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Website: www.drishtiias.com Email: help@groupdrishti.in

Content

•	Rajasthan's New Governor	3
•	HUDCO MoU with Rajasthan	3
•	Tribal Communities Solutions to Global Challenges	3
•	Tribals Demand for Bhil Pradesh	4
•	Rajasthan Citizenship Camps for Minority	5
•	Rajasthan Tribal Movement	5
•	Sajjangarh Biological Park	5
•	Rajasthan Aims for Self-Reliance in Power and Energy	6
•	Rajasthan Budget 2024	6
•	Rajasthan: First State to Adopt Road Safety Action Plan	7
•	Rajasthan to Form Tourism Board	8
•	Greenfield Airport in Kota	8
•	Next Phase of Bustard Conservation	9
•	Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana	. 10
•	Rajasthan New Draft Township Policy	. 11



Rajasthan's New Governor

Why in News?

Recently, **President Droupadi Murmu appointed** the veteran Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde as the new governor of Rajasthan.

Key Points

- The Governor's appointment, his powers and everything related to the office of Governor have been discussed under Article 153 to Article 162 of the Indian Constitution.
- The role of the Governor is guite similar to that of the President of India. The Governor performs the same duties as the President, but for the State.
 - The Governor stands as executive head of a State and the working remains the same as of the office of President of India.
 - Under the Constitution of India, the governing machinery is the same as that of the Central Government.
- It is stated that the Governor has a dual role.
 - O He is the constitutional head of the state, bound by the advice of his council of ministers.
 - O He functions as a vital link between the Union Government and the State Government.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

> About:

- RSS is a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation founded in 1925 in Nagpur by Dr. K.B. Hedgewar in response to perceived threats to Hindu culture and society, particularly during British colonial rule.
- o It aims to promote the idea of Hindutva, which emphasises Hindu cultural and national identity.

> Pre-Independence Era:

o The organization played a significant role in social and cultural mobilisation among Hindus. It focused on community service, education, and the promotion of Hindu values.

> Post-Independence:

o After India's independence in 1947, the RSS faced scrutiny, especially after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi by Nathuram Godse in 1948. The organisation was banned for a short period but was later reinstated.

Ideology:

- The central ideology of the RSS, articulated by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, promotes the idea that India is fundamentally a Hindu nation.
- o The RSS emphasises the **importance of Indian** culture and heritage, aiming to unite people under a common national identity.
- O The organization engages in various **social service** activities, including education, health care, and disaster relief, promoting the idea of "Seva" (service) among its members.

HUDCO MoU with Rajasthan

Why in News?

Recently, Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Ltd signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan government regarding financial assistance for housing and urban infrastructure projects.

Key Points

The MoU is a preliminary agreement between the parties to provide financial assistance for housing and urban infrastructure projects in Rajasthan up to Rs 1,00,000 crore over the next 5 years, subject to mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)

- HUDCO, a **public sector company** under the **Ministry** of Housing and Urban Affairs, focuses on building assets for the nation with a motto of "Profitability with Social Justice".
- It emphasizes on addressing the housing needs of the **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** and Low-Income Groups (LIG).

Tribal Communities Solutions to Global Challenges

Why in News?

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable **Development** held at the **United Nations** headquarters in New York, highlighted the solutions and policy involvement of indigenous tribal communities in Rajasthan to address global challenges.



A State representative discussed how the traditional practices of the tribal communities have contributed to the preservation of their rich natural heritage.

Key Points

- The forum was held under the auspices of the <u>U.N.</u>
 <u>Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).</u>
 - Its theme was 'Reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions'.
- A ministerial declaration adopted at the forum called for renewed impetus to achieve the <u>Sustainable</u> <u>Development Goals (SDGs)</u>.
 - According to ECOSOC president Paula Narvaez, the ministerial declaration had reinforced the urgency of implementing the <u>2030 agenda for sustainable</u> development.
- Experts at the forum emphasized the importance of recognizing indigenous communities for their contributions to biodiversity and ecosystems.
 - They advocated for global involvement of these communities in strategy formulation, highlighting that their traditional practices provide essential insights for sustainable development.
- The indigenous practices, rooted in reverence for natural and community-centric approaches, could promote sustainability and resilience, which were essential for reinforcing the 2030 agenda amid the crisis.
- Inspired by the <u>principles of swaraj (sovereignty)</u>, the tribal communities' lifestyle and cultural values have fostered self-sufficiency, reduced reliance on external sources, and improved agricultural practices, ensuring food, nutrition, and livelihood security for their families.
 - The best practices of tribals highlighted at the forum included the production of local seeds, water conservation at source, use of animals in agriculture, checking soil erosion through mixed cropping, and the use of uncultivated food for nutritional security.
 - These practices have helped tribal communities reduce their dependence on the market and survive during the difficult phases, including the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

