



Subsidy on Electric vehicles | Rajasthan | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Under the **Electric Vehicle Policy**, the Rajasthan government has constituted an **e-vehicle promotion fund** of Rs 200 crore to **promote electric vehicles**.

Key Points

▪ About the Fund:

- The State Government's "**Electric Vehicle Policy-2022**" includes a provision to **reimburse the State GST amount** and offer a **one-time grant from the E-Vehicle Promotion Fund to buyers of electric vehicles** equipped with modern batteries, following the guidelines of **FAME-2**.
- The reimbursement and one-time grant amount will be payable on vehicles purchased from 1st January 2022 and registered in the state.
- **The Process:**
 - To avail the subsidy, firstly the vehicle manufacturer is required to **register on the departmental portal**.
 - After verification, the department will allow the vehicle buyer to apply for the grant.
- Under this policy, **all types of electric vehicles ranging from two-wheelers to heavy vehicles** have been included.
- The government aims to **encourage more people to use electric vehicles instead of diesel and petrol**, reducing **pollution** and preserving environmental balance.

▪ Advantages of Electric Vehicles:

- It produces zero tailpipe emissions, contributing to cleaner air and improved public health.
- Electricity can be cheaper than gasoline, leading to lower fuel costs per kilometer.
- Electric motors produce significantly less noise than gasoline engines.
- Electric motors convert a higher percentage of energy into useful power than gasoline engines.

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Electric Vehicles

- Electric vehicles are types of vehicles that use one or more electric motors for propulsion, instead of conventional **internal combustion engines (ICE)**, which burn gasoline or diesel.
 - **Types of Electric Vehicles:**
 - **Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV):** These rely solely on battery power for propulsion and produce zero tailpipe emissions.
 - **Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV):** Combine an electric motor with a gasoline engine. These can be charged externally and run on battery power for a limited distance, then switch to the gasoline engine for longer trips.
 - **Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs):** These use both an electric motor and a gasoline engine, but the battery cannot be charged by plugging in directly.
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New Expressways Approved | Uttar Pradesh | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has approved the construction of **7 new expressways** to facilitate road transport in the state .

Key Points

- **About the Expressway:**
 - The Chief Minister has announced to **invest Rs 50 thousand crores** on this project.
 - These 7 expressways will connect 56 districts of Uttar Pradesh between Lucknow and Delhi.
 - The total length of these seven expressways will be 866 km which will be completed in the coming 2-3 years.
 - This step will play an important role in the Uttar Pradesh government's mission to make the state's economy **one trillion dollars**.
- **Proposed 7 expressways:**
 - **Chitrakoot Link Expressway:** This 120 km long expressway will connect various districts of Bundelkhand.
 - **Jhansi Link Expressway:** Its length will be 100 km and through this the major districts of Bundelkhand will get direct connectivity with the expressway.
 - **Jewar Link Expressway:** This expressway will connect **Jewar Airport** to Yamuna Expressway so that people can directly connect to the airport.
 - **Vindhya Expressway:** Its length is 320 km and this expressway will provide better transport facilities to the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh.
 - In this, districts like Mirzapur, Banaras, Jaunpur will be connected to Prayagraj.
 - **Vindhya Purvanchal Link Expressway:** Its length is 100 km and will be constructed between Mirzapur to Ghazipur to connect Vindhyachal region with **Purvanchal**.
 - **Lucknow Link Expressway:** This 50 km long expressway will connect Purvanchal and Agra Expressway.
 - **Agra-Lucknow Ganga Expressway Link Road:** The length of this link expressway will be 90 km, which will be built to connect **Ganga Expressway** between Prayagraj and Meerut to Lucknow.

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Expressway network in Uttar Pradesh:

- Uttar Pradesh has the largest expressway network in the country. The following are the major expressways of Uttar Pradesh-
 - Yamuna Expressway: **Uttar Pradesh's first expressway**
 - Ganga Expressway: **The longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh**
 - Agra-Lucknow Expressway: Greenfield Expressway of Uttar Pradesh
 - Delhi-Meerut Expressway
 - Purvanchal Expressway
 - Bundelkhand Expressway
 - Gorakhpur Link Expressway
 - Lucknow Kanpur Expressway

Organising awareness campaigns | Madhya Pradesh | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, on completion of 10 years of the '[Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao](#)' campaign, an awareness campaign was organized in **the Government Girls Hostel** in Betul.

