



GURUGYAN

— A C A D E M Y —

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAY 2026



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



ECONOMY & BANKING



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



DEFENCE



SPORTS



AWARDS & HONOURS



IMPORTANT DAYS



“ Stay Informed,
Stay Ahead. ”



Website
gurugyanacademy.in



Mobile
6372725912



SCAN TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

Contets

Contets.....	2
Important Days & themes.....	4
WITH STATIC	5
Appointments	14
Books	24
Obituaries	25
AWARDS	27
INTERNATIONAL.....	31
National	38
Eminent Personalities in News.....	64
State	68
Delhi.....	68
Uttar Pradesh.....	69
Madhya Pradesh	70
Jharkhand.....	70
Chhattisgarh.....	71
Odisha	71
West Bengal	71
Assam.....	72
Nagaland	73
Mizoram.....	73
Rajasthan	74
Maharashtra	76
Telangana.....	77
Andhra Pradesh	78
Karnataka	79
Kerala	80
Tamil Nadu	80
Puducherry.....	83
Ladakh.....	84
Jammu & Kashmir	84
Himachal Pradesh	85
Haryana.....	85
Delhi.....	85
Uttar Pradesh.....	86
Madhya Pradesh	87
Bihar.....	88
Odisha	88
West Bengal	89
Sikkim.....	91

Arunachal Pradesh	92
Nagaland	93
Manipur	93
Mizoram	94
Tripura	95
Rajasthan	95
Gujarat	96
Karnataka	99
Keralam	100
International	102
Sports.....	108
Football	108
Cricket.....	108
Table Tennis	109
Tennis.....	110
Badminton	110
National/ international Championships	110
Chess.....	111
Golf	111
Race	112
Athletics	112
Miscellaneous	112
Banking / finance	114
Defence.....	119
MILLITARY EXERCISE	119
Science &tech.....	130
Environment.....	140
Index/rankings/reports.....	158

Important Days & themes

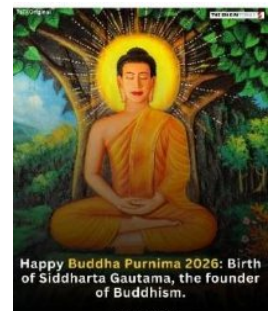
Date	Day	Theme
1st May	Vesak Day/ Buddha Purnima	
1 st May	International Labour Day	
1 st May	Ramkrishna Mission Foundation Day	Where potatoes grow, livelihoods flourish
2nd May	World Tuna Day	
3rd May	World Press Freedom Day	Shaping a Future at Peace
3 rd May	International Leopard Day	
3rd May	International Sun Day	
4th May	Coal Miners Day	
4th May	International Firefighter's Day	
4th –10th May	Fire Safety Week	
5th May - (First Tues day of May)	World Asthma Day	Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need
7th May	World Athletics Day	
7 th May	Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Raising Day	
8th May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	United in humanity
8th May	World Thalassaemia Day	Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed. Supporting the Unseen
8th – 9th May	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation (W WII)	
10th May	World Lupus Day	Make Lupus Visible
10th May	International Mother's Day	
11th May	National Technology Day	
12th May	International Day of Plant Health	Plant Biosecurity for Food Security
12th May	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives
15 th May	International Day of Families	Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing
16 th May	International Day of Light	Light for a Sustainable Future
16 th May	National Dengue Day	
17 th May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world
17 th May	World Hypertension Day	Controlling Hypertension Together: check your blood pressure regularly, defeat the silent killer
18 th May	International Museum Day	Museums Uniting a Divided World
18 th May	World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day)	
19 th May	World Fair Play Day	Embrace the Spirit of Fair Play
20 th May	World Bee Day	Bee Together for People and the Planet – A partnership that sustains us all
20 th May	World Metrology Day	Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making
21 st May	International Tea Day	Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities
21 st May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	
21 st May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	
22 nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Acting locally for global impact
23 rd May	World Turtle Day	
23 rd May	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Her Health Is a Right: Invest to End Fistula and Childbirth Injuries
24 th May	Commonwealth Day in India	Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth

25 th May	Africa Day	Sixty-three (63) Years of Unity, Integration and Development, let's celebrate together
25 th May	World Thyroid Day	Thyroid and Nutrition
25 th – 31 st May	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	
25 th May	World Football Day	
28 th May	Menstrual Hygiene Day	
28 th May	World Dugong Day	A decade beneath the waves: Dugongs & Us
28 th May	World Hunger Day	A World Without Hunger is in Our Hands
31st May	World No-Tobacco Day	Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction

WITH STATIC

1st May Vesak Day/ Buddha Purnima

- Vesak, also known as Buddha Purnima, is observed on the full moon day in the month of May.
- It is the most sacred day for millions of Buddhists around the world.
- It marks three major events in the life of Gautama Buddha, all of which occurred on the same day:
 - Birth of the Buddha – 563 B.C.
 - Enlightenment (Nirvana)
 - Passing away (Mahaparinirvana) at the age of 80 (483 B.C.).
- In 1999, the UN General Assembly recognized Vesak as an international day to honor Buddhism.



1 May - International Labour Day

- International Workers' Day**, commonly known as Labour Day
- Also known as May Day**, it is celebrated on May 1 every year, honouring workers' contributions and advocating for their rights worldwide.
- The **origins of global Labour Day** date back to the **19th-century labour movement**, when workers united to demand fair wages, safer working environments, and shorter work hours. The **first Labour Day parade was organised in New York City in 1882 by the Central Labour Union**, paving the way for global recognition of workers' rights.
- In India, Labour Day, also known as **Kamgar Divas, Kamgar Din, or Antrarashtriya Shramik Divas**, has a long history intertwined with the global labour movement.
- The **first Labour Day in India** was held on **May 1, 1923, in Chennai** under the leadership of the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan**.



Ramkrishna Mission Foundation Day observed on May 1st May

- The Ramakrishna Mission was **established on May 1, 1897, in Belur, West Bengal, by Swami Vivekananda**.
- It was founded **in memory of Ramakrishna Paramahansa** (1836–1886), a revered spiritual leader known for his devotion to goddess Kali and his message of religious unity.
- The **mission aims to propagate Ramakrishna's teachings** and serve humanity, guided by the ideals: "Atmano Mokshartham Jagat Hitaya Cha" — "For one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world."



2nd May World Tuna Day

- Tuna is rich in Omega-3 and it also contains minerals, proteins, and vitamin B12, among other advantages.
- UN General Assembly designated May 2 as World Tuna Day

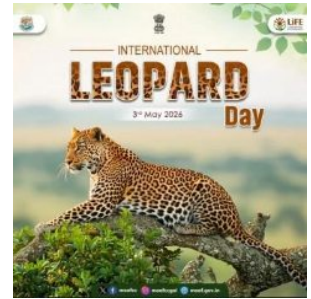


3rd May International Leopard Day

- May 3 is celebrated as International Leopard Day to spread awareness about one of the fastest species to exist in the wild

About Indian Leopards (*Panthera pardus fusca*)

- Leopards occupy a prominent position in trophic pyramid alongside tigers, lions and dholes exhibiting adaptability in habitat and dietary preferences.
- Leopards commanded great reverence in ancient cultures (Egyptian, African and Indian cultures), symbolizing traits of power, agility, and nobility.
- Habitat Distribution: India, Nepal, Bhutan, and parts of Pakistan, excluding mangrove forests and deserts.



Initiatives to Conserve Leopard

- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):** Headquartered in India, it aims to strengthen global cooperation for conservation of seven big cat species (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma) and their habitats.
 - Except for Puma and Jaguar, India inhabits all five big cats.

3rd May World Press Freedom Day

- Celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom
- World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993
- Theme: Shaping a Future at Peace**
- 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.
- The Windhoek Declaration was established during a UNESCO seminar held in Windhoek, Namibia, from April 29 to May 3, 1991.



3rd May International Sun Day

- Focuses on promoting solar energy as a sustainable, clean power source to drive a green energy future



4th May – Coal Miners Day

- Observed to recognise the sacrifices and hard work of the coal miners
- Coal mining in India first started in the Raniganj Coalfield.
- In 1774, John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Heatly of the British East India Company found coal near Ethora, presently in Salanpur CD Block West Bengal.

4th May - International Firefighter's Day

- Established after the tragic deaths of **five in Victoria, Australia, in 1998.**
- Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to Observe Pan-India 'Fire Safety Week' from 4th–10th May 2026
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in with all States and Union Territories and Central Ministries and Departments, will India 'Fire Safety Week'
- It will mark the commencement of a series of **awareness and preparedness activities to be conducted nationwide during the week.**
- States and Union Territories will undertake a range of activities, including awareness campaigns, mock drills, capacity-building initiatives, and dissemination of fire safety protocols during this exercise.



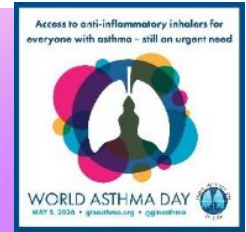
firefighters in a wildfire



collaboration
relevant
observe a pan-

5th May - World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)

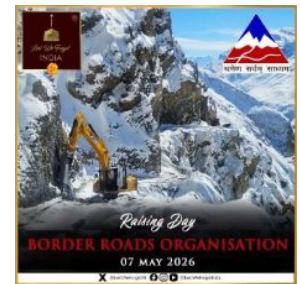
- **Theme :** “Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need”
- The first World Asthma Day, led by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), was observed in over 35 nations in 1998, coinciding with the first World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

**7th May - World Athletics Day**

- The day was first introduced in 1996 by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)—now known as World Athletics—the international governing body for athletics.
- To promote youth participation in athletics and spread awareness on fitness

**7th May Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Raising Day**

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Raising Day is celebrated annually on May 7th, marking its establishment in 1960.
- It is a road construction executive force in India that provides support to the Indian Armed Forces.
- BRO was entirely brought under the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- **Establishment:** It was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and northeastern states of the country.
- It develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Sri Lanka.
- **Motto:** Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work).

**8th May -World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day**

- It is celebrated to honor the humanitarian work of millions of volunteers and staff who serve under the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- **THEME :** United in humanity.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1901).
- ICRC has won the Nobel Peace Prize three times: 1917, 1944, and 1963

8th May World Thalassaemia Day

- Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder where the body produces an insufficient amount of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen.
- This deficiency leads to a condition called anemia, characterized by fatigue, weakness, and shortness of
- Thalassaemia is passed down through genes from parents
- **Theme :** “Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed. the Unseen.”



breath.
to children.
Supporting

8th – 9th May Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation (WWII)

- On 2 March 2010, by resolution 64/257, the General Assembly invited all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe 8-9 May in an appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War.

10th May- World Lupus Day

- World Lupus Day is observed to raise awareness about Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause damage to virtually any part of the body.
- **Theme :** Make Lupus Visible

- It cannot tell the difference between pathogens and healthy tissue and creates antibodies that attack and destroy healthy tissue.
- Depending on if Lupus is mild, moderate or severe, it can cause inflammation of the joints, skin and even vital organs. Severe lupus can cause irreversible damage to the heart, lungs, brain or kidneys.

11th May National Technology Day

- National Technology Day commemorates the momentous events of 11th May 1998, when India conducted successful nuclear tests under Operation Shakti, and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft.
- In recognition of these achievements, then Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared 11th May as National Technology Day.



10th May International Mother's Day

- Mother's Day is a significant global occasion which honours mothers and maternal figures in our lives.
- Formerly known as Mothering (according to early Christian practices), the day is observed on the second Sunday in May; this year it falls on Sunday, May 10, 2026.
- However, the modern-day celebration honours Anna Jarvis, who hosted the inaugural Mother's Day in the US in 1907, inspired by her mother's tireless work as a community health advocate.

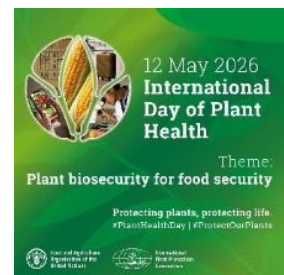
12th May International Day of Plant Health

- Plant health is the foundation of food security and is interconnected with human, animal and environmental health
- THEME: "Plant Biosecurity for Food Security".
- The United Nations designated 12 May the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic development.



