**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, a Bell 206-B3 Helicopter was flagged off with spray equipment for Air Force Station in Rajasthan's Barmer from the helipad facility in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar.
- The Helicopter will be deployed for locust control in the desert areas of Rajasthan. Districts that the Helicopter will cover are Nagaur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur.

### **Chambal River & its Tributaries to be part of Namami Gange**

- Union Government has included Chambal & its tributaries in Phase-3 of Namami Gange. There will be works to develop water conservation, soil conservation-forest area in five-five km on either side of Chambal river and two-two km on either side of Mej river. For this, trees will be planted, check dams will be built, the flow of rivers will be slowed, so that soil erosion, dirt can be prevented from reaching the Yamuna.
- Rivers included in the project includes:
  1. Chambal River
  2. Mej river of Bundi
  3. Parwan & Parvati of Baran
  4. Banas of Sawai Madhopur
  5. Gambhiri

### **District in-charge ministers now head of DMFT fund**

- In a major change, the state government has made the district in-charge ministers, the chairman of governing council of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) fund, replacing the district collectors. The district collectors would now be vice-chairmen.
- The fund was created in 2016 for the interest and benefit of persons in areas affected by mining and its related operations. DMFT is funded through contributions from the mineral concession holders in the districts.
- Major contribution towards the fund is the 10% of royalty of minor minerals, same percentage of royalty from e-auction and 30% of the royalty of the major minerals. Now, the district collectors will be vice-chairmen and all MTAs and MPs in the district will be members of the trust. There is about Rs 2700 crore in the fund now.

### Rare Butterflies spotted in Rajasthan

- Scientists from the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Mohanlal Sukhadia University working on sloth bear ecology at the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary in Southern Rajasthan spotted a very rare lilac **Silverline butterfly**. This species of butterfly was discovered in the 1880s, but only one resident population was known from Bengaluru.
- In another incident, after 67 years, the **Desert Grizzled Skipper** species of butterfly has been spotted in Thar desert. This butterfly was believed to have become extinct in India. Zoology assistant professor at SB Government College in Jaisalmer, Dr Shyam Sunder Meena, who is doing a research on butterflies for the last many years, claimed to have found the species in Amarsagar area of the district.

### Rare Red-necked Phalaropes spotted at Sambhar Lake

- In a first, pairs of Red-necked **Phalarope**, a rare species of wetland birds, have chosen India's biggest inland saline wetland Sambhar Lake as their breeding habitat. Usually, Phalarope breeds in the Arctic regions of North America and Eurasia. During migration, they pause on shallow ponds in Rajasthan.

### Contagious skin disease hits foxes in Desert National Park

- An outbreak of sarcoptic mange, a highly contagious skin disease, has been discovered among the desert fox population in the Desert National Park (DNP) of the

state. As per the state forest department wildlife census report, 2019, there are around 1,000 foxes of both species — Indian Fox and Desert Fox — in Jaisalmer district.

### Legal protection for Bats

- In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, which has given rise to widespread hostility and fear towards bats among the people, Rajasthan's chief wildlife warden has issued a circular to all deputy conservators of forests in the state to educate people against harming these flying mammals.
- A warning has also been issued to take legal action if anyone is found killing or harming bats or their habitat in the state. After Karnataka, Rajasthan has become the second state to protect these mammals amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Bats fall under **Schedule V of Indian Wildlife Act, 1972** and till date, there was no provision of punishment for killing them.

### Salvadora trees in Delhi

- Salvadora trees, locally known as peelu (meethi jal), found in the desert areas of western Rajasthan will soon be seen at parks, including the one at Sansad Bhawan in New Delhi. The tree's fruit is not only tasty, but also has many medicinal values. IMG Sanstha of Gurugram has ordered its seeds from a farmer in Jaisalmer and will be sown in many parks in Delhi.

### People's Biodiversity Register soon in Rajasthan

- Rajasthan will soon have its own People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) at every block level. First-of-its-kind in the state, this register is expected to help conserve biodiversity and knowledge of traditional medicines of the state.
- According to the **Biodiversity Act, 2002**, there has to be a biodiversity management committee at every gram panchayat level which will later prepare a PBR. This was, however, never implemented due to the complexity and requirement of staff until a case was filed in National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2016. In the case **Chandrapal vs Union of India, 2016**, NGT ordered all states to take this seriously and prepare a register.

