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Date : 30 July, 2025



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Rajasthan

Rajasthan Tourism Department awarded 'Best Cultural Destination'

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Rajasthan Tourism Department was awarded the 'Best Cultural Destination' award by I Creative Minds.



➔ Main Point

- This award was given to the Rajasthan Tourism Department during the 10th International Tourism Conference and Travel Awards ceremony held in New Delhi.
- Earlier, Jaipur ranked 5th among the top 10 best cities in the world in the 2025 Readers Survey conducted by tourism magazine Travel and Leisure.

❖ Facts for Prelims:

- ◆ With the aim of promoting tourism in Rajasthan, the State Tourism Directorate was established in the year 1955 and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Limited (RTDC) in the year 1978.

Rajasthan Tourism Unit Policy (RTUP) – 2024

- ◆ **Launch:** 4 December, 2024
- ◆ **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.

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- ♦ The policy focuses on providing concessions to heritage hotels and properties, leveraging heritage properties available in the private sector. Additionally, the tourism policy streamlines the licensing process for operating hotels, restaurants and other tourism-related establishments.



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Rajivika's 'CRP Plus' policy

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the 'CRP Plus' policy was officially approved by the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajivika).



➔ Main Point

- **Full name:** Community Resource Person Plus (CRP Plus) Policy.
- **Objective of the policy:** To strengthen the social reconstruction process in rural areas.
- This new policy is an important step in the work of empowerment and expansion of self-help groups (SHGs) and community based organizations (CBOs) of Rajasthan.
- Under this policy, a new system of Community Resource Persons (CRP Plus) is being implemented by replacing the 'Village Support Team', so that the empowerment of community organizations like self-help groups, village organizations and cluster level federations (CLF) can be done smoothly.

❖ Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajivika

- ◆ Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Development Council (RGAVP) or Rajivika was established in the year 2010 by the Government of Rajasthan as an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Rural Development Department.
- ◆ It is a society registered under the Rajasthan Societies Act – 1958.
- ◆ **Chairman:** Chief Minister.

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Objectives:

- ♦ To bring about effective convergence between government and non-government initiatives being undertaken for rural development.
- ♦ To assist in the formation and strengthening of self-help groups, producer organisations, community development organisations, federations of self-help groups.
- ♦ To promote small and micro enterprises in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to increase the income of the poor.



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News in Shorts

| S. No. | News |
|--------|---|
| 1. | <p>Shree Hari-Van tree plantation campaign</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ With the aim of environmental protection and increasing greenery, the Department of Medical and Health conducted 'Shri Hari-Van Tree Plantation Campaign' in entire Rajasthan from 1 to 31 July, 2024.■ Under the campaign, a target was set to plant more than 3 lakh saplings in the medical institutions of the state. |
| 2. | <p>Monument of 'Machhli (T-16)'</p>  |

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- ♦ On the occasion of July 29, 2025 (Global Tiger Day), Minister of State for Forest and Environment (Independent Charge) Sanjay Sharma unveiled a memorial at Jogi Mahal Gate, Ranthambore in memory of tigress 'Machhli' (T-16) of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
- ♦ Ranthambore's most famous tigress Machhli (T-16) was born in the year 1997. She got this name due to the fish-like shape on her face. Machhli died in the year 2016 at the age of about 19 years.
- ♦ **Other names:** Lady of the Lakes and Crocodile Killer.

3.

Rajasthan Under-23 Athletics Championship

- ♦ Rajasthan Athletic Association's two-day Under-23 State Athletics Championship was organized in Jhunjhunu from July 29 and 30, 2025.
- ♦ 582 athletes of the state participated in this competition.



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National

India's GDP growth rate estimate: IMF

➔ Why in News?

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its 'World Economic Outlook' report has raised India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year 2025-26 by 0.2 percent i.e. 20 basis points to 6.4 percent.



