

Daily Current Affairs

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Rajasthan

Discovery of a new plant in the Aravalli range: Portulaca Bharata

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a new plant 'Portulaca Bharata' belonging to the Portulaca genus was discovered near the Galtaji temple in Jaipur.



➔ Main Point

- This plant named Portulaca Bharata has been included in the list of Indian endemic species.
- At present, due to no other known number of it, it has been placed in the category of 'insufficient data' under the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- At present, there are about 153 species of the Portulaca genus in the world, which are mainly found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- These succulent plants are known for their hardiness, water storing tissues and adaptation to extreme conditions.
- At present, 11 species of it are known in India, out of which 4 are endemic and are mainly found in dry and semi-arid areas.

19th State Level Statistics Day Celebration

➔ Why in News?

- On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, the 19th State Level Statistics Day Celebration was organized at Rajasthan International Center, Jaipur.



➔ Main Point

- The Chief Minister released the 'Statistical Yearbook 2025' and 'Rajasthan SDGs Status Report 2025' and launched the 'SDGs Website 2.0'.
- 16 officers and employees, including Jaipur District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni, were awarded the state level 'Professor PC Mahalanobis Statistics Award' for their outstanding work in the field of statistics in the state.
- In commemoration of the important contribution made by Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the field of statistics, his birthday, 29 June, is celebrated as Statistics Day every year.
- **Theme for the year 2025:** '75 years of National Sample Survey'.

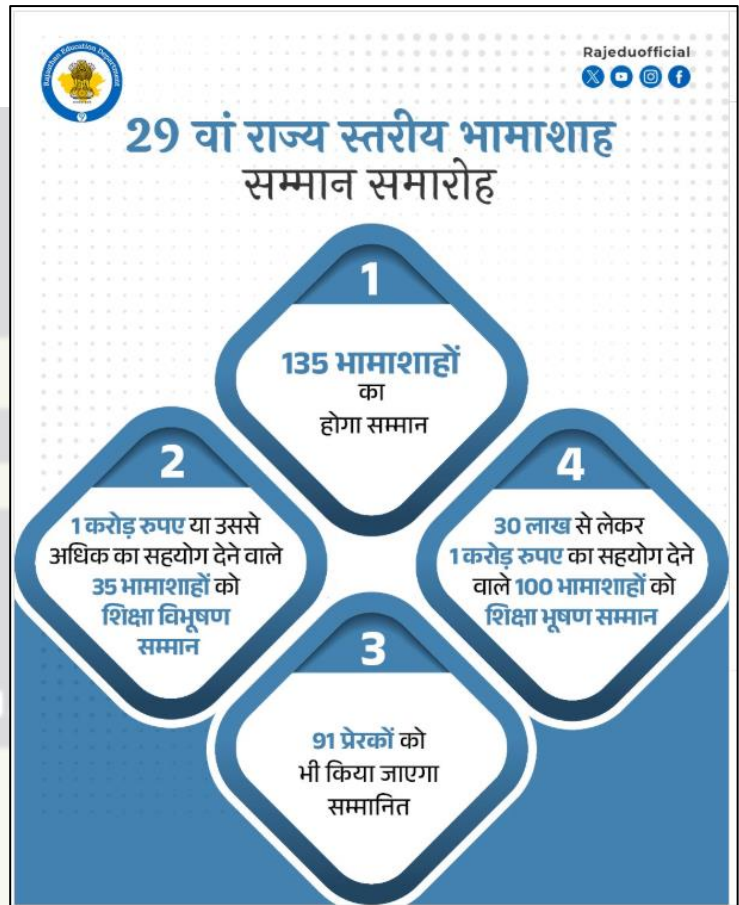
29th State Level Bhamashah Samman Ceremony

➔ Why in News?

- On June 28, 2025, the '29th State Level Bhamashah Samman Ceremony' was organized in Jaipur.

➔ Main Point

- 135 Bhamashahs were honored in this felicitation ceremony.
- The Chief Minister conferred 'Shiksha Vibhushan Samman' to 35 Bhamashahs who contributed more than Rs 1 crore in the field of education and 'Shiksha Bhushan Samman' to 100 Bhamashahs who contributed between Rs 30 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- 15 NRI Rajasthani Bhamashahs who organized NRI Rajasthani Education Conference in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru were also honored.
- Under the 'Right to Education' Act in Rajasthan, the amount of fee reimbursement and transport voucher of students of classes 1 to 8 was transferred.



