

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



**CIVIL**  
SERVICES

## Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	National Forensic Science University (NFSU) Jaipur Campus
2.	Six personalities of Rajasthan honored with 'Chief of Army Staff Award'
3.	Krishi Uphaar Yojana
4.	Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Training and Skill Development Scheme
5.	State level under-23 wrestling competition
6.	News in Shorts 1. Dr. Shivam Agarwal represented India at G20 Youth Summit: 2. Three panchayats of the Rajasthan honored at the national level 3. New cases of Lumpy disease registered
7.	'Waterways to Wonder: Unlocking Cruise Tourism' Conference - 2025
8.	India's spending on artificial intelligence

--:1:--



उत्कर्ष®

Jodhpur : JALORI GATE CIRCLE, JODHPUR | Support@utkarsh.com | Call us at : 9829 213 213  
Jaipur : NEAR MAHESH NAGAR THANA, GOPALPURA BYPASS ROAD, JAIPUR

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



9.	<b>Sustainable aviation fuel</b>
10.	<b>National Anubhav Awards 2025</b>
11.	<b>Devika Sihag</b>
12.	<b>News in Shorts</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. "The Weight Loss Revolution" Book</li><li>2. India's first fully women-run clean street food hub</li><li>3. Ajay Kumar Bhalla</li><li>4. 'Arogyam Health and Wellness Center': Tawang</li><li>5. Tricolour in Seattle</li><li>6. Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025: India</li></ol>

--:2:--

## Rajasthan

### National Forensic Science University (NFSU) Jaipur Campus

#### ➔ Why in News?

- The National Forensic Science University (NFSU) Campus has been set up in the coaching hub of Jaipur (Pratap Nagar) for the purpose of investigation of forensic cases related to border security and other special types of forensic investigations, which will be opened in September 2025.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- The campus will start with 80 seats in two programs of forensic science.
- The NFSU campus located in Jaipur has been set up under the 'National Forensic Infrastructure Augmentation Scheme (NFIES)'.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal of the Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs 'National Forensic Infrastructure Augmentation Scheme (NFIES)' on June 19, 2024.
- **Scheme Duration:** Year 2024-25 to 2028-29
- **Total Financial Outlay:** ₹2254.43 crore.
- **Related Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Components of the Scheme:**
  - i. Establishment of campuses of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
  - ii. Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories in the country.
  - iii. Expansion of existing infrastructure of Delhi Campus of NFSU.

## Six personalities of Rajasthan honored with 'Chief of Army Staff Award'

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, it was announced that the personalities who showed indomitable courage during Operation Sindoor will be honored with the 'Chief of Army Staff Award'.



### ➔ Key Points:

- 6 personalities of Rajasthan have been selected in this honor ceremony.
- Personalities of Rajasthan to be honored:**
- Dr. Pratibha Singh** - Divisional Commissioner, Jodhpur.
- Gaurav Agarwal** - Collector, Jodhpur.
- Abhishek Surana** - Collector, Churu.
- Narendra Singh Meena** - Superintendent of Police, Barmer.
- Mahendra Singh** - Border Security Force, Bikaner.
- Deputy Commandant Mahesh Chand Jat** - Border Security Force, Bikaner.

### Other important points:

- The 'Chief of Army Staff Award' is given for bravery and distinguished service. Apart from the army, this honor is also given to common citizens, who have shown indomitable courage in the interest of the country in difficult circumstances.

## Krishi Uphaar Yojana

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the state government approved the proposal to amend the 'Krishi Uphaar Yojana' to encourage farmers to sell agricultural commodities through transparent and digital means.



### ➔ Key Points:

- According to the amended provisions, the benefit of this scheme will be available only to those farmers who sell through the e-NAM portal and receive payment through e-payment (electronic payment) system.
- Issuing gift coupons only on e-payment will encourage farmers and traders to make instant and secure digital transactions along with sales on the e-NAM portal.

