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#### Rajasthan

### 'Raptor Ecology in the Thar Desert' Project

- **♦** Why in News?
- Recently, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Rajasthan Forest Department jointly launched a project on raptor ecology of Thar.



- Main Point
- Project Tenure: July 21, 2025 to July, 2027.
- Objective: To study the status of breeding raptors and local ecosystem in the Thar Desert including Desert National Park.
- Project Approval: The project has been approved under Section 12(A) of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to ensure legal and ethical standards.
- Species Involved: For the first time under this project, GPS transmitter based telemetry study on raptor species in Thar region has been initiated for which six major species; Red-headed Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Indian Vulture, Tony Eagle and Lager Falcon have been selected. Biological samples of these species will also be collected under the project.

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- Out of these 6 species, the work of installing transmitters on one Egyptian Vulture and one on Tony Eagle, has been completed.
- Desert National Park spread across Barmer and Jaisalmer is an important area of the country for raptor birds, where their number is the highest compared to other parts of the country.
- 8 out of 9 species of vultures found in India are found in this area.

**Facts for Prelims:** 

Desert National Park, Rajasthan

- Geographical location: Spread across Jaisalmer and Barmer districts.
- Total area: 3,162 square kilometers.
- **Establishment:** Year 1981 (Gazetted 1980)
- Average Annual Rainfall: Less than 100 mm (<100 mm)
- More than 100 bird species are found in this area, out of which 17 are globally endangered.
- Main Bird Species: Great Indian Bustard (State Bird of Rajasthan), Houbara Bustard, Red-headed Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture, Tawny Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Lager Falcon, Kestrel, Sand Grouse and Demoiselle Crane (Kurjaan) etc.

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- Mammal Species: About 32; like Chinkara, Indian Fox, Indian Wild Cat,

  Desert Fox, Indian Wolf, Indian Desert Jird and Long-eared Hedgehog etc.
- Reptile Species: 40; Such as Sindh Gecko, Sindh Awl-Headed Snake, Whip-Snake, Spiny-Tailed Lizard, Monitor Lizard, Saw-Scaled Viper, Russell's Viper, Red-Spotted Royal Snake and Common Krait etc.
- Main Tree Species: Khejri (Prosopis cineraria), Rohida (Tecomella undulata), Muringa (Muringa konkanensis), Helitropium (Helitropium rariflorum), Amania (Amania desertorum) etc.
- Main Grass: Sevan Grass (Lasiurus sindicus)
- Fossils: 180 million years old fossils of plants and animals and 60 million years old fossils of dinosaurs.



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#### **HCL India Squash Tour – 2025 Assembly**

- Why in News?
- Recently, the Squash Rackets Federation (SRFI) India and HCL India announced the India Squash Tour 2025.



- **Main Point**
- Its first leg was played from August 4 to
  - 8, 2025 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. It was organized under the joint aegis of the Squash Rackets Federation of India and HCL.
- The tournament will be played in six cities; Jaipur, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Delhi.
- In the first leg, Egypt's Yassin Shohadi and Noor Khafagi have been given top seeding in the men's and women's category respectively.
- At the same time, Rajasthan's Chhavi Saran has got a place in the main draw.
- It is worth mentioning that squash has been included for the first time in the Los Angeles Olympics to be held in the year 2028.

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#### Global Sustainability Leadership Award - Dr. Sohan Chaudhary

#### **○** Why in News?

■ Dr. Sohan Chaudhary, originally from Rajasthan and currently a professor at Delhi University, was recently awarded the 'Global Sustainability Leadership Award'.



#### Main Point

- This award ceremony was held at the Leaders Institute, Brisbane (Australia).
- This award was given to Dr. Chaudhary for his visionary leadership and selfless services for sustainable development and global peace.
- Dr. Sohanlal Chaudhary is the founder of Youth for Global Peace and Sustainable Development Foundation. This organization inspires youth for peace, social justice and sustainable development.
- Currently Dr. Chaudhary is working to promote peace building, environmental protection and global literacy.
- This award was given in the presence of Dr. Bernard Malik, President of Research and Policy House (a leading not-for-profit think tank) and Mark Robinson, former Deputy Speaker of Queensland Legislative Assembly.

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#### Miss Teen Diva-2025: Divya Wadhwa winner

- **○** Why in News?
- The grand finale of 'Miss Teen Diva 2025' was recently held at Zee Studio in Jaipur.
- Main Point
- Winner: Divya Wadhwa of Ahmedabad won the title of Miss Teen Diva-2025.
- Runner-up: Aarna Chaturvedi.