- Rajasthan started the process of preparing the Act but it got delayed due to the pandemic. Now, with some relaxations in the lockdown, the process is expected to speed up.
- Registration of all the biodiversity in the state will help in future as this has international acceptance. After preparing this register, if some pharmaceutical company takes some resources to prepare medicines using the traditional knowledge and raw materials of a region, the villagers will get a share out of the profit the company is making. This register has value in intellectual property rights as well.
- This will also help in keeping a tab on over-exploitation of bio-resources in the state. In Rajasthan, there are around 10,000 gram panchayats and samitis, and to prepare a register there is a need of at least Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh per panchayat i.e. Rs 100 crore for the state. To get enough manpower for preparing this register, Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board has gotten in touch with universities and colleges.

### Draft EIA Notification 2020

- Recently, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEFCC), extended the deadline for public comments for draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020 by 45 days amidst the nationwide lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic. The new deadline was posted as 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

### What is Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to evaluate environmental impact of proposed developmental projects or programs and through which clearance is accorded after mitigation strategies are included in the plan. It is a study to evaluate and identify the predictable environmental consequences and the best combination of economic and environmental costs and benefits of the proposed project.
- On the basis of EIA, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared, which is a description of the means by which the environmental consequences as pointed out in the EIA will be mitigated. Together the whole draft is termed as EIA-EMP report.
- EIA was introduced in India in 1978, with respect to river valley projects. Later the EIA legislation was enhanced to include other developmental sections. Later, the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification was issued on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006

and mandated all developmental projects to abide by the country's environmental laws.

### What is the Draft EIA Notification 2020?

- This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2020 is set to replace and supersede the EIA Notification 2006, which is currently in use.
- The draft notification is issued under the powers vested in the central government under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** to take all such measures for "protecting and improving the quality of the environment.
- Additionally, the violations can only be reported by the project developer himself and/or government authorities. Not citizens or the civil society.
- New construction projects up to 1,50,000 sq m do not need detailed scrutiny by an expert committee or EIA. Earlier it was 20,000 sq m. The draft notification provides for a reduction of the time period from 30 days to 20 days for the public to submit their responses during a public hearing for any application seeking environmental clearance.

### World Environment Day 2020

- The **UN Environment Programme** (UNEP or UN Environment) annually organizes events for World Environment Day, which encourages worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment.
- It is celebrated on **5 June** in over 100 countries. In 2020, Columbia will host the global World Environment Day celebrations. World Environment Day 2020 calls for urgent action to protect biodiversity.

### History of World Environment Day

- World Environment Day [WED] was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972. The first WED was held in 1974 with the theme "Only One Earth". Since then, World Environment Day is celebrated on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June every year and has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, human over-population, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

- World Environment Day has grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually. Each year, World Environment Day has a new theme that major corporations, NGOs, communities, governments and celebrities worldwide adopt to advocate environmental causes.

## **World Environment Day 2020**

- World Environment Day offers a global platform for inspiring positive change. It recognizes that global change requires a global community. Every World Environment Day is hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place. The idea for rotating the centre of these activities through selecting different host countries began in 1987. This year's host is Colombia in partnership with Germany.

## **World Environment Day 2020 Theme:**

- In 2020, the theme is biodiversity—a concern that is both urgent and existential. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa—and now, a global disease pandemic—demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life in which they exist.

## **World Environment Day 2020 in India**

- In view of the prevalent situation due to COVID-19 pandemic MoEFCC will be holding virtual celebrations of World Environment Day on this year's theme with focus on Urban Forest. MoEFCC has relaunched a scheme for creating urban forest in 200 corporations and cities because all these cities have gardens but not forest. The urban forest will help in creating and enhancing the lung capacities of these cities.

## **Biodiversity in India**

- India though having less land mass and more human and cattle population has nearly 8 percent of biodiversity. The country is endowed with rich biodiversity having several species of animals and plants and hosts 4 of the 35 global bio-diversity hotspots containing several endemic species.

## Power Ministry launches the '#iCommit' initiative on WED 2020

- On the occasion of World Environment Day 2020, Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy initiated the '**#iCommit**' campaign. The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.