Key Points

- Objective:**
 - The main objective of this program was to make women aware about education and to develop positive thinking regarding their rights in the society.
 - During this campaign, the girls were given information on [POCSO Act](#), **Child Helpline (1098)**, **One Stop Centre** services and [menstrual hygiene management](#).
- The POCSO Act:**
 - It came into force on November 14, 2012, as a result of India's ratification of [the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the year 1992](#).
 - This Act defines **any person below the age of 18 as a child**. And provides for punishment based on the severity of the crime.
 - In the year 2019, this law was reviewed and amended, which provided for harsher punishments like death penalty in cases of sexual abuse of children.
 - The Government of India has also notified **the POCSO Rules, 2020**.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

▪ Introduction:

- 22 January 2025 marks the completion of 10 years since the launch of [the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao \(BBBP\) scheme](#).
- It was launched on 22 January 2015 with the aim of addressing sex selective abortion and declining child sex ratio, which stood at 918 girls per 1,000 boys in 2011.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

▪ Main objectives:

- Prevention of gender based selection.
- To ensure the survival and protection of girl children.
- To ensure proper arrangement of education for girls and their participation.
- Protecting the rights of the girl child.

Guru Ravidas Jayanti | Uttar Pradesh | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

[Guru Ravidas Jayanti](#) was celebrated in Uttar Pradesh on 12 February 2025. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state.

Key Points

▪ About Guru Ravidas:

- **Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated on the full moon day of Magh month** according to the Hindu lunar calendar.
- Guru Ravidas or Raidas was a 14th-century saint and **reformer of the Bhakti movement in North India**.
- He is believed to have been **born in a cobbler family in Varanasi**.
- He dedicated his entire life towards the abolition of the caste system and openly despised the concept of Brahminical society.
- His devotional songs had an immediate impact on the Bhakti movement and about 41 of his poems **were included in the Sikh religious text 'Guru Granth Sahib'**.

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- Saint Raidas was a disciple of Swami Ramanand . While Mirabai is said to be the disciple of Saint Raidas .
- He founded the Radasiya or Ravidasiya sect.



National Conference on Combating Human Trafficking | Chhattisgarh | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the Chairperson of [the National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#), inaugurated a day-long **National Conference on 'Combating Human Trafficking in the Digital Era'**.

The Commission organized the event in collaboration with Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

▪ About the Conference:

- The conference **examined the increasing exploitation of digital technologies in human trafficking.**
- Discussions focused on the role of the **internet, social media, [cryptocurrency](#)**, and other online tools in facilitating trafficking crimes.
- Experts deliberated on preventive measures involving technology, law enforcement agencies, and community participation.

▪ Keynote Address by the Chairman:

- The Chairman highlighted various forms of digital trafficking, including **sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, organ trafficking, and forced marriage.**
- He elaborated on recruitment strategies such as:

- Active Recruitment ("Hook Fishing") - Direct targeting of victims online.
- Passive Recruitment ("Net Fishing") - Using digital platforms to attract potential victims.
- He emphasized the **need for public awareness, stronger regulatory frameworks, and technological solutions** to counter digital exploitation.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Amend the [Immoral Traffic \(Prevention\) Act \(ITPA\)](#) to clearly differentiate between child and adult trafficking and explicitly include cyber trafficking.
 - Establish **formal linkages between the ITPA and the IT Act** to address digital trafficking-related legal gaps.
 - Increase public awareness on self-reporting portals like the [Centralized Complaint and Prevention of Women and Children \(CCPWC\)](#) for improved public participation.
 - Enhance training and resources for [Anti-Human Trafficking Units \(AHTUs\)](#) to tackle trafficking in the digital era.
 - Improve data collection mechanisms to systematically track human trafficking cases across different categories for informed policymaking.
 - Strengthen community engagement to encourage local communities to actively participate in preventing and reporting trafficking crimes.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

- **About:**
 - It ensures the **protection of [rights related to life, liberty](#)**, equality, and dignity of individuals.
 - Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and international covenants enforceable by Indian courts.
- **Establishment:**
 - **Established on 12th October 1993**, under [the Protection of Human Rights Act \(PHRA\), 1993](#).
 - **Amended by** the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006, and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.
 - Established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for promoting and protecting human rights.

