

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 21 August, 2025



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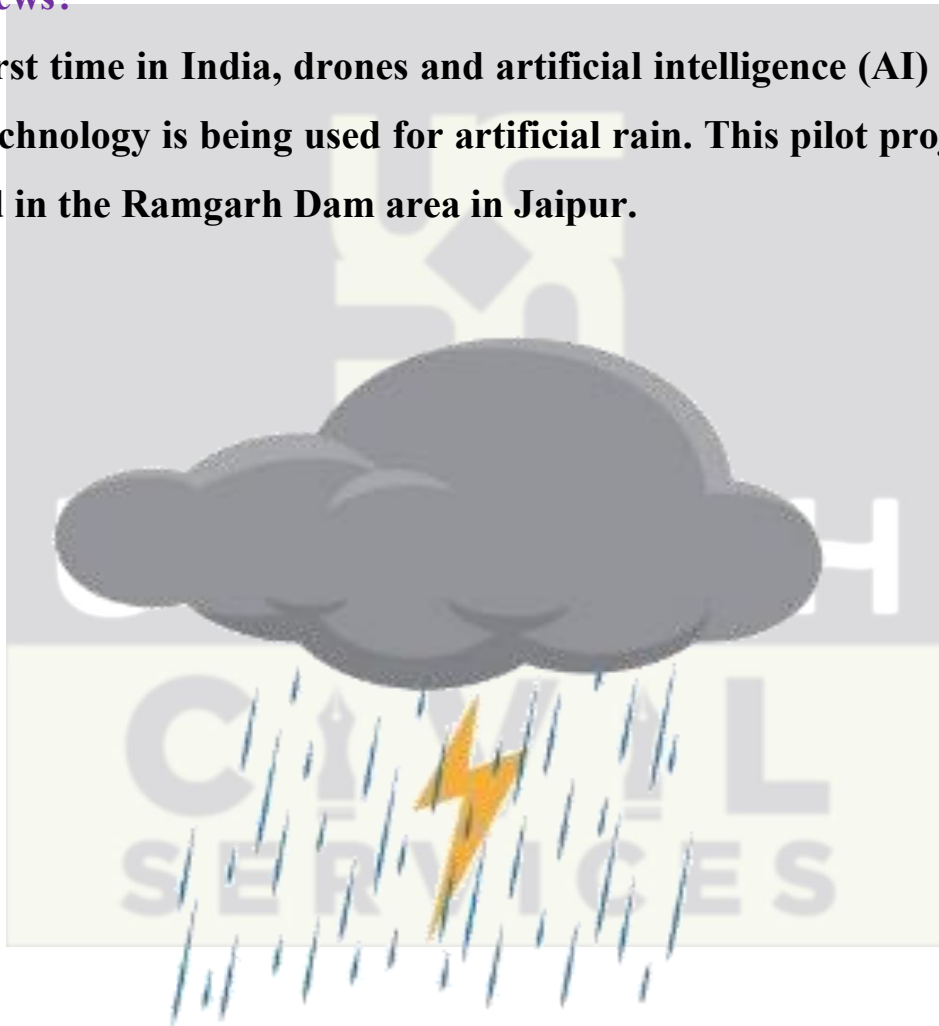
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## Rajasthan

### India's first drone-AI based artificial rain experiment: Ramgarh Dam, Jaipur

#### ➔ Why in News?

- For the first time in India, drones and artificial intelligence (AI) based cloud seeding technology is being used for artificial rain. This pilot project is being conducted in the Ramgarh Dam area in Jaipur.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- It aims to revive the 129-year-old reservoir, which has been dry for the last two decades and has not been filled to its full capacity since 1981.
- This initiative has been started in joint collaboration between Indo-US technology company GenX AI and the Rajasthan government.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Artificial Rain

- Artificial rain is a technique through which rain is induced through scientific methods, especially when natural rainfall is not occurring or is very less. This is called cloud seeding.
- Some chemical elements are used in cloud seeding; Such as –
  - Silver iodide,
  - Potassium iodide,
  - Sodium chloride,
  - Solid CO<sub>2</sub> (dry ice)
- Their particles go into the clouds and combine with water droplets, due to which they become heavy and start falling down in the form of rain.