12th May International Nurses Day

- Honors the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale (1820–1910), who is commonly considered the founder of modern nursing. She gained fame for her work during the Crimean War, caring for wounded soldiers and improving sanitary conditions in military hospitals, leading to the "Lady with the Lamp" nickname.
- Officially declared by the United States in 1982
- Theme: "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."



15th May-International Day of Families

- In 1993, the UN General Assembly decided that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families
- 2026 Theme: Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing



16th May International Day of Light

- 16th May commemorates the first successful operation of the laser by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman in 1960.
- United Nations first observed the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies in 2015, when the UN to raise awareness of the achievements of light science and its applications worldwide.



- **THEME: Light for a Sustainable Future**

16th May National Dengue Day

- In India it is led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- to raise awareness about dengue fever and promote preventive measures against this mosquito-borne viral disease.



Dengue Fever:

- It is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus, which belongs to the family Flaviviridae, having four serotypes that spread by the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes.

17th May- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

- World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
- The General Assembly adopted a resolution in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17 May.
- **THEME: "Digital lifelines: Strengthening resilience in a connected world "**
- **International Telecommunication Union**
 - It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.
 - It was established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union.
 - In 1947 the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
 - **Member countries:** It has a membership of 194 countries and more than 1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations.
 - **India and ITU:** India has been an active member of the ITU since 1869 and has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.
 - **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**



17th May World Hypertension Day

- To raise awareness and promote hypertension prevention, detection and control
- Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a condition where the force of blood against the artery walls is consistently too high. This can lead to heart, brain, and kidney damage
- **Theme: "Controlling Hypertension Together: check your blood pressure regularly, defeat the silent killer"**

18th May International Museum Day

- The day was officially created in 1977, when a resolution approved by the ICOM General Assembly in Moscow was adopted.
- Goa Science Centre, Panaji, in collaboration with the Directorate of Museums, Government of Goa, will celebrate International Museum Day 2026 from May 16 to 18, 2026
- **The theme - "Museums Uniting a Divided World"**
- One lecture on "History & Heritage of Goa from Ancient Times to 2019" will also be held on May 16, 2026
- ICOM, the International Council of Museums, is a global organization for museums and museum professionals. It was created in 1946 and is dedicated to promoting and protecting cultural and natural heritage.
- A special attraction of this year's celebration is the exhibition "My Own Collection", showcasing rare and fascinating historical objects along with unique personal collections reflecting the richness of India's cultural and scientific heritage.



18th May-World AIDS Vaccine Day (HIV Vaccine Awareness Day)

- The day began on May 18, 1997, when U.S. President Bill Clinton gave a crucial speech at Morgan State University.
- The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was celebrated on May 18, 1998, to mark the anniversary of Clinton's speech and to draw attention to the continued efforts and necessity for an HIV vaccine.



19th May- World Fair Play Day

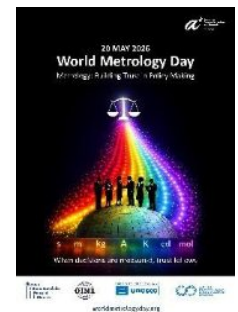
- **Theme : Embrace the Spirit of Fair Play**
- 19 May 2025 marks the inaugural World Fair Play Day, a celebration dedicated to promoting sports practiced in the spirit of friendship, solidarity, tolerance, inclusion, and non-discrimination.
- On 1 July 2024 the General Assembly adopted Resolution proclaiming May 19 as World Fair Play Day.

**20th May World Bee Day**

- The first World Bee Day was observed on May 20, 2018, after the United Nations General Assembly declared the date as World Bee Day in 2017
- to raise awareness about the crucial role bees and other pollinators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems and food security
- The date, May 20th, was chosen to coincide with the birthdate of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern beekeeping.
- **Theme: "Bee Together for People and the Planet – A partnership that sustains us all."**

**20th May World Metrology Day 2026**

- This year's theme, "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making"
- World Metrology Day is the annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.
- India has now become the 13th country worldwide to issue International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) approval certificates, strengthening its global standing.

**21st May- International Tea Day**

- The inaugural International Tea Day festivity occurred in 2005 in the key tea-producing countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Kenya to focus on tea producers and the changing tea marketplace.
- In 2019, the UN officially announced May 21 as the International Tea Day.
- Tea is a beverage made from the Camellia sinensis plant. Tea is the world's most consumed drink, after water.
- **THEME: Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities**

**21st May-National Anti-Terrorism Day**

- The origin of National Anti-Terrorism Day dates back to 1991, when former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lankan militant group.
- In the aftermath of this incident, the V.P. Singh government declared 21st May as National Anti-Terrorism Day.

**21st May- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

- In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.
- In December 2002, the UN General Assembly, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

**22nd May- International Day for Biological Diversity**

- To commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 22 May 1992
- Theme 2026: "Acting locally for global impact"

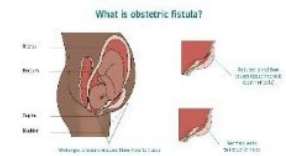


23rd May- World Turtle Day

- Celebrates turtles and tortoises around the world.
- World Turtle Day was created in 2000

**23rd May- International Day to End Obstetric Fistula**

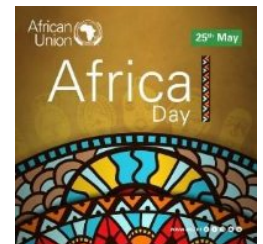
- **THEME: Her Health Is a Right: Invest to End Fistula and Childbirth Injuries**
- Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries.
- A hole between the birth canal and bladder and/or rectum, it is caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment.
- It leaves women and girls leaking urine, faces or both, and often leads to chronic medical problems, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty.

**24th May - Commonwealth Day in India**

- **Commonwealth Day (formerly Empire Day) is commemorated on second Monday of March.**
- India and a few other countries celebrate it on 24th May.
- The day honoured the British Empire and Queen Victoria's birthday - She was born on May 24, 1819.
- Commonwealth Day honours unity among 56 nations committed to peace, democracy, and development.
- **The 2026 theme, "Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth"**

**25th May Africa Day**

- The African Union will be celebrating its 63rd anniversary marking the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU) in 1963
- **Theme: "Sixty-three (63) Years of Unity, Integration and Development, let's celebrate together"**
- The commemoration will be celebrated in at the African Union headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**African Union (AU):**

- 55 member countries
- HQ: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Founded in 2001 (launched 2002)
- Replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- Promotes peace, unity, development, and human rights
- Part of G20 since 2023

25th May World Thyroid Day

- **To promote awareness about thyroid disorders**
- During the annual general meeting of Thyroid Federation International in September 2007, it was decided to create a "World Thyroid Day" on the 25th of May.
- The first World Thyroid Day was celebrated in 2008.
- The theme for World Thyroid Day 2026 is "Thyroid and Nutrition."
- Thyroid disease is a common problem that can cause symptoms because of over or under function of the thyroid gland.
- The thyroid gland located in the front of the neck below the Adam's apple is an essential organ for producing thyroid hormones.

**Common Thyroid Diseases in India**

- **Hypothyroidism:** Hypothyroidism, also called an underactive thyroid or low thyroid, is a disorder in which the thyroid gland does not produce enough hormone thyroxine.
 - North India recorded the maximum cases of hypothyroidism.
- **Hyperthyroidism:** Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) occurs when your thyroid gland produces too much of the hormone thyroxine.
 - Hyperthyroidism can accelerate the body's metabolism, causing unintentional weight loss and a rapid or irregular heartbeat.
 - South India reported maximum cases of hyperthyroidism.

25th – 31st May International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

- In the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a territory “whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.”



25th May World Football Day

- 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions, which took place on May 25, 1924, during the summer Olympic games held in Paris.
- In recognition of this milestone, on May 7, 2024, the General Assembly passed Resolution proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day.



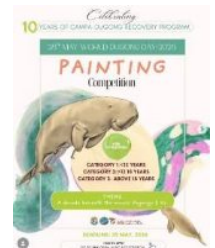
28th May Menstrual Hygiene Day

- Urges global action to end stigma and ensure access to safe, affordable menstrual care for women, and girls who menstruate
- It was initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2013
- **The choice of May 28 is symbolic:** May is the fifth month of the year, representing the average length of a menstrual cycle (five days), and 28 signifies the average number of days in a menstrual cycle.



28th May World Dugong Day

- World Dugong Day was observed to raise awareness about the conservation needs of dugongs
- Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) are large, herbivorous marine mammals often called “sea cows.”
- **The theme 2026 is "A decade beneath the waves: Dugongs & Us"**
- **Habitat in India:**
 - Warm shallow coastal waters
 - **Found in:** Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
 - India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve, located in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu, was established in September 2022



IUCN Status:

- **Global:** Vulnerable
- **India:** Regionally Endangered
- Schedule I species under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest legal protection)

Ecological Importance:

- Known as “gardeners of the sea” for maintaining healthy seagrass beds.
- Promote biodiversity by nurturing fish nurseries.
- Play a vital role in carbon sequestration and coastal ecosystem stability.

28th May World Hunger Day

- World Hunger Day was founded by The Hunger Project in 2011 to call attention to the global food crisis.
- The theme for World Hunger Day 2026 is "A World Without Hunger is in Our Hands"
- Declared 25 – 30 May 2026 Food Justice Week .

**31st May World No-Tobacco Day**

- The Member States of the World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.
- In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed Resolution - calling for 7 April 1988 to be a "a world no-smoking day."
- In 1988, Resolution was passed, calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31 May.
- **THEME: Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction**

Make every day World No Tobacco Day.

www.who.int/tobacco

World Health Organization

31 MAY

GURUGYAN ACADEMY

Creating Better Future For Tomorrow...

ENROLL NOW

B.ED.

B.P.ED.

AKU, BSAEU, ANU

Equivalent with Utkal University

+2 Arts

(Both 1st & 2nd Year)

Advance Level Spoken Eng.



MO: 9583166723, 6372725912

BHADRAK, BALASORE & RAYAGADA

Appointments**Appointments(IN TABLE)**

Person	Appointment
Prashant Pise	Ambassador of India to Sultanate of Oman
Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command
Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	Chief of the Naval Staff
Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd)	Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
Sathyavathi G.	Chief Information Commissioner of Karnataka
Justice (retired) Anupinder Singh Grewal	President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)
Dr R Balasubramaniam and Dr Joram Aniya	NITI Aayog Members
Rohit Jain	Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
Bharat Khera	Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Praveer Kumar Srivastava	Managing Director Mahanagar Gas Ltd
Jasvinder Singh	Director (Strategic Projects) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).
Ravi K.	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Prasoon Joshi	Chairman of Prasar Bharati
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)
Ashutosh Gowariker	Festival Director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
Ramachandra D. Huddar	chairperson for the Admission Overseeing Committee (AOC)
Péter Magyar	Hungary's new prime minister
Q Manivannan	Non-binary Indian elected to Scottish Parliament
Kuljeet Kaur Marhas	First Indian woman to be elected Fellow of The Meteoritical Society (HQ :USA)
Jayen Mehta	First chairman of the Sardar Patel Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited (SPCDF).
Runiel Debbarma	New chief executive member (CEM) of the Autonomous District Council (TTAADC)
Nitin Paranjpe	non-executive Vice Chairman at Infosys
Ambati Rayudu	Director of Cricket Operations for the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).
Person	Appointment
Praveen Sood	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director
Shri Saurabh Vijay	Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
Raghav Chadha	Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House
P. Kumaran	India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
Sibash Kabiraj	Police Commissioner of Gurugram
Person	Appointment
A. Amalraj	Greater Chennai City Police Commissioner
Rajiv Singh	Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat
Gp Capt. K.K. Venugopal	The first Indian test pilot to be elected as a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP).
Squadron Leader Saanya	first woman officer in the Indian armed forces to earn the coveted Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification
Manindra Agrawal	Elected Fellow of the Royal Society
Jasmeet Singh Bindra	Chairperson of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)
Person	Appointment
Elias George	Chairperson of board of directors of Federal Bank
Frederic Soye	Hockey India coach
Rohit Rajpal	Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games

Ali Fali al-Kadhimi	Iraq's Prime Minister
Yoweri Museveni	Uganda's President
Tushar Kumar	Youngest Indian-origin mayor of the United Kingdom's Elstree & Borehamwood
N.S.K Umesh	Additional Secretary and Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister of Kerala.
Mohammed Shah	Additional Advocate General of Kerala
Person	Appointment
P.N. Desai	Chairperson of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission
Kevin Warsh	Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board of Governors
Neelam Meena	First woman chief electoral officer (CEO) of West Bengal.
Shri P. Jawahar	Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
Susan Elias	St Stephen's college's first woman principal
Rajesh Kumar Singh	Additional charge of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman
Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar	48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff
Y. Balaji Kiran	Additional charge as the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of the South Coast Railway (SCoR)

With static

Prashant Pise appointed as next Ambassador of India to Sultanate of Oman

- Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Prashant Pise, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.
- A 1995 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Mr Pise, will succeed Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas from the 1993 Indian Foreign Service batch in Muscat.



Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan appointed as new Western Naval Command Chief

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan has been appointed as the next Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, headquartered in Mumbai.
- He is currently serving as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff
- A specialist in Gunnery and Missile Systems, Vice Admiral Vatsayan was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1988
- He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2021 in recognition of his distinguished service.



Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Appointed Next Navy Chief

- The Government appointed Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the next Chief of the Naval Staff.
- He will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who is scheduled to retire on May 31, 2026.
- Vice Admiral Swaminathan, currently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command, will take over as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff and the 34th to lead the Indian Navy since Independence.
- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987.
- He has commanded missile vessels INS Vidyut and INS Vinash, missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore, and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).



Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) appointed as Chief of Defence Staff

- The Government of India has appointed Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He will succeed General Anil Chauhan after the latter completes his tenure on 30 May 2026.
- Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani is a retired senior officer of the Indian Army appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He is currently serving as the Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) since September 2025.
- Commissioned into the 8th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles on 14 December 1985.

**The Chief of Defence Staff is the highest-ranking military officer in India who acts as:**

- Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-services matters
- Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)
- Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- The CDS promotes jointness, integration and coordination among the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The post of CDS was officially created on 24 December 2019 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).
- General Bipin Rawat became India's first CDS on 31 December 2019.
- After the Kargil War, the Kargil Review Committee headed by K Subrahmanyam recommended comprehensive reforms in India's defence management system in 1999.
- The Group of Ministers (GoM) in 2001 also recommended creation of the CDS post.
- Permanent Chairman of COSC: CDS serves as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- Head of Department of Military Affairs: CDS functions as Secretary of the DMA within the Ministry of Defence.
- Facilitates integrated planning, operations, logistics and procurement among the three services.
- CDS is responsible for progressing towards integrated Theatre Commands for unified warfighting.

Retired IAS officer Sathyavathi G. is new Chief Information Commissioner

- Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has appointed retired IAS officer Sathyavathi G. as the Chief Information Commissioner of the Karnataka Information Commission.

**The Central Information Commission (CIC)?**

- It is a statutory body constituted under provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and functions as a quasi-judicial body to handle complaints and appeals regarding information access.
- Jurisdiction covers Central Government offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, and Union Territories (UTs).
- The State Information Commission (SIC) is a statutory body established under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, to promote transparency and accountability in the functioning of state public authorities.
- Similar to the Central Information Commission (CIC), the SIC addresses appeals and grievances related to information requests at the state level, ensuring citizens can access essential public information.
- The State Information Commission is headed by a State Chief Information Commissioner, with up to 10 State Information Commissioners.
- The number of commissioners varies based on the state's administrative needs and is determined by the respective state governments.
- The Governor appoints the State Chief Information Commissioner and State Information Commissioners based on recommendations from a selection committee.
- This committee comprises the Chief Minister as its chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and a state Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.

- The State Chief Information Commissioner and other State Information Commissioners serve a term of three years or until reaching 65 years of age, whichever comes first. Reappointment after their tenure is not permitted.

Justice Grewal Appointed NCLT President by Centre

- Justice (retired) Anupinder Singh Grewal, a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, has been appointed President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- He will hold office for five years from the date he assumes charge or until he attains the age of 67, whichever is earlier.
- Justice Grewal succeeds Justice (retired) Ramalingam Sudhakar, former Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, who demitted office earlier this year.

About NCLT

Constitution: A quasi-judicial body established under the Companies Act, 2013.

- **Role:** Adjudicates disputes related to companies and corporate governance.
- **Insolvency authority:** Functions as the adjudicating authority under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- **Objectives:**
 - To club every matter related to Companies under one roof.
 - To deal with the matters related to sick and distressed industries.

Prime Minister Appoints Two New NITI Aayog Members

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Dr R Balasubramaniam and Dr Joram Aniya as full-time members of NITI Aayog.
- With the two new additions, the total number of full-time members of NITI Aayog will now rise to seven.
- The government appointed a new vice-chairman and replaced four of the five full-time members of the premier policy think tank.
- The other new members include Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, and Dr M Srinivas, director, AIIMS Delhi
- This is the first major revamp of the NITI Aayog since its inception in 2015, when it had replaced the Nehruvian Planning Commission.



Rohit Jain Appointed RBI Deputy Governor

- The government has appointed Rohit Jain as a deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
- Mr. Jain's appointment will take effect from May 3 for a period of three years.
- Mr. Jain is currently serving as an executive director at the central bank
- He replaces former deputy Governor, T. Rabi Sankar who retired late last month.

Bharat Khara Assumes Charge as Secretary, Ministry of MSME

- Bharat Khara has assumed charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- A 1995-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, Khara previously served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Praveer Kumar Srivastava takes over as MGL MD
- Mahanagar Gas Ltd has announced that Praveer Kumar Srivastava has taken over as its Managing Director.
- Prior to joining MGL, Mr. Srivastava served as Executive Director, Western Region at GAIL.

Ravi K. takes charge as HAL CMD

- Ravi K. has taken charge as the 22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bengaluru-headquartered Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Prior to this, he was the Director (Operations) at HAL
- Mr. Ravi replaces Dr. D. K. Sunil, who superannuated on April 30, 2026.

Renowned lyricist Prasoon Joshi appointed Prasar Bharati Chairman

- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has appointed noted lyricist, writer and communications expert Shri Prasoon Joshi as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster.
- **Shri Joshi has served as Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), Mumbai since August 2017**
- **About Prasar Bharati**
 - Established under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, and operational since 1997, Prasar Bharati is India's statutory autonomous public service broadcaster. It comprises two major divisions
 - All India Radio (AIR) – one of the largest radio networks in the world, reaching millions across urban and rural India in multiple languages and dialects.
 - Doordarshan (DD) – India's national television broadcaster, offering a wide range of programming including news, education, entertainment, and cultural content.
 - Prasar Bharati has also launched Waves OTT platform for strengthening free-to-air OTT services in the spirit of public broadcasting.

Former Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati appointed CBFC Chairman

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appointed former Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- **Mr. Vempati's appointment as the Chairperson of the CBFC comes days after Prasoon Joshi's appointment as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati.**
- An, alumnus of IIT-Bombay, Mr. Vempati was the CEO of Prasar Bharati from 2017 to 2022.
- He was the youngest and first non-bureaucrat to hold the public office since its creation in 1997. He also held additional charge as CEO of Rajya Sabha from August 2017 to May 2019.

Ashutosh Gowariker appointed Festival Director of 57th International Film Festival of India in Goa

- Noted **filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker has been appointed** as the Festival Director for the 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), to be held in Goa.
- Gowariker is known for films such as Lagaan, Swadesh and Jodha Akbar.
- The IFFI, established in 1952, is one of Asia's premier film festivals and serves as a significant platform for showcasing excellence in global cinema while promoting cultural exchange.

Ramachandra Huddar Appointed AOC Chairperson

- **The** Karnataka government has finally appointed retired Karnataka High Court judge Ramachandra D. Huddar as chairperson for the Admission Overseeing Committee (AOC) for professional courses.
- Judge B. Manohar's term as AOC chairperson had ended in October 2024.
- Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Determination of Fee) Act, 2006, two **committees oversee regulation of admission and determination of fees in professional educational institutions in the State.**
- **Both committees are single-member** entities comprising retired High Court judges.

Who is Péter Magyar, the man who ended Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule in Hungary

- Péter Magyar, Hungary's new prime minister, has risen rapidly from a little-known insider to the leader who unseated Viktor Orbán after 16 years in power
- Magyar, 45, entered the national spotlight in early 2024 after breaking ranks and criticising the system from within, calling it corrupt and unfair to ordinary people.
- **Capital:** Budapest
- **Currency:** Forint (HUF)

Non-binary Indian elected to Scottish Parliament

- **An Indian-origin transgender candidate Q Manivannan has been elected to the Scottish Parliament** despite not having permanent UK residency.
- Q Manivannan, a PhD student represent "diversity in power," is among the newest members of the Scottish Parliament, also referred to as Holyrood.

- A native of India's Tamil Nadu, **Manivannan arrived in Scotland in September 2021 as a PhD student at the University of St Andrews.**

Kuljeet Kaur Marhas Becomes First Indian Woman Fellow

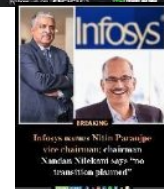
- Kuljeet Kaur Marhas has become the first Indian woman to be elected Fellow of The Meteoritical Society(HQ :USA), one of the world's most prestigious honours in meteoritics and planetary science.
- Prof. Marhas, a professor in the Planetary Science Division at Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, was elected as a Fellow of the society for 2026, joining an elite group of global scientists and researchers recognised for exceptional contributions to the study of planetary materials and the origins of the Solar System.
- Prof. Marhas is internationally known for her pioneering work on short-lived radionuclides and stable isotopes found in extraterrestrial materials.
- Founded in 1933, the Meteoritical Society has elected Fellows for more than nine decades.
- In its 93-year history, Prof. Marhas is only the third Indian scientist to receive the honour, following the late Devendra Lal and JN Goswami.

Jayen Mehta elected first chairman of SPCDF

- Jayen Mehta was unanimously elected as the first chairman of the Sardar Patel Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited (SPCDF).
- The Sardar Patel Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited is a newly formed multi-state cooperative federation in India.
- It was inaugurated on 6 July 2025 by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.

Tripura Appoints Runiel Debbarma as TTAADC Chief Executive Member

- TIPRA Motha party (TMP) appointed Runiel Debbarma as the new chief executive member (CEM), after winning the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) polls for the second time on April 17.
- Debbarma replaced former CEM Purna Chandra Jamatia, while Bhaba Ranjan Reang replaced Jagadish Debbarma as the chairman of TTAADC.



Short news

- Infosys has announced that the Board of Directors has approved **the appointment of Nitin Paranjpe as non-executive Vice Chairman of the Board with immediate effect**, as per the company's regulatory filing .
- Commodore Jasvinder Singh has assumed charge as Director (Strategic Projects) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).
- Former Indian cricketer Ambati Rayudu has been appointed as th e Director of Cricket Operations for the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).



Praveen Sood gets one-year extension as CBI Director.

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director, Praveen Sood, has been given another one-year extension, as approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee.
- The 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was earlier granted one-year extension in May 2025 after completion of his two-year term as CBI chief.
- As per the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act 1946, the CBI Director is appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a 3-members committee consisting of
 - **Prime Minister (Chairperson)**
 - **Chief Justice of India (or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him)**
 - **Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (or the leader of the single largest opposition party in Lok Sabha).**
- **Tenure:** 2 years, extendable to 3 more years (1 year at a time).

- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

Shri Saurabh Vijay assumes charge as Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India

- **Shri Saurabh Vijay assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**
- He is an IAS officer of the 1998 batch of the Maharashtra cadre.
- He was Principal Secretary (Expenditure) in the Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra, prior to joining UIDAI.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

- It is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016 by the Govt. of India under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- Vision: **To empower residents of India with a unique identity and a digital platform to authenticate anytime, anywhere.**
- It is created to issue Unique Identification Numbers (UID), which is also known as 'Aadhaar number' to all the residents of India.
- Under the **Aadhaar Act 2016, UIDAI is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of the Aadhaar life cycle** and the system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals.
- **Composition:** UIDAI consists of a Chairperson, two part-time Members and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is also the Member-Secretary of the Authority.

What is Aadhar?

- It is a 12-digit individual identification number issued by the UIDAI to the residents of India after a certain verification process.
- To get an Aadhaar number, individuals have to provide minimal demographic and biometric information, which include name, date of birth or age, gender, address, mobile number, and e-mail ID (optional), fingerprints, iris scans, and a facial photo.
- It serves as proof of identity and proof of address for residents of India.
- The Aadhaar number is unique for each individual and will remain valid for a lifetime.
- It will help the residents to avail of various services provided by banking, mobile phone connections and other Govt and Non-Govt services in due course.