- Apart from Miss Teen Diva 2025, 3 other winners: Sudhi Mahesh (Miss Teen International 2025), Ruchi Jadav (Miss Teen Multinational 2025), Niranjana Tiwari (Miss Teen Universe 2025)
- 33 participants from across the country took part in the finals of this prestigious beauty pageant. Divya will now represent India in Miss Teen International 2025.

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### Jaipur ranks second in the country in the 'Quality of Life Index'

- **○** Why in News?
- Recently, according to Numbeo's 2025 mid-year report, Jaipur (Rank 169) ranked second in the country in the Quality of Life Index after Hyderabad (Rank 152).



- Main Point
- Jaipur's overall score in this index was 149.90, which is the highest in the entire country after Hyderabad (160.97).

Jaipur's ranking and scores in various indicators:

- Rank: 169
- Quality of Life Index: 150.0
- **Purchasing Power Index: 98.6**
- Safety Index: 65.2 (second after Ahmedabad)
- **Health Care Index: 72.9** (top in the country)
- **■** Cost of Living Index: 18.8
- **■** Property Price to Income Ratio: 6.8
- Traffic Commute Time Index: 42.1
- Pollution Index: 61.1
- Climate Index: 57.8



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# Major boards constituted by the Rajasthan government and their chairmen

- **○** Why in News?
- Recently, the Rajasthan government conferred the status of Cabinet Minister to Dr. Arun Chaturvedi, Chairman of the 7th Finance Commission of the state.
- Main Point
- Earlier, Omkar Singh Lakhawat has also been given the status of Minister of State by the state government. It is known that Omkar Singh Lakhawat is the Chairman of Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Promotion Authority.
- Lakhawat has been a Minister of State in the state government from 2014 to 2019.

Major commissions and boards constituted by the state government:

- Chairman of the Farmers Commission: Former Union Minister CR Chaudhary.
- Chairman of Animal Welfare Board: Former MP Jaswant Vishnoi.
- Devnarayan Board Chairman: Om Prakash Bhadana.
- Sainik Welfare Board Chairman: Former MLA Prem Singh Bajwa.
- Sriyade Mati Kala Board Chairman: Prahlad Rai Tank.
- Vishwakarma Skill Development Board Chairman: Ramgopal Suthar.
- Chairman of Rajasthan State Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Commission: Rajendra Nayak (Retired IAS)

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### **News in Shorts**

S. No.	News
1.	Equity Fund for Startups
	♦ Recently, the Rajasthan
	Department of Information
	Technology and
	Communication has sent a
	proposal related to startups  to the state government
	to the state government.  ♦ The Rajasthan government is going to create an equity
	fund of ₹100 crore to promote startups culture in the state.
	<b>♦</b> According to the proposal, an incentive of ₹5 crore will also
	be provided by the state government to the startups doing
	innovation.
	♦ Rajasthan ranks third after Kerala and Telangana among
	the best performing states of startups.
2.	Anshuman Shekhawat: Jaipur
	♦ Anshuman Shekhawat of
	Jaipur represented India in the
	World University Games held
	in Germany.
	♦ Anshuman currently plays for the serior healy team of Poissther
	the senior basketball team of Rajasthan.  • India finished 20th in the model table by winning 12 models
	<b>♦ India finished 20th in the medal table by winning 12 medals</b> in the World University Came 2025
	in the World University Game 2025.

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3.

#### Dr. Vivek Sharma

- Recently, Jaipur pediatrician Dr. Vivek Sharma has been nominated as a member of the International Brucellosis Society, San Jose.
- ◆ Dr. Sharma has done excellent work in the field of epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of brucellosis in children.
- **♦** Earlier, Dr. Vivek Sharma was also honored by the Association Udaan of Switzerland for his exceptional contribution in creating health services for underprivileged children.

4. West Zone wins silver medal in Inter Zonal Netball



- ◆ Jaipur resident Sanjay Kumar Sharma won the silver medal while playing for the West Zone team in the 7th Men's and 22nd Women's All India Inter Zonal Netball Championship held from 1 to 3 August 2025 at Punjab University, Chandigarh.
- **♦** The gold medal of this championship was won by the North Zone team.

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5. Sahil wins bronze medal in Junior National Swimming



- ♦ Sahil Gupta of Rajasthan won the bronze medal in the 200m butterfly event at the 51st Junior National Swimming Championship held in Ahmedabad.
- ♦ Thirthan Pegu of Assam won the gold medal and S. Darshan of Karnataka won the silver medal..