### Purpose:

- For rain in dry areas,
- For agricultural assistance,
- To increase the water level in reservoirs and dams,
- To reduce air pollution (eg: Beijing and Delhi) etc.

## Rajasthan topped the solar energy investment plans

### ➔ Why in News?

- According to the recently released 'Projects Today' report, in the first quarter (April-June) of the financial year 2025-26, Rajasthan topped the solar energy investment plans, leaving behind Maharashtra and Gujarat, as compared to the fourth quarter of the year 2024-25.



### ➔ Key Points:

- According to the report, a total investment of ₹ 2.69 lakh crore was registered in Rajasthan through 419 new projects. Of this, about 86 percent investment has been made in the solar and wind energy sector.
- In the first quarter (June-July), 130 solar and wind projects attracted an investment of ₹ 2.33 lakh crore.



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## Facts for Prelims:

- Rajasthan, with solar radiation intensity of 6-7 kWh/sqm/day and more than 325 solar days annually, has a huge potential for solar energy, with an estimated potential of 142 GW according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- The main objective of Rajasthan's Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024 is to contribute to achieving the national target of 500 GW of renewable energy by the year 2030.
- Under this policy, a target has been set to install 115 GW of renewable energy generation and 10 GW of energy storage capacity by the year 2029-30. In this, solar energy, wind energy, biomass and green hydrogen will be promoted.
- Rajasthan Solar Park Development Company Limited (RRECL) has been set up to manage and develop the infrastructure of renewable energy/solar parks.
- The 2,245 megawatt (MW) solar park at Bhadla, Jodhpur has been developed in four phases; the first phase of which has been developed by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) in-house and the second, third and fourth phases have been developed under the Solar Park Scheme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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## Anantjit Singh Naruka

### ➔ Why in News?

- Olympian Anantjit Singh Naruka won India's first gold medal (senior category) in the men's skeet event at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship 2025 being held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.



### ➔ Key Points:

- In the final match, Naruka defeated former Asian Games champion Mansoor Al-Rashidi (Kuwait) 57-56.
- This was Naruka's first individual gold medal in the Asian Championship, while it was his fifth medal overall in the Asian Championship.
- It is noteworthy that Anantjit Singh Naruka represented India at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- **Girish Gupta (Rajasthan):** Girish Gupta won the second gold medal in the junior category of the championship. The pair of Girish and Gambarya Gowda defeated Iran 16-14 to win the gold medal in the mixed air pistol event. This is Girish's third medal in this championship. Earlier, he had won gold in the individual event and silver in the team event.

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## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>State Level Sub Junior Judo Competition – 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, Bhilwara won the title of overall champion in both girls and boys category in the state level sub junior judo competition held in Tonk.</li><li>Bhilwara won the first place by winning 4 gold and 2 silver medals in the boys category and 3 gold and 3 silver medals in the girls category.</li><li>The title of Best Judoka in the competition was awarded to Kanishka Rajawat (Tonk) in the girls category and Rahul Kharol (Bhilwara) in the boys category.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>7th State Level Sub Junior Ball Badminton – 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, the teams of Tonk in the boys category and Bikaner in the girls category were the winners of the 7th State Level Sub Junior Ball Badminton held in Sikar.</li><li><b>Runner-up:</b> Bikaner in the boys category and Jaipur in the girls category.</li></ul>



3.

## **Rajasthan State Women's Football Championship - 2025**

- ◆ Recently, Bikaner won the title of the three-day Rajasthan State Women's Football Championship held in Bhilwara.
- ◆ In the final, Bikaner's team defeated Ajmer 2-1. In the semi-finals, Bikaner defeated Sikar 7-1 and Ajmer defeated Jhunjhunu 3-0 to enter the final.
- ◆ The players selected from this competition will represent Rajasthan in the 'National Senior Women's Football' to be held in Amritsar, Punjab.

4.

## **Launch of 5 new housing schemes in Rajasthan**

- ◆ Recently, Urban Development, Self-Governance and Housing Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra inaugurated 5 housing schemes of Rajasthan Housing Board.

### **Main schemes:**

- ◆ Nainwa Housing Scheme of Bundi district.
- ◆ Atru Housing Scheme of Baran district.
- ◆ Langera Housing Scheme of Barmer district.
- ◆ Bari Road Housing Scheme of Dholpur district.
- ◆ Madadi Housing Scheme of Paneria of Udaipur district.