Raghav Chadha appointed chairman of Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions

- Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who switched from the AAP to the BJP recently, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House.
- After reconstituting the **Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan nominated 10 members of the house to the panel**



What is a Parliamentary Committee?

- A Parliamentary committee is a committee of Members of Parliament (MPs) who are elected or appointed from amongst the members of the house or nominated by the Speaker or Chairman. The concept of Parliamentary committees originated in the British Parliament.
- These committees operate under the direction of the Speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha and present their findings and recommendations to the respective houses.
- The Parliamentary committees draw their authority from the constitution.
- **Article 105:** Powers, privileges, etc., of the houses of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof.
- **Article 118:** Each House of Parliament may make rules for regulations, subject to the provisions of this constitution, its procedure and the conduct of its business.

P. Kumaran takes charge as India's High Commissioner in London

- P. Kumaran assumed charge as India's High Commissioner-designate to the United Kingdom .
- Kumaran served as India's Ambassador to Qatar from 2016 to 2020 and as High Commissioner to Singapore from 2020 to 2023.
- The High Commissioner is the head of a diplomatic mission between countries, while an Ambassador heads a mission between non-states.
- Recently , Vikram Doraiswami has taken over as India's Ambassador to China. (march 2026)



and as High
Commonwealth
Commonwealth
to China. (march

Squadron Leader Saanya Becomes IAF's First Woman Cat-A Instructor

- Squadron Leader Saanya has achieved a historic milestone after becoming the first woman officer in the Indian armed forces to earn the coveted Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification.
- Squadron Leader Saanya is an officer in the Flying branch who was commissioned on June 20, 2015, as part of the 42 SSC (W) FP Course. She was elevated to the rank of Flight Lieutenant in 2017 and promoted to Squadron Leader in 2021.



What is the Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification?

- The IAF follows a structured grading system to assess the instructional proficiency of its pilots.
- Cat-C is assigned to trainee or probationary instructors, Cat-B is meant for those qualified to provide standard flying instruction, while Cat-A represents the highest level, authorising pilots to train other instructors and evaluate advanced flying capabilities.
- Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs) play a vital role in preparing the next generation of fighter pilots.

Sibash Kabiraj Appointed Gurugram Police Commissioner

- The Haryana government has appointed senior IPS officer Sibash Kabiraj as the new Police Commissioner of Gurugram, replacing Vikram Kumar Arora.
- Mr. Arora, who was serving as Gurugram police commissioner since July 2024, has been posted as **Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Administration, Panchkula.**



A. Amalraj takes charge as Chennai Police Commissioner

- Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) A. Amalraj took charge as the Greater Chennai City Police Commissioner.
- He replaced the incumbent **Chennai City Police Commissioner Abhin Dinesh Modak, who has now been posted as ADGP, Crime Branch-CID.**



Manipur Police chief Rajiv Singh appointed as Secretary (Security) in Cabinet Secretariat

- **Manipur Police chief Rajiv Singh has been** appointed as Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- **The Secretary (Security)** is the administrative head of the Special Protection Group (SPG) that provides security to the prime minister and members of his immediate family residing with him at his official residence.
- **A 1993-batch IPS officer of the Tripura** cadre, Mr Singh has been working as the Director General of Police (DGP), Manipur, since June 1, 2023.

HAL pilot becomes first Indian to be named Fellow by Society of Experimental Test Pilots

- **Gp Capt. K.K. Venugopal** has become the first Indian test pilot to be elected as a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP).
- Gp Capt. Venugopal, who is the executive director and Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has been involved in key indigenous programmes like the Saras LTA, LCA Mk I, HTT 40, HJT 36 and LCA Mk IA.
- This honour has been conferred in recognition of his contributions as an ETP throughout his career spanning over 25 years.

Manindra Agrawal Elected Fellow of the Royal Society

- **Manindra Agrawal, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society .** Manindra Agrawal received the Padma Shri in 2013 and the Gödel Prize in 2006.
- The Royal Society is a scientific academy in the United Kingdom and one of the oldest learned societies in the world, founded in 1660.
- Fellowship of the Royal Society is denoted by the post-nominal letters FRS. The society elects fellows for substantial contributions to science, mathematics, engineering, and medicine.

J.S. Bindra takes charge as new chairperson of Visakhapatnam Port Authority

- Jasmeet Singh Bindra, an officer of the 1996 batch of the Indian Railway Traffic Service, assumed charge as the Chairperson of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)
- Prior to his new assignment, **Mr. Bindra served as the Principal Chief Operations Manager of the South East Central Railway at Bilaspur.**

Elias George appointed chairperson of board of directors of Federal Bank

- **Former IAS officer Elias George has been appointed chairperson of the board of directors of Federal Bank Ltd.**
- The appointment is for a period of three years. He had been serving as a board member of the bank for the last two years,
- **Mr. George is a former IAS officer from the 1982 batch. He had stepped down as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Kerala government.**

Hockey India names Frederic Soye as Junior men's chief coach

- **The Junior men's team, Hockey India named Frenchman and former France and Spain coach Frederic Soye as his successor.**
- **REPLACING P.R. Sreejesh**



Davis Cup skipper Rohit Rajpal to be India's chef de mission at Commonwealth Games

- **India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal has been appointed as the country's Chef de Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, scheduled to be held from July 23 to August 2.**
- Ravi Bengani is the Deputy Chef de Mission, while Vandana Rao and Rahul Swami figure **will travel with the Indian contingent as general team managers for the Games,**



Ali Falih Kadhim al-Zaidi took charge as Iraq's Prime Minister

- **Capital:** Baghdad
- **Currency:** Iraqi dinar



President Yoweri Museveni Sworn In for Historic Seventh Term in Uganda

- Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has been sworn in for a historic seventh term, extending his 40-year tenure following a landslide victory
- Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa
- Capital: Kampala**
- Currency: Ugandan shilling (UGX)**



Tushar Kumar made history as the UK's youngest Indian-origin councillor

- Tushar Kumar has made history** by becoming the youngest Indian-origin mayor of the United Kingdom's Elstree & Borehamwood at just 23 years old.
- His mayoral appointment was confirmed during the council's Mayor Making Ceremony held at Fairway Hall in Borehamwood on **13 May**.



Rajesh Kumar Singh Gets Additional Charge as DRDO Chairma

- Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh** was given the additional charge of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman
- He will take up the additional responsibilities from 31 May 2026, after the completion of the tenure of Dr. Samir V. Kamat.
- Before taking over as Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, he served as Director General (Naval Systems and Materials).
- Dr Kamat is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and the Institution of Engineers India (IEI).
- He has received several honours, including the **Distinguished Alumni Award from IIT Kharagpur**, the **Metallurgist of the Year Award from the Ministry of Steel**, and the **Scientist of the Year Award from DRDO**.



Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar Becomes 48th Vice Chief of Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, who spearheaded high-level naval combat readiness during Operation Sindoor, assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.
- Vice Admiral Kochhar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988.
- He took charge as **Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command on May 25, 2024**,

**Y. Balaji Kiran takes additional charge as Chief PRO of South Coast Railway**

- **Y. Balaji Kiran**, a 2013-batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has taken additional charge as the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of the South Coast Railway (SCoR).
- Mr. Balaji Kiran has been serving as the **Deputy General Manager-cum-Secretary to the General Manager of South Coast Railway since November 2025**

**Short news**

- The Department of General Administration has issued orders appointing N.S.K Umesh, Director of General Education, as the Additional Secretary and Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister of Kerala.
- Mohammed Shah, a lawyer of the High Court of Kerala, has been appointed as the Additional Advocate General of Kerala.
- The Karnataka government decided to appoint retired judge P.N. Desai as chairperson of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission.
- In the United States, Kevin Warsh has taken the oath of office as Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board of Governors, succeeding Jerome Powell, who had held the position since 2018.
- Neelam Meena, a 1998-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was appointed the first woman chief electoral officer (CEO) of West Bengal.
- Shri P. Jawahar, (AGMUT Cadre, 2007 Batch), has assumed charge today as the Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). MPEDA is the apex body under the Government of India responsible for the promotion and development of the nation's marine products sector and seafood exports.
- Professor Susan Elias, a computer scientist and academic administrator, is set to become the St Stephen's college's first woman principal from June 1. She succeeds Professor John Varghese.

Books

Book	Author	Remark
The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre	Shri Tushar Mehta	
The Lawful and the Awful	Shri Tushar Mehta	
Apnapan	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Based on 35 Years of Experiences with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
Ruskin Bond	All-Time Favourite Friendship Stories	▪ Published by Penguin Random House India ▪ Features 25 touching tales celebrating friendship, including classics like "The Playing Fields of Simla", "Rusty and Somi", "The Hidden Pool", and "Two Boys and a Tiger".
Love, Anatomy and Coconut Chutney	Dr Priya Mary Jacob and Dr Sajna VM Kutty	A fictional take on some real-life campus stories by two doctors

The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker	P. P. Sathyan	Recalling the role played by Mr Panicker in initiating Kerala's library and literacy movement,
Gangamma Jatara	Peta Srinivasulu Reddy	
Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala: The Heart of Dharma		- By THG Publishing Private Limited - The book captures Dharmasthala and its shrines with meticulous detail.
India's first-ever Olympic gold	K. Arumugam	The book traces the Indian hockey team's journey in 1928

Obituaries

Karnataka minister D Sudhakar dies at 66

- Karnataka Planning and Statistics Minister D Sudhakar died in the early hours of Sunday at the age of 66.
- The four-time MLA was first elected from Challakere in 2004 and has represented the Hiriyr constituency thrice since 2008.



Former Kerala DGP P.J. Alexander passes away at 92

- Former Kerala Director General of Police (DGP) P.J. Alexander passed away, He was 92
- Dr. Alexander became Inspector General (IG) in 1983 and later held important positions such as Crime IG and Director of the Institute of Management in Government (IMG).



Ted Turner, outspoken founder of CNN, dies at 87

- Ted Turner, media pioneer and the outspoken businessman who reshaped global television news by launching CNN in 1980, has died at the age of 87.
- Turner helped revolutionize how audiences consumed news by creating the world's first 24-hour television news network.
- Nicknamed "Captain Outrageous" and "The Mouth of the South,"
- In 1991, Turner was named Time magazine's Man of the Year for "influencing the dynamic of events and turning viewers in 150 countries into instant witnesses of history."



J. Craig Venter, who won the race to sequence the human genome, dies at 79

- J. Craig Venter, who mapped the first draft of the human genome and helped scientists understand how genes shape our lives, died. He was 79.
- The J. Craig Venter Institute, a genomics research group with locations in La Jolla, California, and Rockville, Maryland



Renowned doctor, educator, author Dr. Patnam Siva Rama Krishna Rao dies at 100

- Dr. Patnam Siva Rama Krishna Rao, veteran physician, teacher and author of the widely respected medical textbook 'Differential Diagnoses and Medical Therapeutics', passed away
- He served as an MD examiner for 18 medical colleges and trained nearly 3,000 undergraduate students during his academic career.



Mulayam Singh Yadav's Younger Son, Prateek Yadav, Dies At 38

- Prateek Yadav, son of late Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, died at the age of 38 years in Lucknow.
- The husband of BJP leader Aparna Yadav and half-brother of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav.



BJP veteran and former Uttarakhand CM B C Khanduri passes away

- **Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior BJP leader B C Khanduri passed away**
- **Born** in Dehradun in 1934,
- A former army officer, Khanduri served as Uttarakhand chief minister twice — from 2007 to 2009 and again from 2011 to 2012. He was also a prominent BJP leader and represented the Garhwal constituency **in the 16th Lok Sabha.**
- **Mr. Khanduri, popularly known as “General Sahab”,**

B C Khanduri: Army veteran who helped shape BJP's rise in Uttarakhand, became CM, dies at 91

**K. Balakrishnan, veteran editor of Express, passes away at 87**

- **K. Balakrishnan, former owner and chief editor of Express**, a former Thrissur-based Malayalam daily, passed away
- Founded in 1944 by his father, K. Krishnan, Express became **a respected publication under Mr. Balakrishnan's leadership.**

**Soma Somasegar Passes Away at 59**

- **Indian-origin tech veteran “Soma” Somasegar**, a former Microsoft executive and managing director at Madrona Venture Group, has died at the age of 59
- Somasegar joined Microsoft in January 1989 and spent nearly 27 years at the company. During his tenure, he contributed to 8 releases of Windows
- In 2008, he received the Asian American Engineer **of the Year Award.**

**Toshifumi Suzuki, father of Japan's convenience stores, dies at 93**

- **Toshifumi Suzuki, the founder of Seven-Eleven Japan and widely regarded as the father of Japan's convenience store industry**, died. He was 93
- Born in Nagano in 1932.