### 6. Pankaj Singh and Megha Gaur

- ♦ Recently, Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) announced the appointment of international cricketer Pankaj Singh as the mentor of all the men's cricket teams of Rajasthan.
- ♦ Megha Gaur has been made the mentor of all the women's cricket teams.



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7.

#### **Komal Verma**



- ♦ Recently, Komal Verma of Rajasthan won the bronze medal in the 49 kg weight category in the Under-17 World Wrestling Championship held in Athens, Greece.
- ♦ In the bronze medal match, Komal defeated UWW wrestler Anhelina Burkina 8-3 to win the bronze medal.

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#### **National**

'Marine Cargo Transport Bill, 2025' and 'Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024'

- **♦** Why in News?
- On August 6, 2025,
  Parliament passed two
  important bills of the Ministry
  of Shipping and Waterways
  (MOPSW), the 'Merchant
  Shipping Bill, 2024' and the
  'Marine Cargo Transport Bill,
  2025'.



Main Point

'Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024':

- Passed: Assented by Lok Sabha.
- Objective: To reform the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958 and bring India's maritime laws in line with international conventions such as MARPOL and the Wreck Removal Convention.
- Bill introduced: By Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Bill: 16 parts and 325 sections.

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#### **Key provisions:**

- The law expands the definition of ships to include mobile offshore drilling units, submarines and non-displacement crafts.
- Provisions have been introduced for temporary registration of ships for recycling, aimed at promoting activity at centres like Alang.

'Marine Cargo Transport Bill, 2025':

- Passed: Rajya Sabha (The bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha.)
- The law replaces the nearly century-old colonial-era Indian Maritime Cargo Transport Act, 1925, and brings Indian law in line with international maritime conventions.
- Bill introduced: Bill by Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur.

**Key provisions:** 

- The Act establishes responsibilities, obligations, rights and immunities in the matter of moving goods from the port.
- The Bill empowers the Central Government to issue directions for carrying out the provisions of the Bill and to amend the schedule specifying the rules applicable to bills of lading.
- A bill of lading is a document issued by a carrier to a consignor. It contains details such as the type, quantity, condition and destination of the goods being carried.
- The Bill adopts the Hague-Visby Rules, a globally accepted maritime standard followed by countries such as the UK.

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#### **International**

#### **INF** Treaty

- **○** Why in News?
- Recently, Russia officially announced its withdrawal from the INF Treaty.



- Main Point
- **Full form:** INF Treaty (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty)\
  Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
- Initiation: Signed between the US and the Soviet Union in 1987.
- Objective: To prevent a nuclear arms race in the world and strengthen security in the Cold War.
- Provisions: Ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 km were banned.
- It was the first major agreement to reduce nuclear arsenals, remove an entire category of weapons and allow on-site inspections for verification.

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#### Reason for Russia's withdrawal:

- Moscow accused Western countries of posing a direct threat to its national security.
- Recently, cited US military actions, including the US order to deploy two nuclear submarines close to Russian coasts and the deployment of the Typhon missile system in the Philippines.
- In 2019, the US announced its withdrawal from the treaty, accusing Russia of violating the treaty (over the 9M729 missile).

Other important points:

Major nuclear arms control agreements:

Major Agreement/Treaty	In Force	Objective
Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)	1970	To prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, and to promote disarmament.
Comprehensive Nuclear-	Not fully	To ban all nuclear explosions
Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	in force	and stop the development of new weapons.
Strategic Offensive	2002	A bilateral US-Russia
Reductions Treaty (SORT)		agreement that limits strategic nuclear weapons.
New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (NEW START)	2010	A bilateral agreement between the US and Russia that limits strategic weapons.
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	2017	Adopted at the United Nations, it prohibits participation in any nuclear weapon activity.

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#### **Personality**

### Reshma Kewalramani

- **Why in News?**
- Reshma Kewalramani, CEO of biotech company 'Vertex Pharmaceuticals' (USA) of Indian origin (Mumbai), has been included in the 'Fortune 100' list.



- Main Point
- She has been ranked 62nd in the list of influential business leaders.
- Reshma has also been included in the list of top 100 most influential people of the year 2025 and 'Time 100 Health' by Time Magazine.
- She is the first Indian woman to lead an American biotech company.

#### **Contribution:**

- Under Reshma's leadership, Vertex received approval for the world's first CRISPR-based therapy for sickle cell disease.
- Made a significant contribution in the development of 'Trikafta', a drug for cystic fibrosis disease.