The initiative will also celebrate and promote key undertakings of Government of India such as

- National Electric Mobility Mission 2020
- FAME 1 and 2
- DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana
- the Saubhagya Scheme
- Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojna (UDAY)
- Atal Distribution system Improvement Yojna (AJAY)
- Smart Meter National Programme
- Pradhanmantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evamUtthan Mahaabhiya (KUSUM)
- Solar Parks, Grid Connected Rooftop
- Unnatjyoti by Affordable LED for All (UJALA)
- Atal Jyoti Yojana (AJAY)

## World Bank approves 500 Million dollars under STARS Program

- The World Bank Group has announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India. The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India.
- The loan was approved as a part of the **STARS Program**. The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

## The Stars Program:

- STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Teaming and Results for States Program. Since 1994 the program has helped in establishing a long partnership between India and the World Bank.
- Through the program, the World Bank Group has provided greater flexibility to the vision of the Indian Government to provide 'Education for AIT. The Government of India has made significant strides in its vision over the years as the number of students going to school has increased to 248 million from 219 million between the 2004-05 to 2018-19 period

## 2.8 kg 'meteorite'-like object falls from sky in Rajasthan's Sanchore

- A 'meteorite'-like object fell from the sky in Sanchore town of Rajasthan's Jalore district creating a 2-3 feet deep crater. It weighed around 2.8 kg.

## What Are Meteorites ?

- A meteorite is the term given to a piece of a comet or asteroid that falls into the Earth's atmosphere and survives to hit the surface.

## No city from Rajasthan in garbage-free city star ratings

- A list of garbage-free cities was released by the housing and urban affairs ministry in May 2020 and none of the cities from the state was able to make the cut. Garbage-free cities are given star ratings (seven stars being the highest) that will overall impact its ranking in Swachhta Survekshan 2020 results. Jaipur, Ajmer, Dungarpur, Udaipur and other three cities applied from Rajasthan but none of them got any star.

## 16 New Municipalities formed in Rajasthan

- In June 2020, the department of local self-government announced the formation of 16 new municipalities in Rajasthan.

The districts where new municipalities have been created are -

- Jaipur - Bassi & Pavta Municipality

- Alwar - Taxmangarh & Bansur Municipality
- Dausa - Mandavari Municipality
- Jodhpur - Bhopalgarh Municipality
- Sirohi - Javal Municipality
- Bharatpur - Sikari & Uchhain Municipality
- Karauli - Sapotara Municipality
- Kota - Sultanpur Municipality
- Sriganganagar - Talgarh-Jatan Municipality
- Baran - Ataru Municipality
- Dholpur - Sirmathura & Basedi Municipality

### **21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 Solar Eclipse in India**

- On 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020, 12 countries across the world witnessed rare celestial event, annular solar eclipse, popularly called as ring of fire eclipse. The first 2020 solar eclipse took place on the **summer solstice** (21 June), which is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.
- While people living along the path annular eclipse passing through Anupgarh, Suratgarh, Sirsa, Jakhal, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Dehradun, Tapowan and Joshimath saw the annular phase, people in rest of India witnessed a partial eclipse. The next solar eclipse that will be visible from India will take place on October 25, 2022.

### **Solar Eclipse & Annular Solar Eclipse**

- A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partly obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. Thus, the moon blocks the light of the sun from reaching Earth. This causes an eclipse of the sun, or solar eclipse. During a solar eclipse, the moon casts a shadow onto Earth.

### **Types of Solar Eclipse:**

- Based on the alignment, there are three kinds of solar eclipses — total, partial, and annular — along with the addition of a rare hybrid of an annular and a total solar eclipse.

### Total Solar Eclipse

- A total solar eclipse is only visible from a small area on Earth. The people who see the total eclipse are in the center of the moon's shadow when it hits Earth.
- The sky becomes very dark, as if it were night. For a total eclipse to take place, the sun, moon and Earth must be in a direct line.

### Partial Solar Eclipse

- The second type of solar eclipse is a partial solar eclipse. This happens when the sun, moon and Earth are not exactly lined up. The sun appears to have a dark shadow on only a small part of its surface.

### Annular Solar Eclipse

- The third type is an annular solar eclipse. An annular eclipse happens when the moon is farthest from Earth. Because the moon is farther away from Earth, it seems smaller. Hence, the apparent diameter of moon is smaller. As a result, it does not block the entire view of the sun. The moon in front of the sun looks like a dark disk on top of a larger sun-colored disk. This creates what looks like an **annulus** (a ring) around the moon.
- Solar eclipses happen once every 18 months. Unlike lunar eclipses, solar eclipses only last for a few minutes.

### MoU for Smart Classes

- A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Rajasthan government, Power Grid Corporation of India and Educational Consultant India Limited to set up smart classrooms in 100 government schools and to make available e-content of syllabus from classes I to XII. The project will cost around Rs 1.85 crore.

