

Daily Current Affairs

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Rajasthan

Miss Universe India 2025: Manika Vishwakarma

➔ Why in News?

- Originally a resident of Sri Ganganagar (currently Delhi), Manika Vishwakarma won the title of 'Miss Universe India 2025'.



➔ Key Points:

- **Competition organized:** Sitapura, Jaipur.
- Manika has also won the title of Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024.
- Manika Vishwakarma will represent India in the 74th Miss Universe pageant to be held in Thailand on November 21, 2025.
- Manika was crowned by Miss Universe India 2024 Riya Singha.
- Tanya Sharma (first runner-up) of Uttar Pradesh, Mehak Dhingra (second runner-up) of Haryana and Amishi Kaushik (third runner-up) were the winners.

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Invitation to Sarpanches of 4 border villages of Rajasthan on Independence Day

➔ Why in News?

- The central government has invited four Sarpanches from border districts of Rajasthan as special guests in the Independence Day celebrations.

➔ Key Points:

- These Sarpanches have been invited under the 'Vibrant Village Program 2.0'. These include:
 - o **Bharat Ram** - Navatala Bakhasar (Barmer)
 - o **Geeta Kanwar** - Myajalar (Jaisalmer)
 - o **Shakuntala Devi** - Kanwarpura (Sri Ganganagar)
 - o **Sajna Devi** - Khajuwala (Bikaner)

Other important points:

- Progressive farmer couple Devaram Panwar and his wife Dhapu Devi from Barmer were also invited as special guests in the Independence Day celebrations held at the Red Fort.
- They are the only farmers cultivating Guggul (*Commiphora wightii*) in the border area. Guggul is a medicinal plant, which is used in Ayurvedic medicines. Apart from this, they are also the first beneficiaries of the state under the National Livestock Mission.



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Facts for Prelims:

Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) – 2.0

- On April 4, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the 'Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) – 2.0' as a 100% centrally funded scheme.
- **Duration:** Year 2024-2029

	Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)	Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0
Launch	2023	2025
States	Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Union Territory of Ladakh.	Selected villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
Funding	100% by the Central Government.	100% by the Central Government.
Objective	Improve the standard of living and create livelihood opportunities in border villages. Strengthen border security by involving the local population as support for border forces. Control cross-border crime and integrate border communities with the rest of the country.	Improve the standard of living and create livelihood opportunities in border villages. Strengthen border security by involving the local population as support for border forces. Control cross-border crime and integrate border communities with the rest of the country.
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs.	Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Peer Review under Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan

➔ Why in News?

- A team from Kerala state is conducting a 'Peer Review' for effective implementation and progress assessment of 'Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan' in 6 districts of Rajasthan.



➔ Key Points:

- **6 Districts:** Jaipur, Udaipur, Alwar, Churu, Bundi and Jhunjhunu.
- **Duration:** 18 to 24 August, 2025.
- This peer review is being conducted as per the instructions of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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- The Prime Minister launched the 'Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan' on 26 December 2024 (Veer Bal Diwas) for complete elimination of malnutrition through public participation.
- The objective of this program is to increase the nutrition level at the village level by strengthening the implementation of nutrition related services and ensuring active community participation.

Facts for Prelims:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

- **Programme launched:** 2 October 1975
- **Objective:**
 - To improve the nutritional and health status of children aged 0 to 6 years.
 - To lay the foundation for the psychological, physical and social development of children.
 - To reduce mortality, diseases, malnutrition and school dropout rate.
 - Under this programme, currently 363 child development projects are being operated in Rajasthan.

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Rajasthan receives an amount of ₹411.03 lakh under LHDCP

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Animal Husbandry Department of Rajasthan Government received an amount of ₹411.03 lakh under the Livestock Health Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) under the centrally sponsored scheme 'National Livestock Mission' of the Central Government.

➔ Key Points:

- This amount will be used for Foot and Mouth Disease, Bursella Disease, PPR (Peste des Petits) Disease and Classical Swine Fever Disease in Rajasthan under the Livestock Health Disease Control Program (LHDCP).
- Along with this, a grant amount of Rs 4 crore 8 lakh 20 thousand 500 was also released for Rajasthan under the Entrepreneurship Development Program (NLM-EDP) under the National Livestock Mission by the Central Government.
- **Animal Husbandry Minister of Rajasthan:** Joraram Kumawat.

