

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 August, 2025



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Rajasthan

Rajasthan's first sex sorted semen lab

➔ Why in News?

- On August 11, 2025, Animal Husbandry, Gopalan, Dairy and Devasthan Minister Joraram Kumawat inaugurated Rajasthan's first sex sorted semen lab established at Frozen Semen Bank in Bassi, Jaipur district.



➔ Main Point

- This lab has been developed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF).
- This lab will produce 10 lakh doses of semen every year. The semen will be branded under the Saras brand in Rajasthan and other states.
- The lab will prepare sex sorted doses of Murrah breed of buffalo, foreign breed of cow Holstein Frozen (HF), Crossbreed Holstein Frozen (CBHF), and native breeds; Gir, Sahiwal, Tharparkar and Rathi with new technology.
- The pricing of semen doses has been fixed at ₹239/dose for sex-sorted semen, ₹22/dose for indigenous traditional semen and ₹30/dose for imported breed semen.

- This initiative is a strong step towards promoting advanced and scientific animal husbandry in the state, increasing milk production and increasing the income of livestock farmers.
- This will strengthen the rural economy of Rajasthan and give a new direction to livestock development.

Other important points:

- Recently, a tripartite agreement was concluded between Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation (RCDF), Rajasthan Livestock Development Board and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) for the management and operation of Bassi Semen Station.
- The objective of this agreement is to increase the production and supply of traditional and sex-sorted semen doses for artificial animal insemination in Rajasthan.

Facts for Prelims:

Sex Sorted Semen (SSS)

- Sex-Sorted Semen is the sperm that is divided on the basis of male (Y) or female (X) chromosomes through special techniques.
- The main purpose of this process is to do sex selection, so that the process of conceiving a child of the desired gender can be ensured.
- In this, sperms having Y-chromosome (which is responsible for male gender) and X-chromosome (which is responsible for female gender) are separated. These are then used for artificial insemination, thereby achieving the control of sex selection.

Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) of Sariska Tiger Reserve

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the new draft of Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) of Sariska Tiger Reserve was returned to the state government for reconsideration by the Supreme Court.



➔ Main Point

- The Supreme Court cited non-compliance of rules while preparing this draft.
- The state government had recommended changes in the buffer zone due to mining activities in the Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) in Sariska.
- It is worth noting that recently a notification was issued by the state government regarding changes in the Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH) of Sariska Tiger Reserve. In this, the buffer zone of sariska tiger reserve was reduced by 42 km.
- The Supreme Court had issued orders to close the mines in Sariska on May 15, 2024.

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Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH)

- Critical Tiger Habitat is notified by the state governments under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It is also known as the 'core area' of a Tiger Reserve. The largest area under Critical Tiger Habitat in India is the 'Nagarjunasagar' area of 'Srisailem Tiger Reserve'.
- It is the fringe areas of national parks and sanctuaries. These are kept unviolated for the purpose of tiger conservation without affecting the rights of flora and fauna.

Sariska Tiger Reserve:

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in Alwar district in the Aravalli Hills.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1955. Later, in the year 1978, it got the status of a tiger reserve and was included in Project Tiger.
- Kankanwadi Fort is situated in the middle of this reserve. It is believed that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh in this fort during the power struggle.
- A famous temple of Lord Hanuman is situated here at a place called Pandupol associated with the Pandavas.

About the tiger:

- **Scientific name** - Panthera tigris.
- 75 percent of the total number of tigers in the world are found in India.

Conservation status:

- In Schedule-1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Endangered in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Listed in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Banswara's 'Dhad' Tradition

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the tradition of 'Dhad Nikalna' was organized by local women from Tamtia to Gautameshwar Mahadev Temple in Banswara.

➔ Main Point

- In Banswara, there is a unique tradition of women here to please Lord Indra for good rains.
- Under this tradition, women dress up as men. They wear dhoti-kurta and turban like men and take out Dhad with a stick and sword in their hands. It is believed that this pleases Lord Indra and brings rain.
- It is called 'Dhad Nikalna' in the local language, which means 'symbolic robbery.'
- During this time, no man comes in front of the convoy of women, if any man comes in front, it is considered a bad omen.
- In Banswara, it is believed that if there is no rain, the fields dry up, there is no food, the situation worsens and crime increases. That is why women shout and warn that if it does not rain on time, the situation will be like a loot.