## MoU for dairy research

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) Udaipur and the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Karnal to promote and accelerate the progress of research and training in various fields of technology development for enhancing productivity and profitability of dairy animals.
- NDRI, governed by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, is India's premier institute on dairy research.

## 37 new degree colleges to come up at block levels

- The state higher education department will start 37 new degree colleges at tehsil and block levels from this academic session (2020-21).
- It is expected to create additional 10,000 to 12,000 seats, giving a much-needed stimulus to the gross enrolment ratio of the state, which is just 3.7% behind the national average. These colleges will operate from abandoned government buildings or community centres till they get their own buildings.
- These colleges were announced in the state budget 2020-21, weeks before the lockdown was announced, putting the plan in a fix. Thereafter, no progress was made for opening of these colleges till May due to Covid-19 situation in the state.

## Information of 33 districts to be revised in gazetteer

- The state government will rewrite the gazetteer of all 33 districts of the state in a phased manner. Under this programme, every year, the gazetteer of at least six districts will be written and published. It is noteworthy that all the district gazetteers published earlier are from 15 to 40 years old.

## Rajasthan Land Pooling Schemes Act 2016, Rules 2020 notified

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020, the urban development and housing (UDH) department has notified the rules and regulations 2020 for the **Rajasthan Land Pooling Scheme 2016**.

- Among other provisions, as per the new rules, owners whose land has been acquired will now receive 45% of the developed land as compensation. This was earlier at 25%.

- The civic body will give developed proportionate piece of land with all necessary infrastructure, including roads, parks and open spaces, to the land owner. With this, Rajasthan joined other states such as Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in implementing the Act.

### Chiddi Balia

- Radheshyam Pipalwa, a young filmmaker from Shekhawati region of Sikar district, Rajasthan, has made a film '**Chiddi Balia**' on badminton. The film received silver award at United States Global Music Awards.

### Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot requested Union Government to confer national project status to Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), In Rajasthan Budget 2018. The Chief Minister has announced several schemes to the tune of Rs 52,000 crore, including development of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) at cost of Rs 37,500 crore.

### Background of ERCP

- The surface water of Rajasthan has been divided into **15 River basins** and one outside basin area. It is estimated that out of fifteen river basins **surplus water is available only in Chambal and Mahi basin**.
- Within Chambal basin, during rainy season Kunnu, Kul, Parvati, Kalisindh, Mez, and Chakan sub-basins are also having surplus yield, while Banas, Banganga, Ghambhiri and Parvati sub-basins are deficit in yield.
- Hence, Eastern Rajasthan Canal Projects (ERCP) is planned to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers and transfer to deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan.

### Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project: ERCP

- Under the project the surplus water in the sub basins of Kunnu, Kul, Parvati, Kalisindh and Mej rivers received during monsoon has to be carried to the sub basin of Banas, Morel, Banganga, Gambhir and Parvati rivers.

- ERCP is planned to meet the Drinking water needs of the 13 districts of Southern & South Eastern Rajasthan viz. Jhalawar, Bara, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Dausa, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dholpur of Rajasthan for Humans and Live stock till year 2051.
- The project will help to irrigate nearly 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects.
- Additional Benefits:
  - o Will enhance availability of surface water & Ground water in the region, o Will also take care of Flood/ Drought situation in the area.
  - o Would also boost the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) in Alwar district and generate employment for youths of the state.
- The Project will be executed in **three phases**.
  - o The **first phase** of the project will extend from Galwa Dam to Dholpur
  - o The **second phase** will extend from Galwa to Bisalpur-Isarda
  - o The **third phase** will extend from Galwa to Alwar

### Time Schedule:

- The project is proposed to be completed in three phases in seven years from year 2017 to 2023.
- First Phase of about 18474.0 crore is proposed to be completed in five year from year 2017 to 2021

### Benefits of National Project Status:

- Increase in Central Government funding: In the project with national project status the funding pattern is 90 : 10 (Center : State) but currently in ERCP it is 60% by the Centre and 40% by the state.

### National Panchayati Raj Day

- The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993 and gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI's). It is considered as a defining moment in the history of decentralization of power to the grassroots, with the institutionalization of Panchayati Raj.
- In 2010, Government of India in consultation with the States, decided to celebrate 24<sup>th</sup> April as National Panchayati Raj Day. Consequently, the first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010. Since then, the National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.
- Every year on this National Panchayati Raj Day Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj organises National Conference and awards best performing Gram Panchayats.
- Owing to unprecedented situation that emerged due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, it was been decided to commemorate the National Panchayati Raj Day digitally on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

### **Panchayat Awards 2020**

- Every year, on this occasion, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been awarding the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs across the country under the Incentivization of Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods.

