

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 July, 2025



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	Outlook Indian Responsible Tourism State Awards – Rajasthan 2025
2.	News in Shorts 1. 'Mission Nirman' – Bikaner 2. 38th Vriksha Bandhu Award 3. 'NREGA Akhar' Campaign – Jaipur 4. Approval of Township Policy-2024 5. Rajasthan City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2025 6. Ordinance to amend RUHS Act 2005
3.	97th Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research
4.	Skill Training and Women Entrepreneurship Development Project
5.	PM Vikas Training Centre
6.	ADEETIE Scheme
7.	Sustainability Report 2023-24 : NHAI
8.	10 years of Skill India Mission
9.	Statathon – A Data Journey Towards a Developed India

--:1:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 July, 2025



CIVIL
SERVICES

10.	Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana
11.	Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting
12.	57th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO)
13.	Talisman Sabre Exercise 2025
14.	Sierra Leone's first UNESCO site: Gola-Tiwai Complex
15.	Sukanya Sonowal - Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador
16.	Polygras Magic Skills Award 2024-25
17.	World Police and Fire Games (WPFG)
18.	News in Shorts 1. Kalinga Ratna Award 2024

--2--



उत्कर्ष

Jodhpur : JALORI GATE CIRCLE, JODHPUR | Support@utkarsh.com | Call us at : 9829 213 213
Jaipur : NEAR MAHESH NAGAR THANA, GOPALPURA BYPASS ROAD, JAIPUR

Rajasthan

Outlook Indian Responsible Tourism State Awards – Rajasthan

➔ Why in News?

- The third edition of 'Outlook Indian Responsible Tourism State Awards – Rajasthan 2025' was held on July 11, 2025 in collaboration with Rajasthan Tourism Department.



--3--

➡ Main Point

- **Event:** Jaipur.
- Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari announced the launch of State Tourism Awards to recognize excellence in the tourism sector of Rajasthan.
- Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund: A Tourism Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund (RTICF) of ₹5000 crore has been created for the year 2025 to promote world-class, eco-sensitive tourism infrastructure in Rajasthan.

Facts for Prelims (Tourism Industry in Rajasthan)

- The Tourism Department was established in Jaipur in the year 1956.
- On March 4, 1989, the Rajasthan government granted the status of industry to tourism on the recommendation of the Yunus Khan Committee.
- **Logo of Rajasthan Tourism – Padharo Mhare Desh.**
- The Rajasthan government has set a target to increase the share of domestic tourist visits to 8 percent and the share of foreign tourist visits to 7.5 percent of the total travel in India.
- **Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC): Established – April 1, 1979**
- **Rajasthan Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (RITTMAN): Established – October 29, 1996**

Rajasthan Tourism Unit Policy (RTUP) – 2024

- **Launch:** December 4, 2024
- **Department** – Tourism Department.
- **Objective:** To increase the benefits payable to investors and entrepreneurs associated with Rajasthan tourism and to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through encouraging the establishment of new tourism units in the private sector.
- The policy also lays emphasis on providing exemptions for heritage hotels and properties, leveraging heritage properties available in the private sector. Additionally, the tourism policy has streamlined the licensing process for operating hotels, restaurants and other tourism-related establishments.

चित्र: 6.4 : राजस्थान में 9 यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल



News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Mission Nirman' - Bikaner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, 'Mission Nirman' run by Bikaner District Collector Namrata Vrishni was appreciated in the workshop of Ministry of Women and Child Development held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. This innovation has been started to strengthen pre-schooling education in Anganwadi centers.Theme of the workshop: Early Childhood Education: Laying the Foundation.
2.	<p>38th Vriksha Bandhu Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The 38th Vriksha Bandhu Award ceremony was organized in Jodhpur on the occasion of World Environment Day.Border Security Force (BSF) IG ML Garg was awarded the 'Vriksha Bandhu Award' for environmentally sensitive work.Rajasthan Patrika was awarded the 'Jalputra Samman' for its contribution in the field of water conservation, Hariyalo Rajasthan and forest land conservation.Professor Gyan Singh Shekhawat was awarded the 'Rukh Bhaila Award'.

3.