> The traditional practices of tribal communities would not only fulfill their own aspirations, providing them with sustainable and resilient solutions, but would also help address the issues of poverty, inequality and vulnerability, in order to potentially advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs.

UN Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC)

- Established by the UN Charter in 1945, it is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It has 54 members, elected by the <u>UN General</u> <u>Assembly</u> for overlapping three-year terms.
- It is the UN's central platform for reflection, debate and innovative thinking on <u>sustainable development</u>.
 - Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.
- It coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member states.

Tribals Demand for Bhil Pradesh

Why in News?

Recently, The Rajasthan tribal community has demanded for the creation of a new state called 'Bhil Pradesh'.

Key Points

- The tribal society is demanding the creation of a new state by merging 49 districts from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
 - Additionally, there is a request to incorporate 12 districts from the previous 33 districts of Rajasthan into the new state.
- Thirty-five organizations, including Adivasi Parivar, the largest group in the <u>Bhil community</u>, organized a huge rally.
 - Tribal people from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra were also gathered for the meeting held at Mangarh Dham in Banswara.



Bhil community

- The Bhil are one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The name is derived from the word 'billu', which means bow.
- The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography.
- Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. They are also skilled sculptors.
- Bhil women wear traditional saris while men are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas. The woman put on heavy ornaments made of silver, brass along with rosaries of beads and silver coins and earrings.

Rajasthan Citizenship Camps for Minority

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government is going to organize special camps to grant Indian citizenship to minority refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Key Points

- The rules and procedures for granting Indian citizenship to minority refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have been simplified. District collectors are now authorized to issue citizenship certificates.
- According to the sources, **2,329 people have been** granted citizenship in the state from 2016 to 2024.
 - A total of 1,566 applications are pending at present.
 Of these, Intelligence Bureau reports are awaited in 300 cases.

Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019

- The <u>Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019</u> seeks to amend the <u>Citizenship Act, 1955.</u>
- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December, 2014.
- It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the <u>Foreigners Act</u>, <u>1946</u> and the <u>Passport Act</u>, <u>1920</u>.

 The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.

Rajasthan Tribal Movement

Why in News?

A popular movement in the <u>tribal-dominated regions</u> <u>of southern Rajasthan</u> is working to <u>preserve indigenous</u> <u>seed varieties</u>, many of which are on the brink of extinction. This effort is promoting <u>crop diversity</u> and enhancing <u>climate resilience</u>.

Key Points

- In the tribal belt at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, thousands of tribal people, from about 1,000 villages and hamlets took part in a series of Beej Utsavs, or seed festivals.
 - The seed festivals exhibited traditional seeds and held interactive sessions on their properties and significance.
 - The tribals were encouraged to protect their rich heritage of biodiversity through farm practices handed down through several generations.
- Indigenous seeds are an important legacy preserved by tribal communities in the midst of the increasing influence of multinational companies in the agriculture sector.
- Banswara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara was the main organiser of the Beej Utsav events, which were facilitated by other tribal rights groups, such as Krishi Evum Adivasi Swaraj Sangathan, Gram Swaraj Samooh, Saksham Samooh, and Baal Swaraj.

Sajjangarh Biological Park

Why in News?

Sajjangarh Biological Park in Udaipur is anticipated to receive a pair of lions from Sakkarbaug Zoological Park in Junagadh, Gujarat, as part of an animal exchange initiative.

Key Points

The <u>lion safari project</u>, with a budget of Rs 3.45 crore, aims to boost the attractiveness of the biological park established in 2015.