--:5:--



# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



- In the amended scheme, gift coupons can be issued by e-NAM software for every Rs 10,000 of agricultural produce sale received through e-payment and in its multiples.
- Also, by drawing a draw at the Mandi level every 6 months, the first prize of Rs 50,000, second prize of Rs 30,000 and third prize of Rs 20,000 will be awarded.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Krishi Uphaar Yojana:

- The Department of Agriculture is running the 'Krishi Uphaar Yojana' with the aim of motivating farmers to sell agricultural produce through e-NAM (E-National Agriculture Market) and get payment through e-payment and to get maximum benefit of their produce.
- In the scheme, the prize money is paid to the winning farmer from the concerned Mandi Samiti. The Mandi reimburses this amount from the Rajasthan State Agricultural Marketing Board.
- Under the scheme, awards are given at the Mandi level, block level and state level.
- e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) is an online trading platform, which aims to help farmers, traders and buyers trade online and provide smooth marketing to get better prices.
- Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the main agency for implementing e-NAM, which is working under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

--:6::--

## Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Training and Skill Development Scheme

### ➔ Why in News?

- The Rajasthan government is running the 'Mukhyamantri Nari Shakti Training and Skill Development Scheme' with the aim of empowering the women of the state through skill development and vocational training.

### ➔ Key Points:

- This scheme increases employment opportunities for women and also helps them to become financially self-reliant.



### Eligibility of the scheme:

- **Start:** 09 December, 2020
- Only women and adolescent girls are eligible for this scheme.
- **Age limit:** 16 to 45 years.
- Must be a native of Rajasthan.

Under this scheme, the following computer courses are provided free of cost by the state government:

- **RS-CIT (age 16 to 40 years, for 10th pass):** Basic computer training.
- **RS-CFA (age 16 to 40 years, for 12th pass):** GST, TALLY based financial accounting training.
- **RS-CSEP (Age 16 to 45 years, 10th pass):** Spoken English and personality development training.

## State level under-23 wrestling competition

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, state level under-23 wrestling competition was organized in Bharatpur.




### ➔ Key Points:

- In this competition, Bhilwara was the overall champion in men's category and Bharatpur in women's category.
- In men's free style and Greco Roman, Bhilwara won a total of 21 medals including 10 gold, 3 silver and 8 bronze.
- In women's category, Bharatpur won a total of 8 medals including 5 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal.



## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Dr. Shivam Agarwal represented India at G20 Youth Summit:</b></p> <div data-bbox="357 683 1390 1077"></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Dr. Shivam Agarwal of Sikar will represent India at the 'G20 Youth Summit' to be held from 18 to 22 August 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa.</li><li>◆ The Government of India is sending 5 youth as representatives to South Africa, in which Dr. Shivam Agarwal will represent India on 'Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability'.</li><li>◆ Theme of Johannesburg Summit (Y20): Youth Building Bridges: Uniting for Solidarity, Championing Equality, Driving Sustainability.</li></ul>

2.

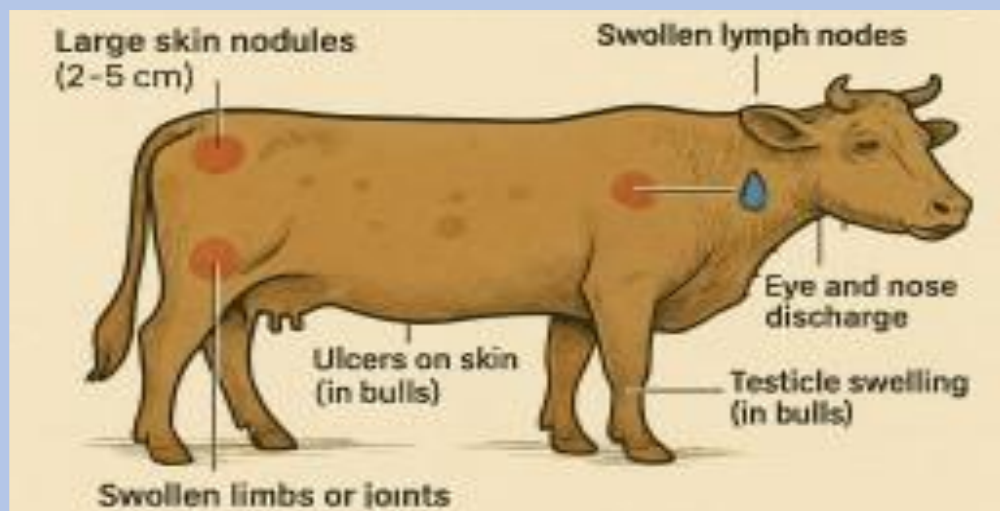
## Three panchayats of the Rajasthan honored at the national level



- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored three panchayats of Rajasthan at the national level in a ceremony held in Delhi on August 15, 2025.
- ◆ These panchayats include Gadhepan (Kota), Rarh (Bharatpur) and Chali (Jodhpur).

