

POLITY

RAJASTHAN MINIMUM INCOME BILL

In Context: A new bill that aims to provide a minimum income guarantee to all adults in Rajasthan was introduced in the state assembly.

About the Bill : The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023 is a landmark legislation that aims to ensure economic security and dignity for all citizens of the state. The Bill proposes to provide a minimum income guarantee and social security pensions to every adult resident of Rajasthan.

Salient features of the Bill

- **Minimum Guaranteed Income**
- ✓ The state government will ensure that every adult citizen receives a minimum income of 125 days a year. This income will be delivered through the Indira Gandhi Shabri Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (IGSRGY) in urban areas and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in rural areas. The IGSRGY is a new scheme launched by the Rajasthan government to provide urban employment opportunities and skill development.
- **Guaranteed Employment**
- ✓ The state government will also guarantee employment for 125 days a year to every household in the state. This will be done by enhancing the existing MGNREGA scheme in rural areas and adding 25 more days of work. The state will also provide additional funds and resources to implement the employment guarantee schemes effectively.
- **Guaranteed Social Security Pension**
- ✓ The state government will also ensure that eligible individuals who are old, specially-abled, widowed, or single women receive a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month. This pension amount will be indexed to inflation and will increase by 5% in July and 10% in January of every financial year starting from 2024-2025.

Significance of this Bill

- **Poverty Alleviation:** One of the main objectives of the Bill is to address poverty by ensuring that every adult citizen receives a minimum income of Rs. 1,000 per month, which can be increased by the state government from time to time. This can help vulnerable families and individuals cope with economic hardship and meet their basic needs.
- **Social Security:** Another important aspect of the Bill is that it provides a minimum pension to the aged, specially-abled, widows, and single women, who often face financial insecurity and social exclusion. This can ensure their dignity and well-being in their old age or case of disability or loss of a spouse.
- **Employment Generation:** The Bill also guarantees 125 days of employment per year to every rural household, which is more than the existing 100 days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This can provide more work opportunities and income to rural families, especially during lean seasons or in times of distress.
- **Social Welfare Focus:** The Bill reflects the government's commitment to prioritize the welfare of the most vulnerable sections of society, in line with Mahatma Gandhi's message of caring for the last person in the queue. The Bill also aims to promote social justice and equality by reducing income disparities and ensuring universal coverage.

Potential challenges that need to be addressed

- **Financial Burden:** The state government estimates that the scheme will cost an additional Rs 2,500 crore per year, which may increase the fiscal deficit and debt of the state. Moreover, the demand for guaranteed income and pensions may rise in the future, as the population grows and the economy faces shocks due to climate change, pandemics, or other factors.
- **Administrative Implementation:** The scheme requires a robust administrative system to ensure that the beneficiaries are correctly identified, verified, and enrolled. It also requires timely and transparent delivery of payments, as well as effective monitoring and evaluation of guaranteed employment projects. The state government will have to coordinate with various departments, agencies, and banks to implement the scheme smoothly and efficiently.
- **Disincentive to Work:** The scheme may create a disincentive to work among some beneficiaries, who may prefer to rely on the guaranteed income rather than seek employment or skill development opportunities. This may reduce the labour supply, productivity and economic growth, as well as increase the dependency ratio and fiscal burden. Moreover, some critics argue that work is not only a source of income, but also of dignity, meaning and social integration, and that UBI may undermine these values.
- Steps to ensure Success Implementation of the scheme
- **Financial Planning:** The government should carefully plan and allocate resources to sustain the scheme's financial viability in the long run. It should also explore alternative sources of revenue, such as taxes, cesses or bonds, to fund the scheme.
- **Transparent Administration:** Transparent and efficient administration is crucial for smooth implementation. Proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be in place to ensure accountability. The use of digital platforms, such as Aadhaar, bank accounts and mobile phones, can help in reducing errors and fraud.
- **Public Awareness:** Raising awareness about the scheme's benefits and eligibility criteria among the public is essential to ensure maximum participation and reach. The government should conduct extensive campaigns and outreach programs to inform and educate potential beneficiaries and stakeholders about the scheme.
- **Social Impact Assessment:** Conducting periodic social impact assessments will help measure the effectiveness of the scheme in reducing poverty and improving the well-being of vulnerable populations. The government

should collect and analyze data on various indicators, such as income, consumption, health, education, empowerment and social cohesion, to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of the scheme

Conclusion: The Rajasthan Minimum Guaranteed Income Bill 2023, represents a significant step towards providing economic security and social welfare to the entire adult population of the state. However, its successful implementation will require careful financial planning, administrative efficiency, and ongoing evaluation to achieve its intended impact on poverty alleviation and social well-being.