5.

## Target of planting 10 crore saplings achieved under Mission Haryalo Rajasthan

- ◆ The target of planting 10 crore saplings in one year (2025) under the 'Haryalo Rajasthan' campaign in the state has been achieved.
- ◆ The state government has an ambitious target of planting 5 crore saplings under this campaign in the next 5 years.
- ◆ **Maximum plantation:** Jaipur, 73.58 lakhs.
- ◆ **Minimum plantation:** Didwana - Kuchaman, 11.07 lakhs.

6.

## 2 players of Rajasthan selected in World Ranking Para Archery Competition

- ◆ Two archers of Bikaner, Paralympian Shyam Sundar Swami and Dhanaram Godara have been selected in the Indian Para Archery team for the World Ranking Para Archery Competition to be held in the Czech Republic.
- ◆ **Competition to be held:** 23 to 31 August, 2025
- ◆ Shyam Sundar Swami will represent India from the compound team in this competition, while Dhanaram Godara will be a part of the recurve team.

7.

## **‘Sashakt Nari Zimmedaari Hamari’ Abhiyan**

- ♦ Rajasthan Police Director General Rajiv Sharma launched the Women Awareness Security Campaign ‘Sashakt Nari Zimmedaari Hamari’ from Constitution Club (Jaipur) on 20 August 2025.
- ♦ This campaign will be organized from 20 to 26 August 2025 to effectively make women aware of their rights, laws and security in the Jaipur Police Commissionerate area, to make the general public aware and to curb criminal incidents against women.



## National

### Amit Shah introduces three bills: Lok Sabha

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On August 20, 2025, the Union Home Minister introduced three important bills in the Lok Sabha, including the Constitution Amendment Bill.



#### ➔ Key Points:

Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025	Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025	Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025
<b>Objective:</b> To ensure constitutional morality and good governance.	<b>Amendment:</b> Proposes an amendment to Section 54 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.	<b>Objective:</b> Aims to ensure accountability of leaders involved in serious crimes and to maintain public constitutional trust.
<b>Provision:</b> Proposes removal of the Prime Minister or Chief Ministers who are accused of serious crimes (punishable with imprisonment of 5 years or more) and are in custody for 30 days.	<b>Provision:</b> Introduces a new Section (5A), under which a Minister accused of serious crimes and in custody for 30 days shall be removed by the Lieutenant Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister by the 31st day. If no advice is given, the Minister shall be deemed removed automatically.	<b>Provision:</b> Seeks to implement similar provisions in Union Territories to uphold good governance and public trust.



## Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Bill 2025

### ➔ Why in News?

- On August 20, 2025, the Online Gaming Promotion and Regulation Bill 2025 was passed in the Lok Sabha.



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## ➡ Key Points:

- The Bill encourages e-sports and online social games, while banning harmful online money gaming services.
- **Introduced:** By Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- **Objective:** To protect individuals, especially youth and vulnerable sections, from the adverse effects of such games.

## Provisions:

- **The Bill has three sections:** e-sports, online social games and online money games.
- **Online Gaming Authority:** Provisions for the appointment of an Online Gaming Authority for coordinated policy support, strategic development and regulatory oversight of the sector.
- The proposed law provides for the establishment of a statutory regulatory authority with the power to determine money games and non-money games.

## Punishment Provisions:

- Any person providing online money gaming services in violation of the law may face imprisonment of up to 3 years or fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both.
- Those advertising such services may face imprisonment of up to 2 years and/or fine of up to ₹50 lakh. Banks and financial institutions facilitating transactions for real money games will also be liable for penalties including imprisonment of up to 3 years or fine of up to ₹1 crore.
- Repeat offenders are liable for severe punishment. This includes imprisonment of three to 5 years and fine of up to Rs 2 crore.
- The Bill does not consider those playing online money games as criminals but treats them as victims.

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## International

### Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India

#### ➔ Why in News?

- China's Foreign Minister and Communist Party Politburo member Wang Yi visited India for two days, which also includes the 24th round of special delegation level talks on India-China border dispute.



#### ➔ Key Points:

##### Results of the talks:

1. Both countries have agreed to resume border trade through Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass and Nathu La Pass.
2. Agreement was reached on starting direct flights between India and China and signing a new Air Services Agreement.