Other Important Points:

- Recently, the Central Government has invited applications for the 'National Gopal Ratna Award', for which 53 breeds of cow and 20 breeds of buffalo have been included across the country.
- Out of the 53 registered breeds of cow, 9 breeds are found in Rajasthan, which include - Tharparkar, Rathi, Nagauri, Mewati, Kankrej, Haryanvi, Sahiwal, Nari and Sanchori. There is not a single registered breed of buffalo from Rajasthan.
- The 'Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Puraskar' is a prestigious award given in the livestock and dairy sector. This award, Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Puraskar, is given by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, under the National Gokul Mission.

News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Elephant Fashion Show: Hathi Gaon (Jaipur)</p> <p>♦ On the occasion of August 12, 2025 (World Elephant Day), an 'Elephant Fashion Show' was organized at Hathi Gaon located in Amer (Jaipur).</p>
2.	<p>Divyansh M Bhardwaj (Awan Sarpanch)</p> <p>♦ Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma honored Divyansh M Bhardwaj, Sarpanch of Awan Gram Panchayat of Tonk district with the title of Best Sarpanch in Rajasthan during the state level Independence Day celebrations at Mehrangarh Fort.</p> <p>♦ Divyansh is the only awardee among 11,341 Gram Panchayats of 41 districts.</p>
3.	<p>'Madhuram' Program</p> <p>♦ 'Madhuram' program was organized at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami.</p> <p>♦ Event organized: 18 to 20 August, 2025</p>

4.

Shri Siya Piya Milan Samaroh

- ◆ Shri Siya Piya Milan Samaroh was organized at Shri Jankinath Bada Mandir (Rewasa Dham) in Sikar from 12 to 18 August, 2025.
- ◆ In this event, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat unveiled the marble statue of Swami Raghavacharya and inaugurated the newly constructed Gurukul Bhawan.

5.

State's first organic food grain market

- ◆ The state's first organic market will be opened by the Rajasthan government at Durgapura State Agricultural Management Institute in Jaipur.
- ◆ In this market, the government will provide coarse grains including organic wheat, pulses, fruits-vegetables, milk-curd-ghee, oil and spices to the general public.

6.

Royal Rajasthan Foundation's 'Pink Promise Initiative'

- ◆ Royal Rajasthan Foundation (RRF) of Indian Premier League (IPL) team Rajasthan Royals, under the Pink Promise initiative, has illuminated 200 rural houses in Rajasthan and 60 houses in Assam through solar electrification.
- ◆ The Rajasthan Royals team had promised to electrify six houses for every sixer hit during the IPL match.

7.

Jhalana's female leopard: Jalebi

- ◆ The second oldest female leopard 'Jalebi' of Jhalana Biological Park in Jaipur died recently.
- ◆ 13-year-old Jalebi was the offspring of female leopard Flora. She had jalebi-like marks on her body, which is why she got this name.