National

GoIStats App

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Government launched a mobile app called 'GoIStats' with the aim of ensuring simple and convenient access to official statistics.



➔ Main Point

- This initiative has been launched by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO).
- This is an important step towards India's commitment to make official statistics more accessible and user-friendly to the common citizens.

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National Sample Survey Office (NSO):

- NSO is a major statistical institution working under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.
- Its main objective is to collect, analyze and publish data related to social, economic and demographic fields across the country in a scientific manner.
- **Establishment:** The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) was established in the year 1950. NSO, formed by the merger of NSSO and Central Statistics Office (CSO), was established in the year 2019.
- **Structure:** NSO is mainly composed of three components:
 - o Survey and Field Work Department (FOD)
 - o Social Statistics Department (SSD)
 - o Economic Statistics Department (ESD)

Dharti Aaba Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA)

➔ Why in News?

- Dharti Aaba Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA) was conducted by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 26 states and 4 Union Territories from June 15 to 30, 2025.

The banner for the Dharti Aaba Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA) campaign is set against a blue background. At the top left, it features the Government of India emblem and the text 'Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India'. To the right is a '150th' anniversary logo for 'JANJATIYA GAURAV VARSH'. The central text reads 'Celebrating Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh'. Below this, the campaign title '15 DAYS Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' is displayed, followed by the subtitle 'Awareness & Benefit Saturation Camp' and the tagline 'Tribal Welfare : From Vision to Mission'. The dates '15th - 30th June, 2025' are shown. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister. At the bottom, five colored boxes list the campaign's reach: '700+ Scheduled Tribes' (teal), '26 States & 4 UTs' (pink), '5.5 Cr. Tribal Population' (purple), '63,000+ Villages' (red), and '₹80,000 Cr. Outlay' (orange).

➔ Main Point

- This is the most comprehensive tribal empowerment campaign till date.
- 207 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) districts have also been covered under this campaign.
- This campaign is based on a camp-based and community-centric model, ensuring active participation of district administration, youth volunteers, civil society organizations (CSOs) and tribal representatives.

Dharti Aaba Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA):

- It is a nationwide tribal empowerment initiative launched under the Tribal Pride Year.
- **Objective:** Its main objective is to reach out the welfare schemes and services of the Central Government to the tribal communities, especially those living in remote areas and settlements of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

Tribal Pride Day and Pride Year:

- The Government of India had announced to celebrate 15 November every year as Tribal Pride Day in the year 2021 to honor tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.
- Tribal Pride Year (15 November 2024 to 15 November 2025) is being celebrated as a year-long celebration dedicated to tribal culture, identity and progress.

Five major pillars of DAJA:

1. **People's participation:** Ensuring community-based active participation.
2. **Completeness:** Reach of rights and schemes to every eligible tribal family.
3. **Cultural inclusion:** Respect and integration of tribal languages, arts, traditions and lifestyle.
4. **Convergence:** Implementation in collaboration with ministries, civil society organizations (CSOs), and youth groups.

5. **Last-mile delivery:** Ensuring access of services to the most remote and deprived tribal areas.

Key Objectives:

- The campaign aims to extend the benefits of flagship schemes of the Central Government like Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM-Kisan, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana and Tribal-Special Rights to tribal communities.

Support and Coordination:

- The campaign also coordinates with other major initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Jan-Jan Manch (PM-JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

Cultural Significance:

- The DAJA campaign is a celebration of tribal heritage and cultural identity. It pays tribute to Birsa Munda, popularly known as 'Dharti Aaba', a symbol of tribal self-respect and resistance.

International

Global Unicorn Index 2025

➡ Why in News?

- On June 26, 2025, Hurun Research Institute released the seventh edition of the Global Unicorn Index 2025.

➡ Main Point

- According to Hurun Research, there are 1,523 unicorns in the world, located in 52 countries and 307 cities.
- SPACE X has become the world's most valuable unicorn, valued at US\$350 billion.
- Elon Musk's new venture xAI has risen to fourth place on the list.
- **Renewable energy unicorns:** Renewable energy has 50 unicorns with a total value of over US\$130 billion (Highest renewable energy unicorn: China).
- **Top 5 Unicorns in the World:**