MoU to Empower Unemployed Youth | Haryana | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, **Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC), Gurugram**, and **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), Bilaspur**, signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#) to start a [vocational training program](#) for underprivileged youth from [economically weaker sections](#).

Key Points

- **About the Agreement:**
 - The program aims to **uplift underprivileged youth** from economically weaker sections by providing [skill-based training](#).
- **CSR Initiative:**
 - The initiative is part of SECL's [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\)](#) efforts.
 - A total of Rs 3.12 crore has been allocated to train 400 candidates.

- **Training Program Structure:**
 - **Non-Residential Training:**
 - ATDC will set up **training centers for 300 candidates** under the **Self-Employed Tailor Program**.
 - Training centers will be established in SECL Bishrampur, Sohagpur, and Korba areas.
 - **Residential Training:**
 - **100 candidates** will undergo a **fully residential training program** at the ATDC Training Center in Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh.
 - The program will provide **free boarding and lodging**.
 - Candidates will be selected from within a 25-kilometer radius of SECL establishments.
- **Objective and Vision:**
 - Under the guidance of [the Ministry of Coal](#), this initiative aims to:
 - Empower underprivileged youth in [coalfield regions](#).
 - Create self-employment and job opportunities.
 - Contribute to the vision of [Viksit Bharat](#).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **CSR** in general can be referred to as a **corporate initiative** to assess and take responsibility for the **company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare**.
- **It is a self-regulating business model** that helps a **company to be socially accountable**. By practising corporate social responsibility, **companies can be conscious of the impact they are having on economic, social, and environmental factors**.
- **India is the first country to mandate CSR spending** under **clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013**, with a framework for identifying potential CSR activities.
 - Unlike India, **most countries have voluntary CSR frameworks**. **Norway and Sweden**, which have moved to mandatory CSR provisions, began with voluntary models.

38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela | Haryana | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The Union Minister for [Culture and Tourism](#) inaugurated the [38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela](#) in **Faridabad district of Haryana**.

Key Points

- **About Surajkund Mela:**
 - The Surajkund International Crafts Mela will run from **7th February to 23rd February 2025**.
 - The event will showcase **art, craftsmanship, and talent from artisans across India and the world**.
 - The Union Minister described Surajkund Mela as more than just a marketplace, highlighting its **role in preserving and promoting ancient craftsmanship**.
- **MICE Tourism Potential in Haryana:**
 - Haryana's close proximity to Delhi gives it a strategic advantage, positioning it as an ideal hub for [MICE \(Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions\) tourism](#).
 - The Minister encouraged the state to:

- Expand Surajkund Mela's reach through [digital marketing](#).
- **Engage YouTubers, photographers, and social media influencers** to enhance global visibility.
- Provide **new business opportunities for artisans** through digital exposure.
- **Symbol of Cultural Identity:**
 - Haryana Chief Minister called Surajkund Mela a **symbol of Haryana's and India's rich heritage**.
 - He described the event as a **reflection of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (The World is One Family).
 - He congratulated the **Haryana Tourism Department, Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism**, and other supporting ministries for organizing the grand event successfully.

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions)

- MICE is a term used in the **tourism and events industry to categorize and represent a segment** related to business and corporate tourism.
 - MICE tourism involves organizing and hosting events, meetings, conferences, exhibitions, and incentives for companies and groups.
 - These activities aim to facilitate networking, knowledge exchange, business collaborations, and the showcasing of products and services within a professional or business context.
- The **main purpose is to create a networking platform for business**, industry, government and Academic Community and engage in meaningful conversations.

