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WEEKLY Current Affairs

15th to 21st July 2023

For

UPSC / RPSC

and All Other Competitive

EXAMS

- Op Southern Readiness 2023
- ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines
- OVL Considers Resuming Operations in Block 20 in Iraq
- SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System
- ATR Module of AuditOnline
- Tankai Method
- Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023
- Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023



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Op Southern Readiness 2023

INS Sunayna, an Indian naval ship, recently visited Seychelles as part of the multinational maritime security exercise known as Op Southern Readiness 2023. This exercise, conducted by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), aimed to enhance cooperation and counter piracy while ensuring the safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

INS Sunayna embarked on its visit to Seychelles from July 10 to July 12, 2023. The primary purpose of this visit was to participate in Op Southern Readiness 2023, a significant exercise that brings together naval forces from various nations to strengthen multilateral ties.

Multinational Maritime Security Exercise

Op Southern Readiness 2023 focuses on enhancing maritime security and countering piracy. This exercise serves as a platform for participating countries to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and develop strategies to ensure the safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

Professional Interactions and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges

During the visit, naval personnel from participating countries engaged in a wide range of professional interactions. Personnel from the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom, Seychelles Defence Forces, Marine Police, and member nations of EUNAVFOR actively participated in subject matter expert exchanges. These exchanges covered various topics, including navigation, VBSS (Basic and Advanced training), Maritime Domain Awareness, and mass casualty evacuation drills.

CMF Delegation from Bahrain

A notable event during INS Sunayna's visit was the presence of a CMF delegation from Bahrain. The delegation was headed by Cmde Oliver, the Commander of CTF56. Their presence onboard allowed for firsthand observation of the training exercises conducted by INS Sunayna.

In addition to the professional interactions, INS Sunayna organized a combined yoga session onboard. Personnel from Seychelles Defence Forces and CMF, along with the ship's crew, participated in this session. This initiative aimed to foster cultural exchange and camaraderie among the participants.

ASEAN Countries Conference on Traditional Medicines

The upcoming Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries is set to be a significant event fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange between India and ASEAN nations. The conference aims to bring together international delegates and promote collaboration in the field of traditional medicines.

The Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries is being hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, emphasizing India's commitment to promoting traditional healing practices. Ayush, an independent ministry, has been at the forefront of elevating the Ayush sector and establishing international collaborations.

Scheduled Date and Location

The conference will take place on July 20, 2023. The venue for this significant event is Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, a location that holds symbolic importance as the capital of India.





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Expected Physical Participants

A total of 75 participants are expected to attend the conference physically. These delegates will include representatives from eight ASEAN countries. By gathering professionals and experts from diverse backgrounds, the conference aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices in traditional medicine.

Indian Mission to ASEAN

The Indian Mission to ASEAN is actively supporting the conference, further emphasizing the government's focus on bilateral partnerships and regional cooperation. By engaging with ASEAN nations, India aims to create a platform for sharing knowledge and enhancing collaboration in traditional medicine.

Act East Policy

During the 12th ASEAN India Summit in Myanmar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi enunciated the "Act East Policy." This policy initiative aims to strengthen India's strategic partnership with ASEAN nations, emphasizing the shared cultural, historical, and civilizational links between them. The Conference on Traditional Medicines aligns with this policy by fostering cooperation and mutual growth.

Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023

The Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023, one of the most anticipated hockey tournaments, is set to take place in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Recently, the prestigious trophy was unveiled by Anurag Thakur, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, in a grand ceremony held in New Delhi. Alongside the trophy, Thakur also launched the 'Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign, which aims to ignite excitement and passion among hockey fans across India.

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports unveiled the magnificent trophy for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023. The event also marked the launch of the 'Pass the Ball Trophy Tour' campaign, which seeks to engage and inspire young athletes to dream of representing Team India in the future. Thakur expressed his belief that India would make history if it wins the tournament for the fourth time.

The Trophy Tour

The Hero Asian Champions Trophy will embark on a grand tour, visiting several cities across India. From Delhi to Chennai, the trophy will journey through Chandigarh, Guwahati, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Bangalore, and Trivandrum. This extensive tour aims to connect with hockey enthusiasts from different regions, creating a vibrant and enthusiastic atmosphere ahead of the tournament.