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3. Both countries agreed on forming a border management working group, maintaining peace on the border and starting the process of de-escalation.
4. The Prime Minister will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China from August 31 to September.
5. China will support India hosting BRICS in 2026 and India will support China hosting BRICS in 2027.
6. China holds 70% of the rare earth minerals. These are important for drones, battery storage, defence, satellite/space technology. India imports 80% of its rare earth magnets from China.
7. India will get fertilisers, rare earth minerals, tunnel boring machines and emergency hydrological information from China.

## Science and Technology

### National Deep Ocean Mission

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On 20 August, 2025, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh provided information regarding the National Deep Ocean Mission in the Lok Sabha.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- **Launch:** India's Deep Ocean Mission was launched on 7 September 2021 by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Objective:** To develop technologies for exploration and sustainable use of living and non-living wealth of the deep sea.
- **Duration and Outlay:** This mission is designed as a national project for the development of Blue Economy, with a total investment of ₹4077 crore over five years.



## Components of the Mission

- **Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity:** Its main objective is to conduct research on bio-discovery of deep-sea flora, fauna and microorganisms as well as sustainable use of deep-sea biological resources.
- **Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration:** This initiative focuses on identifying multi-metallic hydrothermal sulphide sites along the mid-ocean ridges of the Indian Ocean and supports exploration of deep-sea resources under the Blue Economy.
- **Energy and Freshwater from the Ocean:** This concept proposal proposes studies and engineering design for an offshore ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) powered desalination plant.
- **Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology:** This component focuses on building talent and innovation in ocean biology and engineering and converting research into industrial products through on-site incubators.

## Other Important Points:

- India has 9 coastal states and 1382 islands forming a coastline of 7517 km.
- **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development:** The United Nations has named the decade 2021-2030 as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' to provide solutions to global challenges like climate change.

## Project Samudrayaan:

- **Objective:** To undertake its first component of deep ocean exploration through manned submersible.
- **Matsya 6000:** A self-propelled manned submersible, capable of carrying three persons to depths up to 6,000 metres below the sea surface.