Anita Rathi – 4 medals in powerlifting

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Anita Rathi, a resident of Barmer, won four medals including three silver and one gold medal in the National Masters Classic and Equipped Powerlifting Championship held in Kozhikode, Calicut.



➔ Main Point

- This championship was organized under the joint aegis of Kerala State Powerlifting Association and Powerlifting India.
- Anita Rathi won medals by participating in the 63 kg weight category.
- Anita won gold medal in bench press, silver medal in squat, silver medal in deadlift and silver medal by lifting a total weight of 290 kg in overall.

News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) Mumbai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recently, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari inaugurated the Mumbai edition of the Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) at the Jio World Convention Center in Mumbai.◆ It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan Tourism Department was awarded the TTF Excellence Award during the Travel and Tourism Festival (TTF) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
2.	<p>Public Diplomacy Initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recently, 24 content creators from Latin American countries visited India under the Public Diplomacy Initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs.◆ In this episode, the creators also visited major cities of Rajasthan and got acquainted with the rich heritage, vibrant culture and diverse lifestyle of Rajasthan.

3.

Nahargarh - the first biological park in the state to install portable X-ray machine



- ◆ Recently, a portable X-ray machine was installed at the Veterinary Hospital located at the Rescue Center of Nahargarh Biological Park.
- ◆ With the installation of this X-ray machine, there will be promptness in the treatment of wildlife and wildlife like tigers, leopards and lions will not have to be taken elsewhere.
- ◆ Nahargarh Biological Park is the first park in the state to start such a facility.

4.

Complete indigenization of 3 departments of Rajasthan

Government

- ◆ The purchase of any kind of foreign goods has been banned in the Education, Panchayati Raj and Sanskrit Education Department of Rajasthan.
- ◆ Now only indigenous goods manufactured in India will be used in these departments.
- ◆ Complete indigenization of departments will support India's initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local'.

5.

State Level Crop Cutting Training

- ◆ Recently, the State Level Crop Cutting Training Program was organized by the Revenue Board, Ajmer.
- ◆ It was organized for crop cutting experiments to be conducted under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and General Crop Estimation Survey Scheme to be held in the Kharif season year 2025-26.

National

Income Tax and Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, 2025

➔ Why in News?

- On August 12, 2025, Parliament passed the new Income Tax and Taxation Laws Amendment Bill, 2025, replacing the Income Tax Act, 1961.



➔ Main Point

- **Bill introduced:** By Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- **Implemented:** April 1, 2026
- **Approach:** The new bill is based on the approach of "trust first, verify later".

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- **Objective:** To make taxation simpler, concise, comprehensible, readable, more transparent and compliant for all.
- Simple and clear legal language making it easier for taxpayers to understand and comply without the need for legal expertise.
- Concise and more efficient making the process simpler for both taxpayers and officers.
- No new tax inclusion allowing taxpayers to use the system easily and with minimal bureaucratic hurdles.

- **Act:** Organised into 536 sections and 16 schedules.

Key changes:

- **Higher exemption limit:** Income tax exemption limit raised from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 12 lakh, which will benefit low-income taxpayers.
- **Enhancement of powers of CBDT:** This will promote digitalisation.
- **Rationalised TDS/TCS:** Tax deduction at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS) provisions have been simplified by reducing compliance burden with the facility of zero TDS certificate.

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SHRESTH (Shrestha) Initiative

➔ Why in News?

- On August 12, 2025, Union Health Secretary Salila Srivastava launched the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH) initiative to enhance drug quality and safety.



➔ Main Point

- **Full name:** State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH).
- **Proposed:** Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

- **Objective:** To improve the performance of state drug regulatory authorities across India, so that drug safety and quality standards are consistently followed.
- This is the first national initiative of its kind to standardize and strengthen state drug regulatory systems through a transparent and data-based framework.
- **Divided into two categories:** Under this initiative, states will be divided into two categories, namely manufacturing states and primary distribution states/union territories and they will be ranked according to the index.
 1. **Manufacturing States:** SHREST will have 27 indices for manufacturing states on five key themes: Human Resources, Infrastructure, Licensing Activities, Monitoring Activities and Accountability etc.
 2. **Primary Distribution States:** There will be 23 indices for Primary Distribution States.
- States will submit data on predefined parameters to CDSCO, which will be collected by 25th of every month and these parameters will be scored on 1st of next month and shared with all States and Union Territories.