**Sonny Rollins, saxophonist and restless genius of jazz, dies at 95**

- **Sonny Rollins**, the legendary "Saxophone Colossus" and one of the last towering giants of the golden bebop era, has died at the age of 95
- Rollins received numerous honors, including several Grammy Awards. In 2010 he was awarded the National **Medal of Arts.**
- **The following year Rollins received a Kennedy Center Honor.**

**Chak De India actor Ramakant Dayama passes away at 69**

- Veteran actor Ramakant Dayama, best known for appearing in films like Chak De India, Crew, Paa, among others, died
- He was 69



AWARDS**NATIONAL****National Panchayat Awards 2025 announced**

- The government has announced the winners of the National Panchayat Awards 2025, with 42 Panchayats from across the country being selected for the honours.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj informed that the award distribution ceremony will be held in New Delhi on the 3rd of next month.
- Karnataka has secured the highest number of awards with six Panchayats being selected, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with five awards each.

**The awards are being conferred under two categories –**

- The Deen Dayal Upadhyay awards recognise outstanding Gram Panchayats for their performance across themes linked to Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty-free livelihoods, health, water sufficiency, sanitation, women-friendly governance and social justice.
- A total of 34 Gram Panchayats from 17 States and Union Territories have been selected under this category.
- Under the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, awards will be given to the best-performing Panchayats at the district, block and gram levels.

Categories of Awards

Awards at National Level will be given to Gram, Block and District Panchayats under following categories namely:

1. **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
Top 3 GPs under each of 9 award themes
2. **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
For top 3 best GPs, BPs and DPs with highest average score under all themes combined
3. **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award**
For 3 GPs for their efforts towards mobilization and augmentation of Own Source of Revenue (OSR)
4. **Climate Action Special Panchayat Award**
For 3 GPs towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions and usage of renewable source of energy
5. **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar**
For 3 Institutions who has provided institutional support to GPs in achieving LSDGs
6. **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
One GP which qualifies and gets shortlisted for National Panchayat Awards during the subsequent years
7. **Best Participant (State/District)**
State/UT with highest percentage of participation from GPs (>90%)

- Eight Panchayats have been selected under this category, including three district Panchayats, two block Panchayats and three Gram Panchayats.
- Further, the Ministry informed that the winning Panchayats will receive financial incentives ranging from 50 lakh rupees to five crore rupees, depending on the category and tier.
- The awards are being given under the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj annually confers the National Panchayat Awards to recognize and incentivise best-performing Panchayats and promote inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development in rural India.

Key Features

- Awards competition structure is now multi-level pyramidal at Block, District, State/UT and National Level.
- All the Panchayats will be ranked based on their performance under each of the following 9 LSGD themes:
- Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods Panchayat

Healthy Panchayat

- Child Friendly Panchayat
- Water Sufficient Panchayat
- Clean and Green Panchayat
- Self-sufficient infrastructure in Panchayat
- Socially Just and Socially secured Panchayat
- Panchayat with Good Governance
- Women-Friendly Panchayat

All the Gram Panchayats have to mandatorily fill the Questionnaires under all 9 award themes.

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar-2025					
Sl. No.	Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Karnataka	1	Mudradi (Hebri, Udupi)	1.00
2	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	2	Chemmulapalli (Khajipet, Y.S.R.)	0.75
3	Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat	Sikkim	3	Gyalshing Omchung (Gyalshing)	0.50

4	Healthy Panchayat	Tripura	1	Kanchanbari (Kumarghat, Unakoti)	1.00
5	Healthy Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Vandse (Kundapura, Udupi)	0.75
6	Healthy Panchayat	Kerala	3	Niranam (Pulikeezhu, Pathanamthitta)	0.25
7	Healthy Panchayat	Odisha	3	Potalampur (Chatrapur, Ganjam)	0.25
8	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Itgaon (Pu) (Bhandara, Bhandara)	1.00
9	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Halanayakanahalli (Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Urban)	0.75
10	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Kerala	3	Ottoor (Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram)	0.50
11	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Maharashtra	1	Khariwali (Khalapur, Raigad)	1.00
12	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Karnataka	2	Madamakki (Hebri, Udupi)	0.75
13	Water-Sufficient Panchayat	Odisha	3	Padua (Champua, Kendujhar)	0.50
14	Clean & Green Panchayat	Mizoram	1	Kawrthah North	1.00
15	Clean & Green Panchayat	Assam	2	Jumarmur (Kathiatoli, Nagaon)	0.375
16	Clean & Green Panchayat	Odisha	2	Hatibandha (Lathikata, Sundargarh)	0.375
17	Clean & Green Panchayat	Chhattisgarh	3	Sardih (Bagicha, Jashpur)	0.25
18	Clean & Green Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	3	Lohardi (Balh, Mandi)	0.25
19	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Kerala	1	Melukavu (Erattupetta, Kottayam)	1.00
20	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Assam	2	Hoogrijan (Tengakhat, Dibrugarh)	0.75
21	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	3	Gundamala (Kotha Patnam, Prakasam)	0.25

22	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Sanoor (Karkal, Udupi)	0.25
23	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Himachal Pradesh	1	Shansha (Lahul, Lahaul and Spiti)	1.00
24	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Maharashtra	2	Chambharli (Khalapur, Raigad)	0.375
25	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Odisha	2	Mandar (Polosara, Ganjam)	0.375
26	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Wagoora (B.K. Pora, Budgam)	0.25
27	Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat	Karnataka	3	Hakladi (Kundapura, Udupi)	0.25
28	Panchayat with Good Governance	Andhra Pradesh	1	Srungavaram (Nathavaram, Visakhapatnam)	1.00
29	Panchayat with Good Governance	Maharashtra	2	Nimbale (Chandwad, Nashik)	0.75
30	Panchayat with Good Governance	Telangana	3	Mothukupalle (Kotepally, Vikarabad)	0.50
31	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	1	Bokkasam Palem (Srikalahasti, Tirupati)	1.00
32	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Jharkhand	2	Jhikarhati East (Pakur, Pakur)	0.75
33	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Telangana	3	Fasalwadi (Sangareddy, Sangareddy)	0.25
34	Women-Friendly Panchayat	Tripura	3	Baikunthapur (Hezamara, West Tripura)	0.25

Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar–2025					
Sl. No.	Award Theme/Category	State/UT	Rank	Name of Awardee Panchayat	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
35	Best District Panchayat	Tripura	1	Sepahijala	5.00
36	Best District Panchayat	Odisha	2	Ganjam	3.00
37	Best District Panchayat	Tamil Nadu	3	Coimbatore	2.00
38	Best Block Panchayat	Kerala	1	Harippad (Alappuzha)	2.00
39	Best Block Panchayat	Andhra Pradesh	3	Kuppam (Chittoor)	1.50
40	Best Gram Panchayat	Assam	1	New Napam (Gabhoru, Sonitpur)	1.50
41	Best Gram Panchayat	Bihar	2	Telcup (Rohtas, Rohtas)	1.25
42	Best Gram Panchayat	Uttar Pradesh	3	Biraharu (Saiyan, Agra)	1.00

President Droupadi Murmu confers National Florence Nightingale Awards to fifteen Nursing professionals

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2026 to the nursing personnel, on the occasion of International Nurses Day, at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- A total of 15 awards are given in the category of Registered Auxiliary Nurses & Midwife, Registered Nurses and Midwife and Registered Lady Visitor.
- The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by nursing personnel to society.
- Each award includes a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a medal symbolising the nation's gratitude for the invaluable service rendered by these health warriors.

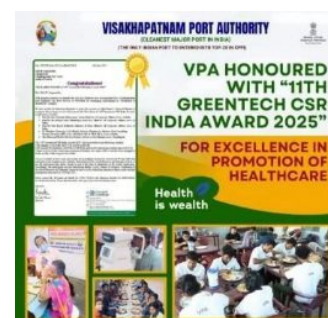


This award is given as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to society.

S. No	Category	State	Name
1	ANM	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Ms Sheela Mondal
2	ANM	Arunachal Pradesh	Ms Iken Lollen
3	ANM	Puducherry	Ms Vidjeyacoumary V
4	ANM	Sikkim	Ms Januka Pandey
5	ANM	West Bengal	Ms Anindita Pramanik
6	LHV	Manipur	Ms Brahmacharimayum Amusana Devi
7	Nurse	Delhi	Major Gen Ignatius Delos Flora
8	Nurse	Delhi	Ms Prem Rose Suri
9	Nurse	Jammu & Kashmir	Dr Tabasum Irshad Handoo
10	Nurse	Karnataka	Dr Nagarajaiah
11	Nurse	Lakshadweep	Ms Shamshad Beegum A
12	Nurse	Maharashtra	Ms Asha Womanrao Bawane
13	Nurse	Mizoram	Ms H Mankimi
14	Nurse	Odisha	Ms Sanjunta Sethi
15	Nurse	Rajasthan	Mr Radhey Lal Sharma

Greentech CSR Awards 2026: Vizag Port clinches two gold trophies

- The Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has won two gold trophies at the Greentech CSR Awards 2026 in Healthcare Promotion and Skill Development categories within Andhra Pradesh.
- The formal award ceremony is scheduled to take place during the Greentech CSR Summit in New Delhi
- In the healthcare sector, key projects included the funding of mid-day meals for students in unaided schools and the installation of high-quality water filter units across multiple locations.
- The port also introduced innovative Arogyam Preventive Health and Safe Drinking Water ATM units to improve public access to clean water.
- The second gold award focused on the port's efforts in skill development.



Kalaburagi artist M.G. Doddamani selected for Lalithakala Academy honorary award

- Kalaburagi-based/Karnataka artist M. G. Doddamani has been selected for the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy's Honorary Award for 2024-25, in recognition of his contribution to the visual arts.
- The award carries a cash prize of ₹50,000.



- An accomplished artist and educator, Mr. Doddamani has been actively engaged in mentoring young artists and contributing to contemporary art discourse.

Chandrashekara Damle chosen for Yakshagana Kalaranga award

- The Yakshagana Kalaranga of Udupi has chosen Chandrashekara Damle, founder of the Tenkuthittu Hitarakshana Vedike, Sullia, for the Yakshagana Kalaranga award, 2026.
- The award, sponsored by the Talluru Family Trust, carries a purse of ₹60,000.
- Mr. Damle is a retired teacher, Yakshagana script writer and 'arthadari', and an amateur Yakshagana artist, .

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addresses President's Colour Award Ceremony of NDRF in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the President's Colour Award Ceremony of the National Disaster Response Force in Ghaziabad as the Chief Guest.
- During the ceremony, the prestigious **President's Colour was conferred upon the NDRF in recognition of its exceptional service, dedication, and contribution to disaster management and rescue operations across the country.**
- The **NDRF, functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, has played a key role in rescue and relief operations during floods, earthquakes, cyclones, landslides, industrial accidents and other emergencies across the country.
- Odisha Police has been conferred the prestigious President's Police Colour, the highest honour granted to a police force or military unit in India. (APRIL 2026)**
- Sikkim Police has been conferred with the President's Police Colour Award, Sikkim has become the 15th state overall and 3rd in the North East to get the prestigious award. (JANUARY 2026)
- Assam Police received the President's Colour Award on May 10, 2022, in Guwahati for exemplary services**, while Haryana Police was conferred the honour on February 14, 2023, at the Haryana Police Academy in Karnal.
- Chhattisgarh Police was also presented the President's Colour Award in Raipur in December 2024** in recognition of its 25 years of service.