NUMBER OF UNICORNS BY COUNTRIES

| | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-----|
| 1. |  | United States | 703 |
| 2. |  | China | 340 |
| 3. |  | India | 67 |
| 4. |  | United Kingdom | 53 |
| 5. |  | Germany | 36 |
| 6. |  | France | 27 |
| 7. |  | Israel | 26 |
| 8. |  | Canada | 25 |
| 9. |  | Brazil | 18 |
| 9. |  | South Korea | 18 |



| Rank | Unicorn | Value | Country | Region | Establishment |
|-----------------|------------|-------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Space X | 350 | USA | Aerospace | 2002 |
| 2 nd | Open AI | 300 | USA | AI | 2015 |
| 3 rd | Byte Dance | 300 | China | Social Media | 2012 |
| 4 th | XAI | 115 | USA | AI | 2023 |
| 5 th | Ant Group | 87 | China | Fin Tech | 2014 |

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- Southeast Asia continues to lead with 37 unicorns, including Singapore (18 unicorns), Indonesia (8 unicorns), Vietnam (4 unicorns), Thailand (3), Philippines (3) and Malaysia (1 unicorn).

Top 5 Unicorn Countries in the World:

| Rank | Country | Unicorn | Growth/Decrease |
|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 st | US | 758 | +55 |
| 2 nd | China | 343 | +3 |
| 3 rd | India | 64 | -3 |
| 4 th | UK | 62 | +8 |
| 5 th | Germany | 30 | 0 |

Top Unicorn Cities in the World:

| Rank | City | Unicorn |
|------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1 st | San Francisco | 199 |
| 2 nd | New York | 142 |
| 3 rd | Beijing | 75 |
| 7 th | Bengaluru | 31(-1) |
| 22 th | Mumbai | 12(-2) |

Other Key Points

- **Unicorn:** Defined as a start-up founded in the 2000s, valued at at least \$1 billion and not yet listed on a public exchange.

At Sea Observer Mission

➔ Why in News?

- The Quad countries launched the 'At Sea Observer Mission' for the first time to promote maritime security and mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.



➔ Main Point

- Under this, the Coast Guards of India, Japan, the US and Australia have launched the 'Quad At Sea Ship Observer Mission' for the first time in implementation of the Wilmington Declaration.
- As per its provision, two officers including women officers from each member country are traveling to Guam on board the US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Stratton ship.
- This mission reflects the vision put forward at the Quad leaders' summit in September 2024 and symbolizes expanding action-based maritime relations between the Indian Coast Guard (ISG), Japan Coast Guard (JCG), US Coast Guard (USCG) and Australian Border Force (ABF).

Environment and Ecology

Kerala tops Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE)

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Kerala topped the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



➔ Main Point

- The ministry ranked states for effective management practices adopted in national parks (NPs) and protected areas (PAs) for the year 2020 to 2025.
- Kerala was the only state to be ranked in the 'Very Good' category with a score of 76.22 per cent.
- It was followed by Karnataka (74.24 per cent), Punjab (71.74 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (71.36 per cent) respectively, which were placed in the 'Good' category.
- Eravikulam National Park in Kerala and Dachigam National Park in Jammu and Kashmir were the highest scoring individual protected areas, both with an MEE score of 92.97 per cent.
- Eravikulam National Park is located in the Western Ghats, which was declared a World Heritage Site for Outstanding Universal Value by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in the year 2012.

- Mathiketan Shola National Park in Kerala topped the 'other well-managed sites' list with a score of 90.63 per cent.
- Chandigarh (85.16 per cent) topped among Union Territories, while Ladakh (34.9 per cent) was the only site placed in the 'poor' category.

Facts for Prelims:

- There are a total of six national parks in Kerala:
 1. Eravikulam National Park.
 2. Silent Valley National Park.
 3. Mathiketan Shola National Park.
 4. Pampadum Shola National Park.
 5. Anamudi Shola National Park.
 6. Periyar National Park.

Tiger Reserves located in Kerala:

1. Periyar Tiger Reserve.
2. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve.

Male Mahadeveshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a tigress and her four cubs were poisoned to death in Male Mahadeveshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka.



➔ Main Point

- Male Mahadeveshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Chamarajanagar district in the south-east of Karnataka, near the border with Tamil Nadu and was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the year 2013.
- The area is mainly covered with dry deciduous forests, with small patches of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen and shola forests at different altitudes.

- The Male Mahadeveshwara Hills Sanctuary is adjacent to the Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu, which serves as an important tiger corridor between the two states.
- The area is home to a rich population of several prey species including tiger, leopard, elephant.
- A proposal to upgrade Male Mahadeshwara Hills to a tiger reserve has been pending for nearly 15 years; if approved, Chamarajanagar will become the first district in India to have three tiger reserves - Bandipur, Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve and Male Mahadeshwara Hills.
- After Madhya Pradesh, which has 785 tigers, Karnataka has the second largest tiger population in India with 563 tigers.
- The region is home to two major communities, the Soligas, who are traditionally hunter-gatherers, and the Lingayats, who are temple priests from Mysore and are involved in temple management.

