

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 26 July, 2025



**CIVIL**  
SERVICES

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## Rajasthan

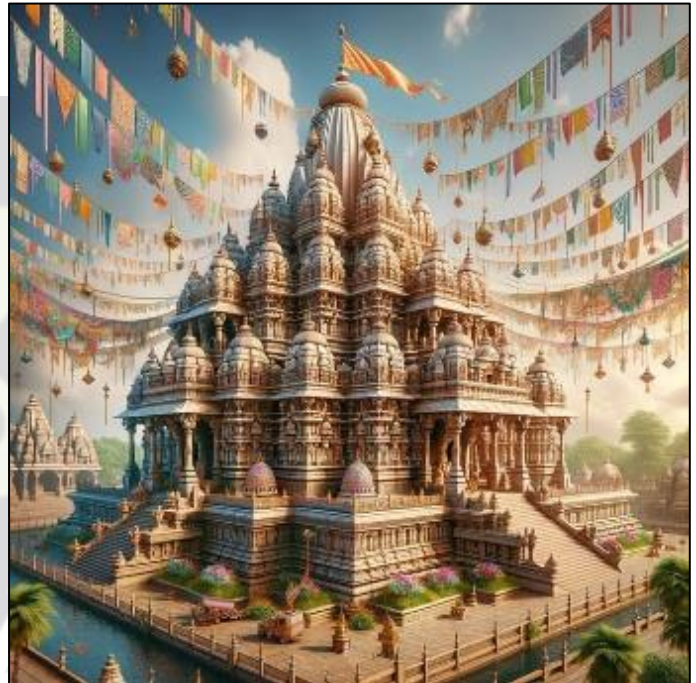
### Varishth Nagrik Teerth Yatra Yojana

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Rajasthan's Devasthan Minister Joraram Kumawat launched the portal for registration of 'Varishth Nagrik Teerth Yatra Yojana'.

#### ➔ Main Point

- Registration Date:** 18 July to 10 August, 2025
- The Devasthan Department of the Rajasthan Government started providing pilgrimage to the senior citizens of the state by rail travel from 2013 and by air travel from 2016.
- The Devasthan Department organizes the journey and bears the expenses of the scheduled travel.
- Under the Varishth Nagrik Teerth Yatra Yojana of the Rajasthan Government, 56,000 elderly people will be sent on pilgrimage in 2025-26.
- In the Rajasthan State Budget - 2025-26, it was announced that under the Varishth Nagrik Teerth Yatra Yojana, 6,000 senior citizens would be sent on pilgrimage by air and 50,000 senior citizens by air-conditioned train.
- The pilgrims will be selected by the district level committee through lottery.



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## Eligibility:

- Should be a native of Rajasthan.
- Should be above 60 years of age. (As on April 1, 2025)
- The applicant himself and the spouse (husband or wife) should not be income tax payers.
- Should not have availed the benefit of Senior Varishth Nagrik Teerth Yatra Yojana in the past.
- Himself and the spouse should not be retired gazetted officers from the Central Government, State Government, Central and State Government undertakings, local bodies.

## Facts for Prelims:

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma flagged off the 'Rajasthan Vahini Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train' from Durgapura (Jaipur) railway station on June 06, 2025 (Nirjala Ekadashi).

## Sindhu Darshan Pilgrimage Scheme:

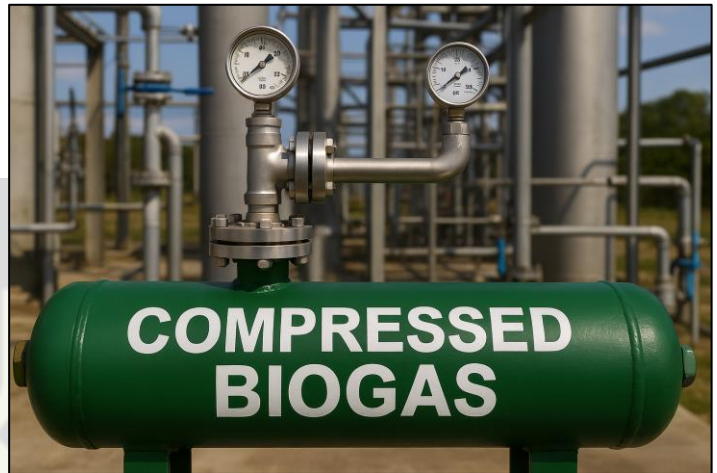
- **Scheme started:** April 1, 2016
- Under this scheme, a maximum of 50 percent (maximum ₹ 15,000) of the total travel expenses is reimbursed.
- **Department:** Devasthan Department.