The Participating Teams

The Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 will witness fierce competition between six top-notch teams. India, Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan, and China will battle it out for the coveted title.

The Trophy's Symbolic Value

The Asian Champions Trophy, crafted by renowned trophy maker Sanjay Sharma, is a symbol of excellence and victory. Constructed using a combination of brass, aluminum, and copper, the trophy exhibits a unique flair. The intricate design and the use of precious materials reflect the essence of the tournament and its significance in the field of hockey.

OVL Considers Resuming Operations in Block 20 in Iraq

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In recent years, Iraq has solidified its position as a major supplier of crude oil to India, strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations. The state-run company, ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), is now considering the resumption of operations in its hydrocarbon exploration block in Iraq, which has been under force majeure since 2003. This development comes as India looks to expand its energy partnerships and explore investment opportunities in Iraq's oil and gas sector.

Iraq has emerged as a significant supplier of crude oil to India in recent times. With its abundant oil reserves and favorable trade relations, Iraq has become a vital source of energy for India's growing demands. In the fiscal year FY23, Iraq stood as the second-largest exporter of crude oil to India, providing a total of 50.31 million tonnes worth \$33.37 billion. This demonstrates the importance of Iraq's oil supply to India's energy security and economic growth.

Resuming Operations: OVL's Exploration Block in Iraq

ONGC Videsh Ltd's hydrocarbon exploration block in Iraq, known as Block 20 (formerly Block 8), has been under force majeure since 2003 due to security concerns. However, there are now discussions about the possibility of resuming operations in the block. The decision to resume operations will depend on several factors, including the security situation and other aspects that require clarity. OVL's potential return to the exploration block indicates India's commitment to expanding its energy investments and strengthening ties with Iraq.

Exploring Investment Opportunities

During the India-Iraq Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held last month, investment opportunities in Iraq's oil and gas sector were discussed. The JCM highlighted the mutual desire to enhance cooperation and explore avenues for investment. India expressed its readiness to invest in Iraq's rehabilitation projects and emphasized the potential for increased quantities of crude oil imports based on appropriate pricing regimes. These discussions reflect India's intent to deepen its energy engagement with Iraq and pave the way for long-term collaboration.

LNG Terminal Plans and Future Prospects

India is also planning to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Iraq. The terminal aims to harness Iraq's gas resources by liquefying the currently flared gas and transporting it to India for various sectors such as city gas distribution, power, fertilizer, and steel. This venture not only contributes to energy diversification but also strengthens the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

5-Year Work Visa For Indian Students Pursuing Masters In France:

In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an extended post study work visa for Indian students pursuing a master's degree in France. The new visa duration has been increased to five years, providing ample time for students to explore job opportunities and gain valuable work experience in their field of study. This announcement was made by Prime Minister Modi during his address to the Indian community at La Seine Musicale in Paris, further strengthening the ties between India and France.

The Purpose and Benefits of a Post Study Work Visa

A post study work visa, also known as the Graduate Route in some countries, serves as a crucial bridge between education and professional life for international students.





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Its primary purpose is to allow students to remain in the host country after completing their studies, providing them with the opportunity to gain practical experience and apply their acquired knowledge in a real-world setting. This experience not only enhances their employability but also contributes to their personal and professional growth.

The extended post study work visa empowers Indian students to explore diverse career options, establish networks, and develop a global perspective, thereby boosting their job prospects and future prospects.

Michele Bullock

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has recently witnessed a significant change in leadership as Michele Bullock takes the helm as the first female head of the institution. This historic appointment has generated great interest and marks a significant milestone in the country's financial sector. Additionally, the RBA is undergoing a major reorganization following an independent review of its operations, reflecting a commitment to enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

Michele Bullock has made history by becoming the first woman to lead the Reserve Bank in Australia. Appointed by Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Prime Minister Anthony, Bullock's extensive experience and expertise in finance make her well-suited for the role. Previously serving as the Deputy Governor of the RBA, she has displayed exceptional leadership and a deep understanding of monetary policy. Bullock's appointment highlights the RBA's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusivity within its ranks.