Awards are given under various categories namely:

- ❖ Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP)
  - ❖ Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP)
  - ❖ Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA)
  - ❖ Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award
  - ❖ e-Panchayat Puraskar (given to States/UTs only)
- This year, due to lockdown, awards under only above three categories viz. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP), Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award have been finalized and will be shared with the concerned States / UT.
  - Award in the other two categories will be finalized and communicated to States separately after completion of due process which got delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

## SMILE Program

- Rajasthan School Education Council has established a new program named Smile. Through this, students of about 65,097 government schools and 82,51,029 students in Rajasthan will be able to study from home. SMILE stands for **Social Media Interface for Learning Engagement**.

## State Government hikes water charges for industry by 15 times

- Rajasthan government has increased water prices for industry by 15 times. Cement, fertilizer and textile industries, which will take the maximum hit, have decided to approach the state government for its rollback saying it will have a significant impact on their operational costs.

## State Government forms panels for digital museum in Rajasthan assembly

- The State government has constituted an inter-departmental research committee and a technical committee for direction, speed, supervision and certification of digital museum works to be constructed in Rajasthan assembly premises.
- In the museum, the political narrative of the state, democracy, constitution of modern Rajasthan and contribution of all the chief ministers of the state, as well as the contribution of the makers who were partners in the creation of the state of Rajasthan will be displayed.

## RTE income limit raised to 2.5 Lac

- Chief minister Ashok Gehlot raised the income cap for admissions to private schools under the 25 per cent quota for poor from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. The move under the Right to Education Act will benefit lakhs of families who will become eligible with the increase in the income cap.
- Previously the income limit was set at Rs 1-lakh cap, which reduced the number of beneficiaries to a level that it became difficult for the state to fill the total number of 2.5 lakh seats in 33,500 private schools under the RTE. Every beneficiary can apply in 10 schools for admission. In case the number of students is higher than the number of seats, it will be followed by an automated lottery.

## RERA allows project completion deadline extension by a year

- In a relief to the realty sector in Rajasthan, the state Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in May 2020 extended completion deadlines for under-construction projects by a year. The decision will benefit over 1,000 projects that were to be completed on or after March 19.

## Rajasthan to launch Indira Rasoi Yojana

- On 22 June 2020, Rajasthan Chief Minister announced that the state government will soon launch a new scheme in Rajasthan "**Indira Rasoi Yojana**" that will provide pure and nutritious meals to the needy on concessional rates twice a day.
- Earlier in December 2016, former State Government had launched the 'Annapurna Rasoi Yojana', a subsidised meal scheme offering breakfast and lunch for Rs 5 and Rs 8 respectively on the lines of 'Ammu Unavagam' (mother's canteen /Ammu Canteens) of Tamil Nadu. As per Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Rajasthan the tenure of the Annapurna Rasoi Yojana had expired on March 31 this year.

## Salient Features of Indira Rasoi Yojana

- The basic idea behind the scheme is to ensure that "**no one sleeps hungry**" in the state.
- Needy people living in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies will be getting nutritious meals twice a day at concessional rates.
- The state government will spend Rs 100 crore every year on the Indira Rasoi Yojana (Indira Kitchen Scheme).
- The rate for the meals is yet to be finalised.
- Local NGOs will also be roped in for the successful implementation of the scheme.
- A committee headed by the district collector will be monitoring this Yojana and effective monitoring will be done with the help of information technology.

## Nasha Mukta Bharat Action Plan Launched

- On 26<sup>th</sup> June, the International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking, Ministry of State for Social Justice and Empowerment e-launched "**Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)**" for 272 Most Affected Districts.

### **Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)**

- Nasha Mukh Bharat Annual Action Plan for 2020-21 would focus on 272 most affected districts and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, outreach/awareness by Social Justice and treatment through the Health Dept.

The Action Plan has the following components:

- Awareness generation programmes
- Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools
- Community outreach and identification of dependent population
- Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings and
- Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider
- Reach out to Children and Youth for awareness about ill effect of drug use; Increase community participation and public cooperation;
- Supporting Government Hospitals for opening up De-addiction Centers in addition to existing Ministry Supported De-addiction Centers (IRCAs); and
- Conducting Training programme for participants.