'NREGA Akhar' Campaign - Jaipur

- ◆ The 'NREGA Akhar' campaign has been launched in Jaipur with the joint efforts of Jaipur District Administration, Rural Development Department, Literacy and Continuing Education Department and Elementary Education Department.
- ◆ **Objective of the initiative:** To make illiterate workers employed under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme literate.

4.

Approval of Township Policy-2024

- ◆ Recently, the Township Policy-2024 was approved by the Rajasthan Cabinet.
- ◆ **Objective of the policy:** To promote planned development in urban areas.
- ◆ **Social and environmental provisions:** 7 percent area reserved for parks and playgrounds and 8 percent area reserved for facility areas (eg. schools, health centers).

5.

Rajasthan City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2025

- ◆ To promote gas based economy, Rajasthan Cabinet recently approved Rajasthan City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2025.
- ◆ Implementation of this policy will help in reducing carbon emissions in the state and will make clean, safe and environment friendly natural gas accessible to the general public.
- ◆ This policy will promote investment in City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure. This policy will remain effective till March 31, 2029 or till the implementation of another policy.

6.

Ordinance to amend RUHS Act 2005

- ◆ In the budget for the year 2024-25, the Rajasthan government had announced the establishment of Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) by upgrading Rajasthan Health Sciences University on the lines of AIIMS Delhi.
- ◆ In this sequence, Rajasthan Health Sciences University (Amendment) Ordinance-2025 will be brought for necessary amendment in Rajasthan Health Sciences University Act-2005.
- ◆ As a result of this decision, Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Jaipur can be developed as an autonomous institute on the lines of AIIMS New Delhi.

CIVIL
SERVICES

National

97th Foundation Day of Indian Council of Agricultural Research

➔ Why in News?

- An advanced agricultural exhibition was organized on the occasion of the 97th Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi on July 16, 2025.



➔ Main Point

- The award ceremony and advanced agricultural exhibition were held at the institute located at Pusa Campus.
- ICAR Foundation Day marks the establishment of India's premier institute of agricultural research and education.

--:9:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 July, 2025



- For decades, ICAR has led innovations in the field of crop improvement, livestock and fisheries development, agro-biotechnology, natural resource management and digital agriculture.

Key achievements in 2024-25:

- India remained the largest rice producer in the world with 149.1 million tonnes (estimated) in FY 2024-25 and also the largest exporter, contributing 40 per cent to the global rice trade.
- India ranked first with milk production of 239.30 million tonnes (estimated).
- Second largest producer of wheat with 117.3 million tonnes.
- In horticulture, India is estimated to achieve a record production of 367.72 million tonnes.
- India ranked second in global fish production with 18.42 million tonnes in FY 2024-25.

Key Initiatives:

- On August 11, 2024, the Prime Minister released 109 high yielding, climate resilient and bio-fortified varieties of crops.
- ICAR launched 'One Scientist One Product', '100 Days 100 Varieties', '100 Days 100 Technologies' and 'Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan' to promote agricultural innovation and outreach.

Crop Science

- ICAR developed and released 679 regional crop varieties last year, including 27 bio-fortified varieties aimed at improving nutritional security.
- Basmati rice exports reached ₹50,000 crore, of which 90 per cent is attributed to just four varieties developed by ICAR.

-:10:-

- Wheat production reached a record 115.3 million tonnes, with 85 per cent area under five climate-resilient ICAR varieties. Variety replacement rates have improved significantly in oilseeds and pulses: chickpea (84 per cent), lentil (99 per cent), pea (89 per cent), soybean (56 per cent), and mustard (77 per cent). The ongoing pulses revolution has raised production from 16.3 million tonnes in 2015-16 to 24.49 million tonnes in 2023-24.
- ICAR also introduced the world's first two genome-edited rice varieties, a major breakthrough in precision breeding.

Horticultural Sciences

- Around 15 patents were granted and nine clean plant centres were established to ensure disease-free planting material.
- **Fisheries:** Five specific fish feeds were developed to promote scalable aquaculture.
- **Agricultural Education:** ICAR implemented the Sixth Dean Committee Report, introduced “Academic Guidelines for Award of Certificates and Diplomas”, and also launched PM-One Nation One Subscription (PM-ONOS) scheme.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** ICAR granted 125 patents in protection and commercialization of agricultural innovations.