Philip Lowe's Tenure and Departure

Philip Lowe has been the governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, holding the position for several years. However, he will be stepping down from his role on September 17. Lowe's departure comes as a result of public backlash over the sharp increase in interest rates, which occurred under his leadership. The decision not to reappoint him for a second term was influenced by the need for renewed public trust and confidence in the RBA's policies.

Reorganization for Enhanced Efficiency

The RBA is currently undergoing a major reorganization following an independent review of its operations. This review aimed to identify areas of improvement and streamline processes to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. By implementing the recommendations from the review, the RBA aims to align its operations with the changing dynamics of the financial landscape. These changes will enable the RBA to better navigate economic challenges and fulfill its role as the country's central bank.

SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System

The Indian maritime sector is undergoing a significant digital transformation, bolstered by the recent inauguration of the indigenously developed Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS). This state-of-the-art system, named 'Sagar Sampark,' is a crucial component of the Digital India campaign, aimed at enhancing efficiency and efficacy in marine operations.

The primary purpose of the DGNSS system is to further strengthen the ongoing digital transformation of the Indian maritime sector. By addressing the limitations of the GNSS, the DGNSS system offers more accurate positioning information, enabling mariners to navigate with increased precision and confidence.





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Ministry Responsible

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways takes the lead in overseeing the development and implementation of the DGNSS system. This ministry recognizes the importance of technological advancements in the maritime sector and actively supports initiatives aimed at enhancing navigation and safety.

Improving Navigation and Safety

The DGNSS system significantly enhances navigation safety by reducing the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents. By providing mariners with accurate information for safe navigation, it ensures the smooth movement of vessels in port and harbor areas.

Fulfilling International Obligations

The DGNSS system aligns with the international obligations set by prominent organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). The DGNSS system functions as a crucial radio navigation aid, guaranteeing adherence to global benchmarks and regulations.

Enhanced Positioning Accuracy

With the implementation of the DGNSS system, positioning accuracy has significantly improved. Mariners can now benefit from positioning accuracy within five meters for 100 Nautical Miles from Indian coastlines. This remarkable advancement aids in precise navigation and reduces potential risks in the challenging maritime environment.

ATR Module of AuditOnline

In a significant move towards promoting transparency and accountability in Panchayat audits, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched the Action Taken Report (ATR) Module of AuditOnline. This module, introduced through video conferencing at a virtual event, aims to provide a structured approach to the audit process and ensure clarity on the actions taken in response to audit findings.

The ATR Module of AuditOnline was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj serves the purpose of providing clarity on actions taken in response to audit findings. With this system in place, the online audit process will be streamlined, ensuring greater transparency and accountability at the grassroots level.

Impressive Audit Reports

Over the last two audit periods, the efforts of the states have borne fruit, with over 200,000 Audit Reports generated. This commendable achievement showcases the commitment of the states and Panchayats towards financial management and transparency. Moreover, with 256,795 registered Panchayats, the scope of audits and accountability has expanded significantly.

Documentation of Observations

The ATR Module aims to address the numerous observations made during audits. To date, a staggering 2,103,058 observations have been documented, reflecting the comprehensive nature of the audit process. This documentation ensures that the necessary actions are taken to rectify any discrepancies and improve financial management practices.





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PRI Audit Reports and Accountability

Approximately 80% of PRI Audit Reports have been generated for the audit period 2021-22, highlighting the commitment towards accountability. As per the operational guidelines of the XV Finance Commission, starting from the fiscal year 2023-24, all tiers of Panchayats must have audited accounts. The ATR module will play a crucial role in ensuring holistic audits of all Panchayat accounts, meeting the criteria set by the Commission for subsequent grants.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, the ATR Module of AuditOnline holds immense potential in enhancing the transparency and accountability of Panchayat accounts. By prioritizing the audit of all Panchayat accounts, states and Union Territories (UTs) can meet the criteria of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, enabling higher allocation of funds for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs). Strengthening the District Level Financial Advisors (DLFAs) and Audit Departments will be pivotal in achieving timely completion of audit activities.

Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made history as the first Indian Prime Minister to receive the prestigious Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honor. French President Emmanuel Macron conferred this esteemed award upon Prime Minister Modi during a ceremony held at the Elysee Palace on July 13, 2023.

In a momentous occasion, Prime Minister Modi was bestowed with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, elevating his stature among international leaders. The honor recognizes his significant contributions to promoting bilateral relations between India and France and his commitment to upholding shared values.