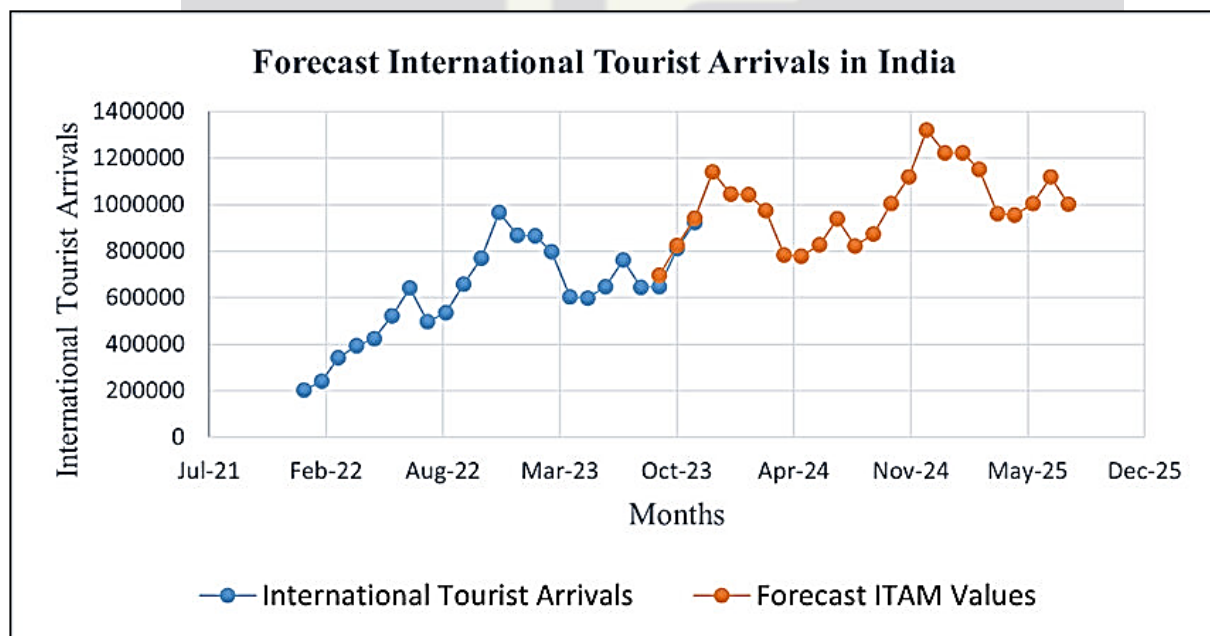


National

Increase in arrival of foreign tourists

➔ Why in News?

- Information regarding increase in foreign tourist arrivals was shared in Lok Sabha by Professor Saugata Roy on August 18, 2025



➔ Key Points:

International Tourist Arrivals (in lakhs)	Year 2023	188.99
	Year 2024	205.69
Revenues from Tourism in India (in Rs crores)	Year 2023	2,66,045
	Year 2024	2,93,033
Total Share in GDP (in percentage)	2022-23	5.09
	2023-24	5.22
Total Number of Tourism Jobs (in million)	2022-23	76.17
	2023-24	84.63

- Foreign Tourist Arrivals from Top 5 Source Countries:** USA > Bangladesh > UK > Australia > Canada

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Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana


➔ Why in News?

- The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana portal has been launched to facilitate registration under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana announced by the Prime Minister in his 12th Independence Day address.


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3.5 करोड़ से अधिक नौकरियों के सृजन को प्रोत्साहन



लाभार्थी: i) पहली बार नौकरी में आने वाले कर्मचारी
ii) रोजगार सृजन करने वाले नियोक्ता



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➡ Key Points:

- **Approval by Union Cabinet:** 1 July, 2025
- **Scheme Outlay:** ₹1 lakh crore.
- **Employment Generation:** Over 3.5 crore.
- **Objective:** To promote employment generation, increase employability and social security across sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.
- **Target:** To promote creation of over 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of two years.
- **Implementation:** The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana will be implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), a statutory body under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- **Scheme Benefits:** The scheme will provide incentives of up to ₹15,000 in two installments to newly employed youth and up to ₹3000 per month per new employee to employers for creating new employment opportunities.

Employee	Employer
Formalization of jobs through the expansion of social security coverage.	Compensation for the cost of creating additional employment.
On-the-job training, making new recruits employable.	Increased stability and productivity of the workforce.
Better employability through continuous employment.	Encouragement of social security coverage.
Financial literacy skills.	Compensation for the cost of creating additional employment.