- Covering 26 hectares, the safari will include both a holding area and a display area for the lions, capable of accommodating up to eight lions.
- In exchange, Sajjangarh Biological Park will provide Sakkarbaug Zoo with two pairs of foxes, one pair of hyenas, two pairs of jackals, a pair of wild cats, and two chinkaras.
- The <u>Central Zoo Authority</u> approved the transfer of the lions in February 2024 to boost tourism in Udaipur by launching the lion safari before the year's end.
 - Besides the lion safari, the biological park is also expanding its facilities to include a reptile section, a nocturnal animals' section, and a leopard rescue center.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- > It is located in **Udaipur (Rajasthan).**
- It is a part of Sajjangarh Palace (also known as Monsoon Palace) built in 1884.
 - The Palace derived its name from Maharana Sajjan Singh, one of the rulers of the Mewar dynasty.
- It is famous for chitals, panthers, hares, blue bulls (Nilgais), jackals, wild boars, hyenas, and sambhar.

Rajasthan Aims for Self-Reliance in Power and Energy

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government aims to **produce 30 gigawatt (Gw) of <u>solar power</u>** by the end of FY25 to become **self-reliant in the power and energy sector.**

Key Points

- In March 2024, The state government and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) India signed an agreement to form a joint venture for setting up a 1,000 megawatt (Mw) solar power plant and a 125 MW lignite-based power plant in Bikaner, with an investment of over Rs 7,000 crore.
 - The government also approved land for four major solar projects to make the state a leader in energy self-sufficiency.
 - The projects include three solar parks in Bikaner totaling 2,450 MW and a 500 MW project in Phalodi.

- The state is also strengthening the PM Kusum Solar pump plant, which will assist in installing solar pumps in more than 50,000 farms and produce 200 MW of electricity.
 - The initiative also encourages the adoption of <u>renewable energy</u> sources and plays a significant part in revitalizing the <u>agriculture sector</u> in the state through the <u>implementation of solar-powered pumps</u>.

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Uttham Mahabhiyan)

- The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
- The <u>Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)</u> had in February 2019 approved the launch of the scheme with the <u>objective of providing financial</u> and water security.
- The government's <u>Budget for 2020-21</u> expanded the scope for the scheme with 20 lakh farmers to be provided assistance to install standalone solar pumps; another 15 lakh farmers to be given help to solarise their grid-connected pump sets.
 - This will enable farmers to set up solar power generation capacity on their barren lands and to sell it to the grid.

Rajasthan Budget 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan's** state finance minister Diya Kumari has unveiled the **comprehensive Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.**

Key Points

- Under <u>Jal Jeevan Mission Projects</u>, Rs 20,370 crores will be allotted for six projects covering 5,846 villages.
- Rs 5,180 crores for projects in 185 urban settlements over the next two years, under the <u>Amrut 2.0 Projects</u>.
- Rs 187 crores for small projects, including the construction of service reservoirs and pipelines in Ajmer.
- Generation target increased to 33,600 MW.
- Lok Parivahan Sewa will be implemented to improve rural connectivity.



- 208,000 homes to receive connections within two years; PM Suryaghar Yojana to create model solar villages; 2.5 million smart meters to be installed to prevent electricity leakage.
- Modern shelters and charging stations in major cities;
 300 electric buses to enhance public transport.
- Rs 60,000 crores for new road projects, including bypasses, state highways, and infrastructure enhancements; Rs 9,000 crores for road repairs, railway bridges, underpasses, and beautification projects.
- Introduction of <u>New Industrial Policy 2024 and a New Export Promotion Policy</u>, 2024.
- Nine greenfield expressways with a total length of over 2750 km will be constructed.
- A budget of Rs 650 crores has been allocated for setting up 71 solid waste processing plants in cities, 131 legacy waste management centers, and for implementing vehicle tracking systems and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to improve waste collection management.
- A budget of Rs 100 crore has been allocated for the Jaipur Walled City Heritage Development Plan, which is intended to preserve monuments and the <u>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural</u> <u>Organization Heritage site.</u>
- Under the "One District One Product" initiative, a new policy will be introduced. Annually, a budget of Rs 100 crore will be allocated for this purpose.
 - To promote local products, incentives will be provided under the <u>"Vocal for Local" scheme.</u>

Rajasthan: First State to Adopt Road Safety Action Plan

Why in News?

Rajasthan is going to become the first State in the country to adopt an action plan for <u>road safety</u> for the next 10 years. The action plan will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.