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## Compressed Bio Gas Project in Rajasthan

### ➔ Why in News?

- Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) projects worth ₹74,000 crore have been registered with Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL).



### ➔ Main Point

- Under these projects, bio gas will be produced from farm waste and Napier grass (elephant grass/Uganda grass).
- The biggest investment in these proposals is from Reliance Group, whose project is worth ₹58,000 crore.
- This production model will be developed on the lines of the successful model adopted in Andhra Pradesh.
- Napier grass will be mainly used for compressed bio gas production, which will boost clean energy production in the state as well as ensure better use of agricultural residues.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG):** It is a clean and renewable fuel produced by anaerobic digestion of organic waste such as agricultural residues, animal dung, food waste etc. which is compressed at high pressure like natural gas.



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- The Government of India has encouraged compressed biogas production under the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL)

- **Formation:** In August, 2002 by the merger of erstwhile Rajasthan Energy Development Agency (REDA) and Rajasthan State Power Corporation Limited (RSPCL).
- Registered under the Companies Act 1956.
- The objective of RRECL is to act as a state nodal agency for promoting and developing non-conventional energy sources in the state.

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## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Siliserh Lake (Alwar)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ During the Ramsar Wetland Convention (COP-15) held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from July 23 to 31, 2025, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav proposed to declare Alwar's iconic Siliserh Lake as a Ramsar site.</li><li>◆ Being designated as a Ramsar site will provide Siliserh Lake with international recognition as a wetland, opportunities for conservation and sustainable development and international cooperation.</li><li>◆ At present, Rajasthan has 4 Ramsar wetland sites. These are: Keoladeo National Park, Sambhar Lake, Kheechan and Menar.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Archana Bilonia and Pawan Kumawat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Archana Bilonia of Sikar won two gold medals in the 12th World Strength Lifting and Bench Press Championship held in Pattaya, Thailand from July 16 to 19, 2025.</li><li>◆ Archana won two gold medals in the 80 plus kg senior women's category and set a new world record in strength lifting.</li><li>◆ Pawan Kumawat of Jaipur won a bronze medal in the same competition.</li></ul>

3.

## **MoU between RUHS and Koita Foundation**

- ◆ Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS), Jaipur and Koita Foundation, Mumbai to start Digital Health Foundation Course (DHFC).

4.

## **Rajasthan ranks second in ABHA ID**

- ◆ Rajasthan ranks second in the country in ABHA ID, launched to digitally maintain the health records of the common man and facilitate health services.
- ◆ So far, Abha ID of more than 6 crore 30 lakh people has been created in Rajasthan.
- ◆ ABHA ID, also known as Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), is a 14-digit unique ID launched by the Government of India to digitalize healthcare.
- ◆ This ID allows individuals to securely store, access and share their health records, thereby improving the efficiency of healthcare services.

5.

## **Rajasthan Ground Water (Conservation and Management)**

### **Authority Bill, 2024**

- ◆ Recently, a select committee of 21 MLAs was constituted for the Rajasthan Ground Water (Conservation and Management) Authority Bill, 2024, with Kanhaiya Lal Chaudhary as its chairman.
- ◆ The Rajasthan Ground Water (Conservation and Management) Authority Bill, 2024 was introduced to establish an authority to conserve and manage ground water resources within the state, regulate them, ensure fair, equitable and sustainable use of ground water resources through management, fix rates for the use of ground water extraction.