The Ministry has also set up a 24x7 National Toll Free **drug de-addiction helpline number** 1800110031 to help the victims of drug abuse, their family and society at large.

### **Nasha Mukh Bharat: Districts in Rajasthan**

The following districts of Rajasthan have been included in the 272 most affected districts list and consequently will be focus of Nasha Mukh Bharat Annual Action Plan for 2020-21:

- Chittorgarh
- Alwar
- Pratapgarh
- Hanumangarh
- Jhalawar
- Sriganganagar

- Bhilwara
- Udaipur
- Kota
- Baran
- Jodhpur
- Barmer
- Jaisalmer
- Pali
- Jalore
- Nagaur
- Jaipur
- Aimer
- Sikar
- Jhunjhunu
- Beawer (Ajmer District)
- Bikaner
- Banswara
- Bharatpur
- Bundi
- Churu
- Dungarpur
- Rajsamand
- SawaiMadhopur
- Karauli
- Sirohi
- Tonk
- Dausa

### Raj Kaushal Portal - Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange Launched

- On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Chief Minister of Rajasthan inaugurated Raj Kaushal Portal - an online Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange.
- **RajKaushal Portal** is an online platform for Rajasthan Labour Employment Exchange. The portal has been developed by the department of Information and Technology (IT) and RSLDC, to help provide jobs to the migrant workers who have returned from other states and those who have been rendered jobless.
- So far, data of nearly 53 lakh workers (52.67 lakh) and 11.18 lakh employers (industries) have been uploaded on the portal.

### Who can register on RajKaushal Portal ?

- Both industries (employers) and the labourers (those who are seeking jobs) can register themselves on the exchange.

### **Indira Priyadarshini Baby Kit scheme launched in Rajasthan**

- On 18th May 2020, Chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched the Indira Priyadarshini Baby Kit distribution programme to newborn girls born in state hospitals. He handed the pink kits to 2 newborn girls who delivered at the Zanana Hospital, Jaipur.
- Girls born in state medical hospitals of Jaipur district started receiving the baby kit from 18th May. The scheme will also be launched in other districts in the next few days. Blue kits will be distributed to newborn boys from July. Under the scheme, 11 lakh newborns in government medical institutions will get the kits every year. It will cost the exchequer around Rs 10 crore per year.

### **Amrita Campaign**

- State Medical Health and Ayurveda Minister launched the Giloy planting campaign 'Amrita' in the state under the aegis of Rajasthan State Drug Plant Division, Ayurveda Department Government of Rajasthan.
- Under this campaign about one and a half lakh **Giloy saplings** will be planted in Jaipur district in the next 4 months. Giloy is a safe medicine and it has an important role in developing immunity.

### **eSanjeevaniOPD: Free Medical Teleconsultation Service**

- Rajasthan State Health Ministry launched the free medical tele-consultation service by dedicating e-sanjeevani web-portal. With the help of this portal, people can avail quality medical tele-consultancy services free from home. Currently, 100 health institutions across the state have been identified & a team of 30 doctors has been providing these services through web-portal. One can get tele-consultancy services for common diseases from 8 am to 2 pm.

### **What is e-Sanjeevani Web-Portal ?**

- e-SanjeevaniOPD - Stay Home OPD has been developed by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Mohali. E-SanjeevaniOPD is based on e-

Sanjeevani - Government of India's flagship telemedicine technology developed by C-DAC, Mohali.

- e-Sanjeevani is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system is being deployed nationally for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme of Government of India.

### **What is Telemedicine ?**

- As per World Health Organisation, telemedicine is the delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using IT for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease and injuries, research and evaluation, etc, all in the interests of advancing the health of individuals and their communities.

### **What is Medical Tele-consultation ?**

- Medical Tele-consultation use IT to facilitate communications between a patient and a doctor who are otherwise geographically separated. National Tele-consultation Service of Government, of India enables tele-consultations over the Internet.

### **PM SVANidhi Portal**

- A Central Sector Scheme, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi labelled as PM SVANidhi Scheme has been launched on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. The scheme aims to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

### **Salient Features of PM SVANidhi Scheme**

- Urban street vendors will be eligible to avail a Working Capital (WC) loan of up to INR 10,000 with tenure of 1 year and repaid in monthly instalments.
- For this loan, no collateral will be taken by the lending institutions.
- On timely or early repayment, the vendors will be eligible for the next cycle of working capital loan with an enhanced limit.