Geography

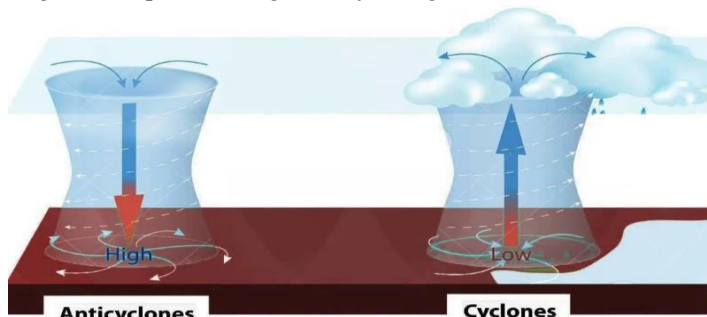
Anticyclones and Heat Domes

In context: The US’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced recently that June was the Earth’s hottest June since the record-keeping of global temperatures began 174 years ago.

Factors behind soaring temperatures

According to scientists and experts, a number of factors are fuelling the soaring temperatures in different parts of the world.

1. **El Nino conditions:** It has developed for the first time in seven years, and is partly responsible for triggering extreme heat, caused by either formation of heat domes or arrival of anticyclones.
2. **Climate change:** It has increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like heat waves and mass scale floods.



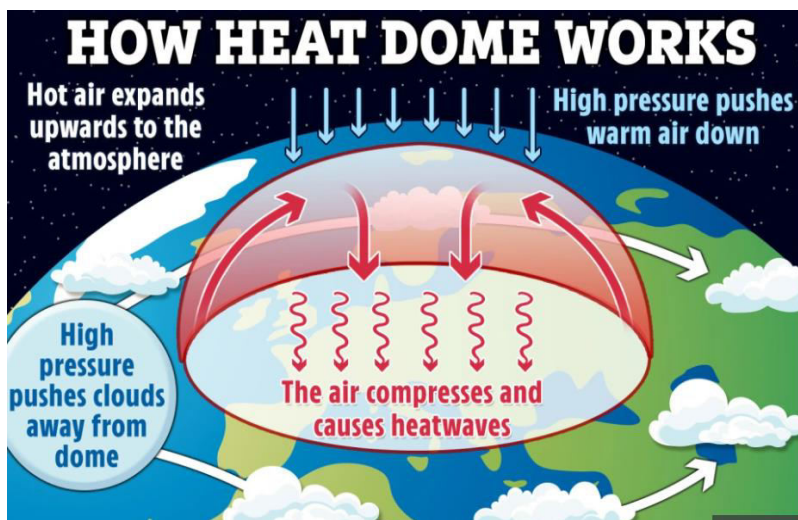
About El Nino

- ✓ El Niño (meaning “the little boy” in Spanish) is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ It is the “warm phase” of a larger phenomenon called the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).
- ✓ La Niña, the “cool phase” of ENSO, is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the region’s surface waters. El Niño and La Niña are considered the ocean part of ENSO, while the Southern Oscillation is its atmospheric changes.
- ✓ El Niño has an impact on ocean temperatures, the speed and strength of ocean currents, the health of coastal fisheries, and local weather patterns across the world.

El Niño events occur irregularly at **two- to seven-year intervals**. However, El Niño is not a regular cycle, or predictable in the sense that ocean tides are.

What are anticyclones and heat domes? How do they produce heat waves?

1. **An anticyclone:**
 - It is also known as a **high-pressure system**, is essentially an area of high pressure in which the air goes downwards towards the Earth’s surface.
 - As the air sinks, its molecules get compressed, which increases the pressure, making it warmer. This causes dry and hot weather.
 - The winds remain calm and gentle during an anticyclone, and there is almost no formation of clouds because here the air sinks rather than rises.
2. **A heat dome:**
 - It occurs when an **area of high-pressure stays over a region** for days and weeks.
 - It **traps warm air**, just like a lid on a pot, for an extended period.
 - The longer that air remains trapped, the more the sun works to heat the air, producing warmer conditions with every passing day.
 - Heat domes, if they last for a long period, may cause deadly heat waves.



Relationship with Climate change:

- ✓ Although heat domes and anticyclones don't occur due to climate change, they have become more intense and longer as a result of soaring global temperatures, scientists and experts believe.
- ✓ As the planet continues to get warmer due to the unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, extreme weather events, much like those unfolding right now, will become more frequent.
- ✓ Moreover, if the Earth breaches the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming limit by the 2030s, there may be irrevocable damage to the ecosystem and geology, with millions of humans and other living beings severely impacted.
- ✓ Also, El Nino conditions are exacerbating the extreme heat around the world. It is known to "greatly increase the likelihood of breaking temperature records and triggering more extreme heat in many parts of the world and in the ocean," a WMO report said.