INTERNATIONAL

The BAFTA TV Awards 2026

- BAFTA has announced the winners of the 2026 BAFTA Television Awards with P&O Cruises at a ceremony in London

Adolescence wins four BAFTAs

- Public vote for The Celebrity Traitors as the P&O Cruises Memorable Moment Award winner



Category	Winner
Drama series	Code Of Silence (ITV1)
Limited drama	Adolescence (Netflix)
Leading actor	Stephen Graham - Adolescence (Netflix)
Leading actress	Narges Rashidi - Prisoner 951 (BBC One)
Supporting actor	Owen Cooper - Adolescence (Netflix)
Supporting actress	Christine Tremarco - Adolescence (Netflix)
Scripted comedy	Amandaland (BBC One)
Best actor in a comedy	Steve Coogan - How Are You? It's Alan (Partridge) (BBC One)
Best actress in a comedy	Katherine Parkinson - Here We Go (BBC One)
Entertainment	Last One Laughing (Prime Video)
Entertainment performance	Bob Mortimer - Last One Laughing (Prime Video)
Factual entertainment	Go Back To Where You Came From (Channel 4)

Reality	The Celebrity Traitors (BBC One)
International	The Studio (Apple TV)
Daytime	Scam Interceptors (BBC One)
Children's: Scripted	Crongton (BBC iPlayer)
Children's: Non-scripted	World.War.Me (Sky Kids Investigates) (Sky News)
Factual series	See No Evil (Channel 4)
Specialist factual	Simon Schama: The Road To Auschwitz (BBC Two)
News coverage	Channel 4 News: Israel-Iran: The Twelve Day War (Channel 4)
Single documentary	Grenfell: Uncovered (Netflix)
Live event coverage	VE Day 80: A Celebration To Remember (BBC One)
Sports coverage	Uefa Women's Euro 2025 (BBC One)
Short form	Hustle And Run (Channel 4)
P&O Cruises Memorable Moment Award (voted for by the public)	The Celebrity Traitors - Alan Carr wins (BBC One)
Bafta Fellowship	Dame Mary Berry
Special award	Martin Lewis

Cambridge Teacher Awards 2026: Soma Mandal wins South Asia title

- The International Education group at Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge) announced science teacher, Soma Mandal, as the regional winner of the 2026 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards in the South Asia region.
- Soma was selected by the judges for her dedication to empowering pupils to participate in the 'worldwide fight against climate change'.
- Soma is one of nine regional winners of the global Cambridge competition that celebrates the achievements of teachers around the world



Indian Teacher Named Regional Winner of the 2026 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards

Soma Mandal, a science teacher at GBO Gwalior Public School, Gwalior, has been named the South Asia regional winner of the Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards 2026, organised by Cambridge University Press & Assessment. She has been entered in the global public voting stage, where she competes with eight other regional winners for the overall title.

Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2026

- UNESCO has awarded the 2026 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate.
- The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize is the only UN-recognized award honoring individuals or organizations defending press freedom under difficult conditions.
- Established In: 1997



Aim:

- To recognize outstanding contributions to the defence and promotion of press freedom globally.
- To honour journalists who **demonstrate courage in the face of threats, violence, or repression.**

Key Features:

- Global Recognition:** Awarded annually to journalists/organizations worldwide for exceptional commitment to press freedom.
- Independent Jury:** Laureate selected by an international panel of media professionals.
- Symbolic Legacy:** Named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, assassinated for his fearless journalism.

Anand RK, Suparna Sharma Win 2026 Pulitzer Prize

- Indian journalists R.K. Anand and Suparna Sharma have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for their work highlighting digital surveillance and cyber fraud.
- They share the award with Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category.
- The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University, are regarded as among the highest honours in journalism, literature and music composition, recognising excellence in reporting and storytelling.



- The Pulitzer Prizes, established in 1917 by the will of Joseph Pulitzer, are among the most esteemed awards in journalism and the arts.
- These awards span various categories, including journalism, books, drama, and music
- It is administered by Columbia University and named in honor of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer.
- The awards are given in 23 categories, with the majority receiving the \$15,000 cash prize and certificate.
- The Public Service category is the only exception, receiving a gold medal instead

Journalism

- Public Service: **The Washington Post**
- Breaking News Reporting: **Staff of The Minnesota Star Tribune**
- Investigative Reporting: **Staff of The New York Times**
- Beat Reporting: **Jeff Horwitz and Engen Tham of Reuters**
- Feature Writing: **Aaron Parsley of Texas Monthly**
- **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary: Anand RK and Suparna Sharma, contributors, and Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg**

Illustrated Reporting and Commentary: Anand RK and Suparna Sharma, contributors, and Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg

- Books, Drama and Music
- Fiction: **"Angel Down," by Daniel Kraus (Atria Books)**
- Drama: **"Liberation," by Bess Wohl**
- History: **"We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution," by Jill Lepore (Liveright)**
- Biography: **"Pride and Pleasure: The Schuyler Sisters in an Age of Revolution," by Amanda Vaill (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)**
- Memoir or Autobiography: **"Things in Nature Merely Grow," by Yiyun Li (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)**
- Poetry: **"Ars Poeticas," by Juliana Spahr (Wesleyan University Press)**
- Music: **"Picaflor: A Future Myth," by Gabriela Lena Frank**
- Special Citations: **Julie K. Brown**

Indian Express photographer Sankhadeep Banerjee wins ACJ award

- The Indian Express photographer Sankhadeep Banerjee has won the Photojournalism category of the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Journalism Awards 2025, for his image titled "Protestors at rest".
- The photograph, captured in Mumbai last year, shows a bird's-eye view of hundreds of Maratha quota protestors lying across the floor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus at midnight, offering a powerful visual of pause amid a prolonged agitation.
- The awards recognise excellence across reporting, writing and visual storytelling.

The Whitley Award 2026

- **Barkha Subba and Parveen Shaikh have won the prestigious 2026 Whitley Awards from India, for their work on protecting the habitat of the Himalayan Salamander and community led protection of the nesting sites of Indian Skimmer on the Chambal river.**
- Barkha, is a scientific adviser at Darjeeling based Federation of Societies for Environmental Protection will lead the first coordinated grassroots effort to secure the future of the Himalayan salamander in Darjeeling.
- **Endemic to India, Nepal and Bhutan, the Himalayan salamander, which can grow up to 17 cm in length and live for up to 11 years.**



- Conservation Status: **IUCN: Vulnerable.**

Parveen was recognised for her community-led “Guardians of the Skimmer” initiative on the Chambal River.

- Once widely distributed across **Southeast Asia**, the **Indian Skimmer** has **disappeared from most of its historic range** amid the large-scale degradation of river habitats.
- IUCN Red List Status:** Endangered



About Whitley Awards

- It is often called as the “Green Oscars,”
- It recognises grassroots conservation leaders in the Global South.
- It is given by the UK charity Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).
- It provides winners with £50,000 in project funding over one year to scale up local solutions to biodiversity loss.

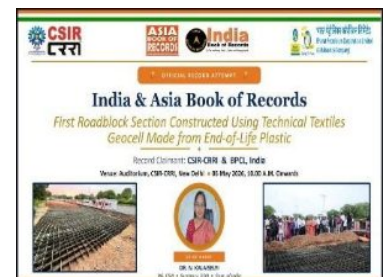
Andaman sets Guinness World Record by unfurling largest underwater national flag

- The Andaman and Nicobar administration set a new Guinness World Record by unfurling the world’s largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar beach.
- The massive Tricolour, measuring approximately 60 by 40 metres, was deployed beneath the sea in a complex, tightly coordinated operation involving multiple agencies and trained divers at Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island).



CSIR-CRRI and BPCL Received India Book of Records Asia Book of Records Recognition for Innovative Use of End-of-Life Plastic in Road Infrastructure

- CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), has been recognized by the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records** for establishing the record titled “**First Roadblock Section Constructed Using Technical Textile Geocell Made from End-of-Life Plastic.**”
- The record recognition by Asia Book of Records acknowledges the novelty and impact of this first-of-its-kind demonstration in road engineering.
- The recognized technology involves the development and application of technical textile geocells manufactured from processed end-of-life plastic, offering an innovative pathway for converting difficult-to-manage plastic waste into value-added infrastructure materials.
- This initiative addresses two critical national priorities: sustainable waste management and resilient road construction.



India receives two Labbaytum Awards for Haj coordination and communication

- For the first time**, the Indian Haj Mission has received two prestigious Labbaytum Awards from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for excellence in Haj coordination and communication.
- The core phase of Haj 2026 reflects the seamless coordination between the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Haj Committee of India, and the Indian Haj Mission, led by India’s Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Consul General in Jeddah.**



PM Modi Receives FAO Agricola Medal

- The Prime Minister was recently conferred with the prestigious FAO Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.
- Prime Minister received the award from Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director General of FAO.**
- It is the highest honour conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.**



- It is awarded to **distinguished individuals who have played an exceptional role in advancing efforts toward global food security, improved nutrition and agricultural development.**
- It is considered one of the highest honours granted by the Organization in recognition of outstanding leadership and tangible contributions in these fields

Food and Agriculture Organization

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **It is the oldest permanent specialized agency of the UN. FAO was founded on October 16, 1945,** when its constitution was signed in Canada's Quebec City by 34 countries.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.
- **Mandate:** To improve nutrition, increase agricultural productivity, raise the standard of living in rural populations, and contribute to global economic growth.
- The FAO also collaborated with the United Nations to establish the World Food Programme (WFP) to distribute surplus food to those in need.
- **Members:** It currently has 195 members – 194 countries and the European Union. (India is a founding member of FAO).
- **It is governed by the biennial FAO conference, in which each member country, as well as the EU, is represented.**
- **Funding:** FAO receives its funding from its member countries.
- **Reports published by the FAO:** The State of the World's Forests (SOFO), The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI).

Sweden awards PM Modi Royal Order of the Polar Star

- The Prime Minister was conferred with Sweden's highest honor for a foreign head of government, **the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross'.**
- **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden conferred upon PM**
- **This is Prime Minister Modi's 31st international honour.**
- The Royal Order of the Polar Star (Nordstjärneorden) is a prestigious Swedish order of chivalry.
- It is the **premier state distinction used by the Scandinavian nation to honor foreign heads of government, royalty, and individuals for outstanding public service,** breakthrough institutional achievements, and the successful execution of public duties that advance Swedish interests globally.
- **Institution:** The order was established on April 17, 1748, by King Fredrik I of Sweden.
- **The Enlightenment Focus:** It was historically dedicated to rewarding civic merit, science, literature, and institutional duty—symbolizing the Polar Star piercing through the darkness of ignorance.
- **Modern Reforms:** Following structural changes to Swedish orders in 1975, it became exclusively reserved for foreign citizens and stateless individuals who have rendered exceptional service to Sweden.
- Prime Minister Modi became the first Asian leader to receive the honor, highlighting India's rising global stature.



BWSSB among world's top 5 water utilities at Madrid's Global Water Summit 2026

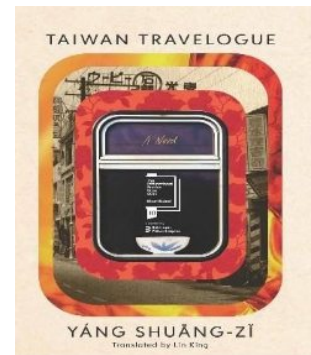
- The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been recognised as one of the top five water utilities at the **Global Water Summit 2026 being held in Madrid, Spain.**
- "BWSSB was listed among the top five "Utility of the Year" category, considered one of the highest recognitions in the international water sector.



- Its flagship Cauvery Stage-V Drinking Water Project, implemented to address Bengaluru's growing water demand, also secured a place among the Top 5 global projects under the "Water Project of the Year" category,
- **The recognition was based on the Board's performance over the past three years in areas including urban water supply, sanitation management, technology adoption, infrastructure expansion, and sustainable utility governance.**

'Taiwan Travelogue' wins International Booker Prize 2026

- Taiwan Travelogue by Yáng Shuāng-zǐ, **translated by Lin King won the 2026 International Booker Prize.**
- Taiwanese writer Yáng Shuāng-zǐ's Taiwan Travelogue, translated from the Mandarin Chinese by Lin King.
- **The novel is Yáng Shuāng-zǐ's first to be translated into English** and the first translation from the Mandarin Chinese to win the International Booker Prize.
- This is also the second year in a row that the independent press, And Other Stories, has taken home the prize, following Heart Lamp last year.



About International Booker Prize

- It is awarded annually.
- It was **established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.**
- It celebrates the best works of long-form fiction or collections of short stories translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- It recognises the vital work of translators, with the £50,000 prize money divided equally between authors and translators.
- **In addition, shortlisted authors and translators each receive £2,500.**
- This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world.