Science and Technology

Hypersonic version of Agni-5

➔ Why in News?

- A modified version of the indigenously developed Agni-5 intercontinental ballistic missile is being developed by India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) as a bunker-buster warhead after the US bunker buster attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.



➔ Main Point

- The new version of Agni-5 will be a conventional weapon, capable of carrying a 7,500 kg bunker-buster warhead.
- This missile will be capable of penetrating the ground up to 80 to 100 meters and exploding.

- The newly developed Agni-5 hypersonic version will have a range of about 2500 kilometers.

Agni-5 missile:

- It is a ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear weapons, which uses a three-stage solid fuel engine.
- **Development:** By Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- The development of Agni series of missiles began in the early 1980s under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) led by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Agni-5 missile can be launched from road and rail platforms.
- Agni-6 is under development, which will have a strike range of more than 8,000 km.

Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)

- This program was started in the year 1980 under the direction of scientist and former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- The aim of this program was to make India self-reliant in the field of missile technology.

- 5 missiles; Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag and Akash were developed under this program.

- Agni series of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability.

Agni series of missiles:

- Agni I: Strike range - 700-800 km.
- Agni II : Range - over 2,000 km
- Agni III : Range - over 2,500 km
- Agni IV : Range - over 3,500 km
- Agni V : The longest missile in the Agni series, it is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.
- **Agni-P (Prime):** It is a canisterised missile with a range of between 1,000 and 2,000 km that will replace the Agni I missile.

Sports

Hockey India Masters Cup 2025

➔ Why in News?

- Odisha Hockey Association and Tamil Nadu Hockey Unit won the women's and men's titles respectively in the inaugural edition of Hockey India Masters Cup 2025.



➔ Main Point

- **Inaugural:** Held from June 18 to 27, 2025 at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **Age Criteria:** This Master Cup is organized for male players above 40 years of age and female players above 35 years of age.
- **Teams and Participants:** 12 men's and 8 women's teams participated.
- **Winners:,**

| Category | Winner | Runner-up |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Women | Odisha | Punjab |
| Men | Tamil Nadu | Maharashtra |

Medals:

■ **Bronze Medal:**

- In the women's category, Hockey Haryana won the bronze medal by defeating Tamil Nadu Hockey Unit.
- In the men's category, Hockey Chandigarh defeated Hockey Association of Odisha 2-1 to finish third and win the bronze medal.

Other Important Points

Hockey India

- Hockey India is the governing body of hockey in India and is affiliated to the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- **Founded:** 2009, it replaced the Indian Hockey Federation, which was founded in 1925.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi.
- **President:** Dilip Kumar Tirkey.