PRELIM FACTS**1. Airbus A400M**

In context: Aircraft manufacturer Airbus recently pitched its A-400M transport aircraft in response to the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Request For Information (RFI) for a Medium Transport Aircraft (MTA) with a carrying capacity of 18 to 30 tonnes.

About Airbus A400M:

- ✓ It is a European-built military transport aircraft.
- ✓ The aircraft is manufactured by Airbus Defence and Space, a division of the European aerospace and defence firm Airbus.
- ✓ It combines the capability to carry strategic loads with the ability to deliver even into tactical locations with small and unprepared airstrips.
- ✓ It can carry large cargo, vehicles, troops, and paratroopers or be configured for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions.

Features:

- ✓ A powerful turboprop engine that gives the A400M the ability to operate from short, unimproved airfields.
- ✓ Maximum takeoff weight: 141 metric tons (309,000 pounds)
- ✓ Maximum payload: 37 metric tons (41 short tons).
- ✓ It can carry up to 116 fully equipped troops or 66 stretchers and 25 medical attendants. The cargo hold can take nine standard military pallets.
- ✓ Range: 8,900 kilometres (5,530 miles)
- ✓ Speed: 780 kilometres per hour (485 miles per hour)
- ✓ The aircraft is equipped with in-flight refuelling capabilities.
- ✓ The aircraft's independent navigation system comprises an inertial reference system (IRS) integrated with a global positioning system (GPS).
- ✓ It features an advanced glass cockpit with modern avionics and control systems.

What is a turboprop aircraft?

- ✓ A turboprop aircraft uses a turbo-prop engine rather than a piston-powered engine or a jet engine.
- ✓ They have one or more gas-turbine engines connected to a gearbox that turns the propeller(s) to move the aircraft on the ground and through the air.
- ✓ Turboprop aircraft have lower operating costs than jets because they burn less fuel, but they are also slower than jets.

2. National Broadcasting Day 2023:

In context: The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur today conferred the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards.

About

- ✓ National Broadcasting Day in India is marked on July 23 as symbolic of the Radio Club of Bombay (established by some businessmen) making the first-ever broadcast in the country in June 1923.
- ✓ On July 23rd, India commemorates National Broadcasting Day to honor the profound influence of radio in our lives.
- ✓ This significant day marks the inception of India's first-ever radio broadcast, known as "All India Radio (AIR)."
- ✓ Radio broadcasting services were introduced in India during British rule in 1923 as an initiative of the Radio Club of Bombay.
- ✓ India's first-ever radio broadcast commenced from Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company in 1927.
- ✓ In 1956, the name "Akashvani" was officially adopted for AIR, inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's 1938 poem titled "Akashvani," which translates to "voice or announcement from the skies."

Significance Of National Broadcasting Day

Indian radio played a significant role in the formation of an independent India. Prior to gaining independence, Azad Hind Radio led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Congress Radio both played instrumental roles in inspiring and

mobilizing Indians against British colonial rule. Furthermore, during the 1971 war, Akashvani played a crucial role in supporting Bangladesh's liberation struggle against repressive Pakistani forces. These historical contributions highlight the immense impact of radio broadcasting in shaping the nation's destiny. As a result, National Broadcasting Day holds immense importance as a significant occasion for our country, celebrating the power of broadcasting and its role in shaping India's history.

3. Rule 176 and Rule 267

In context: Recently, during the Monsoon Session of Parliament the Opposition insisted on suspending all business under Rule 267.

About Rule 267:

- ✓ According to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, Rule 267 relates to suspension of rules.
- ✓ Under this rule, Rajya Sabha MPs can give a written notice to suspend all listed business and discuss an issue of importance the country is facing. For instance, if a Bill is to be introduced, it would be listed. But if a rule is coming in the way, 267 is aimed at suspending the rule.

Short-duration discussion: Rule 176

- ✓ It says that "any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying the matter to be raised: Provided that the notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members."
- ✓ Once the Chairman approves the notice, he/she, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, will fix the date and time for discussion, not exceeding two and a half hours.

Adjournment motion

- ✓ Adjournment motion is governed by Rules 56-63 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ It is "a motion for an adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker". And the rules say not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting.
- ✓ Along with discussion the adjournment motion has an element of censure. Only Lok Sabha has this privilege because the Rajya Sabha can not bring down a government.