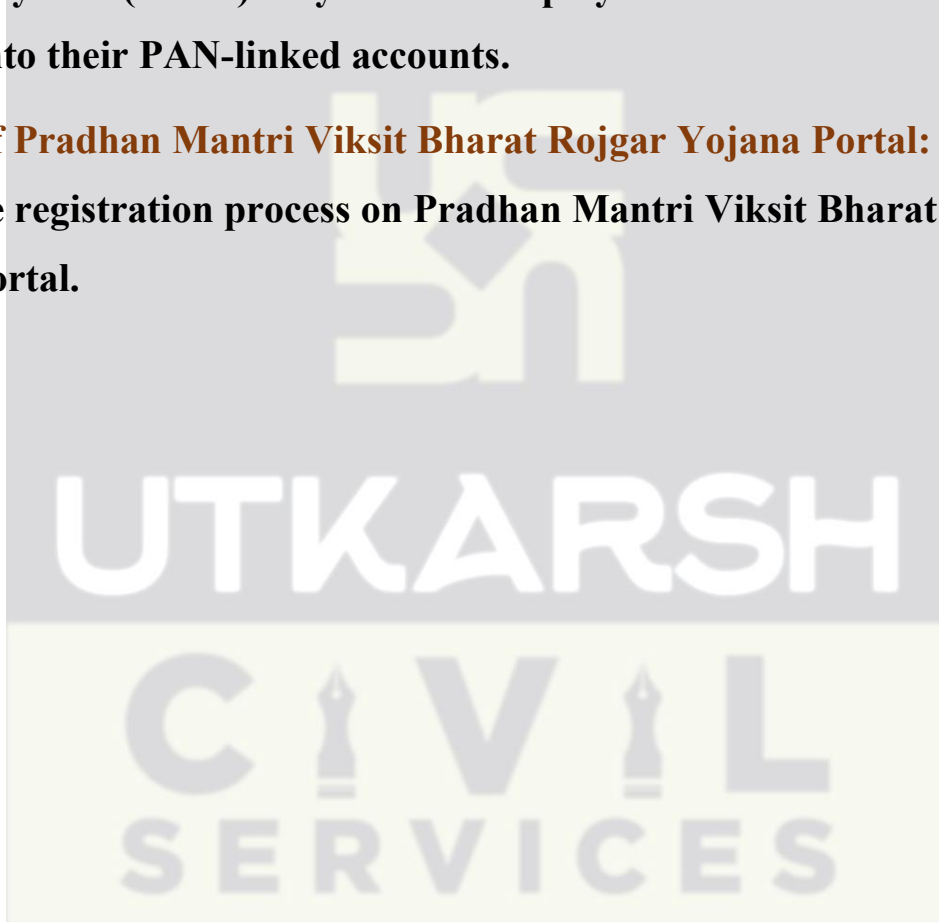
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- **Benefit Limits:** The benefits of the scheme will apply to jobs created between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027.
- All payments to first-time job entrants under Part A of the scheme will be made through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode using Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). Payments to employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked accounts.
- **Launch of Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana Portal:** Employers can do the registration process on Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana Portal.



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Environment & Ecology

New Rules under the Environment Protection Act

➔ Why in News?

- On August 18, 2025, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, provided information regarding the new rules under the Environment Protection Act.



➔ Key Points:

Environmental Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025:

- **Notified:** July 24, 2025
- **Reason:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued rules for identification and management of contaminated sites in the country.

Rules:

- A contaminated site is defined as an area or site affected by contaminants.
- A site is declared as a contaminated site by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) if the contaminant is found to be higher than the prescribed threshold levels after completing a detailed site assessment.
- The local body or the District Administration, on its own initiative or on receipt of a complaint from the public, is mandated to identify the area affected by contaminants taking into account the information prescribed in the regulations and list all such areas as suspected contaminated sites in its jurisdiction on a centralized online portal.
- The SPCB/PCC is mandated to publish the list of contaminated sites on a centralized online portal inviting comments and suggestions from stakeholders likely to be affected within 60 days of such publication.
- SPCB has identified 103 contaminated sites across the country, out of which remedial activities have been initiated at 07 sites:
 - o Mercury contaminated site at Ganjam, Odisha
 - o Chromium contaminated site at Rania, Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh
 - o Groundwater contamination at Lohia Nagar and Industrial Area, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh due to untreated industrial effluents by various industries
 - o BPCL oil contaminated site at Tondiarpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- o Groundwater contamination in and around the premises of M/s Godavari Bio-Refineries, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- o Groundwater contamination at Effluent Channel Project (ECP), Vadodara, Gujarat

Other Important Points:

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA):

- **Enacted:** Enacted in the year 1972 under the “United Nations Conference on Human Environment” held at Stockholm in June, 1972 (Stockholm Conference).
- **Constitutional Provisions:** The EPA was enacted under Article 253 of the Indian Constitution, which provides for the making of laws to give effect to international agreements.