International

Global Plastic Treaty Talks

➔ Why in News?

- On August 10, 2025, in the middle of the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5.2) in Geneva to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment, 184 nations gathered to finalise a treaty capable of ending plastic pollution.



➔ Main Point

- Plastic objects are seen next to the artwork 'The Thinker's Burden' by Canadian artist and activist Benjamin Von Wong. The artwork is a 6-metre high sculptural remix of Rodin's iconic The Thinker, which was created specifically for the plastic treaty talks.

- **The main point of contention at the treaty signing:** Whether countries should agree on targets to reduce the production of virgin plastic polymers (made from raw materials derived from petroleum).

- This is the first attempt to agree on a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

Other key points:

- This dialogue follows INC-5, which took place in Busan, Korea, in November-December 2024. That meeting has been preceded by four sessions: INC-1, which took place in Punta del Este in November 2022, INC-2, which took place in Paris in June 2023, INC-3, which took place in Nairobi in November 2023, and INC-4, which took place in Ottawa in April 2024.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, global plastic production will reach 436 million metric tons in 2023, while plastic trade will exceed \$1.1 trillion, representing 5 per cent of global merchandise trade.

Science & Technology

Stealth Frigates Udaygiri and Himgiri

➔ Why in News?

- The Indian Navy is set to simultaneously induct two state-of-the-art stealth frigates, Udaygiri (F35) and Himgiri (F34), on August 26, 2025.



➔ Main Point

Breakthrough of technology and indigenous manufacturing

- This induction is a symbol of India's naval modernisation and indigenous manufacturing capability, reflecting the success of Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.
- Udaygiri is built by Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Himgiri by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- Udaygiri is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau.

Key technical features

- The P17A stealth frigates have a displacement of around 6,700 tonnes, 5% larger than their predecessor Shivalik-class frigates, with a reduced radar cross section.

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- These ships use a combined diesel or gas (CODOG) propulsion plant, consisting of diesel engines and gas turbines, driven by controllable-pitch propellers and an integrated platform management system (IPMS).

Weapon systems

- Supersonic surface-to-surface missiles
- Medium-range surface-to-air missiles
- 76 mm MR guns, 30 mm and 12.7 mm close-in weapon systems
- Anti-submarine/underwater weapon systems.

Indigenous manufacturing and employment generation

- Both these ships have been built in collaboration with over 200 MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), generating 4,000 direct and over 10,000 indirect jobs.
- Other indigenous platforms such as destroyer INS Surat, frigate INS Nilgiri, submarine INS Vagsheer, and ASW shallow water craft INS Arnala will also be launched in 2025.

Significance

- The ceremony in Visakhapatnam is not just a naval ritual but a celebration of India's move towards a strong and self-reliant maritime defence system.
- The ceremony is a powerful symbol of the Make in India initiative, and signals India's growing maritime power.

Environment and Ecology

Parliament Question: - COP-29 results

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Information in the context of COP-29 results was given by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

➔ Main Point

India's Disappointment:

- India expressed its disappointment over the outcome of the new Collectively Quantified Target (NCQG) at COP-29.
- India believes that this target does not address the needs and priorities of developing countries and is not in line with CBDR-RC (common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities) and the principle of equity.

Financial Needs of Developing Countries:

- COP-29 has set a target of raising \$300 billion per year by 2035, but India believes that this target is insufficient to meet the financial needs of developing countries.
- According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the financial needs of developing countries could reach \$5.1-6.8 trillion by 2030 (\$455-584 billion per year).

Contribution of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):

- Climate finance efforts by MDBs are included in the \$300 billion target, but this is not enough for developing countries, as developed countries should play a leading role in providing climate finance.
- Under the Paris Agreement and the principles of the UNFCCC, developed countries have an obligation to provide climate finance for developing countries.

India's proposal:

- India has presented its views on the “Baku to Belém Roadmap for 1.3T”.
- The roadmap should reflect the views and concerns of developing countries and its recommendations should be consistent with the principles of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and CBDR-RC.
- Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement should be followed.

Important Days

World Elephant Day-2025

➔ Why in News?

- The national celebration of World Elephant Day 2025 was held on 12th August, 2025 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

➔ Main Point

- This annual celebration demonstrates the global commitment to strengthen measures to conserve elephants and ensure their long-term survival.
- The event in Coimbatore will focus on reducing human-elephant conflict

Organization of the event:

- The event will be held in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- Union Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav will preside over the function.