An Esteemed Recognition

The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour represents the highest level of distinction bestowed by France. It is a symbol of exceptional merit and recognizes individuals who have made remarkable contributions to society, diplomacy, arts, or the military. Prime Minister Modi joins the ranks of prominent world leaders who have received this prestigious award, including Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, and Angela Merkel, former Chancellor of Germany.

The Legion of Honour

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honour is a distinguished order divided into five classes. The ribbon of the Legion is red, and the badge features a five-armed Maltese asterisk suspended on an oak and laurel wreath. While membership is primarily reserved for French nationals, foreign nationals who have served France or promoted its ideals may also receive this distinction.

Prime Minister Modi's International Accolades

The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour is one of several top international awards and honors bestowed upon Prime Minister Modi. He has been recognized by various countries, including Russia, Maldives, UAE, and Afghanistan, for his significant contributions to strengthening bilateral ties and promoting peace, diplomacy, and development.

Namda Project

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On World Youth Skills Day, the Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export. This initiative is part of the Namda Project, implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Under the Namda Project, nearly 2,200 candidates from six districts of Kashmir, namely Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Budgam, and Anantnag, have received training in the art of Namda craft. This project represents a significant milestone in preserving the endangered craft and empowering local weavers and artisans.

Crafting Namda with Sheep Wool and Felting Technique

Namda craft involves creating rugs using sheep wool. Unlike the traditional weaving process, the felting technique is employed to produce these intricate rugs. However, the export of Namda craft had experienced a decline of almost 100 percent between 1998 and 2008 due to various challenges such as the low availability of raw materials, lack of skilled manpower, and limited marketing techniques.

Public-Private Partnership for Skill Development

The Namda Project showcases the successful implementation of a public-private partnership (PPP) model in skill development. Local industry partners, including Mir Handicrafts and Srinagar Carpet Training and Market Centre, collaborated with the government to train individuals in the art of Namda craft. This partnership highlights the collective effort to revive the craft and attract investments for economic development in the region.

Duration and Objectives of the Training Program

Each training program under the Namda Project lasts approximately three and a half months. The project has been implemented in 25 batches across three cycles of training. The primary objective of the project is to preserve and revive the rich heritage associated with Namda craft in Kashmir. By equipping artisans with the necessary skills, the project aims to improve their access to opportunities and enhance their employability prospects.

Tankai Method

The Tankai method, also known as the stitched shipbuilding method, is a remarkable 2000-year-old technique of constructing ships by stitching wooden planks together. This technique offers numerous advantages, such as flexibility and durability, making the ships less susceptible to damage from shoals and sandbars.

The Tankai Method: An Ingenious Shipbuilding Technique

The Tankai method involves the intricate process of stitching wooden planks together instead of relying on nails. This craftsmanship has survived for centuries in coastal regions of India, particularly in the construction of small local fishing boats. The flexibility and durability offered by this method have been instrumental in ensuring the longevity of these vessels, even in challenging maritime conditions.

European Influence and the Need for Revival

With the arrival of European ships, there was a gradual shift in shipbuilding techniques, leading to a decline in the practice of the Tankai method. However, recognizing the cultural and historical significance of this





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traditional craftsmanship, the Ministry of Culture and the Indian Navy have joined hands through an MoU to revive and preserve this ancient shipbuilding technique.

Reviving Maritime Memory and Cultural Pride

The significance of the stitched ship project goes beyond its construction. It aims to revive the collective maritime memory of India and instill a sense of pride in the nation's rich maritime heritage among its citizens. By preserving and showcasing the Tankai method, the project serves as a testament to India's seafaring traditions and the extraordinary craftsmanship of its shipbuilders.

A Roadmap for the Future

The MoU sets forth a plan to construct an ocean-going wooden stitched sail ship, honoring the ancient Tankai method. This remarkable undertaking aims to revive traditional shipbuilding practices and promote cultural memories not only within India but also among Indian Ocean littoral countries. The project seeks to create connections, foster cultural exchange, and showcase the shared heritage of seafaring communities.