Key Points

The policy would generate awareness among the public at large about road safety provisions and bring about behavioural changes for complying with road safety rules.

- According to the sources, the World Bank would render assistance to the State government in the preparation of an action plan and road safety policy by incorporating the best practices adopted in different countries.
 - The action plan will be implemented in three stages.
 The first stage from 2025 to 2027, second from 2027 to 2030 and the third from 2030 to 2033.
- ➤ It will lay emphasis on different aspects of speed limit, safe distance, traffic signals, use of road barriers, pedestrian safety, use of seatbelts, helmets, and vehicle insurance.

Initiatives Related to Road Safety

Global:

- O Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015):
 - The declaration was signed at the second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety held in Brazil. India is a signatory to the Declaration.
 - The countries plan to achieve <u>Sustainable</u>
 <u>Development Goal 3.6</u> i.e., to halve the
 number of global deaths and injuries from
 road traffic accidents by 2030.

O Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030:

- The <u>UN General Assembly</u> adopted resolution "Improving global road safety " with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030.
- The Global Plan aligns with the <u>Stockholm</u> <u>Declaration</u>, by emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to road safety.
- The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP):
 - It is a registered charity dedicated to saving lives through safer roads.

India:

- Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019:
 - The Act hikes the penalties for traffic violations, defective vehicles, juvenile driving, etc.
 - It provides for a <u>Motor Vehicle Accident Fund</u>, which would provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India for certain types of accidents.
 - It also provides for a National Road Safety
 Board, to be created by the Central Government.



• The Carriage by Road Act, 2007:

- The Act provides for the regulation of common carriers, limiting their liability and declaration of the value of goods delivered to them to determine their liability for loss of, or damage to, such goods occasioned by the negligence or criminal acts of themselves, their servants or agents and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The Control of <u>National Highways (Land and</u> Traffic) Act, 2000:
 - The Act provides for the control of land within the National Highways, right of way and traffic moving on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorized occupation thereon.
- National Highways Authority of India Act, 1998:
 - The Act provides for the constitution of an authority for the development, maintenance and management of NHs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Rajasthan to Form Tourism Board

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** is taking steps to **establish** a <u>tourism</u> board to enhance the industry's role in economic development.

Key Points

- The tourism sector has experienced substantial growth post-pandemic, contributing 14% to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- More than 1,200 tourism units are benefiting from industry status advantages.
 - Plans to include international tour operators in the upcoming tourism mart aim to increase foreign tourist inflow.

Initiatives Related to Tourism in India:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme: It was launched to develop theme-based tourist circuits across India, leveraging cultural, historical, and natural heritage.
 - Improved infrastructure and tourist experiences in circuits like the <u>Buddhist Circuit</u>, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, and Eco Circuit.

- PRASAD Scheme: Focuses on the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites.
- HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana): Aims to preserve and revitalize heritage cities.
- Paryatan Parv: A nationwide campaign to encourage domestic tourism, involving cultural events and activities
- Dekho Apna Desh Initiative: This initiative encourages domestic tourism by promoting the exploration of India's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage.
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat: It promotes cultural integration through state pairings, encouraging exchange and collaboration and fostering unity and diversity, enhancing domestic tourism and cultural appreciation.

Greenfield Airport in Kota

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan Cabinet approved building of a Greenfield airport in Kota and an aerocity project in Jaipur.

Key Points

- According to the officials, Cargo services will be initiated at multiple airports in the state.
- Rajasthan aims to achieve self-reliance in power generation. New technology will be developed for solar energy.
 - Three flying schools will be opened in the state in Kishangarh, Bhilwara and Jhalawar, which will generate employment opportunities.

Steps Government has Taken for the Aviation Sector

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate reduced to 5% from 18% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.
- Benefits under <u>Emergency Credit Line Guarantee</u> <u>Scheme (ECLGS) 3.0</u> have been extended to the civil aviation sector.
- Operation of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)

 UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik) flights promoted private investments in existing and new airports through the PPP route.



- Route rationalisation in the Indian airspace in coordination with the Indian Air Force for efficient airspace management, shorter routes and reduced fuel burn.
- **RCS-UDAN** was launched to promote air connectivity to unserved and underserved airports in Tier-II and Tier-III cities to stimulate regional growth and provide affordable air travel to the citizens.