3.

## New cases of Lumpy disease registered



- ◆ Recently, many districts of Rajasthan have seen an increase in the cases of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), a disease spreading among cattle.
- ◆ Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a viral disease that affects cattle such as cows and buffaloes.
- ◆ The disease is caused by Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), a bacterium of the Capripoxvirus species.
- ◆ **Note:** In June 2025, a state-level vaccination campaign was launched from Pinjrapol Gaushala in Sanganer, Jaipur to prevent Lumpy disease.

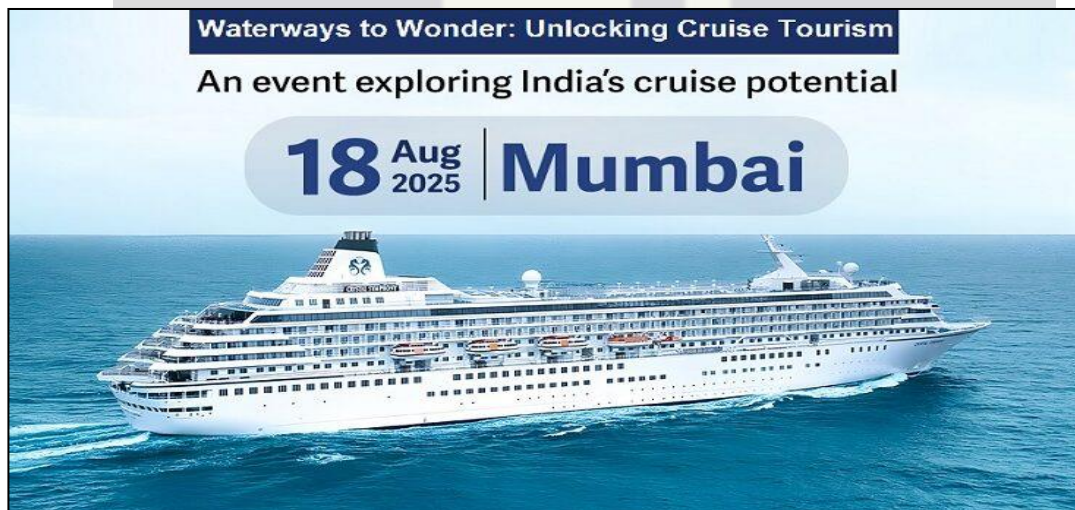
CIVIL  
SERVICES

## National

### 'Waterways to Wonder: Unlocking Cruise Tourism' Conference - 2025

#### ➔ Why in News?

- From August 18, 2025, Mumbai Port Trust in collaboration with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Ports Association (IPA) is organising a conference on 'Waterways to Wonder: Unlocking Cruise Tourism' in Mumbai.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- **Objective:** The event aims to explore the potential of cruise tourism in India and discuss policy initiatives, best practices and policies for growth.
- **Key Topics of Discussion:** Strategic vision and policy perspectives for cruise tourism development, policy and regulatory factors for growth, cultural and coastal itineraries, best practices of cruise terminal, smart terminal operations and green port strategies.

-::12::-



# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



- **Conference Concluding:** To be held on the occasion of India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 to be held in October.

## Other Important Points:

### India Maritime Week 2025:

- **Event:** To be held from 27 to 31 October 2025 at NESCO Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.
- **Organiser:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- **Objective:** To showcase progress, opportunities and collaboration in the maritime sector, promote domestic development and international cooperation.
- It will facilitate dialogue, collaboration and policy deliberations among over 100 maritime countries and over 100,000 industry professionals, government officials and investors as a premier international platform.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):**
  - **Established:** Established on 27 October 1986 for the development and regulation of inland waterways for navigation and navigation.
  - **Headquarters:** Noida.
  - **Main Function:** Undertakes projects for development and maintenance of inland waterways infrastructure on National Waterways through grants received from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which include rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc. There are about 133.03 million meters of navigable waterways.

## Science and Technology

### India's spending on artificial intelligence

#### ➔ Why in News?

- According to a joint report by IDC InfoBrief and UiPath released on August 7, 2025, India's spending on artificial intelligence (AI) is estimated to reach \$10.4 billion by 2028.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- **Agentic AI implemented:** According to the report, 40 percent of Indian companies have implemented agentic AI and 50 percent are planning to adopt it in the next 12 months.
- **Benefits in productivity and decision making:** According to 80 percent of Indian companies, agentic AI is increasing productivity while 73 percent have seen improvement in decision making. This technology is being rapidly adopted in sectors like manufacturing, retail, healthcare and life sciences.