Benefiting Indian Ocean Littoral Countries

The project's impact extends to Indian Ocean littoral countries, as it aims to promote cultural memories and strengthen bonds among these nations. By reviving the Tankai method, the project facilitates the celebration and preservation of shared seafaring traditions, enhancing cultural understanding and cooperation.

Festival of Libraries 2023

The Festival of Libraries 2023 is set to captivate bibliophiles and knowledge enthusiasts alike. Held on August 5th and 6th, this event promises an immersive experience, showcasing the diverse world of books, ideas, and cultural heritage. With free entry, the Ministry of Culture aims to create an inclusive platform that fosters a love for reading, celebrates libraries, and promotes intellectual exchange.

The Festival of Libraries 2023 offers an array of captivating activities that cater to different interests and age groups. Attendees can indulge in thought-provoking exhibitions, engaging book-author sessions, and enlightening workshops for children. These activities serve as a testament to the festival's commitment to nurturing curiosity and imagination.

Creating Community "Drawing Rooms"

The long-term vision of the Ministry of Culture is to transform libraries into vibrant community spaces. By considering libraries as the "drawing rooms of community," the ministry aims to emphasize their role in fostering intellectual and social connections. The festival serves as a stepping stone towards this goal, reinforcing the significance of physical libraries in an increasingly digital age.

Four Captivating "Drawing Rooms"

At the Festival of Libraries 2023, participants will have the opportunity to explore four unique zones, each offering a distinct experience. The book-author sessions zone will enable visitors to interact with renowned authors, gaining insights into their creative processes. In the digital displays zone, cutting-edge technology will bring books to life through immersive digital experiences. The podcasts zone will feature captivating audio





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narratives, showcasing the power of storytelling. Lastly, the Human Library Project will present living books, allowing attendees to engage in meaningful conversations with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Enriching Experiences for Children

The festival recognizes the importance of nurturing a love for reading from an early age. In the dedicated children's zone, little ones will be captivated by storytelling sessions, indulge in the art of origami, create their own zines, and embark on exciting read-along adventures. These activities are designed to spark their imagination and instill a lifelong passion for reading.

Celebrating Heritage and Knowledge

The significance of the Rampur Raza library, renowned for its Indo-Islamic cultural heritage, will be highlighted during the festival. This year marks its 250th anniversary, offering a momentous occasion to commemorate its rich history and contributions to preserving cultural treasures.

All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has recently introduced the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2023. These amended rules, which came into effect on 6th July 2023, bring significant changes to the existing regulations governing the retirement benefits of central government employees.

Change in Rule 2: Inclusion of Earned Increment in Emoluments

One of the notable changes in the amended rules is found in Rule 2. Previously, if a member of service earned an increment before retirement or death, it was not included in their emoluments. However, the amendment now states that such increments, even if not actually drawn, will be considered part of their emoluments or average emoluments.

Conditions for Grant and Continuation of Pension

Under the amended rules, future good conduct is an implied condition for the grant and continuation of pension. This emphasizes the importance of maintaining exemplary conduct throughout the service period and after retirement.

Withholding or Withdrawal of Pension

The Central Government has the authority to withhold or withdraw a pension, either for a specified period or indefinitely, under certain circumstances. These situations arise when a pensioner is sentenced for a severe offense or when they are proven to have committed serious misconduct. Importantly, the Union Public Service Commission must be consulted before passing such an order.

Restrictions on Publishing After Retirement

Members of specific organizations listed in the Second Schedule to the Right to Information Act, 2005, face restrictions on publishing certain materials after retirement. These materials include any information related to the organization's domain, personnel details, expertise gained, and sensitive information that could jeopardize India's sovereignty, security, or international relations. Prior clearance from the organization's head is required before publishing such material.





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Appeals and Provisions for Family Pension

If an individual wishes to appeal against an order passed by the Central Government, the appeal must be made to the President in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission.

The amended rules also address provisions for family pension. For divorced daughters, the family pension will be payable from the date of divorce if the divorce proceedings were initiated during the lifetime of the member of service or pensioner. Additionally, a child or sibling with a mental or physical disability will be deemed as not earning their livelihood if their income from sources other than family pension is below the entitled amount.

Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023

The state government in Rajasthan has introduced a landmark legislation called the Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023. This progressive bill aims to provide guaranteed wages or pensions to the entire adult population of the state.