Status of Elephants in India:

- India is home to 60 percent of the world's wild elephant population, making India important in elephant conservation.
- India has 33 elephant sanctuaries and 150 corridors, reflecting the country's strong conservation framework.

Mega Tinkering Day: 12 August

➔ Why in News?

- On August 12, 2025, Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog organized 'Mega Tinkering Day' with more than 4.5 lakh students from more than 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.



➔ Main Point

- **Event:** On August 12, 2025 in 35 states and union territories.
- This program was jointly organized by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Schemes

Jatan Yojana

➔ Why in News?

- The objective of Jatan Yojana is to allocate the resources required for the conservation and protection of monuments and cultures protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The scheme lays special emphasis on digitization of archaeological sites, museums and artefacts, in order to protect and promote these.

➔ Main Point

Financial Allocation and Utilization:

- The Archaeological Survey of India allocates funds state and union territory-wise for the conservation of monuments.
- The allocation of funds is done based on the requirement and availability of resources.

Digitization Initiatives:

- Under the Jatan Yojana, ASI has completed the digitization process in the archaeological museums of Goa and Nagarjunakonda:
- 726 artefacts were digitized from Goa Museum (Velha Goa).
- 7,941 artefacts were digitized from Nagarjunakonda Museum (Andhra Pradesh).

Metadata Standards:

- The metadata standard in the repository is known as the Doubling Core, which is used to organize and preserve collections and their information.

Polity

Process of de-registered unrecognised political parties

➔ Why in News?

- In the first phase, 334 parties were de-listed on 9 August 2025, bringing down the number of registered parties from 2,854 to 2,520.
- In the second phase, 476 more parties were identified and the process of de-listing them was initiated.



➔ Main Point

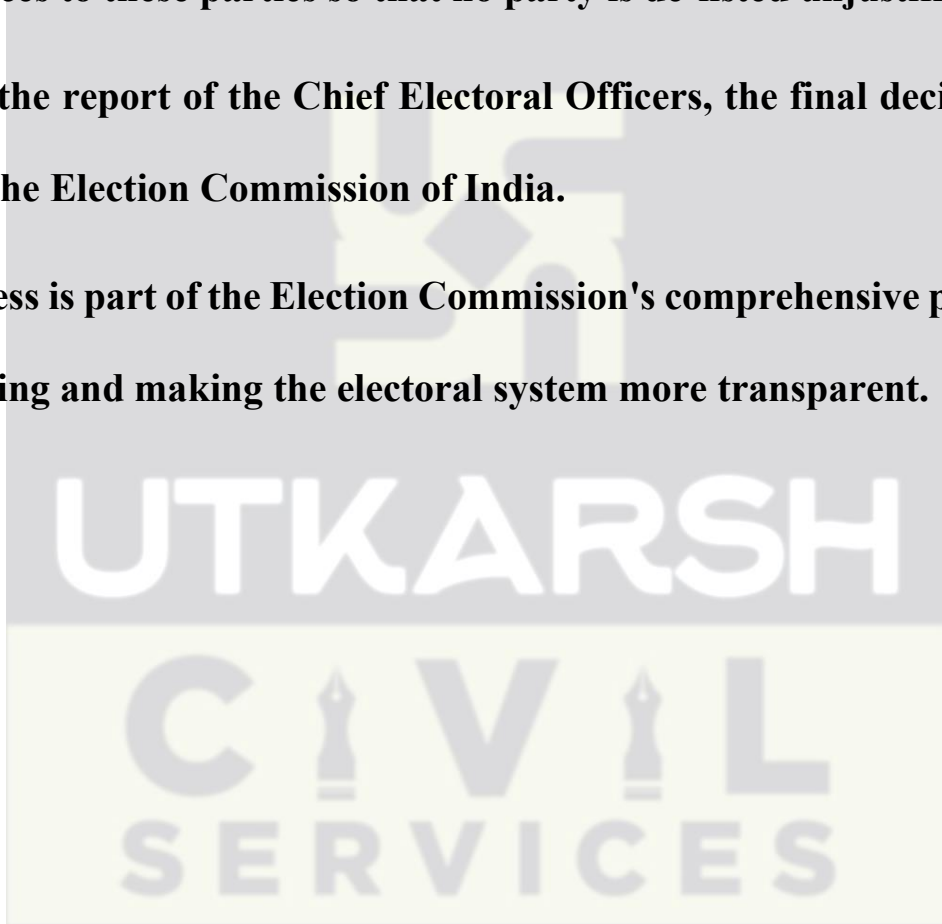
- Political parties in India (national/state level/registered unrecognised) are registered with the Election Commission of India under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- After registration under this Act, political parties get election symbols, tax exemptions and other privileges.
- It is mentioned in the registration guidelines that if a party does not contest elections for 6 years, it will be removed from the list of registered parties.