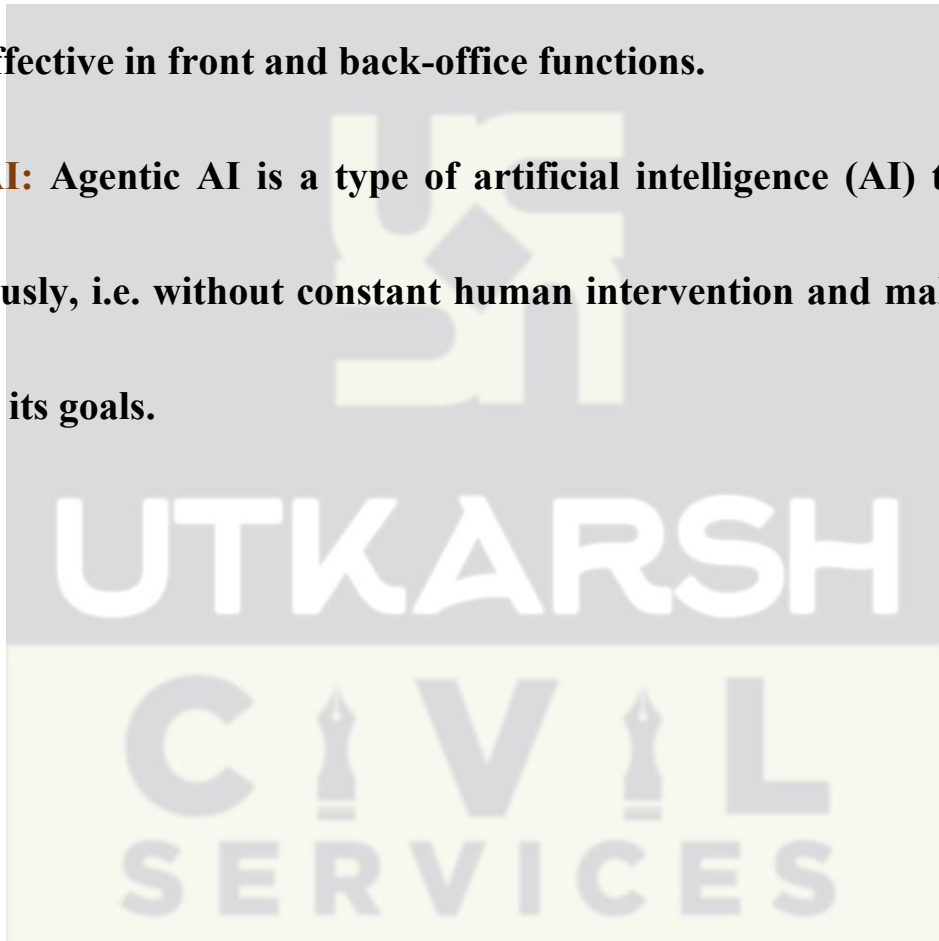
--:14:--

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



- **Key uses of agentic AI:** 69 percent of organizations are using agentic AI to increase productivity, 59 percent to improve personalized customer engagement and 57 percent to detect risk and fraud. This technology is proving effective in front and back-office functions.
- **Agentic AI:** Agentic AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that can act autonomously, i.e. without constant human intervention and make decisions to achieve its goals.



-:15:-

## Sustainable aviation fuel

### ➔ Why in News?

- Recently, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) received official permission from ISCC CORSIA (ICAO) to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). This recognition has been given to IOC's Panipat refinery, due to which the company is now planning to start commercial production by December this year.



### ➔ Key Points:

- **Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)** is a biofuel chemically similar to conventional jet fuel, produced from sustainable feedstocks like used cooking oil.
- It's crucial for decarbonizing the global aviation industry, with the potential to reduce over 60% of emissions. SAF can be blended with traditional jet fuel without requiring engine modifications, for instance, Airbus aircraft can use a blend of up to 50% SAF.