6.

## **Rajasthan ranks first in the auction of major mineral blocks**

- ◆ As per the provisions notified by the Central Government year 2016, 500 blocks of major minerals have been allotted in the entire country so far, out of which 103 blocks i.e. more than 20 percent of the country's blocks have been allotted in Rajasthan.
- ◆ Thus, Rajasthan has reached the first position in the auction of major mineral blocks in the entire country.



## National

### 20% ethanol blending target achieved

#### ➔ Why in News?

- India has successfully achieved the target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol (in 2025), five years ahead of its original target set for 2030.

#### ➔ Main Point

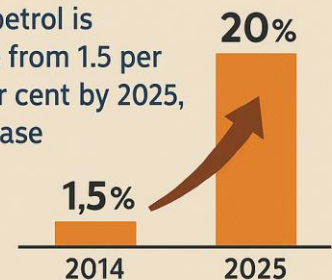
- Ethanol blending in petrol has increased from a mere 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025, representing a nearly 13-fold increase in the last 11 years.
- Ethanol production in the country has increased from 38 crore litres in 2014 to 661.1 crore litres by June 2025.
- India has saved about Rs 1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange by reducing its dependence on imported crude oil.
- Increasing use of ethanol-blended petrol has helped reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 698 lakh tonnes, contributing to India's climate goals.

#### Ethanol:

- Ethanol is a biofuel made by fermentation of sugar obtained from crops like sugarcane, maize, sorghum etc.

### ETHANOL BLENDING IN PETROL

Ethanol blending in petrol is projected to increase from 1.5 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent by 2025, a nearly 13-fold increase in the last 11 years



Ethanol production in the country is projected to increase from 38 crore litres in 2014 to 661.1 crore litres by June 2025

India has saved about ₹1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange by reducing its share of crude oil

Increased use of ethanol-blended petrol has helped in reducing 698 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide, contributing to India's climate targets



- Ethanol blending in petrol means adding ethanol in a certain proportion to petrol and using it as vehicle fuel.
- **Ethanol Blended Programme (E20 Fuel):** The National Biofuel Policy-2018, notified on June 4, 2018, had an indicative target of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol and 5 percent biodiesel blending in diesel by 2030.

## Facts for Prelims:

### PM JI -VAN Yojana


- **Full name:** Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Awashesh Nivaran Yojana.
- **Start:** March, 2019
- **Objective:** To promote advanced biofuel projects.
- This scheme was launched to provide financial assistance to integrated bio-ethanol projects for setting up second generation ethanol projects in the country.
- The total financial outlay of the scheme was Rs. 1969.50 crore for the period from the year 2018-19 to 2023-24.

## Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival

### ➔ Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Culture organized the Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu from July 23 to 27, 2025 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Chola emperor Rajendra Chola I.


Ministry of Culture  
Government of India




**Celebrating Birth Anniversary of Rajendra Chola-I,**  
Commemoration of 1000 Years of his Maritime Expedition  
in South East Asia and Commencement of Construction  
of Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple  
**Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival**

23<sup>rd</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025 | Venue: Gangaikonda Cholapuram,  
Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu


**All are invited!**




Thematic exhibition on  
Chola Shaivism & Temple  
Architecture by ASI



Musical  
Concerts



Cultural  
Programs



Traditional Tamil Nadu  
Folk Dances

SWIPE to see the event schedule ➔

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## ➡ Main Point

- The festival commemorates the 1,000th anniversary of Rajendra Chola I's sea expedition to Southeast Asia.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will organize special exhibitions on Chola Shaivism and temple architecture.
- The Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival is also a celebration of the rich Tamil Saivite devotional (63 Nayanars) tradition, which was supported by the Cholas.

### Other Important Points:

#### Rajendra Chola I:

- **Father:** Rajaraja I.
- **Capital:** Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- **Title:** After conquering the Ganga valley, he assumed the title of 'Gangaikondachola' (Chola who conquered the Ganga).
- Inspired by this victory, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was named Sri Vijayapuram.

