

# IACE

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

### 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> FEB 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

Watch Us On  
**You Tube**

### HEADLINES

- ❖ LIC Launches A Non-Participating Product 'Amritbaal' for children
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh leads as India's most welcoming region in 2024
- ❖ India presides over the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development
- ❖ NTR Stadium in Hyderabad holds 36th National Book Fair
- ❖ For the council year 2024-2025, Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal has assumed the position of ICAI President
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh becomes the first North-Eastern state to achieve 100% household tap water connections
- ❖ Haryana launches 'Van Mitra' scheme to encourage community participation in tree plantation
- ❖ Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing statue has been unveiled in Dhaka.
- ❖ Prime Minister of Greece will be the Chief Guest at 9th Raisina Dialogue
- ❖ Jagatguru Rambhadracharya and lyricist Gulzar will be honoured with 58th Jnanpith Award
- ❖ 11th International Puppet Festival has been inaugurated in Chandigarh
- ❖ 16th conference of World Social Forum started in Kathmandu, Nepal
- ❖ Sikkim started 'INSPIRES' program with the help of World Bank
- ❖ Deposits of Iron Ore found in Karauli, Rajasthan

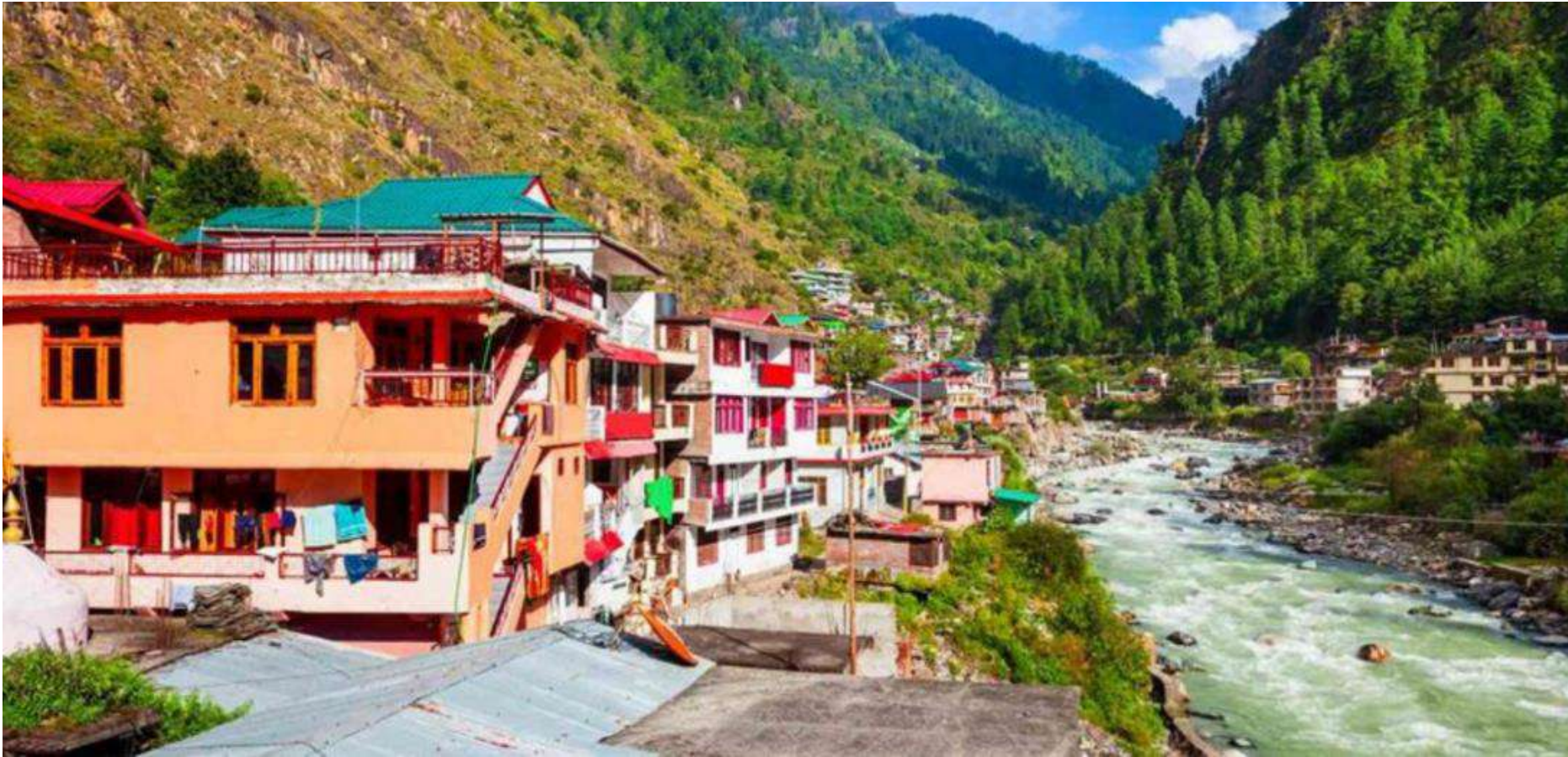
**Telegram:** [Click here](#)

**Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, Ph: 9533200400**

## LIC Launches A Non-Participating Product 'Amritbaal' for children

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced the launch of a non-participating product – '**Amritbaal**'.
- The product is a **Non-Linked, Non-Participating**, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan.
- The plan is designed to meet the higher education and other needs of the child. It facilitates the accumulation of a corpus through Guaranteed additions at the rate of Rs 80 per thousand basic sum assured at the end of each policy year from the inception till the end of the Policy term, provided the policy is in force.
- The minimum entry age is 30 days, with the maximum being 13 years. The age of maturity has to be between 18 years to 25 years at the last age of birthday.
- The Minimum Policy Term for Limited Premium Payment is 10 years, and for Single Premium Payment, it is 5 years, whereas the Maximum Policy Term for Limited/Single Premium Payment is 25 years, and for policies procured through POSP-LI/CPSC-SPV, it is 20 years.
- The Minimum Sum Assured is Rs. 2,00,000, with no limit for the Maximum Basic Sum Assured.
- LIC Chairman : **Siddhartha Mohanty**





## Himachal Pradesh leads as India's most welcoming region in 2024

- In a recent announcement, **Booking.com**, the popular online travel agency, unveiled its **12th Annual Traveller Review Awards 2024**, highlighting the Most Welcoming Regions and Cities in India.
- The rankings were determined based on customer reviews received on the platform, providing valuable insights into the hospitality landscape of the country.

- **Himachal Pradesh** secures the top spot in the category of the ‘**Most Welcoming Region in India**’, showcasing a remarkable jump from the 5th position in 2023.
- This recognition reflects the state’s commitment to providing a warm and hospitable environment for travelers. The rankings further feature Goa, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand in the following positions.

### **The Most Welcoming Cities in India**

- To enhance travelers’ experiences in 2024, Booking.com also unveiled the list of the ten ‘**Most Welcoming Cities in India.**’
- This compilation, based on customer reviews, serves as a guide for those seeking unforgettable journeys marked by exceptional hospitality.
- **Kerala’s Mararikulam**, renowned for its serene backwaters, coconut trees, and peaceful beaches, claimed the number one spot in the ‘Most Welcoming Indian Cities’ list.
- Following Mararikulam, Jaisalmer in **Rajasthan** secured the second position, showcasing the hospitality of the desert city.

## India presides over the 62nd session of the United

### Nations Commission on Social Development

- **Ruchiraj Kamboj**, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, recently presided over the **62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development**, a watershed moment in international collaboration on social development concerns.
- The session focused on strengthening global collaboration to address major social concerns, a priority that coincides with the larger goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The session, themed “Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to Accelerate progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Achieve the Overarching Goal of Poverty Eradication,”.
- The session finished with Kamboj sending a sincere greeting to **Poland**, the incoming Chair for the **63rd session**, which is set for **2025**. This act of kindness and continuity represents the collaborative spirit that supports the Commission's efforts.
- India's leadership of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development is a notable achievement, as it is the country's first since 1975 to hold this prestigious position. The Commission, an essential intergovernmental platform under the Economic and Social Council, continues to be an important forum for promoting discourse and furthering international cooperation on social development.