➔ Main Point

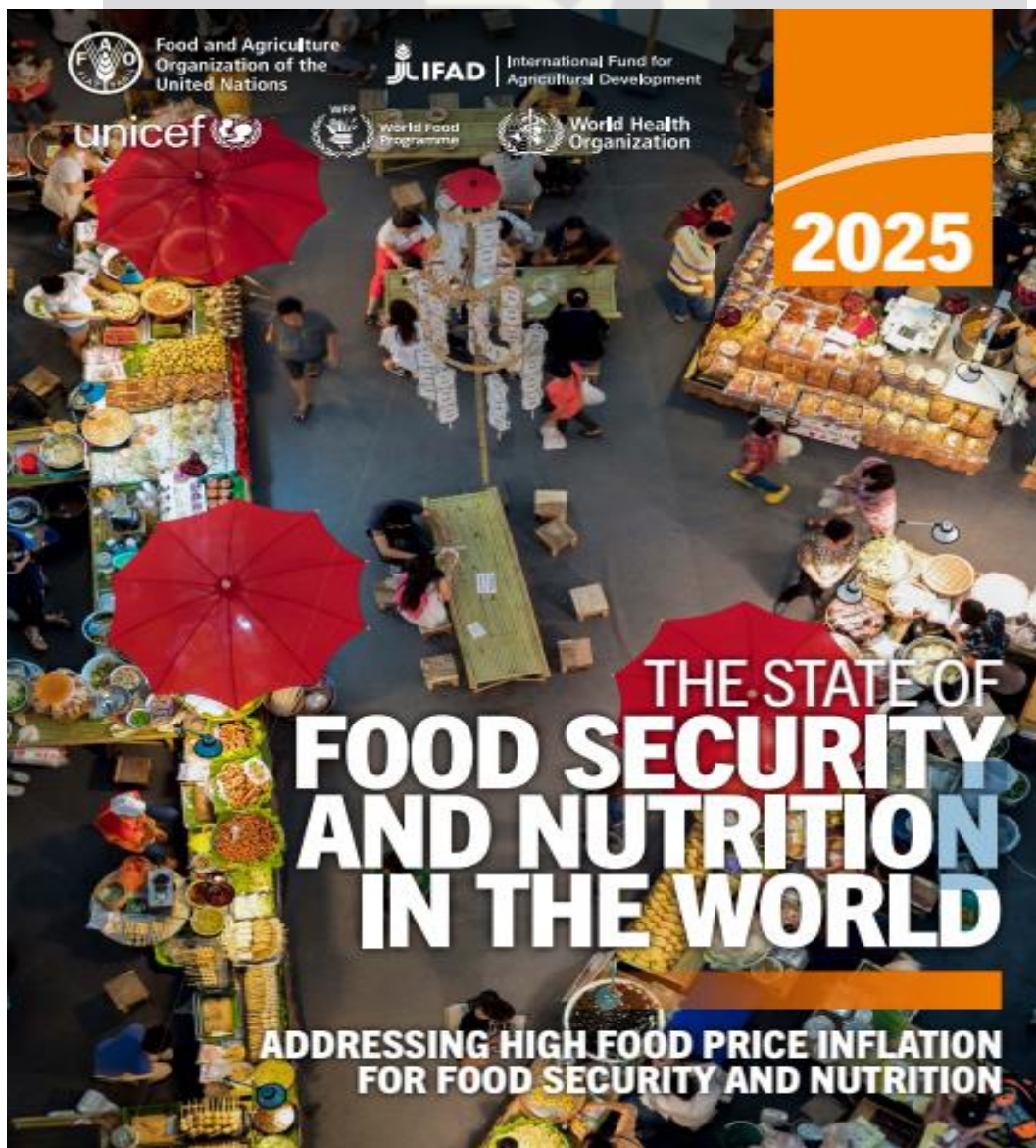
- The growth forecast for the financial year 2026-27 has also been raised by 0.1 percent i.e. 10 basis points to 6.4 percent.
- According to the IMF, the global growth rate is estimated to be 3.0 percent for the year 2025 and 3.1 percent for the year 2026.
- The growth rate in emerging and developing countries is estimated to be 4.1 percent in the year 2025 and 4.0 percent in the year 2026.
- Global inflation is estimated to be 4.2 percent in the year 2025 and 3.6 percent in the year 2026.

International

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2025) Report

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO) released the SOFI report.