4. International Myeloma Foundation (IMF)

In context: Recently S. Vincent Rajkumar has been appointed chairman-elect of the Board of Directors of the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF).

About

- ✓ The International Myeloma Foundation is an American non-profit organization serving patients with myeloma, a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow.
- ✓ Founded: 1990
- ✓ Headquarters: California, USA
- ✓ Objective: The organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all myeloma patients by focusing on four key areas: research, education, support, and advocacy.
 - The IMF also provides support and information for family members, caregivers of myeloma patients, physicians and nurses.
- ✓ The IMF was the first organization dedicated solely to multiple myeloma.

5. Kodava Community

In context: Members of the Kodava community are demanding constituencies in Parliament and the Karnataka Assembly on the lines of the Sangha virtual constituency.

- ✓ **Origin** – One theory says they are the descendants of Alexander the Great, while another traces their origins to a band of Kurds from Iraq.
- ✓ **Habitat** - Kodavas are a unique race of people who live in Kodagu (Coorg), the smallest district in Karnataka.
- ✓ **Occupation** - This land-owning community known for its martial traditions, has a distinct culture that is strikingly different from that of the neighbouring cultures.
- ✓ **Language** - Kodava language does not have a script, is a mixture of Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam.
- ✓ **Society** - The Kodava community of Coorg is a patrilineal society.
- ✓ **Religion** - Kodavas are Hindus, but priests have no role in their marriages.
- ✓ **Worship** - Kodavas are basically ancestor and nature worshippers.
- ✓ Every Kodava is a member of a patrilineal okka (clan) that has descended from a common ancestor.
- ✓ The Karanava, the first ancestor of the clan, is revered as a god, and Kodavas worship the the ancestral spirit, their Guru Karona.
- ✓ There are no idols in the kaimada, the central place of ancestor worship
- ✓ Kodavas revere the Cauvery River, they worship nature and guns.
- ✓ **Festivals** - Puthari (harvest festival ushered in with a gunshot) Keil Murtha (festival is dedicated to guns) and Kaveri Sankramana.

- ✓ **Women Empowerment** - Kodava women are highly educated. There is no dowry system Kodava families treat their daughters and sons similarly when it comes to education.
- ✓ Kodava women tend to be well educated, often reaching high levels in their chosen careers.

Sangha Virtual Constituency

- ✓ Sangha Assembly constituency is one of the constituencies in the 32-member Assembly of Sikkim, a State in the northeast region of India.
- ✓ The Sangha constituency doesn't exist on the map.
- ✓ This seat is reserved for the Buddhist monastic community of Sikkim, Buddhist monks and nuns.
- ✓ Voters recognized with monasteries in Sikkim State are the only ones who can contest and cast their votes for the Sangha constituency seat.

6. Pronab Sen Committee

In context: Government forms new panel to review all NSO data revamping a Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) set up in late 2019.

- ✓ Pronab Sen - India's first chief statistician and the former chairman of the National Statistical Commission (NSC).
- ✓ The committee will review and develop the country's surveys on employment, industry and services sector.
- ✓ It works under the aegis of the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ✓ Ministry - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ✓ The committee has also been mandated to provide guidance to conduct pilot surveys/ pre-testing, if necessary, before finalising schedules for data collection.
- ✓ It will also provide guidance for studying and exploring the availability of administrative statistics.
- ✓ The committee can also provide technical guidance to the central and state-level agencies for the surveys.
- ✓ Members - As of now, the SCoS has 14 members, out of which there are 4 non-official members, 9 official members and a member secretary, chaired by Sen.
- ✓ It is extendable based on the requirement from time to time.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Before independence, communalism formed an integral part of the national discourse of India. In light of the above statement, discuss the evolution of communalism in India. Also, how is it different in present times than it was in the past?

Introduction: Communalism is described as a tool to mobilize people for or against by raising an appeal on communal lines, mainly religious. Communalism as a political doctrine makes use of religious and cultural differences to achieve political ends. It can take dangerous forms when people start believing that their religious interests and principles are superior to other religions.

3 stages- categorization of communalism or communal ideology:

- First, it is the belief that people who follow the same religion have common secular interests, which is a common political, economic, social and cultural interest. These religious units are seen as the fundamental units of Indian society.
- The second element of communal ideology rests on the notion that the secular interests of one community are divergent and dissimilar to the interests of the followers of the other community. The second stage is called liberal communalism. The liberal communalist was basically a believer in and practitioner of communal politics; but he still upheld certain liberal, democratic and nationalist values.
- The third stage of communalism is reached when interests of different communities are seen as mutually incompatible, antagonistic and hostile. So communalism is basically an ideology on which communal politics is based. Extreme communalism is the third or the last stage of communalism.