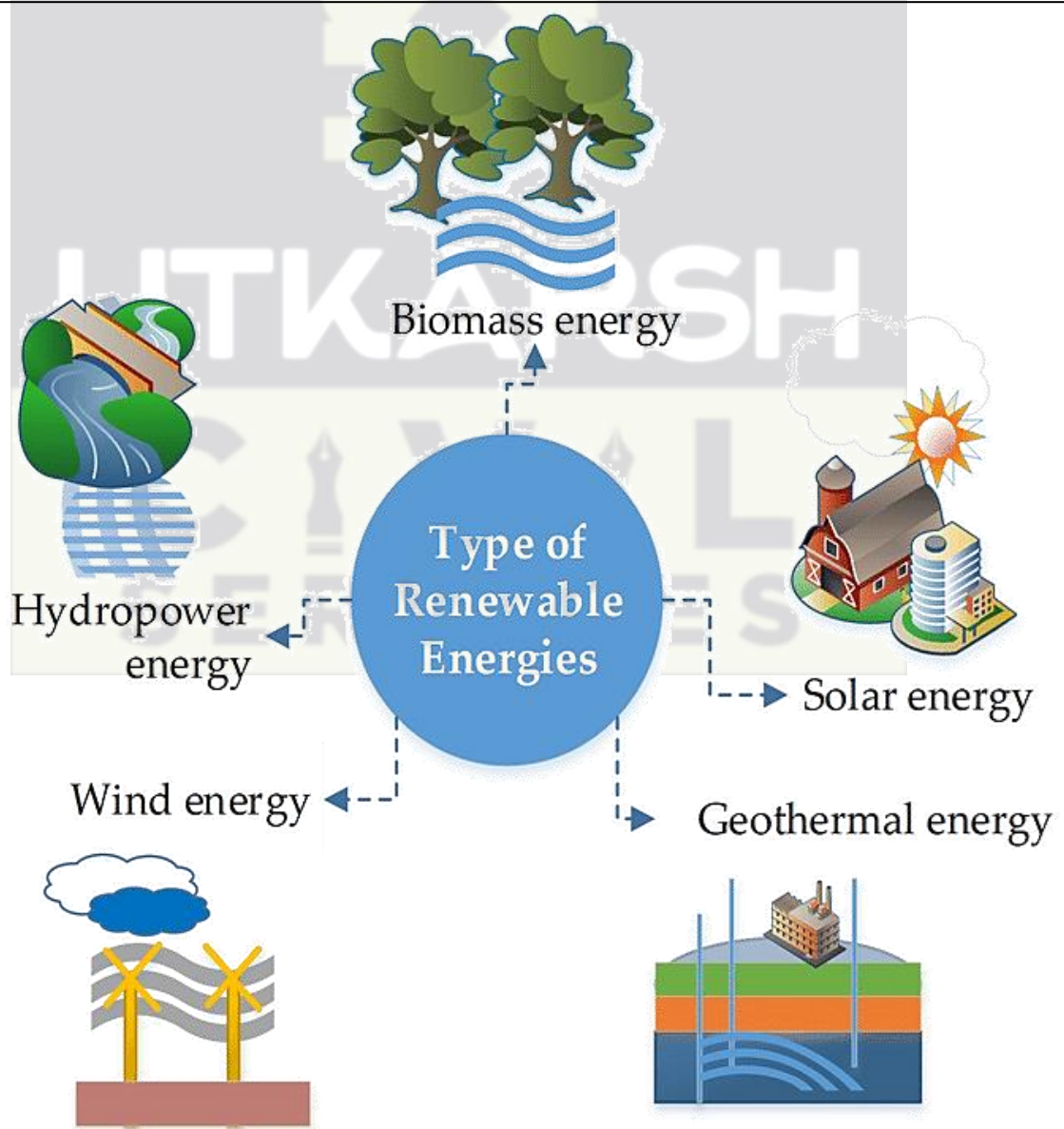


## Important Days

### Akshay Urja Diwas

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Akshay Urja Diwas is celebrated every year on 20 August in India. The purpose of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about the importance of renewable energy and its benefits.



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## ➡ Key Points:

- This day is dedicated to promoting the use of renewable energy sources; such as solar, wind, and hydro energy.
- Akshay Urja Diwas was started in 2004 to encourage the development and use of renewable energy in India.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has reported robust progress in India's clean energy sector for the Financial Year 2024–25.
- With a record annual capacity addition of 29.52 GW, the total installed renewable energy (RE) capacity in the country has reached 220.10 GW as of 31st March 2025, up from 198.75 GW in the previous fiscal.
- This performance reflects India's steady advancement towards the target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based capacity by 2030, as part of its commitments under the 'Panchamrit' goals set by Prime Minister.
- The day also marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi, who played a key role in promoting and supporting sustainable development and renewable energy initiatives.
- The word 'Akshaya' is derived from Sanskrit, meaning "eternal" or "indestructible". Akshaya Urja means "eternal energy", synonymous with renewable energy, symbolizing the endless and sustainable nature of such energy sources.

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## Schemes

### Schemes for Tribal Areas

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On August 20, 2025, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs provided information regarding various schemes/programs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes in the country.



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## ➔ Key Points:

Schemes/Programmes	Launch	Details
Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan	October 2, 2024	Includes 25 interventions implemented by 17 line ministries. Aims to provide livelihood opportunities to over 5 crore tribals across 30 States/UTs in 5 years.
PM Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)	November 15, 2023 (Tribal Pride Day)	Time-bound provision of sustainable livelihoods and basic amenities to PVTG families over 3 years.
PM Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	2020	<b>Merger of two schemes:</b> 1) Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and development of value chain for MFP; 2) Institutional support for development and marketing of tribal products/produce.
Eklavya Residential Model Schools (EMRS)	2018–19	<b>Objective:</b> To provide quality education, similar to Navodaya Vidyalayas, to tribal children in their own environment.
Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	–	<b>Provision:</b> Grants can be released to States with Scheduled Tribe populations for enhancing administrative infrastructure and welfare in Scheduled Areas.
Pre-Matric Scholarship for ST Students	–	<b>Applicable</b> for Class IX–X students. <b>Scholarship:</b> ₹225/month for day scholars and ₹525/month for hostellers for 10 months a year. <b>Funding pattern:</b> 90:10 for NE & hill States/UTs, and 75:25 for other States.