Other important articles related to environment:

- **Article 48A:** The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.
- **Article 51A:** Every citizen shall protect the environment.

Powers of the Centre:

- Power to plan and execute a nationwide programme for the prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.
- Power to lay down standards for the quality of environment in various aspects such as emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources.

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- **Penalties under EPA:** The violator can be punished with imprisonment up to 5 years or fine up to Rs 1,00,000 or both.
- In case of continuing such violation, an additional fine of up to Rs 5,000 per day can be imposed.

India is a signatory to the following international laws-

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- **Montreal Protocol, 1987** to the Vienna Convention on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, 1989
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- Rotterdam Convention, 1998
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992
- Convention on Biodiversity, 1992

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Science and Technology

GOIStats Mobile Application

➔ Why in News?

- August 18, 2025 Information regarding GOIStats mobile application was provided by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.



➔ Key Points:

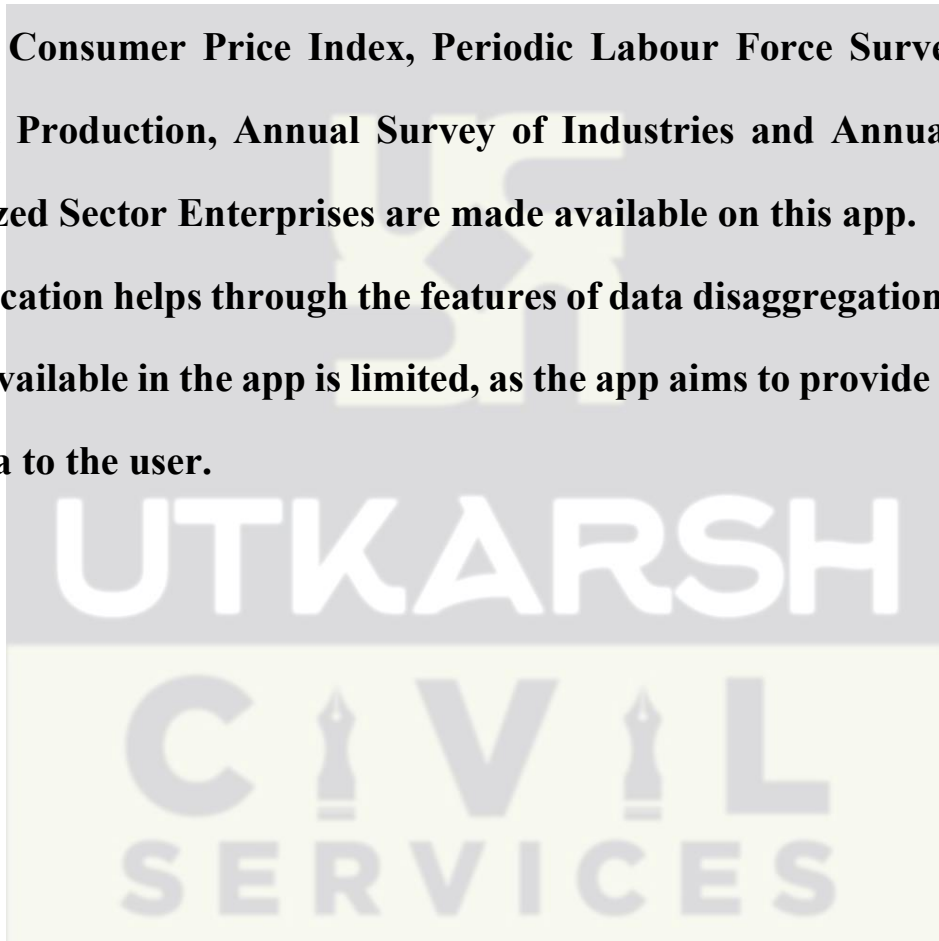
- **Launch:** June 29, 2025
- **Objective:** To provide the latest data of the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.