Indian Winners of International Booker Prize

- **Geetanjali Shree – Tomb of Sand (2022)**, translated by Daisy Rockwell. It was the first Hindi work to win this prize.
- **Banu Mushtaq – Heart Lamp (2025)**, translated by Deepa Bhasthi which was the first Kannada work to win this prize.

Global Travel Market selects Andhra Pradesh as 'Best Tourism Promotion State'

- The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department has been selected as the 'Best Tourism Promotion State' by the Global Travel Market (GTM 2026), one of South India's largest travel and trade expos.
- **As part of this recognition, Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh has been officially invited to receive the 'Metro Expedition – GTM Tourism Award 2026',**
- The award is being seen as recognition of the Andhra Pradesh government's aggressive tourism promotion strategy, innovative reforms and large-scale branding initiatives.

Anantapur social worker receives Jal Champion Award 2026

- Social worker Bisathi Bharath from Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh has been honoured with **the prestigious Jal Champion Award 2026 by WaterAid International**
- in recognition of his outstanding contribution towards Water Conservation, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) initiatives, and promoting safe drinking water awareness among communities and youth across India.
- **Mr. Bharath has actively worked at the grassroots level, inspiring thousands of young minds towards environmental protection, water conservation, sanitation awareness, and sustainable community practices.**



Indian-Origin Scientists Receive Order of Mapungubwe

- Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Professor Keertan Dheda, **two Indian-origin public health scientists, received South Africa's highest civilian honour, the Order of Mapungubwe in Pretoria.**

- President Cyril Ramaphosa conferred the award during a formal ceremony.
- The Order of Mapungubwe is a **South African national honour awarded to citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement.**
- The award has different classes, including Gold and Silver, and it recognises contributions with direct benefit to South Africa and the wider global community.
- Professor Salim Abdool Karim received the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for work in medical science and public health.**
 - His research has focused on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemiology, and his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic formed part of the citation.
- Professor Keertan Dheda received the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver for research in pulmonology.**
 - His work has covered tuberculosis and drug-resistant respiratory infections, with applications in clinical and public health management.



Cannes 2026: Nepal's 'Elephants in the Fog' creates history, wins Un Certain Regard Jury Prize

- The 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival concluded on May 23, at the Grand Theatre Lumiere, awarding the best from the 22 films.
- The Palme d'Or went to Cristian Mungiu's drama Fjord, starring Sebastian Stan and Renate Reinsve, marking the Romanian director's second Palme d'Or in 19 years.**
- In 2007, he won the coveted prize for 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days.
- Minotaure** — Grand Prix Russian director and screenwriter Andrey Zvyagintsev received the Grand Prix Award for Minotaure. The award was presented by Zoe Saldaña during the ceremony.
- Directorial duo Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi and Paweł Pawlikowski jointly took home the **Best Director Prize for La Bola Negra and Fatherland, respectively.**
- German director Valeska Grisebach's The Dreamed Adventure won the **Jury Prize**
- In the festival's other award sections, Sandra Wollner's Everytime won the Un Certain Regard prize, and **the Nepali feature film Elephants in the Fog, written and directed by debut filmmaker Abinash Bikram Shah, scooped the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize.**
- Marine Atlan's La Gradiva bagged the Grand Prize in Critics' Week, and Clio Barnard's I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning took home the audience award in Directors' Fortnight.
- Palme d'Or** - Fjord, Cristian Mungiu
- Grand Prize** - Minotaur, Andrei Zviagintsev
- Best Actress** - Virginie Efira and Tao Okamo for All Of A Sudden
- Best Director (tie)** - Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi, La Bola Negra
Paweł Pawlikowski, Fatherland
- Jury Prize** - The Dreamed Adventure, Valeska Grisebach
- Best Screenplay** - Emmanuel Marre for A Man Of His Time (Notre Salut)
- Best Actor** - Emmanuel Macchia, Valentin Campagneshare for Coward
- Other awards** - Camera d'Or
Ben'Imana, Clémentine Dusabejambo
- Short Film Palme d'Or** - For The Opponents, Federico Luis.

India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission honoured with 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award

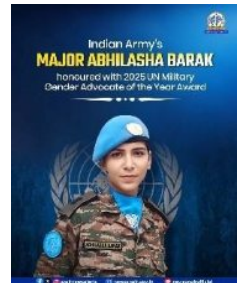
- India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission has been **honoured with the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).**
- India's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Vinay Kwatra,** accepted the award on behalf of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) at the AIAA ASCEND 2026 Conference.



- On 23rd August in 2023, Chandrayaan-3 made history as the first spacecraft to achieve a soft landing near the Moon's south pole- a region of immense scientific and strategic importance that had never before been explored at the surface level.
- The Goddard Astronautics Award is the highest honour bestowed by AIAA for notable achievements in astronautics.
- The award was established to commemorate Robert H. Goddard, a pioneering rocket scientist and engineer whose early liquid rocket engine experiments laid the foundation for modern astronautics.

Major Abhilasha Barak to receive 2025 UN military gender advocate award

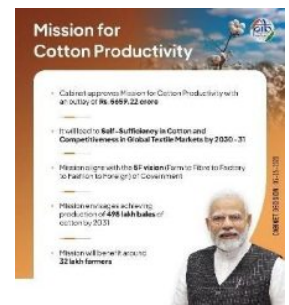
- Major Abhilasha Barak, an Indian peacekeeper serving at the United Nations' mission in Lebanon, has been awarded the prestigious military gender advocate award for her advocacy and work in women's sensitivity training.
- Barak has been honoured with the 2025 United Nations **Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award** for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation.
- She is also the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army.
- With this recognition, Major Barak becomes the third Indian peacekeeper to receive the honour. Earlier, Suman Gawani was awarded in 2019 for her service with the UN Mission in South Sudan, while Radhika Sen received the award in 2023 for her work with the UN Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Currently, she is serving at the Indian Battalion as the Commander of the Female Engagement Team (FET) in UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). She will be formally awarded on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, commemorated annually on May 29.
- The award, instituted in 2016 by the Office of Military Affairs under the UN Department of Peace Operations, recognises a military peacekeeper who has shown exceptional commitment to promoting gender equality and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



National

Mission for Cotton Productivity

- The Centre approved Rs 5,659.22 crore for the Mission for Cotton Productivity for five years (2026–27 to 2030–31). The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- It aims to provide “the best of science & technology support” to farmers and “ensure a steady supply of quality cotton” for the Indian textile industry.
- Aligned with the 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) of the Government for the textile sector, this scheme will help in increasing the incomes of farmers and ensure a steady supply of quality cotton for rejuvenating India's traditional textile sector.



The mission focuses on:

- (i) Development of seeds that are high-yielding, climate resilient, and pest-resistant
- (ii) Upscaling of cotton production technologies like High Density Planting System (HDPS), Closer Spacing (CS), Integrated Cotton Management, and promotion of Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton
- (iii) Promoting modernization of ginning and processing factories, including the adoption of best processing practices.
- (iv) Modern, standardized, and accredited cotton testing infrastructure to ensure reliable quality assessment and global benchmarking.
- (v) Branding and creating premium value for cotton to position it as a globally trusted product under the Kasturi Cotton Bharat initiative
- (vi) Digital integration of mandis, enabling transparent price discovery, direct market access, and incorporating e-platforms to empower farmers
- (vii) Promotion of circular economy by focussing on cotton waste recycling to enhance resource efficiency, reduce environmental footprint, and generate additional value streams for the industry

- (viii) Diversification of India's fibre base by including natural fibres like flax, ramie, sisal, milkweed, bamboo and banana to complement cotton and align India's textile sector with evolving global demand patterns.
- The Mission envisages to accomplish the production of 498 lakh bales (170 kg lint each) of cotton by enhancing lint productivity from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha by 2031, .
- According to the Ministry of Agriculture, India's cotton production stood at 290.91 lakh bales during 2025-26, with Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka and Rajasthan the top five producers in the country.

MSP for Cotton

- The Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI) has been nominated by the Government of India for undertaking **MSP operations in the event when prices of seed cotton (kapas) fall below the MSP level for procuring kapas offered by the cotton farmers.**
- **MSP is the price at which the government is supposed to procure/buy that crop from farmers if the market price falls below it. MSPs provide a floor for market prices and ensure that farmers receive a certain "minimum" remuneration so that their costs of cultivation (and some profit) can be recovered.**
- **The MSPs are announced by the Union government on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).** CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It is an advisory body whose recommendations are not binding on the Government.
- The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane

Kasturi Cotton Bharat

- Kasturi Cotton Bharat focuses on three pillars: Traceability, Certification, and Branding to enhance the value of Indian cotton.
- The objective is to enhance the global perception and value of Indian cotton by positioning 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat' as a high-quality, competitively priced product in both domestic and international markets.
- Kasturi Cotton Bharat is a certification and branding initiative for lint cotton bales after processing.

End of an era: VB—G RAM G to replace MGNREGA on July 1 as Centre notifies rolloutThe Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB—G RAM G Act 2025, which aims to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 and provides for a new rural job guarantee programme, will become effective on July 1, 2026.

- The Union Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification to this effect .
- The more than two-decade-old MGNREGA, enacted by the UPA government, will thus cease to exist from July 1.
- VB G RAM G aims to provide a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work, with the "objective to promote empowerment, growth, convergence and saturation for a prosperous and resilient rural Bharat".
- Unlike the MGNREGS, where the Centre paid 100 per cent of the wage bill, VB G RAM G is a centrally sponsored scheme with a fund-sharing ratio of 60-40 between the Centre and states for all states, 90-10 for Northeast states, Himalayan states, and Union Territories with a legislature, and 100 per cent central share for UTs without a legislature.

Cabinet clears amendment to make insult to Vande Mataram a punishable offence

- The Union Cabinet gave the go-ahead to amend The Prevention of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971 to make any insult or obstruction to the singing of National Song Vande Mataram a punishable offence.
- At present, insults to the National Anthem Jana Gana Mana, the National Flag and the Constitution of India is mentioned in the 1971 Act and is punishable by an imprisonment of up to three years or a fine or both.
- Section 3 of the Act states that "whoever intentionally prevents the singing of the Indian National Anthem or causes disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."
- Vande Mataram, the salutation of India imagined as a mother was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published with his novel Anandamath in the early 1880s.



- In 1937, leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC), which was leading the national movement, decided to use the first two stanzas at its gatherings, and the Constitution of the modern Republic of India accorded it the status of the National Song.

Cabinet Approves Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0

- The Union Cabinet approved the fifth edition of its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, under which it will provide additional credit guarantees to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and non-MSMEs, including airline companies.
- The total outlay of the scheme is expected to be ₹18,100 crore, and it is expected to generate additional credit flows worth ₹2.25 lakh crore
- The scheme aims to enable businesses to tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict,”
- Additionally, this is expected to help businesses maintain their operations, protect jobs, and sustain supply chains.
- The scheme is open to MSMEs, non-MSMEs with existing working capital limits, and scheduled passenger airlines that have outstanding credit facilities as of March 31, 2026, as long as their loan accounts are not overdue.
- Under the scheme, the government will provide 100% coverage to MSMEs and 90% to non-MSMEs and airlines for loans they take for additional credit up to 20% of the peak working capital utilised during the fourth quarter of 2025-26 (capped at Rs.100 crore).
- For airlines, the loans can be for up to 100% of their peak working capital, but this is capped at ₹1,500 crore per borrower, subject to satisfying certain specific conditions.



Cabinet panel clears Railway Ministry's three multitracking projects in six States

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved three multitracking projects of the Railway Ministry with a total cost of ₹23,437 crore.
- These projects will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, increasing the existing railway network by about 901 km.
- The projects that include Nagda–Mathura 3rd and 4th Line, Guntakal–Wadi 3rd and 4th Line as well as Burhwal–Sitapur 3rd and 4th Line will be completed up to 2030-31.
- The projects are planned under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations.