#### Other important points:

- This list of Fortune is prepared more on the basis of a person's influence and leadership ability than his net worth.
- Others in the Fortune 100 include: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella (2), Google CEO Sundar Pichai (6), Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani (56), YouTube CEO Neal Mohan (83) and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani (96).

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#### **Sports**

### **World Swimming Championship 2025**

- Why in News?
- **Events and Winners:** On August 3, 2025, the US women's team set a new world record in the women's 4x100m medley relay with a time of 3:49.34 minutes (3:49.63 minutes, Paris Olympics). With this, the team of Gretchen Walsh, Reagan Smith, Kate Douglas and Tori Haske won gold.



- **Main Point**
- After the women's 4x100m medley world record, the US team became the top swimmer in WCH 2025.

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■ Rank: The US won 29 medals including 9 gold and secured the top position.

Australia finished second with 20 medals including 8 gold and the Chinese women's team finished third.

#### **Key Players:**

- Summer McIntosh (Canada): Set a championship record with a time of 4:25.78 in the women's 400m individual medley and became the most medal-winning athlete of the competition with four gold and one bronze medal.
- Kliment Kolesnikov: Kliment Kolesnikov broke the championship record in the men's 50m backstroke in 23.68 seconds.
- A total of three world records and 12 championship records were set.



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#### **Important Days**

#### **National Javelin Day: 7 August**

- **○** Why in News?
- National Javelin Day is celebrated every year on 7 August by the Athletics Federation of India.



- Main Point
- On 7 August 2021, Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal by throwing 87.58 meters in the Tokyo Olympics 2020. As a commemoration of this day, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had decided to celebrate 7 August every year as 'National Javelin Throw Day' in India.
- It was India's first Olympic gold in track and field while it was the second individual gold after shooter Abhinav Bindra.

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- After Neeraj won the Olympic gold, so far in 4 years, 8 throwers of India have crossed the 80 meter mark.
- In the last 3 seasons, 5 out of Asia's top-10 javelin throwers have been from India.

#### Other important points:

**Achievements of Neeraj Chopra:** 

- Potchefstroom Invitational Tournament: Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal by defeating South African player Dow Smit with a throw of 84.52 meters in South Africa's 'Potchefstroom Invitational Tournament'.
- Doha Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra gave the best performance of his career by throwing the javelin 90.23 meters in the Doha Diamond League and secured second place.
- Title of Lieutenant Colonel to Neeraj Chopra: Honorary title of Lieutenant Colonel was conferred by the Indian Army.
- It is worth noting that currently Neeraj Chopra is 'Subedar Major' in the Indian Army.

Edition Name	Year	Medal
World Championship	2023	Gold
Diamond League	2022	Gold
World Championship	2022	Gold
Tokyo Olympics	2020	Gold
Asian Games	2018	Gold
Commonwealth Games	2018	Gold
South Asian Games	2016	Gold

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#### **Major Awards:**

- Year 2018 Arjuna Award.
- Year 2020 Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) (Military)
- Year 2021 Honoured with India's highest sports honour 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award'.
- Year 2022 Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) (Military)
- Year 2022 Honoured with the country's highest civilian honour 'Padma Shri'.

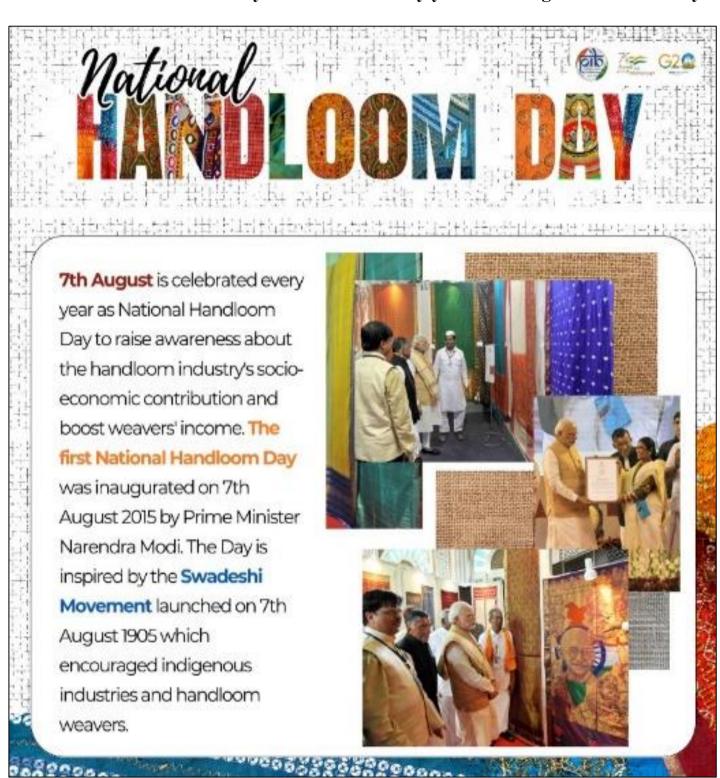


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### **National Handloom Day**