Skill Training and Women Entrepreneurship Development Project

➔ Why in News?

- On July 17, 2025, Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched a Skill Training and Women Entrepreneurship Development Project under the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Yojana at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Kottayam.



➔ Main Point

- The project is designed to provide them with future-ready skills and entrepreneurial capabilities, in line with the objectives of the PM VIKAS Yojana.

Under this initiative:

- 150 youth will be trained in Internet of Things (IOT), an emerging sector with huge employment potential.
- 300 women will participate in a leadership and entrepreneurship development program aimed at enabling them to start their own ventures.
- All candidates will receive a stipend during the training and will also be linked to employment or self-employment opportunities through industry contacts.

PM Vikas Training Centre

➔ Why in News?

- On July 16, 2025, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs inaugurated the Tilak Nagar Training Centre in New Delhi.



➔ Main Point

- The centre has been set up by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC).
- It has been designated by the Ministry of Minority Affairs as an implementing agency under the PM Vikas Yojana.
- The project will cover 31,600 candidates.
- It will provide industry-based skill training in high-demand jobs like Technical Artist (AR-VR), Social Media Influencer and General Duty Assistant.
- The training program is free for the candidates and the ministry will also provide monthly stipend to the candidates for the training.

ADEETIE Scheme

➡ Why in News?

- On July 15, 2025, Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs officially launched the National Level ADEETIE Scheme for “Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries and Establishments” Industrial Energy Efficiency in India at an event held in Panipat (Haryana).



➡ Main Point

- **Budgetary Outlay:** ₹1000 crore.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Power.
- **Implemented by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- **Duration:** FY 2025-26 to 2027-28.
- ADEETIE has been launched under India's Energy Efficiency Mission, which will empower MSMEs to adopt clean technologies, enhance productivity and contribute to a green industrial ecosystem.
- The scheme is designed to provide end-to-end support through subsidy on loans, investment grade energy audit (IGEA), detailed project report (DPR), and post-implementation monitoring and verification (M&V).

- **Interest subsidy support:** The scheme envisages providing 5 per cent interest subsidy on loans for micro and small enterprises and 3 per cent for medium enterprises.
- **Pilot phase:** In the initial phase, 14 energy-intensive areas and 60 identified clusters have been selected for wider adoption of the scheme.

Features of the scheme:

- **End-to-end technical support:** ADEETIE provides end-to-end support – including investment-grade energy audit, DPR preparation, technology identification, and monitoring and verification of implementation.
- **Target Sectors:** The scheme covers 14 energy-intensive sectors: brass, bricks, ceramics, chemicals, fisheries, food processing, forging, foundry, glass, leather, paper, pharma, steel re-rolling and textiles.
- **Implementation Approach:** ADEETIE will be implemented in a phased manner, starting with 60 industrial clusters in the first phase, followed by 100 additional clusters in the second phase.
- **Implementation Period:** The scheme will be implemented over three years, running from FY 2025-26 to 2027-28, allowing progressive deployment, course correction and scaling based on initial results.

Other Key Points:

- **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):** The Government established the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on March 1, 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Sustainability Report 2023-24 : NHAI

➔ Why in News?

- On July 15, 2025, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) released its second 'Sustainability Report' for the financial year 2023-24, underlining its commitment towards environmental sustainability.



➔ Main Point

- It also underlines NHAI's alignment with India's global commitments, 'Mission Lifestyle' initiative and vision of a sustainable future embodied in the circular economy.
- According to the report, despite a 20 per cent increase in national highway construction in FY 2023-24, NHAI has reduced its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity from 1.0 MTCO₂e/km to 0.8 MTCO₂e/km.
- 67.47 lakh saplings planted in FY 2024-25 under Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance), Policy 2015.
- In FY 2023-24, NHAI used recycled and reused materials including fly-ash, plastic waste and reclaimed asphalt in national highway construction.
- Under Amrut Sarovar Mission, NHAI has completed development of 467 water bodies across the country.
- To reduce human-animal conflict, NHAI has consolidated 'Best Practices Guidance Document on Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impact of Linear (Highways, Railway Lines, Canals etc.) Infrastructure on Wildlife'.