Tribute to Guru Ravidas | Haryana | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The Chief Minister of Haryana paid tribute to [Guru Ravidas](#) on his **birth anniversary**. **Guru Ravidas Jayanti** is celebrated on **Purnima Tithi of Magha Month**.



Key Points

- **Government Initiative for Honoring Saints**
 - The Haryana government launched **the Sant-Mahapurush Samman and Vichar Prachar-Prasar Yojana**.
 - Under this initiative, **birth anniversaries and centenaries of saints and great personalities** will be **celebrated at the state level**.
- **About Guru Ravidas:**
 - Sant Guru Ravidas, **born in 1377 CE in Seer Govardhanpur, Uttar Pradesh**, is revered as a **saint, philosopher, poet, and [social reformer](#)**.
 - Known by various names like Raidas, Rohidas, and Ruhidas, he **hailed from a community traditionally associated with leatherwork**.
 - Guru Ravidas made significant contributions to **[the Bhakti Movement](#)**, emphasising **devotion to the divine and promoting spiritual equality**.
 - His teachings emphasised **human rights, equality, and spiritual enlightenment**.
 - Some of his compositions are included in the revered scripture, **[Guru Granth Sahib Ji](#)**, adding to his literary and philosophical significance.

Bhakti Movement

- The development of the **Bhakti movement took place in Tamil Nadu between the 7th and 9th centuries.**
- It was reflected in the **emotional poems of the Nayanars (devotees of Shiva) and Alvars (devotees of Vishnu).**
 - These saints looked upon religion not as a cold formal worship but as a loving **bond based upon love between the worshipped and worshipper.**
- In course of time, the ideas of the South moved up to the North but it was a very slow process.
- A more effective method for spreading the Bhakti ideology was the **use of local languages.** The **Bhakti saints composed their verses in local languages.**
- They also **translated Sanskrit works** to make them understandable to a wider audience.
 - Examples include **Jnanadeva writing in Marathi, Kabir, Surdas and Tulsidas in Hindi, Shankaradeva popularising Assamese, Chaitanya and Chandidas spreading their message in Bengali, Mirabai in Hindi and Rajasthani.**

Mushroom Cultivation | Jammu & Kashmir | 13 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Farmers in **Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir** are leading an **agricultural revolution** by embracing **mushroom cultivation**, yielding remarkable results. This year, they have produced over **2,500 quintals of mushrooms**, generating revenue of more than Rs 3.15 crore.

Key Points

- **Mushroom Farming Expansion:**
 - 1,220 mushroom growers in Udhampur have successfully cultivated nearly one lakh bags of mushrooms.
 - The region has witnessed a **significant expansion in mushroom farming.**
- **Year-Round Cultivation and Profitability:**
 - Mushroom cultivation can be done **year-round in controlled units, generating higher income during the off-season.**
 - The venture is **highly lucrative and accessible** with the right training and guidance.
 - The ease of accessibility attracts many groups in agriculture to explore mushroom farming.
 - The initiative has particularly **empowered local women and elderly residents**, offering them a **new source of income.**
- **Impact of Agricultural Initiatives:**
 - This highlights the **effectiveness of targeted agricultural initiatives** that create sustainable income opportunities for farmers.
 - As the season progresses, Udhampur anticipates increased production and a **significant boost in monetary returns for its farming community.**

Mushrooms

- **About:**
 - Mushrooms are **fungi that typically have a stem, a cap, and gills.**
 - They are **classified as fungi because they lack chlorophyll** and cannot produce their

food through photosynthesis.

- Mushrooms, belonging to the fungi species, are a **nutritious vegetarian delicacy** and also possess **several medicinal properties**.
- They are a good source of high-quality protein, containing 20-35% protein by dry weight.

▪ **Varieties:**

- Currently, **three main varieties of mushrooms** are cultivated:
 - Button Mushroom
 - Paddy-Straw Mushroom
 - Oyster Mushroom

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