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## Sports

### Cincinnati Open 2025

#### ➔ Why in News?

- Cincinnati Open 2025 (tennis) was held in Cincinnati, Ohio (USA) from 5 to 18 August 2025.



#### ➔ Key Points:

Category	Women's Singles	Men's Singles
Winner	Iga Świątek (Poland)	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Runner-up	Jasmine Paolini (Italy)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)
Achievements	This is Swiatek's 24th career title and 11th WTA 1000 title.	The title marked Alcaraz's sixth title of 2025, his 22nd tour-level trophy and eighth ATP Masters 1000 title of his career.
	This was her first title since the 2024 Italian Open.	In 2025 Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner will face off in their fourth consecutive final (Rome, Roland Garros, Wimbledon, Cincinnati).
	This was Swiatek's first Cincinnati Open title.	



## Under 20 World Wrestling Championship 2025: Sumit Malik and Tapasya

### ➔ Why in News?

- Wrestler Sumit Malik won the silver medal in the men's 57 kg category after losing to Magomed Odjamiro of Russia at the ongoing Under 20 World Wrestling Championship 2025 in Samokov, Bulgaria.



### ➔ Key Points:

- **Tapasya:** Indian wrestler Tapasya won the first gold medal for the country by defeating Felicitas Domjeva of Norway at the Under-20 World Wrestling Championship 2025 held in Bulgaria.
- **Srishti:** In the women's 68 kg category, India's Shrishti won the silver medal after losing to Rei Hoshino of Japan in the final.


### India's performance so far:

- So far in the Under-20 World Wrestling Championship 2025, Indian wrestlers have won three medals including one gold and two silver.

### India's previous performance:

- In the World Championship held in Spain in the year 2024, India won seven medals, including one gold, one silver and five bronze. Jyoti Berwal won the only gold medal in the women's 76 kg weight category.

## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Amarnath Yatra 2025 became the country's first zero-waste and plastic-free pilgrimage</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ The pilgrimage remained completely zero-landfill and plastic-free due to the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB).</li><li>◆ About 11.67 metric tonnes of waste was generated daily during the yatra, which was completely composted and recycled. For this, twin-bin stations, garbage collection vehicles, mobile toilets and Safai Mitras were deployed.</li></ul>

- ◆ Initiatives like "Plastic Lao, Bag Le Jao" and "Bin It, Win It" encouraged pilgrims to separate waste and dispose it responsibly.
- ◆ In addition, under the "Green Pledge" campaign, devotees pledged to remain sensitive towards the environment in future as well.

2.

## India's GDP growth rate: RBI



- ◆ According to the report released by the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 19, 2025, India's GDP growth rate is estimated to be 6.7 percent in the first quarter of FY 2026, up from 6.5 percent.
- ◆ According to ICRA, the Services GVA growth rate may reach 8.3% in the first quarter of FY26, up from 7.3% in the fourth quarter of FY25.



3.

## Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill 2025



- ◆ **Passed:** On August 20, 2025, the Uttarakhand Assembly passed the Uttarakhand Minority Educational Institutions Act 2025.

### Provisions:

1. The status of minority educational institution in the state was available only to the Muslim community, but under this new bill, Sikh, Jain, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi communities will also get this facility.
2. From July 1, 2026, the Madrasa Board will be dissolved and Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority will be formed in its place.
3. For recognition, it will be mandatory for the institutions to be registered under the Act and have property in their name.

4.

## Shankara Rao

- ◆ Shankara Rao of Khammam, Telangana has created a national record in the National Powerlifting Championship.



- ◆ Rao won three individual gold and one overall championship gold in the 83 kg category.

5.

## Collateral-Free Personal Loan Scheme: SBI

- ◆ **Launch:** Collateral-free personal loan scheme for Agniveers by State Bank of India (SBI).



### Applicable:

- ◆ For retail customers: From August 15, 2025
- ◆ For corporate customers: From September 8, 2025

### Interest rate and tenure;

- ◆ **Flat interest rate:** 10.50% interest rate on loan up to Rs 4 lakh.
- ◆ **Validity:** Till September 30, 2025.
- ◆ **Repayment period:** As per the service period of Agneepath plan.
- ◆ **Discount:** Online IMPS transfers up to Rs 25,000 will be free.