#### Chola Empire:

- The Cholas were initially small feudatories under the Pallavas in Uraiyur. They came to power under Vijayalaya Chola in the 9th century.
- **Main inscription:** Uttaramerur inscription (description of the Chola administrative system and elections)

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## International

### United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

#### ➔ Why in News?

- US President Donald Trump has announced withdrawal of membership from UNESCO by December 2026.



#### ➔ Main Point

##### UNESCO:

- **Full name:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- **Objective:** To contribute to world peace and security by promoting international cooperation through education, science, culture and communication.
- **Goal:** To encourage intercultural dialogue, build an inclusive society and address challenges related to sustainable development and human rights.
- **Establishment:** November 16, 1945
- **Headquarters:** Paris, the capital of France.
- **Member countries:** 195 member countries and 8 associate member countries.
- **Current Director General:** Audrey Azoulay.

## Science and Technology

### Ultra Light Precision Guided Munition-V3 (ULPGM-V3)

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested ULPGM-V3 at the National Open Area Range in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.



#### ➔ Main Point

- The name of this missile is 'Ultra Light Precision Guided Munition' (ULPGM-V3).
- **Objective of the test:** To successfully test the missile launch from a UAV (drone) in flight.
- **Generation of missile:** It is an upgraded version of ULPGM-V2.
- **Development:** Jointly by DRDO and Bengaluru startup NewSpace Research Technology.
- **Collaborators:** 30 MSMEs and startups including Adani Defense, Bharat Dynamics Limited.

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- **Make in India:** Its guiding system, propulsion and warhead are designed and manufactured in India.

## Key Features:

- Can be fired from plain and mountainous areas.
- Operations possible both during day and night.
- Target can be changed after launch.
- Equipped with imaging infrared, targets accurately.
- **Target type:** Capable of destroying modern tanks, armored vehicles and bunkers.
- **Strategic importance:** Can be deployed in sensitive areas like Ladakh.
- Fire range up to 4 km during day, 2.5 km at night.
- **Weight** - 12.5 kg.
- **Technology:** Based on fire and forget technology.

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## Sherpa Mecha: Humanoid Robot

### ➡ Why in News?

- Recently, Indian robotics startup Ati Motors developed a humanoid robot called Sherpa Mecha.



### ➡ Main Point

- It is a human-inspired robot designed for industrial use.
- The company also launched the 'Sherpa 10K', a heavy-lift autonomous mobile robot (AMR) capable of lifting up to five tonnes with millimetre-level precision. These platforms are already running over 1 million autonomous missions per year in Southeast Asia, the US, and Mexico.



## Other Key Points:

### Anthropomorphic/Humanoid Robots:

- **Sophia:** Built by Hanson Robotics, Sophia is known for its human-like appearance and behaviour, powered by artificial intelligence (AI).
- **NAO:** Aldebaran Robotics (SoftBank Robotics) developed NAO, a robot often used in education and research.
- **Pepper:** Pepper, also from SoftBank Robotics, is designed to recognize human emotions and interact with people.
- **Robonaut:** Robonauts developed by NASA is Johnson Space Centre are designed to work alongside humans in space, capable of handling equipment and performing risky tasks intended for astronauts.
- **FEDOR/Fyodor:** Developed in Russia, this robot aims to mimic the appearance and some functions of the human body.
- **T-HR3:** Developed by Toyota, this robot can be remotely controlled by a human operator and is designed to assist in home and healthcare settings.
- **Surena:** Surena is a humanoid robot series developed by the University of Tehran in Iran.
- **Atlas:** Developed by Boston Dynamics, Atlas is a highly advanced humanoid robot capable of a wide range of physical activities, including running, jumping, and backflips.