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- The Election Commission has launched a nationwide campaign to identify and de-list parties that have not contested elections for 6 years from 2019.
- The Chief Electoral Officers of the State/UTs have been directed to issue show cause notices to these parties so that no party is de-listed unjustifiably.
- Based on the report of the Chief Electoral Officers, the final decision will be taken by the Election Commission of India.
- This process is part of the Election Commission's comprehensive policy aimed at improving and making the electoral system more transparent.



Personality

Namrata Batra: Wushu

➔ Why in News?

- On August 12, 2025, Indian wushu player Namrata Batra won the silver medal in the women's 52kg final at the 2025 World Games held in Chengdu, China.



➔ Main Point

- This was India's first medal in wushu at the World Games and the country's second podium finish in the ongoing edition after Rishabh Yadav's bronze medal in men's compound archery.
- 24-year-old Namrata Batra, a silver medallist at the 2024 Asian Championships and four-time national champion, became the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the World Games' wushu event. She won the silver medal after losing to Megyu Chen in the final.
- Namrata defeated Crizan Faith Colorado of the Philippines in the semi-finals while Thi Phuong Nga of Vietnam won the bronze medal.
- India has so far won a total of seven medals in the history of the World Games – one gold (Aditya Snehal Mehta, Snooker, 2013), two silver and four bronze.

Shubman Gill: ICC Men's Player of the Month (July)



Award	Winner	Other Facts
ICC Men's Player of the Month Award	Indian Test captain Shubman Gill	This is Gill's fourth Player of the Month honor. Gill has previously received the ICC Player of the Month award in January 2023, September 2023 and February 2025.
		The 25-year-old Gill became the first male player to win the Player of the Month award four times, scoring 567 runs at an average of 94.50 in the three Tests played in July in England.
		Gill's performance is now second only to Sir Donald Bradman (810 runs) in the list of all-time captains.
ICC Women's Player of the Month Award	England batsman Sophia Dunkley	played all seven matches across both formats against India at home, scoring 126 runs in three ODIs and 144 runs in four T20 Internationals at a strike rate of 134.57.
		She was the leading run-scorer for England in the T20 International series.

Sports

15th Junior National Women's Hockey Championship 2025

➔ Why in News?

- In the 15th Junior National Women's Hockey Championship 2025, Jharkhand women's hockey team defeated Hockey Haryana in the final to become champions for the second consecutive year.