- No prepayment penalty will be charged from the vendors for repayment before the scheduled date.
- The vendors, availing loan under the scheme, are eligible to get an interest subsidy @ 7%. The interest subsidy amount will be credited into the borrower's account quarterly.
- The scheme will incentivize digital transactions by vendors through cash back facility.
- The Scheme shall be implemented up to March, 2022.

### **PM SVANidhi Portal**

- PM SVANidhi Portal is an integrated IT platform ([pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in](http://pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in)) to provide an end-to-end solution for scheme administration is being developed by SIDBI, which is the scheme implementation partner for PM SVANidhi.
- The portal will facilitate multiple scheme functions viz. loan application flow, Mobile App, e-KYC of applicants, integration with UIDAI, Udyamimitra, NPCI, PAISA, lenders, States, ULBs and other stakeholders, calculation of digital incentives and payment of interest subsidy etc.
- The PM SVANidhi Portal shall start accepting loan applications from Street Vendors from July 2<sup>nd</sup>, who can apply directly or with the help of CSCs/ ULBs/ SPIGs.

### **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**

- In March 2020, the Union Govt. had announced Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus pandemic. One of the scheme under the package is Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana aimed at providing food-grains to approximately two-third of the population.

#### Salient Features of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- Covered about 80 crore poor people.
- Initially, for 3 months from April to June end.
- Individuals got extra 5 kg rice or wheat each month for three months in addition to the 5 kg they already got.

- Each household also got 1 kg of dal of their choice.
- Both grains & pulses provided free of cost
- On 30th June 2020, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation and announced an extension of Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana - till November 2020. It means, this scheme giving free ration to 80 crore people will continue in July, August, September, October, November.
- Along with providing 5kg free rice / wheat to each member of a family, 1 kg free whole chana will also be provided to each family per month.

### Operation Greens Scheme (TOP to TOTAL)

- Ministry of Food Processing is implementing a central sector scheme, namely "**Operation Greens Scheme**" - A scheme for integrated development of **Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP)** value chain with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 500 crores. The scheme has two-pronged strategy of Price stabilisation measures (for short term) and Integrated value chain development projects (for long term).
- Due to restriction imposed on account of COVID-19, the supply chain has been disrupted and farmers are not able to sell their produce in the market. To improve this situation, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has recently extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAT) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

### Salient Features of Operation Greens Scheme (Total)

#### **Objective:**

- The objective of intervention is to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post - harvest losses.

#### **Eligible Crops:**

- Fruits- Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Tichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit

- Vegetables- French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato.
- Any other fruit / vegetable can be added in future on the basis of recommendation by Ministry of Agriculture or State Government
- List of eligible crops, selected surplus production clusters and trigger price for intervention under the scheme - [Click Here](#).

#### **Duration of Scheme:**

- Duration of Scheme is for the period of six months from the date of notification i.e., 11/06/2020.

#### **Eligible Entities:**

- Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing / marketing of fruits and vegetables.

#### **Rajasthan Upgrades 19 Schemes to Flagship Programmes**

- The State Government of Rajasthan has decided to declare 19 schemes and programmes across 9 departments as flagship programmes following the Covid 19 outbreak in the state.
- These schemes and programs are majorly related to health, education, social security & employment, and have been upgraded as flagship schemes to provide relief to people from Covid19 pandemic and empowering the weaker section. The Planning Department, GoR has released a notification regarding the same.

No.	Department	Program
1	Medical, Health & Family Welfare	Shudh Ke liye Yudh (Campaign against adulteration)
2		Nirogi Rajasthan
3		CM Free Medicine Yojana
4		CM Free Test Yojana
5		<a href="#">Ayushman Bharat Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana (AB-MGRBSY)</a>
6	Food and civil supply department	Rs.1 kg wheat
7	School Education	Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School
8	Social Justice and Empowerment	Mukhyamantrik Kanyadaan / Hathleva Yojana
9		Benefits under <a href="#">Rajasthan Silicosis Policy 2019</a>
10		Mukhyamantri ekalnari Samman pension Yojana
11		Mukhyamantri Vradhjan Samman pension Yojana
12		Mukhyamantri Vishesh Yogyjan Samman pension Yojana
13		Palanhaar Yojana

14	Agriculture	<a href="#">Rajasthan agriculture processing, business and export promotion scheme 2019</a>
15	MSME	Chief Minister Small Scale Industries Promotion Scheme
16		MSME Act - Self Cetification
17	Industrial Department	<a href="#">Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) - 2019</a>
18	Information & Technology Department	<a href="#">Jan Soochana portal</a>
19	Planning Department	<a href="#">Jan Aadhar Yojana</a>

### Benefits of being upgraded to Flagship programmes

Upgradation of schemes to flagship programmes of Rajasthan Government may have following benefits:

- Flagship schemes mean that selected schemes or programmes will be of higher priority than others.
- Collectors might hold weekly review and the chief minister's office will monthly review of the schemes.
- A daily update of their implementation will be tracked by the administration.
- The status of flagship schemes (like RIPS 2019 etc.) will boost the confidence of the investor.