## NTR Stadium in Hyderabad holds 36th National Book Fair

- The NTR Stadium in Hyderabad hosted the **36th edition of the National Book Fair**. Organized by the **Hyderabad** Book Fair Society, the event kicked off on February 9. The book fair runs until February 19.
- Drawing bibliophiles (People who love and collect books) from all corners of the city, the fair is a highly anticipated annual event. 365 stalls feature literature, with 115 exclusively dedicated to Telugu works.
- The fair aims to revive the reading culture, events like these are crucial steps in achieving the goal, anticipation for large crowds demonstrates the community's interest in literature.
- The venue is named after civil rights activist Gaddar. The stage bears the name of Ravva Srihari, a renowned scholar in Sanskrit and Telugu. A monument honoring Telangana martyrs is erected on the exhibition premises.



## For the council year 2024-2025, Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal has assumed the position of ICAI President.

- The largest accounting organization in the world, the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, has elected **Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** to serve as its **72<sup>nd</sup> President**.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) Vice-President is now Charanjot Singh Nanda, a member of the Central Council.
- Agarwal was elected to the ICAI's 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> Central Councils three times in a succession.
- At now, ICAI has more than eight lakh students and almost four lakh members.

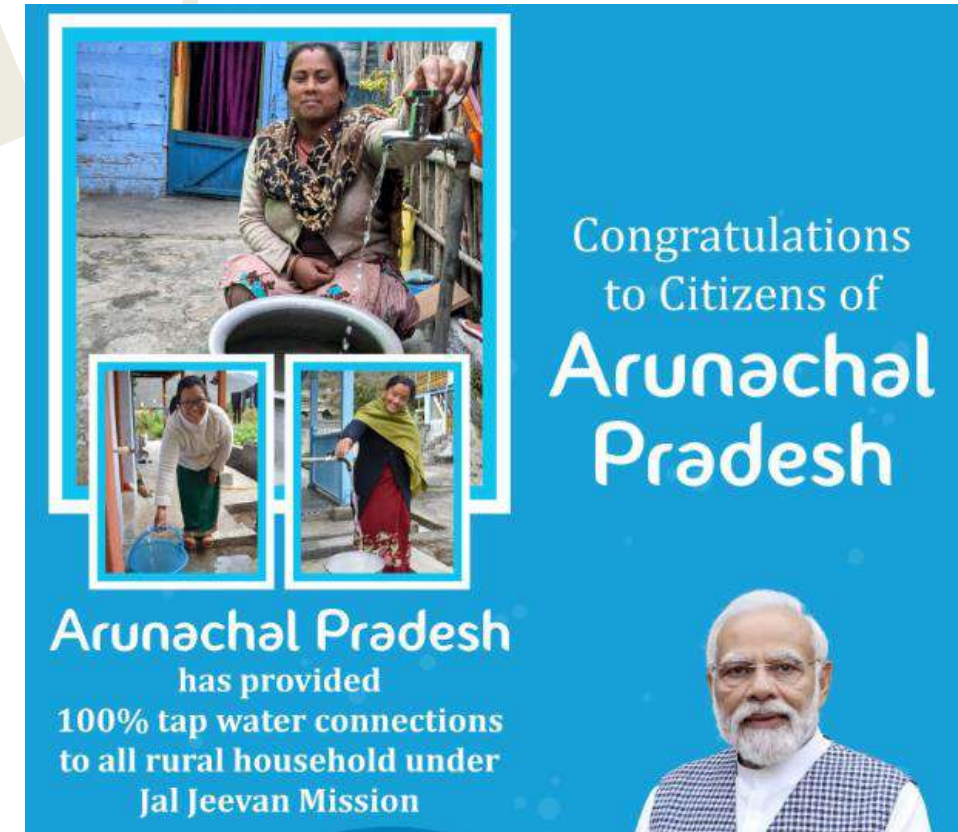
### **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI):**

- It was established on 01 July 1949 as a statutory body by the **Chartered Accountants Act, 1949**.
- It regulates the Chartered Accountancy profession in India. It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.