Provision 1: Guaranteeing Minimum Income and Employment

Under the bill, every family in the state is entitled to guaranteed employment for 125 days each year. This encompasses the flagship Indira Gandhi Shahri Rozgar Guarantee Yojana for urban areas and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for rural regions. Additionally, the bill ensures a minimum monthly pension of Rs 1,000 for specific categories such as the aged, disabled, widows, and single women.

Provision 2: Three Broad Categories

The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill encompasses three key categories: the right to minimum guaranteed income, the right to guaranteed employment, and the right to guaranteed social security pension. These provisions collectively aim to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people of Rajasthan.

Provision 3: Sustainable Financial Plan

To implement this comprehensive social welfare scheme, the government has estimated an additional expenditure of Rs 2,500 crore annually. However, the financial allocation may increase over time to cater to the expanding coverage and evolving needs of the population.

Implementation: Program Officers and Enhanced Pension

To ensure effective implementation of the bill, designated Program Officers will oversee its execution at the local level. These officers, located in rural and urban areas, will be responsible for providing employment within 15 days of application receipt. In cases of non-employment, applicants will receive an unemployment allowance on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, the bill guarantees an annual increment in the pension amount. Starting from 2024-2025, the pension will increase by 5 percent in July and 10 percent in January, promoting financial security and keeping up with the rising cost of living.

Rajasthan Honour of Dead Body Bill, 2023

The Rajasthan Assembly recently passed a significant bill, known as the Rajasthan Honour of Dead Body Bill, 2023. This bill aims to penalize protests involving dead bodies and has raised several discussions and debates.





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The bill comes as a response to the alarming increase in cases of protests with dead bodies. During the previous BJP government (2014-2018), 82 such cases were recorded. However, under the current government (2019-2023), this number has risen significantly to 306 cases. The surge in such incidents prompted the need for a specific legislation to address the issue.

Provision 1: Seizure of Dead Body

Under the Rajasthan Honour of Dead Body Bill, 2023, the district administration is authorized to take action if the deceased person's family resorts to protests with the dead body. In such cases, the district administration can lawfully seize the body and conduct the last rites, thereby preventing prolonged public demonstrations.

Provision 2: Imprisonment for Protestors

To deter individuals from participating in protests with dead bodies, the bill imposes strict penalties. Those involved in such protests may face imprisonment for up to five years. This provision is aimed at discouraging acts that disrupt public order and harmony.

Provision 3: Demands of Families

In many instances, families protesting with dead bodies have demanded jobs or financial compensation (money). Such demands can lead to prolonged protests, affecting public life and causing distress to the communities involved.

Provision 4: Victim Compensation Scheme

The existing Victim Compensation Scheme covers compensation in cases of unjust deaths. However, the bill aims to address protests involving dead bodies specifically and establishes a separate framework for handling such situations.

Provision 5: Non-Possession of Dead Body

The bill also addresses the issue of unclaimed dead bodies. It stipulates that family members who do not take possession of a dead body can face imprisonment for up to one year or be subject to a fine, or both. This provision intends to ensure proper and timely disposal of deceased bodies.

Criticism and Opposition

The bill has faced criticism from various quarters. It was likened the legislation to the notorious Defence of India Act (DIR) and Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) implemented during the emergency. The comparison has raised concerns about potential misuse of power and infringement on individual rights.

ONE LINER:

- Chandrayaan-3: India's third moon mission all set to be launched today.
- The government has listed the Bill to replace the contentious ordinance on Delhi services.
- European Parliament asks India to act promptly to end Manipur violence.
- The National Exit Test (NExT) has been deferred till further notice from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Centre to supply free Doordarshan DTH connections and facilitate better mobile connectivity in villages along border areas.