### **Rajasthan Quarantine Management Committee Constituted**

- As migrant population starts returning to home state in numbers, Rajasthan government has formed **Quarantine Management Committee** at **Ward, Village, Block, District & State level** for effective quarantine mechanism at the grassroots level.
- To prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic at the community level, the state government has issued order for mandatory quarantine of people coming from other states for a period of 14 days, under the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020.

### **Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance 2020**

1. Short title, extent and commencement
  - The ordinance extends to the whole of the State of Rajasthan and came into effect immediately.
2. Definitions
  - Defines epidemic disease as any disease declared as epidemic disease by notification published in the Official Gazette, by the Government
3. Power of Government to notify epidemic disease
  - Empowers State Government to notify any disease as epidemic disease by notification in the Official Gazette

4. Power to take special measures and specify regulations as to epidemic disease
  - In case of threat of an outbreak of any epidemic disease in the state. Rajasthan Government may specify such temporary regulations or orders to be observed by the public or by any person so as to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof and require or empower District Collectors to exercise such powers and duties as may be specified in the said regulations or orders.

Additionally, the Government may take measures and specify regulations:

- (a) to prohibit any usage or act which the Government considers sufficient to spread or transmit epidemic diseases from person to person in any gathering, celebration, worship or other such activities within the State
- (b) to inspect the persons arriving in the State by air, rail, road or any other means or in quarantine or in isolation, as the case may be, in hospital, temporary accommodation, home or otherwise of persons suspected of being infected with any such disease by the officer authorized in the regulation or orders
- (c) to seal State Borders for such period as may be deemed necessary
- (d) to impose restrictions on the operation of public and private transport
- (e) to prescribe social distancing norms or any other instructions for the public to observe that are considered necessary for public health and safety on account of the epidemic
- (f) to restrict or prohibit congregation of persons in public places and religious institutions or places of worship
- (g) to regulate or restrict the functioning of offices, Government and private, and educational institutions in the State
- (h) to impose prohibition or restrictions on the functioning of shops and commercial and other offices, establishments, factories, workshops and godowns
- (i) to restrict duration of services in essential or emergency services such as banks, media, health care, food supply, electricity, water, fuel, etc.; and
- (j) such other measures as may be necessary for the regulation and prevention of epidemic diseases as decided by the Government.

5. Punishment for offences

- Any person/institution/ company who is bound by regulations or orders contravenes or disobeys any such regulation or order made under this Ordinance, or obstructs any officer empowered under this Ordinance, shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.

6. Punishment for abetment of offences-

- Whoever abets an offence under this Ordinance shall be punished in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence.

7. Offence by a company-

(1) Where an offence under this Ordinance has been committed by a company, every person, who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

Explanation- For the purposes of this section-

- (a) "company" means a body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) "director", in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.

8. Offences to be cognizable and bailable-

- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 all offences under this Ordinance shall be cognizable and bailable.

9. Authorized Officer-

- Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, authorize one or more persons who shall be competent to act under this Ordinance.

10. Power to delegate-

- The State Government may by notification in the Official Gazette direct that any power exercisable by it under this Ordinance may also be exercised by such officer as

may be mentioned therein, subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified therein.

11. Compounding of offences-

- Allows offences to be compounded by such authorities or officers and for such amount as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

12. Ordinance not in derogation of any other law.-

- The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

13. Protection of action taken in good faith-

- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done by or under this Ordinance.

14. Power to remove difficulties-

- Empowers State Government may to make provisions necessary for removing the difficulty in implementation of this ordinance.

15. Power to make rules-

- Empowers the State Government to make rules by notification in the Official Gazette into effect the provisions of this Ordinance.
- Every rule and regulation made under this Ordinance shall be laid before the House of the State Legislature while it is in session for a total period of not less than fourteen days.

16. Repeal and Saving-

- Repeals the Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Act, 1957.
- All orders made under the above Act shall be deemed to have been done, taken or made under this Ordinance.