## Arunachal Pradesh becomes the first North-Eastern state to achieve 100% household tap water connections

- **Arunachal Pradesh** has become the first state in the North-East India and **10th** in the country to achieve 100 percent saturation of Har Ghar Jal under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Sharing this achievement of the state on a social media post **Chief Minister Pema Khandu** said that it exemplifies the total dedication and commitment of Team Aruanchal in meeting the goals that was set.
- The Chief Minister informed that the Centre's Rs 396541.22 lakh and State's Rs 45551.18 lakh ensured that every household in the state has clean and safe piped water.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the '**Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal**' on **15th August, 2019**. The mission aims at improving the 'quality of life' and enhanced 'ease of living' in rural areas by making a provision of assured tap water supply to every rural household in the country by **2024**.



# Haryana launches 'Van Mitra' scheme to encourage community participation in tree plantation

- **Haryana** Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the 'Van Mitra' scheme and its portal to encourage community participation in tree planting activities in non-forest areas.
- The objective of this scheme is to directly involve the local public in increasing forest areas across the state, ensuring an increase in the survival rate of afforestation, and promoting tree planting in non-forest areas.
- The members of families with an annual income of less than **Rs 1.80 lakh** can register to become 'Van Mitras'.
- Each Van mitra will receive an incentive based on the maintenance of the plant and they can plant a maximum of 1,000 saplings. Any individual aged between 18 and 60 can become a van mitra, according to official statement.
- In the first phase of the scheme, the selection of 7500 van mitra will be done through the portal. A van mitra can choose non-forest land for tree planting in their village, town, or city.
- In the first year, van mitras will receive Rs 20 for each dug pit upon uploading geo-tagging and photograph of the pit on the mobile app. They will receive Rs 10 per living plant for the maintenance and security of trees planted.

## Haryana:

- **Capital:** Chandigarh
- **Governor:** Bandaru Dattatreya
- **Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar
- **Formation:** 1 November 1966