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- **Domains and Indicators:** Currently the portal consists of six domains and nine indicators.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation.
- Data of selected socio-economic indicators such as National Accounts Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Periodic Labour Force Survey, Index of Industrial Production, Annual Survey of Industries and Annual Survey of Unorganized Sector Enterprises are made available on this app.
- This application helps through the features of data disaggregation. Currently, the data available in the app is limited, as the app aims to provide information based data to the user.



Personality

Bhavina Patel

➔ Why in News?

- August 18, 2025 Bhavina Patel, Assistant Director at the Regional Office of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Ahmedabad, won the gold medal in the ITTF World Para Elite event at the International Para Table Tennis Championship 2025 held in Spokane, Washington, USA.



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➡ Key Points:

- The win of two medals has taken Bhavina to number one in the ITTF World Para Rankings in the wheelchair (class 1 to 5) women's singles category of table tennis.

- **Event:** From 9 to 13 August 2025.

Other important points:

- She won the silver medal in the same category at the ITTF World Para Future Event held in Spokane from 6 to 8 August 2025.



-:23:-

Sports

Tanya Hemant

➔ Why in News?

- On August 17, 2025, in Badminton, Indian shuttler Tanya Hemant won the women's singles title at the Saipan International 2025 in Northern Mariana Islands.



➔ Key Points:

- Ranked 86th in the world, the top seed defeated Kanae Sakai of Japan in the final under Badminton World Federation's new 3×15 scoring format.
- Tanya defeated Ririna Hiramoto of Japan in the semi-finals, Lee Shin Yi Megan of Singapore in the quarter-finals and Nodoka Sunakawa of Japan in the Round of 16.
- This is Tanya's first International Challenge title of 2025 and the fourth of her career, having won at India International (2022), Iran Fajr International (2023) and Bendigo International (2024). She was also the runner-up at the 2024 Azerbaijan International.

Logo, mascot and trophy of 12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey unveiled

➔ Why in News?

- On August 18, 2025, the logo, mascot and trophy of the 12th Men's Asia Cup Hockey Championship were unveiled by the Bihar government in Patna.



➔ Key Points:

- **Hosting:** Bihar is hosting the tournament for the first time.
- To be held from August 29 to September 7, 2025 at Rajgir International Stadium.
- **Trophy:** Pride Journey.
- **Mascot:** The mascot named "Chand" is inspired by the national animal tiger. It symbolizes the courage, agility and skill of India's national animal tiger.