10 years of Skill India Mission

➔ Why in News?

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched a week-long celebration to mark 10 years of Skill India Mission on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day (July 15).



➔ Main Point

- The celebration will culminate on July 22, 2025 with the 'Bharat SkillNext 2025' event to be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, which will launch major skill initiatives including a dedicated program on AI skills for school children.

Skill India Mission:

- It was launched in the year 2015 under the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- It is a central sector scheme.
- **Objective:** To provide a strong institutional framework for skill development and train 1 crore youth every year.
- The Mission Directorate is supported by three other agencies namely National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Directorate General of Training (DGT).

Skill Training:

- **Short-term training:** Short-term training is being provided through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme.
- **Long-term training:** Long-term training is being provided under Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) operated through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- **This is a kind of umbrella scheme under which several small skill schemes are operated:**
 - o Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)
 - o Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PM YUVA)
 - o Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana
- **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP):** Sankalp, launched in January 2018, is a World Bank funded program managed under the Ministry of Skill Development.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0:** Launched on January 15, 2021 for demand-based, short-term development training.

Statathon – A Data Journey Towards a Developed India

➔ Why in News?

- On July 15, 2025, the National Statistical Office (NSO) in collaboration with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education (MOE) launched a Grand Challenge titled “Statathon – A Data Journey Towards a Developed India”.



➔ Main Point

- The Grand Challenge is a national-level competition designed to harness emerging technologies and innovative solutions to transform the landscape of official statistics in India.
- **Aim:** To explore the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other leading technologies to enhance the efficiency, quality and accessibility of statistical data systems.
- The Statathon, organised under the aegis of the Data Innovation Lab (DI Lab) initiative of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, is a significant milestone in the celebration of 75 years of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Madhya Pradesh government approved the Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana.



➔ Main Point

- The Madhya Pradesh government's "Mukhyamantri Vrindavan Gram Yojana" aims to make villages self-reliant and environmentally sustainable by incorporating traditional values and modern technologies.
- Cow rearing, organic farming, solar energy, water conservation and rural entrepreneurship will be promoted in villages selected from each assembly constituency.
- Under the scheme, modern facilities will be created for infrastructure, education, health, sanitation and spiritual development.

International

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers'

➡ Why in News?

- Recently, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in the Chinese city of Tianjin.



➡ Main Point

- Dr. Jaishankar called for a tough stand on terrorism, separatism and extremism in the SCO meeting and called the Pahalgam attack a conspiracy to undermine the tourism economy and religious harmony.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an inter-governmental organization.
- **Established** in Shanghai in the year 2001.
- Initially it was known as the "Shanghai Five" (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) formed in the year 1996. Uzbekistan joined in the year 2001.
- **Objective:** To enhance cooperation in political, economic, military, technical and cultural fields and maintain regional peace and stability.
- Its charter was signed in 2002 and came into force in 2003.
- India and Pakistan became its members in 2017, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China.

57th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO)

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Indian students won four medals in the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad held in Dubai.



➔ Main Point

- Indian students won two gold and two silver medals in the competition.
- Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya (Maharashtra) and Sandeep Kuchi (Telangana) won gold medals.
- Debducta Priyadarshi (Odisha) and Ujjwal Kesari (Delhi) won silver medals.
- India stood sixth in the competition which saw participation of 354 students from 90 countries.

Science & Technology

Talisman Sabre Exercise 2025

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, India participated in the 11th edition of Australia-led military exercise 'Talisman Sabre Exercise 2025' for the first time.



➔ Main Point

Talisman Sabre Exercise 2025:

- **Start:** Started in 2005 as an Australia-US bilateral military exercise, it has now transformed into a major multinational war exercise.
- **2025 edition:** Largest edition ever; more than 35,000 military personnel from over 30 countries including India, Japan, France, UK will participate.
- **Location:** Expanding to various regions of Australia (Queensland, Northern Territory) and also Papua New Guinea for the first time.
- **Objective:** To promote freedom, inclusiveness, military preparedness, interoperability, joint operational capabilities and regional security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Major Activities:** Live-fire drills, field training, amphibious landings, ground and air combat exercises, maritime operations etc.
- **Major Military Exercises of India:**
 - o **India-Australia:** AUSINDEX (Naval), Pitch Black (Air), Austrahind (Land).
 - o **India-US:** Tiger Triumph, Cope India, Vajra Prahar.