**Telegram:** [Click here](#)

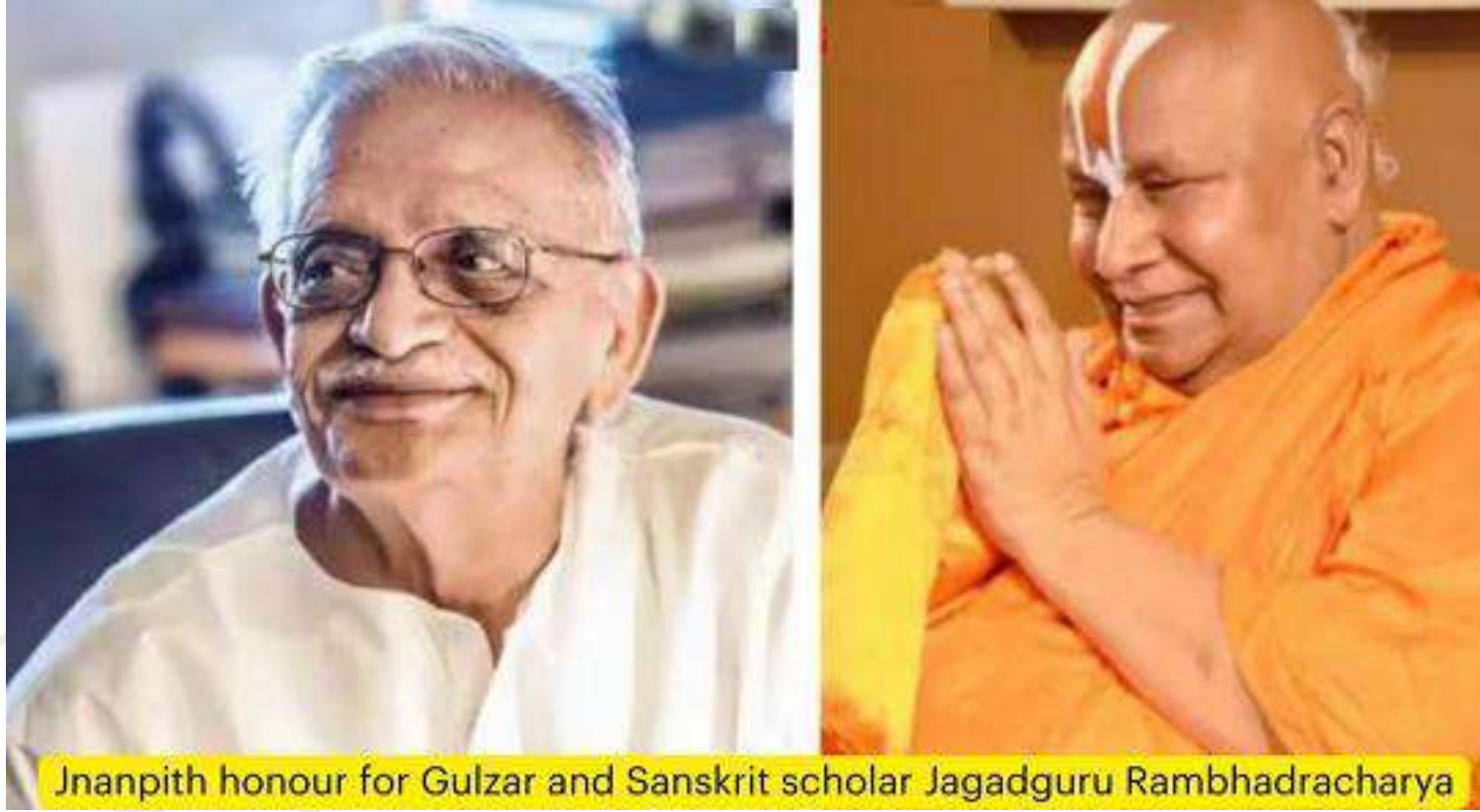


**Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, Ph: 9533200400**

## **Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing statue has been unveiled in Dhaka.**

- A statue of **U Tirot Sing** has been unveiled at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, **Dhaka**.
- U Tirot Sing was a freedom fighter from **Khasi Hills** who rebelled against British colonialism.
- The Deputy Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Sniawbhalang Dhar, and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, jointly unveiled the statue.
- Tirot Sing was a tribal chief known as '**the Hero of the Khasi Hills**' of Meghalaya.
- He was one of the chiefs of the Khasi people in the early 19th century.
- His death is commemorated in Meghalaya as U Tirot Sing Day.





## **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and lyricist Gulzar will be honoured with 58th Jnanpith Award**

- The Jnanpith Selection Committee announced **Gulzar** and **Jagadguru Rambhadracharya** as recipients of the **58th Jnanpith Award**.

### **About Gulzar**

- **Sampooran Singh Kalra**, who is popularly known as Gulzar, is a renowned figure in Hindi cinema and a highly regarded **Urdu poet**. He is considered one of the best poets of his time.

- Gulzar has received many accolades for his works, including the **Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002**, the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013**, the **Padma Bhushan in 2004**, and at least five National Film Awards.
- Some of his most notable works include the song "**Jai Ho**" for the movie "Slumdog Millionaire," which won an Oscar in 2009 and a Grammy in 2010.