- **○** Why in News?
- National Handloom Day is celebrated every year on 7 August in the country.



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#### Main Point

- **Theme for the year 2025: Weaving Innovation into Tradition.**
- The Central Government had announced the celebration of National Handloom Day in the year 2015 with the aim of giving national and international recognition to the handloom industry of the country. The 11th anniversary of this day is being celebrated in the year 2025.
- The purpose of National Handloom Day is to encourage the handloom workers of India. Also, to awaken the sense of respect among the handloom weavers involved in this sector.
- This day specifically underlines the date of the Swadeshi Movement. The Swadeshi Movement was started on August 7, 1905 to encourage indigenous industries, especially handloom weavers.
- On the occasion of this day, 'Sant Kabir Award' and 'National Handloom Award' are given for outstanding contribution in the handloom sector.
- These awards are aimed at creating awareness about the importance of the handloom sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.
- Note: Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh unveiled a book titled 'Carbon Footprint Assessment in the Indian Handloom Sector: Methods and Case Studies' on the occasion of National Handloom Day-2025, which is an important step towards promoting sustainability in the traditional handloom industry of the country.

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### **News in Shorts**

S. No. News

1. Country's first Flybrary: Bhubaneswar Airport



- ♦ Recently, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) launched the country's 'Flybrary' at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar.
- ♦ This is the country's first 'take-a-book' library, where passengers can take and read books for free without any registration.



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2.

#### Mukhyamantri Nijut Emmoina 2.0: Assam

10 Miles	ıt M	oina 2.0
		Karbi Anglong
248 Eastern Karbi Anglong College	386	Shri Horen Sing Bey, Ex-MP
249 Government Model College, Deithor	115	Dr Numol Momin, Dy Speaker, ALA
250 Thongnokbe College, Dokmoka	828	Shri Dorsing Ronghang, MLA
251 Diphu Govt, College	1147	Shri Tuliram Ronghang, CEM, KAAC
252 Rukasen College	470	Shri Bidyasing Engleng, MLA
West Karbi Anglong		
385 Rangsina College		225 Shri Rupsing Teron, MLA

- **♦** Recently, the Assam government launched 'Mukhyamantri Nijut Emmoina 2.0'\ Mukhyamantri Poshit Moina 2.0 scheme to promote higher education of girls.
- ♦ Objective: It is a monthly financial assistance scheme to increase the enrollment of girls in higher education.
- ♦ More than four lakh girl students will get the benefit of this scheme in this financial year.

#### **Financial assistance:**

- ♦ Under this scheme, monthly financial assistance will be given to girl students from high school to PG level in government and government-aided educational institutions.
- ♦ A first year high school student will get Rs 10,000 per month for 10 months. A graduate level student will get Rs 12,500, i.e. Rs 1250 per month and a PG level student will get Rs 25,000 per month for 10 months in a year.

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#### 3.

#### 'Yashoda AI' Literacy Program

- ♦ Under NCW's 'Yashoda AI' Literacy Program, about 2500 women from rural and semi-urban areas have been trained since May 2025.
- **♦ Start:** May 2025 by National Commission for Women (NCW).
- ♦ Objective: To equip the women of the country with AI literacy to enhance digital inclusion and empower them in the field of cyber security, digital privacy and safe online practices.

#### 4.

#### Ladakh's first botanical garden



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- ♦ Shyok village in Galwan Valley of eastern Ladakh is working on converting its 10 hectares of barren community land into a botanical garden to conserve various fruits, medicinal plants and flora and fauna of Ladakh.
- **♦** Upon successful completion of this proposed project, it will become the first botanical garden of the Union Territory.
- ◆ It is being developed as part of the ongoing Go Green Go Organic initiative at Drikung Kyabsgön Chetsang Rinpoche in Ladakh. The upcoming botanical garden is planned to be completed by the year 2029.