--:23:-

Environment and Ecology

Sierra Leone's first UNESCO site: Gola-Tiwai Complex

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Sierra Leone's Gola-Tiwai Complex, which includes the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) and the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary, has been recognised as UNESCO's first World Heritage Site.



➔ Main Point

- The honour is the result of years of conservation efforts by a non-governmental organisation (NGO) called the Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA).

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 July, 2025



- **Tiwai Island, spread over an area of 12 sq km located on the Moa River, is home to endangered wildlife including 11 primate species and has now become a major centre for biodiversity research and community-based conservation in West Africa.**
- **The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) is Sierra Leone's largest tropical rainforest, rich in biodiversity. It is home to species such as the pygmy hippopotamus and the African forest elephant.**
- **The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA) was founded in 1992 and began conservation efforts in Tiwai in the early 2000s, particularly following the damage caused by the 1991–2002 Sierra Leone civil war.**

Personality

Sukanya Sonowal - Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Sukanya Sonowal, a native of Lakhimpur district of Assam has been selected as the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador.



➔ Main Point

- She has been selected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador Network (CYPAN).
- Sukanya Sonowal has been selected as the Head of Communications and Public Relations for a two-year term of 2025-2027.

Sukanya Sonowal:

- **Native of:** Lakhimpur district, Assam.
- **Education:** Student of Biosciences and Bioengineering at IIT Guwahati.

■ Achievements:

- o Active role in the institute's flagship techno-management festival "Technique".
- o Proficiency in communication and public relations skills.
- o Co-founder of STEMvibe – a STEM education-empowerment initiative.

About Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN)

- The Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN) is part of the Commonwealth of Nations Youth.
- The Commonwealth is an association of 56 independent countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific.
- Youth Commonwealth, supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, promotes various youth initiatives across Commonwealth countries.
- The initiative brings together youth from member countries to enable them to exchange views and perspectives on global issues affecting youth, such as poverty, climate change and conflict.
- CYPAN is one of the many initiatives of Youth Commonwealth.

Awards

Polygras Magic Skills Award 2024-25

➔ Why in News?

- Indian women's hockey team forward Deepika has won the Poligras Magic Skills Award for the year 2024-25 for her field goal against world's top team Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League.



➔ Main Point

- In the men's category, Belgium's Victor Wegnez won the award for scoring a goal for outstanding midfield play in the match against Spain.
- The award is given for individual skill in hockey, which is decided by a global fan vote.
- Apart from Deepika, Spain's Patricia Alvarez was nominated for this award for the goal against Australia and the Australian women's team was nominated for this award for scoring a goal in a well-organized manner by giving five quick passes one after the other against England.

Sports

World Police and Fire Games (WPFG)

➔ Why in News?

- The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) was held in Birmingham, Alabama, United States from June 27 to July 6, 2025.



➔ Main Point

- The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) is an Olympic-style competition.
- The games are attended by law enforcement, firefighters, and officers and employees of the departments of corrections, probation, border protection, immigration and customs.
- The games are held every two years and the official sports program includes more than 60 sports.
- **Objective:** To provide the same variety of sports, high-level venues, officers, and athletic achievements as the California Police Games on a global level.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 16 July, 2025



Medal Table:


Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	572	438	352	1362
Brazil	269	247	232	748
India	283	180	130	593
Canada	147	125	74	346
Spain	85	59	48	192

Other Important Points:

- The first World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) was held in 1985 in San Jose, California.
- **World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 2027:** Will be held in Perth, Australia from March 12 to 21, 2027.

-:30:-

News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p style="text-align: center;">Kalinga Ratna Award 2024</p>  <p>On July 15, 2025, President Draupadi Murmu presented the Kalinga Ratna Award-2024 to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the birth anniversary celebrations of Adi Kavi Sarala Das held in Cuttack, Odisha.</p> <p>Along with this, Bijay Naik was awarded the literary award 'Sarala Samman'.</p>