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- U.S. Senate Committee passes resolution recognising Arunachal Pradesh as integral part of India.
- Google launches ChatGPT rival Bard in European Union, Brazil and several more nations.
- India's January-June trade with China declines amid slowdown.
- Telecom companies oppose international SMS traffic redefinition.
- Government curbs gold imports to check rising shipments through Indonesia.
- Thai leader Pita Limjaroenrat loses vote to become Prime Minister.
- U.S.: First over-the-counter birth control pill gets FDA approval.
- Nepal bans 'non-essential' flights by helicopters after the crash
- Indian hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker and middle-distance runner Ajay Kumar Saroj won gold medals at the Asian Athletics Championships 2023.
- Sumit Antil scripted a world record in F64 javelin throw with a best attempt of 70.83m at the World Para-Athletics Championship.
- International Cricket Council announces equal prize money for men and women.
- US Open Super 300 badminton tournament: P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen win openers.
- Countdown begins for launch of Chandrayaan-3, India's third lunar exploration mission.
- 3rd Sherpas G20 meeting to begin in Hampi, Karnataka.
- Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission bags SKOCH Award under "State of Governance India 2047" in Gold category.
- Department of Space is to transfer of technology associated with Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to eligible Indian industries.
- Centre to buy tomatoes from south and west to sell in northern cities.
- Ministry of Defence and FSSAI sign MoU to promote use of millets.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grows by 5.2% in May 2023 from 4.2% in April 2022.
- Retail inflation, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), stood at 4.81 percent in June this year.
- GST Council exempts cancer-fighting drugs and medicines for rare diseases from tax.
- Myanmar and South China Sea tensions are the top agenda at ASEAN meet In Indonesia.
- North Korea fired ballistic missile from Pyongyang area to waters off its east coast.
- Pakistan gets final IMF nod for USD 3-billion loan in stand-by arrangement.
- NASA celebrates Webb telescope anniversary with new image.
- India's Nishad Kumar clinches silver in Men's High Jump event at Para Athletics World Championships.
- Wimbledon Tennis: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden to play in Men's Doubles semi-final.
- US Open Super 300 badminton tournament: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu defeats her American opponent Disha Gupta.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi to set up offshore campus in Abu Dhabi.
- ISRO performs first orbit-raising manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-3.
- Supreme Court (SC) Collegium has recommended permanent judgeships in five High Courts.
- Freedom fighter Sankaraiah to get honorary doctorate by Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu.
- Karnataka to begin Gruha Lakshmi scheme on July 19.





AGRASEN CIVIL SERVICES ACADEMY, JAIPUR

Where tradition meets innovation

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin inaugurated the state-of-the-art Kalaignar Centenary Library in Madurai.
- A three-year surveillance study in Kolkata finds a new diarrhoea-causing parasite.
- India and UAE set to use rupee, dirham for trade; MoU signed between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the UAE.
- Textile and apparel exports contracted 11.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) in June.
- Recent Study reveals that using ChatGPT boosts productivity.
- China's top diplomat Wang Yi calls for clarity on ties between EU and China.
- Switzerland, the U.K. and Norway will experience the largest relative surge in cooling needs if the increase in global mean temperature rises to 2 degree C above pre-industrial levels.
- Lakshya Sen enters into the last-four stage of the U.S. Open Super 300 badminton.
- R Ashwin became the second-highest wicket-taker for India behind Anil Kumble (953) in international cricket.
- Marketa Vondrousova defeats Tunisia's Ons Jabeur to become the first unseeded player in the professional era to win the Wimbledon women's singles title.
- 26-party alliance I.N.D.I.A. has been formed to challenge BJP-led NDA in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- India reports a record 93% DPT3 immunisation coverage in 2022: WHO.
- ISRO: Chandrayaan completes third orbit-raising manoeuvre.
- India and France will develop new-gen military equipment: French Envoy.
- Chennai Metro inks ₹1,205-crore contract agreement with Tata Projects for stations.
- Textiles ministry reopens performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme portal till August 31 for man-made fibre (MMF) apparel.
- Food price rise shows fight against inflation far from over: RBI.
- Targeting 1 million CBDC transactions per day by end 2023: RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) retains India's growth forecast at 6.4% for current fiscal.
- DR Congo's state company signs USD 1.9-billion mining deal with UAE.
- The U.K. House of Lords passed the Illegal Migration Bill.
- Pakistan gets another USD 600 million loan from China.
- UK Inflation rate to 15-month low at 7.9%, Bank of England may hike interest rate.
- India's R. Satwiksairaj set the Guinness World Record for the fastest hit by a male player in badminton at 565kmph.
- ICC Test rankings: Rohit back in top 10 list of batters; Ashwin retains Number 1 spot in the list of Test bowler.
- Monsoon session of Parliament begins today; 31 bills to be taken up during the session.
- President Droupadi Murmu presents Bhoomi Samman to 9 State Secretaries AND 68 District Collectors.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurates integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair.
- Union government is to launch an online repository of books accessible at all libraries across the country, including the high-profile Libraries and Museums.