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➡ Main Point

- It is the annual global monitoring report of Sustainable Development Goal-2 (SDG-2).
- **Global hunger:** Projected to decrease to 8.2 percent in 2024 from 2022 levels.
- The average cost of a healthy diet has increased globally due to rising food prices during 2023 and 2024.
- Anemia among women aged 15-49 years and obesity among adults is increasing globally from 2012 to 2022.

India's situation:

- Apart from India, the number of people unable to afford a healthy diet has increased in all other lower middle income countries.

Science and Technology

Successful test of Pralay missile

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SRBM) 'Pralay' from Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



➔ Main Point

- Pralay missile is a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 150-500 km.
- It is also capable of changing its path after covering some distance in the air, that is, it is a quasi-ballistic missile.
- The payload capacity of this missile is 500-1,000 kg.
- Pralay missile can be compared with China's 'Dong Feng 12' and Russia's 'Iskander', which have been used in the ongoing war with Ukraine.

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❖ Facts for Prelims:

Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

- ◆ **Established in:** 1958.
- ◆ **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- ◆ **Chairman:** Dr. Sameer V. Kamat.
- ◆ **Motto:** Balasya Moolam Vijnanam.
- ◆ **Objective:** To achieve self-reliance in defense sector through defense research.
- ◆ It is a research and development organization under the Ministry of Defence.



GAZAP and NEB-2 Ghost Bomb

➔ Why in News?

- Turkey demonstrated two new non-nuclear bombs, GAZAP and NEB-2 Ghost bomb, during the 17th International Defense Industry Fair held in Istanbul from July 26 to 27, 2025.



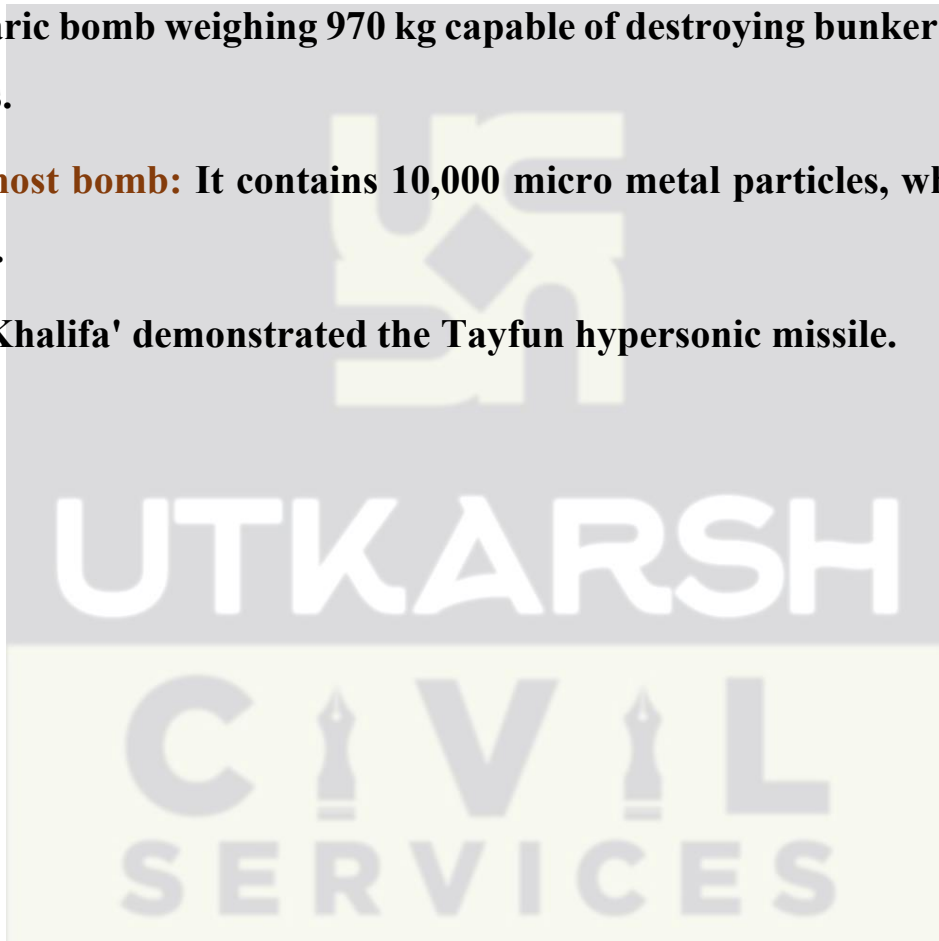
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➡ Main Point