### **About Rambhadracharya**

- Rambhadracharya, who is 74 years old, is a well-known Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer. He is the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot and has written over 240 books and texts, including four epics.
- Rambhadracharya has been holding the position under the Ramananda sect as one of the current four Jagadguru Ramanandacharya since 1982.
- Despite being blind since the age of two months due to trachoma, **Rambhadracharya is a polyglot who can speak 22 languages**. He is also a poet and writer in several Indian languages, including Sanskrit, Hindi, Awadhi, and Maithili.
- In recognition of his contributions, he received the **Padma Vibhushan award in 2015**

### **About Jnanpith Award**

- The Jnanpith Award is an annual Indian literary award presented by the **Bharatiya Jnanpith** to an author for their exceptional contribution to literature.
- It is the oldest and most prestigious literary award in India, established in **1961**, and is given only to Indian writers who write in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and also in English.
- The award is not given posthumously.

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Puppet Festival has been inaugurated in Chandigarh.

- This year, **Chandigarh** is hosting the **11th International Puppet Festival**.
- Through the beautiful art of puppetry, artists from different parts of the world will show their performances in this event.
- **The department of cultural affairs** is organizing this event in collaboration with the **Tagore Theatre Society** from Feb 17 to 21 at Tagore Theatre.
- Puppetry performances by artists from **Russia, France, Brazil, USA**, and **Sri Lanka** will be organized.
- A live demonstration of puppet making will also be showcased during the festival.





## 16th conference of World Social Forum started in Kathmandu, Nepal

- The **16th World Social Forum** conference has started in **Kathmandu**. The five-day event, held under the banner "**Another World is Possible**", aims to promote exchange among civil society organizations, social movements, trade unions and individuals who oppose neoliberal globalization.
- The conference began with a Solidarity March that started at Bhrikutimandap, passed through Bhadrakali, New Road Gate, Ratna Park and back to Bhrikutimandap.

## Sikkim started 'INSPIRES' program with the help of World Bank

- Chief Minister of Sikkim, **Prem Singh Tamang**, launched Sikkim **INSPIRES**, a collaborative effort between the Government of Sikkim and the **World Bank** aimed at fostering economic growth and inclusion.
- The programme focuses on providing better economic opportunities for women and youth through training and employment initiatives.
- It marks the first direct partnership between the State government and the World Bank.
- The initiative will engage nine government departments over the next five years to create an ecosystem for economic prosperity, emphasizing collaboration and capacity-building across various sectors.





## Deposits of Iron Ore found in Karauli, Rajasthan

- The **Rajasthan Mines Department** has found deposits of over 840 million tonnes of iron ore in Khoda, Dadaroli, Todupura, and Liloti near Hindon in **Karauli**.

### About Exploration of Iron ore

- The department is preparing to auction a composite license for iron ore blocks covering approximately 1,888 hectares.
- Preliminary exploration indicates that both **magnetite and hematite** of iron ore have been found.

- The iron ore deposits are spread over 462.3 hectares at Khoda, 754.38 hectares at Dadaroli, 260.71 hectares at Todupura and 410.94 hectares at Liloti.
- The area is rich in magnetite of magnetic nature and hematite iron ore of normal nature. The auction of the composite license will lead to further exploration, which is likely to yield more deposits of iron ore in the area.
- The discovery of iron ore in Karauli will boost industrial investment in the state.
- **Steel and cement industries will get a significant boost, and many industries, including iron ore steel, coal washing, ferroalloy, foundries, ceramic and cement industries, will get raw material for years.**
- This will lead to the setting up of new industries and create employment and income opportunities in the state.
- The exploration work is going on at other places in Rajasthan, and mining and exploration work of iron ore is going on in **Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Bhilwara, Sikar, Alwar**, etc.

### **Types of Iron Ore**

- **Hematite** is a reddish ore that contains almost 70% of metallic iron and is considered the best quality iron ore available on earth.
- **Magnetite** is the second-best ore in terms of iron content and is black with 60-70% metallic iron content. It is also known to have magnetic properties.
- **Limonite** is yellowish and has around 40-60% metallic iron content. This ore is inferior in quality when compared to Hematite and Magnetite.
- **Siderite** is another low-quality iron ore that contains only 40% of metallic iron and has several impurities, making it not economically viable.