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- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 in New Delhi.
- The President appointed new Chief Justices to four High Courts.
- Sixteen people were killed, and eleven others were injured after they were electrocuted at a Namami Gange project site in Chamoli, Uttarakhand.
- President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate two-day Festival of Libraries 2023 in New Delhi.
- Home Minister launches 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' for claims by depositors of cooperative societies of Sahara Group.
- Rajasthan introduced 'The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill, 2023' in the Assembly.
- Tata to invest £4 billion for building JLR battery cell gigafactory in U.K.
- India voiced support for the UN's efforts in continuing the Black Sea Grain initiative.
- India climbs seven points to 80 on Henley Passport Index 2023; Singapore at top position.
- 105 trafficked antiquities of India are returning home to India from USA.
- Turkey's Erdogan signs \$50 bn in deals during visit to Arab nations.
- Women's Football: FIFA World Cup kicks-off today.
- ISSF Junior World C'ships: Harmehar Singh Lally, Sanjana Sood win silver medal in skeet mixed team event.
- Indian Surf Team wins bronze medal at Asian Surfing Championship in Maldives
- Badminton: H.S. Prannoy and Priyanshu Rajawat advance to second round of Korea Open tournament
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to conduct Cell Broadcast Alert System testing to enhance emergency communication during disasters.
- DPIIT and state government of Gujarat jointly launch 'One District One Product' Wall.
- Coal Ministry bags Best Engagement Award for Procurement through GeM Portal.
- Rajya Sabha Chairman nominates fifty percent women members to the panel of Vice- Chairpersons.
- Labour & Employment Ministers of G20 Countries to meet in Madhya Pradesh.
- NITI Aayog convenes India's Electric Mobility Enablers under G20 Presidency.
- NITI Aayog releases Analytical Tools for managing Climate Change and exploring Net Zero Pathways.
- MoU signed between Ministry of Culture and Canara Bank to facilitate provision of financial assistance to Veteran Artists.
- First ever 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Livestock Sector has been launched.
- Centre amends Export Policy of Non-Basmati White Rice to ensure adequate domestic availability at reasonable prices.
- Indo-Japan bilateral held for cooperation in the steel sector and decarbonisation issues.
- U.S. plans second summit with Pacific Island leaders in September.
- UK elections: Rishi Sunak's Conservatives suffer big defeats.
- Thousands of UK hospital doctors walk out in the pay dispute.
- Iraq orders the expulsion of Sweden's ambassador, after desecration of a copy of the Quran.
- Korea Open Badminton: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to play men's doubles quarterfinal.
- India breaks into top-100 in FIFA ranking for first time since 2018 at rank 99.





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Where tradition meets innovation

- India claims bronze medal in Asian surfing championship.
- Health Ministry launches an online portal to facilitate reporting of violations of ban on e-cigarettes.
- CBSE asks schools to use any Indian language as optional medium of instruction, in addition to the other options.
- Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed that of 604 judges appointed since 2018 to High Courts, 454 belong to the general category.
- Varanasi court orders Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey of Gyanvapi mosque.
- National Commission for Women (NCW) was informed of 6 incidents of violence in Manipur on June 12.
- ECONOMY & CORPORATE
- Aviation industry regulator DGCA granted Go First conditional approval to resume flights.
- ONDC starts learning academy for merchants called the ONDC Academy.
- Union Minister For Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat released Manual For Disaster Management Plan.
- WORLD
- U.K. Conservative Party suffers severe losses in parliamentary byelections.
- Saudi Aramco completed its purchase of 10 % stake in China petrochemicals firm.
- U.S. President Joe Biden has chosen Admiral Lisa Franchetti to lead the Navy.
- Kohli becomes fifth highest run-scorer in international cricket.
- Indian team bags rapid fire pistol silver at Junior Worlds Championship in Changwon, Korea.
- Badminton: Satwik-Chirag pair enters semifinals of Korea Open.

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