- These bombs are fully compatible with the F-16 fighter jet and F-4 Phantom aircraft, two major combat aircraft of the Turkish Air Force.
- **GAZAP (meaning anger in Turkish language):** A fragmentation-based thermo baric bomb weighing 970 kg capable of destroying bunkers and strong structures.
- **NEB-2 Ghost bomb:** It contains 10,000 micro metal particles, which affect a wide area.
- Earlier, 'Khalifa' demonstrated the Tayfun hypersonic missile.

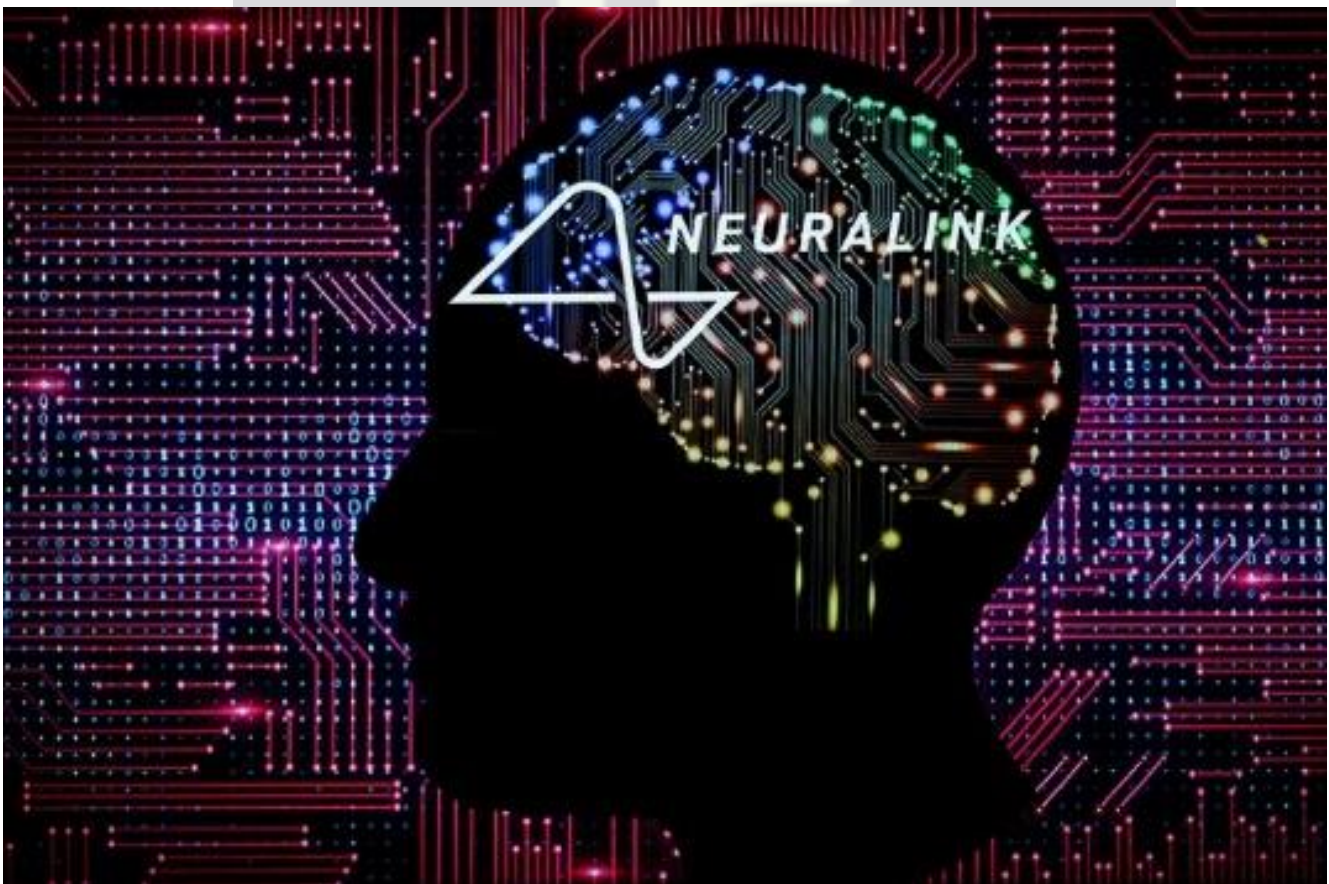


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Neuralink Chip

➔ Why in News?