-:16:-



## India's First SAF Plant

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will start commercial production of SAF at its Panipat refinery by the end of 2025, making it the first company in India to do so. This plant will use used cooking oil sourced from major hotels and restaurants like Haldiram's. The plant's initial capacity will be 35,000 tonnes per year, which is enough to meet India's 1% SAF blending requirement for international flights by 2027.
- IOC's Panipat unit received ISCC CORSIA certification, essential for commercial Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production. This certifies compliance with CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation), a framework requiring airlines to offset CO2 emission growth beyond 2020 levels from 2027.

## Awards

### National Anubhav Awards 2025

#### ➔ Why in News?

- The National Anubhav Awards 2025 were distributed by the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions to honour the contributions of retired employees at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on August 18, 2025.



#### ➔ Key Points:

- The award is given to retired and retiring government employees for recording their experiences and contributions on the Anubhav portal.
- **Provider:** Department of Personnel and Training.

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 18 August, 2025



- **Winners:** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has got four awards and DRDO has got two. For the first time, employees of State Bank of India (SBI), BHEL, Department of Land Resources and Ministry of Jal Shakti will be honoured. Notably, 33 per cent of the winners are women, which reflects their growing role in governance.
  - The 57th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop was also inaugurated along with the award distribution.
  - **Digital Life Certificate Campaign 4.0:** During the award distribution itself, guidelines were issued for the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 4.0 to be launched in November, 2025.
- Other important points:**
- **Inception of the Award:** The awards were launched in the year 2015 by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW) to document the administrative history of India through personal memoirs of retired employees by launching an online platform called 'Anubhav'.
  - So far, more than 12,500 articles have been published and 78 awards have been given.

-:19:-

## Sports

### Devika Sihag

#### ➔ Why in News?

- On August 17, 2025, Indian shuttler Devika Sihag won her first International Challenge title by winning the women's singles event at the Malaysia International Challenge 2025 in Ipoh.


#### ➔ Key Points:

- The 20-year-old Devika defeated fifth seed Isharani Barua of India in the final.
- The title adds to Sihag's successful 2024 season, where she also won the Swedish Open and Portugal International titles at the International Series level.
- The Malaysia International Challenge is a Grade 3, Level 1 event on the BWF's Continental Circuit.





## News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>"The Weight Loss Revolution" Book</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ On August 17, 2025, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh released a book titled "The Weight Loss Revolution - Weight Loss Drugs and How to Use Them".</li><li>◆ <b>Authors:</b> Endocrinologists Dr. Ambrish Mithal and Shivam Vij.</li><li>◆ <b>Theme of the book:</b> Scientifically proven information on obesity and metabolic disorders mentioned.</li></ul>

2.

## India's first fully women-run clean street food hub



- ◆ August 18, 2025 India's first fully women-run clean street food hub was inaugurated in Mumbai.
- ◆ **Name:** Mauli.
- ◆ The women of this hub, managed entirely by women of self-help groups (SHGs), have received training under the Food Safety Training and Certification (FOSTAC) program and are now able to run clean, safe and food businesses.



3.

## Ajay Kumar Bhalla



- ◆ Recently, President Draupadi Murmu has appointed Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to discharge the functions of Governor of Nagaland in addition to his duties.
- ◆ Bhalla is a retired IAS officer of the year 1984 batch of Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- ◆ He served as Home Secretary of India for almost five years till August 22, 2024, making Bhalla only the second Union Home Secretary to complete five years in office.
- ◆ **La. Ganesan:** August 15, 2025 Nagaland Governor La. Ganesan passed away while in office.

4.

## 'Arogyam Health and Wellness Center': Tawang

- ◆ Indian Army inaugurated 'Arogyam Health and Wellness Center' in Tawang under Operation Sadbhavana.
- ◆ **Location:** Dahzhong, Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ◆ **Objective:** To provide timely health assistance to the villagers and tourists visiting the high altitude areas of Thingbu, Mago, Jethang and Luguthang in Tawang district.

5.

## Tricolour in Seattle



- ◆ The Indian tricolour was hoisted on the 605-foot-high Space Needle in Seattle (USA) to mark India's 79th Independence Day celebrations.



- ◆ This is the first time that a flag of a foreign nation was hoisted at a popular US landmark.
- ◆ Built for the World's Fair in 1962, the Space Needle is a symbol of the Seattle skyline and a symbol of the tech-driven future of the Pacific Northwest region of the US.

6.

## Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025: India



- ◆ India will host the biggest international winter sports event 'Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025' for the first time.
- ◆ **To be held:** From 20 to 23 August, 2025 at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Raipur, Dehradun.
- ◆ **Partner Countries:** China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and India.