✓ **Evolution of communalism in India:**

- The economic backwardness of India and rampant unemployment provided ample scope for the colonial government to use concessions, favours and reservations to fuel communal and separatist tendencies.
- Before independence, Muslims were generally looked upon with suspicion initially by British policymakers, especially after the Wahabi and 1857 revolts, and were subjected to repression and discrimination by the Government.
- The Government used persons like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to counter the growing influence of the Congress. He had a broadminded and reformist outlook initially but later he started supporting the colonial government, exhorting the Muslim masses to stay away from the Congress and not to get politicised.
- Reform movements such as Wahabi Movement among Muslims and Shuddhi among Hindus with their militant overtones made the role of religion more vulnerable to communalism.
- With the coming of militant nationalism, a distinct Hindu nationalist tinge was palpable in the nationalist politics. For instance, Tilak's Ganapati and Shivaji festivals and anti-cow slaughter campaigns created much suspicion.
- The communal element in the Lucknow Pact (1916) and the Khilafat agitation (1920-22) was too visible to be of insignificant consequences.
- After the Muslim League performed badly in the 1937 provincial elections, it decided to resort to extreme communalism. From now onwards, communalism was organised as a mass movement with its base among middle and upper classes.

- ✓ **Difference between communalism in the past and the present:**
 - The origin of communalism in India was engineered by the colonial British government for its own sake and convenience to rule.
 - The government played a key role in creating rift between the two until now harmonious communities, viz Hindus and Muslims. Also the effect of communalism was limited to matters of politics and not to the common people as such.
 - However, in its present form, communalism is resorted to by the communal leaders for personal vested interests.
 - 2002 Gujarat riots, 2013 Muzzafarnagar riots, the recent 2019 Chandni Chowk Delhi Communal tension, etc are examples of the communalism as witnessed in present form.
 - Vote bank politics has been an important player in keeping alive the evil of communalism. Although rise in literacy rates and education levels helps people in relying on rationality, but at the same time use of smart phones, internet and social media has been pouring fuel to the fire.

Conclusion: Hence, communalism has been viewed as major hindrance to constitutional values like unity and integrity of the country, fraternity and so on. Therefore the main thrust of the effort towards neutralising communalism should be in the sphere of social and political reform and in bringing about a change in the values and mindsets of the people at large.

MCQ

1. Considered the following statement regarding El Nino.
 1. La Niña is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
 2. El Niño is a pattern that describes the unusual cooling of the region's surface waters.
 Which of the above statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
2. Considered the following statement regarding A-400M
 1. It is a Russian built military transport aircraft.
 2. It can carry large cargo, vehicles, troops, and paratroopers or be configured for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions.
 Which of the above statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
3. Considered the following statement regarding National Broadcasting Day
 1. National Broadcasting Day in India is celebrated on July 23.
 2. Azad Hind Radio led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
 3. In 1956, the name "Akashvani" was officially adopted for AIR
 How many of the above statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Only 3**
 - d) None
4. Kodavas community recently in news they are belongs to which state or UTs?
 - a) **Karnataka**
 - b) Tamil Nadu
 - c) Andhra Pradesh
 - d) Telangana
5. Pronab Sen Committee recently in news, it is related to?
 - a) For review on GST
 - b) **For review all NSO data**
 - c) For reviews on air quality
 - d) For reviews on rural development
6. Batagaika Crater, recently seen in news is located in which of the following country?
 - a) China
 - b) Mexico
 - c) **Russia**
 - d) Canada
7. Consider the following statements about STAR-C Initiative
 1. It is joint initiative of International Solar Alliance and United Nations Development Programme.
 2. The programme aims to boost solar power ecosystems in the poorest countries.
 Which of the above statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) **Only 2**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
8. Consider the following statements regarding the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Framework in loan-loss provisioning:
 1. Under this, a bank is required to estimate expected credit losses based on forward-looking estimations before making corresponding loss provisions.
 2. It will result in a shortfall of provisions as compared to excess provisions.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - a) **Only 1**
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
9. With reference to Section 498A of IPC, consider the following statements:
 1. It deals with the criminal offense of "cruelty by husband or relatives of husband" towards a married woman.
 2. Under this section, a husband or his relatives can be sentenced to a maximum jail term of three years.
 3. Bail under Section 498A can only be granted by the Magistrate once an FIR has been registered by the police
 How many of the above statements are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Only 3**
 - d) None
10. Cam Ranh Bay, is a deep-water bay, located in which country?
 - a) China
 - b) **Vietnam**
 - c) Japan
 - d) Iran