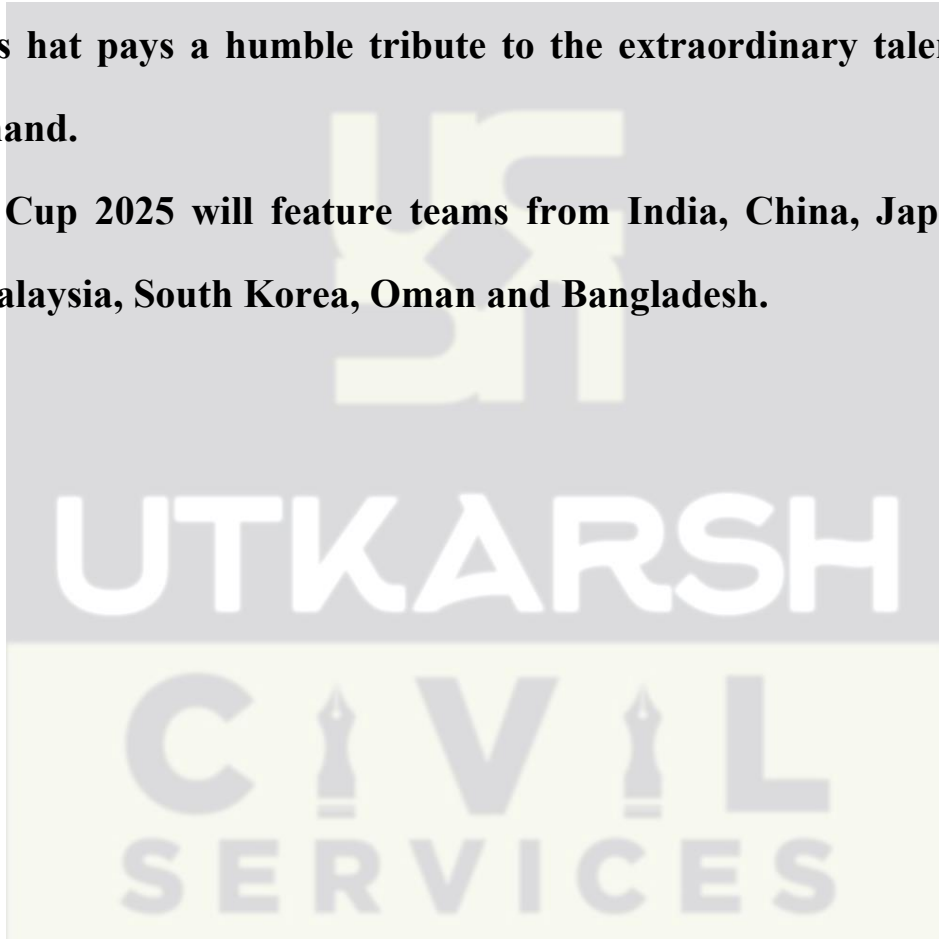
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- **Inspired:** Hockey players practicing on moonlit nights are inspired by Major Dhyanchand and the majestic tigers of Valmiki Tiger Reserve which symbolize strength, agility and confidence.
- The red cap on the mascot represents strength and enthusiasm, while the magician's hat pays a humble tribute to the extraordinary talent of Major Dhyan Chand.
- The Asia Cup 2025 will feature teams from India, China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, South Korea, Oman and Bangladesh.



Carlos Alcaraz: First Cincinnati Open title

➔ Why in News?

- On August 18, 2025, in Tennis, World No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz won his first Cincinnati Open title in Ohio.

➔ Key Points:

- **Defeated:** Defeated defending champion and World No. 1 Jannik Sinner to win the title.
- Alcaraz has become the third Spanish player to win the Cincinnati title.
- This is his 22nd title and extends his undefeated run at the Masters 1000 level to 17 matches.

Other Key Points:

- The 22-year-old has won six titles on the ATP Tour this season, including four majors including his first Wimbledon trophy.
- In the year 2025, he has won three Masters 1000 titles in Monte-Carlo, Rome and Cincinnati, as well as a major trophy at Roland Garros.



Girish Gupta and Kapil Bainsala

➔ Why in News?

- India's Girish Gupta won the gold medal in the 10m air pistol men's youth event of the 16th Asian Shooting Championships being held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.



➔ Key Points:

- **Event:** Being held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan from August 18 to 29, 2025.
- The 17-year-old shooter scored 241.3 points in the final to beat compatriot Dev Pratap, who at the age of 14 scored 238.6 to win the silver medal.

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Kapil Bainsala:

- Kapil Bainsala of Haryana won the first gold for India by scoring 243.0 to top the 10m air pistol men's junior final. Ilkhombek Obidjonov of Uzbekistan finished second. Jonathan Gavin Anthony of Karnataka won the bronze medal.

India's performance so far:

- India finished with two gold and three silver medals on the first day. Kapil Bainsala won the gold medal in Junior Men's Air Pistol while both Senior and Junior Men's teams won silver medals.
- **Junior Men's Event:** Kapil and Jonathan along with Vijay Tomar won the team silver medal by scoring a total of 1723 points. Korea won the gold with 1734 points and hosts Kazakhstan won the bronze medal.
- **Senior Men's Event:** Anmol Jain along with Aditya Malra and Saurabh Chaudhary won the team silver medal by scoring 1735 points.