Important Days

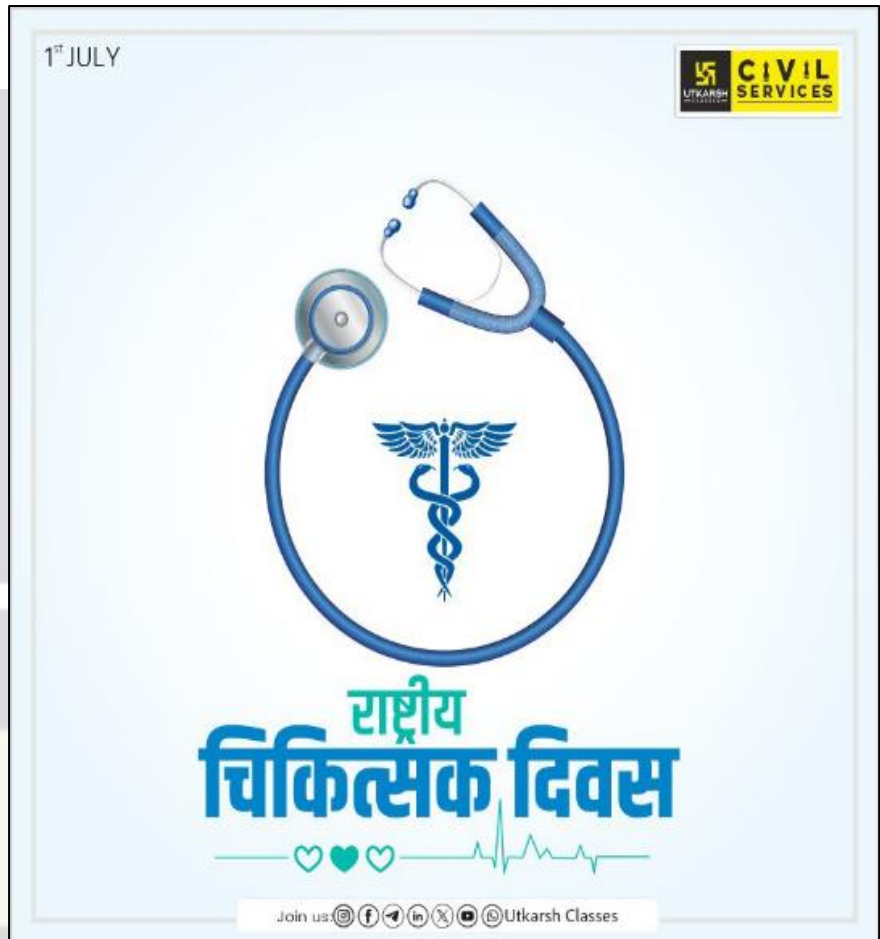
National Doctors Day

➔ Why in News?


- National Doctors Day is celebrated every year on 1st July.

➔ Main Point

- In India, National Doctors Day was first celebrated on 01st July, 1991 in honour of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy's contribution to the health sector.
- Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy was a renowned physician, teacher, freedom fighter, social worker and politician.
- He was also the Chief Minister of West Bengal for 14 years from 1948 to 1962.
- On 04th February, 1961, he was awarded India's highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna'. He was also Mahatma Gandhi's personal physician.
- In the year 1976, BC Roy National Award was instituted in his memory to recognise eminent personalities working in the fields of medicine, science, public affairs, philosophy, arts and literature.



News in Shorts

| S. No. | News |
|--------|--|
| 1. | <p>Countrywide campaign for financial inclusion and social security schemes</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ A nationwide campaign is being conducted for financial inclusion and social security schemes from July 1 to September 30, 2025.◆ The objective of this campaign is to ensure access to essential financial services like banking, insurance and pension up to the Gram Panchayat level and to link eligible citizens with these schemes.◆ The major components of the campaign include re-verification of existing inactive bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), opening new bank accounts for those who do not have bank accounts yet, encouraging enrollment in Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). |

2.

National Conference on Biodiversity and Conservation 2025



- ◆ The Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON 2025) was organized from 25-27 June 2025 at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ◆ The Indian Conservation Conference was started in the year 2023 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Project Tiger.
- ◆ **International Conference on Biodiversity and Conservation (ICBC-25):** Being held in Kobe, Japan from 1 - 2 July 2025. Whose main focus is to address the major challenges in the field with modern, practical solutions.
- ◆ The National Biodiversity Authority has issued new rules called '**Biodiversity (Access and Benefit Sharing) Regulations, 2025**'. The most famous case of "Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)" in India is the Kani tribe of Kerala and the Arogyapacha plant (*Trichopus zeylanicus*) with Ayurvedic properties.

3.

Host of QUAD Summit: India



- ◆ India will host the QUAD summit in the year 2025.
- ◆ QUAD is a strategic forum comprising Australia, India, the United States and Japan and its main objective is to ensure stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ◆ The QUAD originated due to the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004.
- ◆ In the year 2007, former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe formalized the QUAD.
- ◆ The first meeting of the group was held in the year 2007 during the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

4.

First Made in India Antenna Plant



- ◆ Union Minister for Communications and Minister for Development of North Eastern Region inaugurated Ericsson's first Made in India Antenna Plant at VVDN Innovation Park.
- ◆ Ericsson expands local antenna eco-system in India with first export-ready antennas for high performance networks.

5.

US Open 2025 Badminton



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Ayush Shetty :

- ◆ Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty won the US Open title by defeating Canada's Brian Yang in the final of the US Open Super 300.
- ◆ Ayush became the first Indian shuttler to win a BWF title this season.

Tanvi Sharma :

- ◆ Tanvi Sharma, a 16-year-old player from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, entered the women's singles final by defeating Ukraine's Polina Burhova at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, USA.
- ◆ The Indian defeated world number 40 Burhova 21-14, 21-16 in the women's singles event.
- ◆ Tanvi, currently ranked world number 66, has defeated top-ranked players including world number 23, 58 and 50 players throughout the tournament. However, she lost to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the US in the final.