## Anthropomorphic Robots of India:

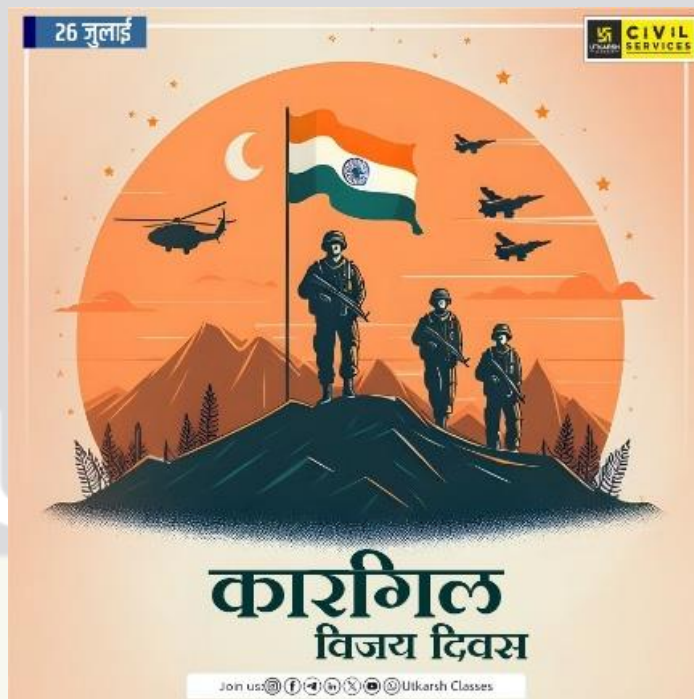
- **Vyomamitra:** Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Vyomamitra is a female anthropomorphic robot prototype unveiled under India's Gaganyaan space mission.
- **Mitra:** Built by Invento Robotics, Mitra is an interactive humanoid robot that can interact with customers and visitors. It is often deployed in banks and airports.
- **Shalu:** The first female humanoid robot in India, made of 100 percent waste materials. It is capable of speaking 47 languages.
- **Daksh:** The first anti-terrorism robot developed by DRDO, equipped with battery-powered systems, cameras, X-ray devices and shotguns for infiltration.
- **AcYut:** Built by students of BITS Pilani, AcYut is a series of humanoid robots capable of walking, dancing and performing complex movements.
- **Manav:** Developed by A-Set Training and Research Institute, Manav is India's first 3D-printed anthropomorphic robot capable of dancing, playing football and performing other activities.
- **Kempa:** Deployed at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, the robot provides directions and information about flights, tourist spots and heritage.

## Important Day

### Kargil Vijay Diwas

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 26 July in India.



#### ➔ Main Point

- This day is celebrated to commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Kargil War in the year 1999.
- The Pakistani Army intruded into the Indian part of the Line of Control (LoC), in response to which the Indian Army launched 'Operation Vijay' to regain the Indian areas occupied by Pakistan.
- On Kargil Vijay Diwas, every year the Prime Minister of India pays tribute to the martyrs at the Amar Jawan Jyoti located at India Gate in New Delhi.

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## Difference between 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' and 'Vijay Diwas':

Day:	Vijay Diwas	Kargil Vijay Diwas
<b>Celebrated</b>	16 December every year	26 July every year
<b>Occasion</b>	To commemorate the operation conducted by the Bangladesh Mukti Bahini and the Indian Air Force against the Pakistani Armed Forces in 1971.	Commemorates the victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the Kargil War of 1999
<b>Operation Name</b>	Bangladesh Liberation War, Bijoy Dibosh	Kargil Conflict, Operation Vijay
<b>Location</b>	East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh)	Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir (present-day Ladakh)
<b>Result</b>	Indian Army victory, emergence of the newly independent nation of Bangladesh.	India wins and regains control of Kargil.

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## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Chief Minister's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT)</b></p>  <p>◆ Recently, the Government of Assam launched the Chief Minister's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT) scheme with the aim of addressing the unemployment situation in Assam and generating employment opportunities in the overseas market for the unemployed youth of the state.</p>

2.

**'Co-May'**



- ◆ Recently, tropical storm Co-May caused widespread loss of life and property in the western part of Luzon Island in the Philippines.

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