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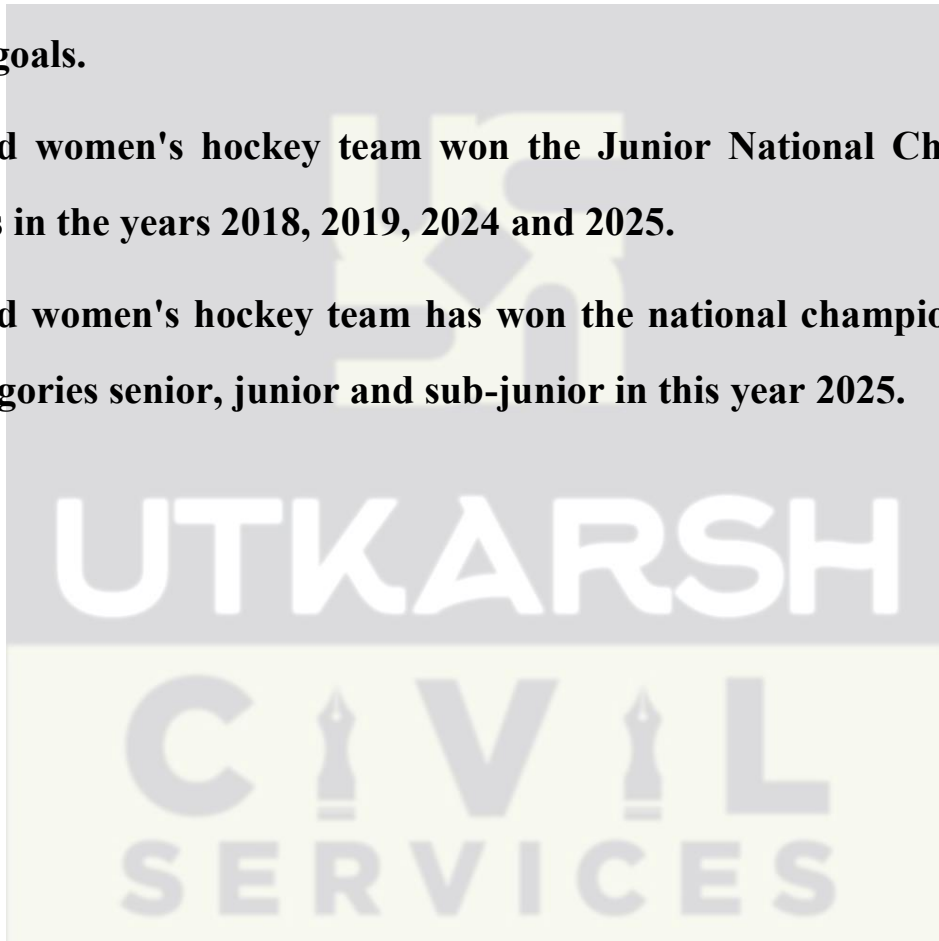
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➡ Main Point

- **Organization:** This championship was held in Kakinanda, Andhra Pradesh from 1 to 12 August 2025.
- Sweety Dungdung became the highest goal scorer in the championship with a total of 5 goals.
- Jharkhand women's hockey team won the Junior National Championship four times in the years 2018, 2019, 2024 and 2025.
- Jharkhand women's hockey team has won the national championship in all three categories senior, junior and sub-junior in this year 2025.



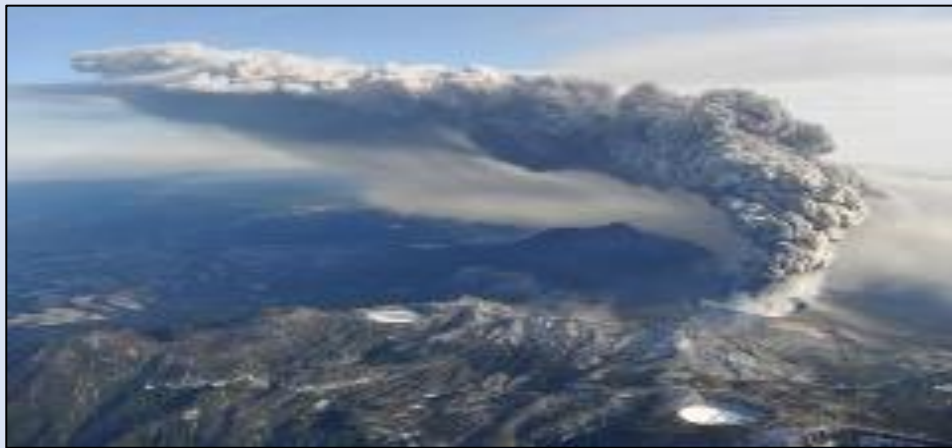
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News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Suchess Masra</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ On August 12, 2025, Chad's former Prime Minister Souchess Massara was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a criminal court in the capital N'Djamena.◆ Reason: A government investigation alleged that he had incited people to violence, which led to the death of 42 people in clashes in the village of Mandakao in the southwestern province of Logone Occidental.

2.

Shinmoedake volcano: Japan



- ◆ On August 10, 2025, the Shinmoedake volcano located in the Kirishima mountain range of Japan erupted.

3.

WHO: Kenya declared free from sleeping sickness



- ◆ Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Kenya free from human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness).
- ◆ With this declaration, Kenya has become the 10th country.
- ◆ Human African trypanosomiasis is the second neglected tropical disease to be eliminated in Kenya, after the country was certified guinea worm-free in 2018.
- ◆ **Parasites:** According to the World Health Organisation, the disease is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted by infected tsetse flies.
- ◆ **Symptoms:** Includes fever, headache, joint pains, and in advanced stages, neurological symptoms such as confusion, sleep disturbances and behavioural changes.

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