- Audrey Crews, a woman paralyzed for the last 20 years, became the first patient of Neuralink, who successfully operated a digital cursor and wrote her name on the computer screen with the help of a brain chip developed by Elon Musk.



➔ Main Point

- This achievement demonstrates human development in the field of medicine and technology.
- It is known that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the brain-computer interface (BCI) of neurotech startup company 'Neuralink' co-founded by Elon Musk for in-human clinical trials.

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About the device:

- Neuralink Company is building a medical device for the human brain, known as the brain-computer interface (BCI) or 'Link'.
- The precision robot known as Implant/R1 performs the surgical procedure to implant the Neuralink BCI.
- This device connects the human brain to an external computer via Bluetooth signals, making it possible to exchange communication in the human brain.
- This device, known as 'Link', is the size of a coin in itself.
- This 'Link' is implanted within a small disc-shaped cutout with the help of a surgical robot.
- The robot connects thousands of tiny threads to the link of some neurons in the human brain. Each thread is about a quarter the size of a human hair's diameter.
- This device acts as a prosthesis in the brain, which can revolutionize the treatment of abnormal conditions like Parkinson's, epilepsy, spinal cord injury, autism and depression.

Neuralink

- This company was founded in the year 2016 by Elon Musk and a group of engineers.
- Neuralink successfully tested brain-computer interfaces (BCI) on animals; e.g. in 2021 a macaque was shown playing a simple videogame after being implanted with a brain chip.

Environment and Ecology

Global Tiger Day 2025 Celebration

➡ Why in News?

- On July 29, 2025, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change presided over the Global Tiger Day 2025 celebrations held at National Zoological Park, New Delhi.



➡ Main Point

- The number of tiger reserves in India increased to 58 from 46 in 2014.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the launch of a nationwide tree plantation drive under which more than 1 lakh saplings will be planted in all 58 tiger reserves.
- The occasion also marked the launch of a 'Plastic-Free Tiger Reserves' campaign which aims to eliminate the use of all single-use plastics in tiger reserves.
- NTCA Awards under 7 categories were also distributed at the event.

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Publications of National Tiger Conservation Authority unveiled:

- Report on "Status of Small Cats in India's Tiger Landscapes"
- **Stripes Magazine** - Global Tiger Day Special Edition.
- **Books** – ‘Waterfalls of Tiger Reserves in India’ written by Bharat Lal and ‘Water Bodies inside Tiger Reserves of India’ written by Dr. SP Yadav were released.



Places in News

Kamchatka Peninsula

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a powerful earthquake (magnitude 8.8) struck off the coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, following which a tsunami warning was issued on the west coast of Japan and the United States.
- According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), this is the sixth largest earthquake ever recorded.

➔ Main Point

About the Peninsula:

- The Kamchatka Peninsula is located in the Far Eastern part of Russia and is part of the Asian continent.
- The peninsula is about 1,250 kilometers long and on average 450 kilometers wide.
- The Sea of Okhotsk lies to its north and west and the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea to its south and east.
- The peninsula extends from 51° north latitude to 61° north latitude.
- More than 160 volcanoes are found in this peninsula, many of which are active.
- The highest active volcano in the region is Klyuchevskaya Sopka, with a height of 4,750 metres.



Personalities

Meghnad Desai

➔ Why in News?

- On July 29, 2025, Lord Meghnad Desai, British economist of Indian origin and member of the House of Lords, died at a hospital in Gurugram at the age of 85.