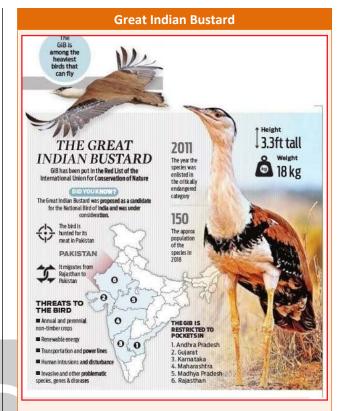
Next Phase of Bustard Conservation

Why in News?

Recently, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has approved Rs 56 crore for the next phase of the conservation of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican.

Key Points

- The plan includes habitat development, in-situ conservation, completing the conservation breeding center, releasing captive-bred birds, and other activities.
- ➤ The National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) had recommended the Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) proposal to the governing body.
- Plans to recover the species first started in 2013 under the **National Bustard Recovery Plan**, which later gave way to the **Bustard Recovery Project in 2016**.
 - o Later, in July 2018, a tripartite agreement was signed between MoEFCC, Rajasthan forest department and WII.
- As part of the project run by the three parties, **two** GIB conservation breeding centres and one Lesser Florican centre are functioning in Rajasthan's Sam, Ramdevra and Sorsan respectively.
 - O The team at Sam and Ramdevra built up a founder population by collecting GIB eggs from the wild, which were incubated and hatched artificially in the facility.
 - O Currently, there are approximately 140 GIBs and fewer than 1,000 Lesser Floricans left in the wild.



- The Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps), the State bird of Rajasthan, is considered India's most critically endangered bird.
- It is considered the flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Its population is confined mostly to Rajasthan and Gujarat. Small populations occur in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Protection Status:**
 - IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered **Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Appendix 1
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix I
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

Lesser Florican (Sypheotides indicus)

- It is one of three bustard species endemic to India, the others being the Bengal florican and the Great Indian Bustard.
- In the local language, the bird is known as 'tanmor' on 'kharmor', derived from the root word 'mor' for peacock.





- The endangered bird is observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat.
- Conservation status:
 - <u>IUCN Status:</u> Endangered
 - o Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
 - o **CITES:** Appendix II

Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

Why in News?

Recently, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma launched Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The state government announced an additional annual financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to farmers who are already beneficiaries of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

Key Points

Under this scheme, the first installment of Rs 1,000 has been disbursed, followed by two installments of Rs 500 each.

- The Cooperative Department has been designated as the nodal department for the effective implementation of the scheme.
- More than 65 lakh farmers in Rajasthan received over Rs 650 crore directly into their bank accounts as part of this first installment.
- The CM also distributed Rs 3 lakh each to 51 womenrun village service Cooperative Societies.
 - These societies, managed exclusively by women, aim to develop leadership skills and empower women to make decisions for their own development and welfare.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- ➤ It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture** and Farmers Welfare.
- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments, directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- It intends to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State / UT Governments.

Cooperative Society

- Cooperatives are organizations formed at the grassroots level by people to harness the power of collective bargaining in the marketplace.
 - This can mean different kinds of arrangements, such as using a common resource or sharing capital, to derive a common gain that would otherwise be difficult for an individual producer to get.
- In agriculture, cooperative dairies, sugar mills, spinning mills etc. are formed with the pooled resources of farmers who wish to process their produce.
 - Amul is perhaps the best-known cooperative society in India.



Rajasthan New Draft Township Policy

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government has come up with a fresh **draft township policy and building by-laws** and has invited suggestions from people and all the stakeholders.

Key Points

- According to the new draft policy, a developer will be accountable for the upkeep of units sold in their township for a **period of seven years.**
 - These townships will solely be constructed in areas designated by the authorities, who will ensure that all necessary amenities such as water and electricity are accessible in that region.
- According to the new building by-laws, a tall building would not be allowed to be constructed on a small plot in the housing schemes and colonies of the cities.
- Key Highlights:
 - o Only eight-storey buildings can be built on plots of more than five hundred to 750 square metre area.
 - The construction of green buildings or eco-friendly buildings is being made mandatory on plots of more than 2500 square meters in cities.
 - o In group housing, multi-residential units, now space for one car parking will have to be left for every unit.





Key Points	Details
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