➔ Main Point

- Meghnad Jagdishchandra Desai was born in 1940 in Vadodara (Gujarat).
- Desai was a student of Marxist economics, political economy, monetary policy and economic history.
- In the year 2008, Meghnad Desai was awarded India's third highest award 'Padma Bhushan'.
- Desai joined the Labor Party in 1971, was president from 1986 to 1992 and became a member of the House of Lords in June 1991.
- **Major Books:**

1. Marxian Economic Theory (1973)
2. Applied Econometrics (1976)
3. Marxian Economics (1979) – Revised Edition
4. Monetarism – Economic Theory (1981)
5. Marx's Revenge: The Resurgence of Capitalism and the Death of Statist Socialism (2002)
6. Who Wrote the Bhagavad Gita? (2014)

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- Meghnad Desai wrote or edited more than 20 books and more than 200 articles for academic journals.
- Meghnad Desai taught economics at the London School of Economics from 1965 to 2003.
- It was due to the efforts of Meghnad Desai that the statue of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in Parliament Square, London.



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Sports

Divya Deshmukh: Women's Chess Champion

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, in the final of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Women's World Cup - 2025 held in Batumi, Georgia, Divya Deshmukh defeated Koneru Humpy 2.5-1.5 in the tiebreaker to win the title.



➔ Main Point

- 19-year-old chess player Divya Deshmukh is the first Indian woman player to win the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Women's World Cup.
- With this win, Divya Deshmukh has become India's fourth female grandmaster and 88th grandmaster overall.
- This is the second time in the last ten years that an Indian woman has become a grandmaster. Earlier in the year 2023, R. Vaishali became a grandmaster.
- She also played an important role in winning the gold medal for India at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest.

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Other important points:

Divya Deshmukh

- **Date and place of birth** – 9 December 2005 (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- **Early achievements** – Deshmukh won her first trophy by winning the Under-7 National Championship in 2012. She then won the Under-10 World Youth titles in Durban in 2014 and the Under-12 World Youth titles in Brazil in 2017.
- **WGM and IM titles** – Became Woman Grandmaster (WGM) in 2021 (22nd Indian woman player) and later got the International Master (IM) title in 2023.
- **FIDE Women's World Cup 2025** – Became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup in July 2025.

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UEFA : Women's Football Euro Cup 2025

➔ Why in News?

- England women's football team won the UEFA Women's Euro Cup 2025 title by defeating world champion Spain 3-1 in a penalty shootout.



➔ Main Point

- **Event:** From 2 to 27 July 2025.
- **Hosting country:** Switzerland.
- This was the 14th edition of the Women's Euro Cup, the final of which was played on 27 July 2025 at the St. Jakob-Park Stadium in Basel, Switzerland.

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Women's Euro Cup:

- **Organiser:** It is the top continental football cup organised by The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).
- The first UEFA Women's Euro Cup was held in the year 1984.
- From the year 2025, it will be held every four years.
- The Women's Euro Cup 2022 winner was England.



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News in Shorts

| S. No. | News |
|--------|---|
| 1. | <p>P&G's new CEO</p> <p>♦ Shailesh Jejurikar will take over as the CEO of Procter & Gamble (P&G), one of the world's largest consumer goods companies, from January 1, 2026.</p>  |
| 2. | <p>Tejaswin Shankar</p>  <p>♦ On July 29, 2025, India's Tejaswin Shankar set another new national decathlon record by scoring 7,826 points and finished fourth at the Wislaw Czapiewski Memorial 2025 Athletics Meet held in Poland.</p> <p>♦ Ondrej Kopecky of the Czech Republic, who holds the all-time meet record, won the title with 8,254 points.</p> |

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3.

Drone Prahar Exercise 2025



- ◆ Recently, the Indian Army conducted drone Prahar exercise in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

4.

UPI: Biometric Authentication Feature



- ◆ UPI, the most used digital payment platform in the country, will soon have the facility of payment through Face ID or fingerprint, which will eliminate the need to enter PIN.
- ◆ This feature is used to prevent incidents like PIN theft and online fraud.
- ◆ NPCI can present its demo during the Global Fintech Fest in October.

5.

Sanjay Singhal is the new Director General of SSB



- ◆ IPS officer Sanjay Singhal has been appointed as the new Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). He will replace Amrit Mohan Prasad, who is retiring on August 31, 2025.
- ◆ Currently, Sanjay Singhal is working as Special DG in the Border Security Force (BSF). He is a 1993 batch officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- ◆ His tenure has been scheduled till December 31, 2028.