Union Cabinet raises sugarcane FRP by ₹10 per quintal

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, increased the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for the sugar season 2026-27 (October-September) by ₹10 for a quintal from the last crop year.
- The new price will be ₹365 per quintal for a basic sugar recovery rate of 10.25%.
- The FRP is higher by 100.5% over production cost, the government claimed.
- The FRP for sugar season 2026-27 is 2.81% higher than current sugar season 2025-26 .
- **What is Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)?**
- **FRP is the minimum price sugar mills must legally pay to sugarcane farmers. It ensures fair compensation and is a statutory mechanism under central government policy.**
- **The payment of FRP across the country is governed by the Sugarcane Control order, 1966 which mandates payment within 14 days of the date of delivery of the cane.**
- Mills have the option of signing an agreement with farmers, which would allow them to pay the FRP in installments.
- Delays in payment can attract an interest up to 15 per cent per annum, and the sugar commissioner can recover unpaid FRP as dues in revenue recovery by attaching properties of the mills.



FRP fixed by:

- Recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
- Final decision rests with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

Silver Jubilee of PM Gram Sadak Yojana and launch of PMGSY-IV to be held in Sehore

- The silver jubilee celebrations marking 25 years of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the national launch of PMGSY-IV held in Bhairunda of Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district.

About PMGSY

- Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development
- Type: Launched in December 2000 as Centrally sponsored scheme

Objective:

- To provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected rural habitations as a strategy for poverty alleviation
- 62,500 km of all-weather roads to be constructed
- Bridges will be built/modernized along the alignment of these roads
- **Habitation Population Criteria for PMGSY:** 500+ in Plains; 250+ in North-Eastern & Hill States and 100+ in LWE Affected Districts as per Census 2011.

Salient Features of PMGSY:

Institutional Arrangements:

- National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) provides technical & managerial support.
- State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) for state-level implementation.
- Decentralized Planning: Full involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, MLAs, and MPs.

Monitoring and Grievance Redressal Systems:

- **OMMAS (Online Management, Monitoring, and Accounting System):** Web-based system developed by C-DAC for PMGSY.
- **eMARG Platform:** Uses geo-tagged photos from its mobile app to verify road maintenance work for payments and monitor contractor performance.
- **Grievance Redressal:** "Meri Sadak" App to address concerns related to slow pace, abandoned work or bad quality.

Use of New materials/Green technologies:

- Fly Ash, Lime, Polymers etc. for soil recognized
- Portland Cement Concrete for White topping
- Cold Mix Asphalt for lower PM10 emissions and reduced energy consumption than Hot Mix Asphalt.
- Waste Plastic as a modifier for bituminous hot mixes.
- Coir geo-textiles are used for improvement of sub-grade soil strength in road pavements and stabilization of side slopes.
- Use of Iron, Copper and Steel slag increases resistance of the road to wear and tear.
- Bioengineering e.g. Jute/Bamboo for slope recognized.

11 Years of Jan Suraksha Schemes

- The three flagship Jan Suraksha Schemes—Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY)—completed 11 years of providing affordable social security.
- The Jan Suraksha Schemes were launched by Prime Minister of India on May 9, 2015, to create a universal social security system for all Indians.
- Aimed primarily at the unorganized sector and vulnerable populations, these schemes provide low-cost life insurance, **accidental insurance, and old-age pension support through a seamless, digitized framework.**



Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- **A one-year life insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh for death due to any reason.**
- **Individual** bank/post office account holders in the age group of 18 to 50 years.
- **Premium:** Highly affordable at Rs. 436 per annum (less than Rs. 2 per day) via auto-debit.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):

- An accidental insurance scheme **providing Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death/total disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.**
- Available to account holders in the age group of 18 to 70 years.
- **Premium:** Extremely low at Rs. 20 per annum (**less than Rs. 2 per month**).

Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- A guaranteed pension scheme for the unorganized sector, providing a monthly pension of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 after age 60.
- Open to bank account holders aged 18 to 40 years who are not income tax payers.
- Benefits: The pension is guaranteed for the subscriber, then the spouse, after which the entire corpus is returned to the nominee.

Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling

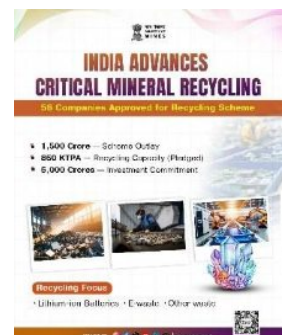
- Recently, the Ministry of Mines has approved 58 companies under the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling as eligible for participation.

About Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling

- **It is part of the** National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals.
- Time Period: The Scheme will have a tenure of six years from Financial Year 2025-26 to Financial Year 2030-31

Features of Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Critical Mineral Recycling

- **Eligible** feedstock is e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste and LIB scraps.
- Expected beneficiaries will be both large, established recyclers, as well as small, new recyclers (including start-ups), for whom one-third of the scheme outlay has been earmarked.
- It is applicable to investments **in new units as well as expansion of capacity and modernization and diversification of existing units.**
- **It provides incentive for the recycling value chain, which is involved in the actual extraction of critical minerals,** and not the value chain involved in only black mass production.
- The incentives include a 20% capital subsidy on plant and machinery for projects that commence production within the stipulated timeframe and an operational subsidy tied to incremental sales.
- The operational support will be provided in tranches 40% in the second year and 60% in the fifth year on meeting specific sales thresholds.
- To ensure wider participation, the total incentive has been capped at ₹50 crore per large entity and ₹25 crore per small **entity, with limits on operating subsidies of ₹10 crore and ₹5 crore, respectively**

**Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA)****As per ED annual report:**

- 54 individuals booked under FEOA
- 21 declared FEOs
- ₹2,178.34 crore assets confiscated

Major names: Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, Sanjay Bhandari, Hajra Iqbal Memon

Who is a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)?**Person:**

- Against whom arrest warrant issued
- Involves ₹100 crore+ offence
- Left India or refuses to return to avoid prosecution

Scheduled Offences

- Counterfeiting currency/stamps
- Cheque dishonour
- Money laundering
- Defrauding creditors
- Legal Framework

Application filed by ED officer under → Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 & Heard by Special Court Procedure under FEOA

1. **Court issues notice to appear**
2. Non-appearance → declared FEO
3. Property attachment
4. Attachment valid for 180 days (extendable)
5. Court formally declares person as FEO

Enforcement Directorate (ED)

- Established: 1956

Functions:**Enforces:**

- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)
- FEMA, 1999

Regulates:

- Foreign exchange
- Cross-border trade
- Investments
- Replaced FERA
- Shift: From criminal penalties → monetary penalties

PMLA, 2002**Objective:**

- Prevent money laundering
- Combat terror financing

Effective: 1 July 2005**Powers to ED:**

- Investigate
- Attach property
- Arrest

Punishment:

- 3–7 years imprisonment
- Up to 10 years (serious cases)

The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026

- The Union Home Ministry notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026 on May 1, 2026, to modernize the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) framework.
- The 2026 Amendment is a comprehensive overhaul of the Citizenship Rules, 2009.
- It transitions the management of OCI status from a hybrid paper-and-ink system to a fully digital framework, introducing electronic OCI (e-OCI) registrations to streamline overseas Indian identity services.
- Authority: **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.

Key Features:

- **Ban on Dual Passports for Minors:** A new proviso to Rule 3 mandates that a minor child cannot hold the passport of any other country at any time while holding an Indian passport.

- Introduction of e-OCI: Applicants can now be issued an electronic OCI registration (Form XXIX) alongside or instead of physical cards.
- All OCI applications, including registration (Form XXVIII), renunciation (Form XXXI), and cancellations, must now be filed electronically via the designated portal (ociservices.gov.in).
- Applicants must consent to share biometric data, which will be used for automatic enrollment in Fast Track

Year	Amendment Act	Sanctioned Strength (Excluding CJI)	Total Strength
1950	Constitution of India	7	8
1956	Original Act of 1956	10	11
2026	Proposed Bill	37	38

Immigration Programmes (e-gates) at airports.

- If an application is rejected, the challenge is now handled by an authority one rank higher than the original decision-maker, ensuring a fair right to be heard.

CJI Surya Kant announces 'One Case One Data' initiative, launches AI chatbot 'Su Sahay'

- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant announced the launch of a major digital initiative aimed at strengthening judicial data integration and improving public access to court services across the country.
- The "One Case One Data" initiative, will integrate multi-level information from all the high courts, district courts, and taluka courts into a unified system.
- the 'one case one data' initiative with multi-level information of all high courts, district and taluka court details embedded.
- The CJI also announced the launch of "Su Sahay", an Artificial Intelligence-powered assistance chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website to facilitate easier access to justice and court-related services for litigants.
- The chatbot has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.
- This will provide a simple and convenient interface for citizens to seek front-end guidelines and guidance in accessing essential services of the Supreme Court



Cabinet approves four more judges for Supreme Court

- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the number of judges of the Supreme Court from 34, which includes the Chief Justice of India, to a total 38.
- The top court currently has a sanctioned strength of 33 judges, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- A Bill would be brought in the next session of Parliament to raise this strength by four.
- The government's approval for more judges on the Supreme Court is after a six-year hiatus.
- The Parliament had last amended Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 in 2019, raising the sanctioned strength from 31 to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- The Cabinet approval would be followed by an amendment to the 1956 Act.
- Article 124(1) gives Parliament the sole authority to increase the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court.
- Once the amended law comes into force, the Supreme Court Collegium would recommend judges



to the government for appointment to the top court.

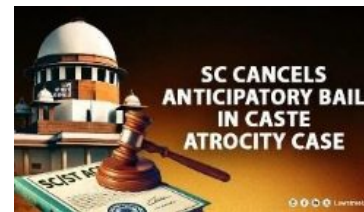
The strength of the Supreme Court has been periodically increased to keep pace with the growing legal workload:

Procedure for Increasing Strength & Appointment

- **Legislative Amendment:** Since the limit is set by the 1956 Act, any increase requires an Amendment Bill to be passed by both Houses of Parliament (Simple Majority) and receive Presidential Assent.
- **The Proposal:** Usually, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) writes to the government citing the backlog of cases and the need for more benches.

Appointment (Memorandum of Procedure):

- Once the strength is increased, the Supreme Court Collegium (consisting of the CJI and the four senior-most judges) recommends names for the new posts.
- The names are sent to the Union Ministry of **Law and Justice, which forwards** them to the Prime Minister and the President.
- The President of India **officially appoints the judges under Article 124(2)**.

**Supreme Court on SC/ST Act Bail Bar**

- The Supreme Court in May 2026 held that the statutory bar under Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, cannot be applied mechanically to deny anticipatory bail.**
- The Supreme Court of India** has held that courts cannot mechanically reject anticipatory bail pleas merely because provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act have been invoked.
- The Court stated that judges must examine the FIR, the supporting material, and the nature of allegations before deciding whether a prima facie offence under the Act exists.
- Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, excludes the application of **Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in cases where the Act is attracted.**
- Anticipatory bail is a pre-arrest legal remedy under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.**

**Supreme Court Proposes Permanent Woman Vice-President Post in SCBA**

- The Supreme Court urged the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to consider creating a permanent vice-president (VP) post for women from 2027 onwards, adding that the post of secretary remain reserved for women in the upcoming Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) elections.**
- A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice K V Viswanathan said the proposed reform could eventually **pave the way for the apex lawyers' body to have its first woman president.**
- This will empower women and they will rise one day to become the SCBA President**

Supreme Court Bar Association

- The Supreme Court Bar Association is the recognised association of advocates practising before the Supreme Court of India.
- Its office-bearer posts include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and members of the executive committee.

The Apnoea Test

- The Supreme Court of India has agreed to examine a medical plea alleging that the apnoea test, used as a primary assessment for brain death in Kerala, may be medically inconclusive and potentially dangerous.
- The apnoea test is a mandatory clinical procedure used to determine if a patient is brain-dead (death by neurologic criteria).
- It specifically checks if the brainstem—the part of the brain that controls automatic functions like breathing—is still functioning.

SC to examine plea against apnoea test for brain death**Aim:**

- The primary goal is to see if the body can trigger a breath on its own when carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the blood rise to a specific high point.
- If the patient does not attempt to breathe even when CO₂ is very high, it indicates that the brainstem has permanently lost its function.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act

- The Supreme Court of India observed that the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act needs further amendment to address the rising cases of unwanted pregnancies, especially among minors.**
- The MTP Act is a crucial social and healthcare legislation in India that provides a legal framework for the termination of certain pregnancies by registered medical practitioners.

- **It balances the reproductive rights of women with the safety of medical procedures**, moving away from the restrictive criminal provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Origin:

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was first enacted in 1971 based on the recommendations of the Shantilal Shah Committee.
- The **Act was significantly updated via the MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021**, which came into force to address modern reproductive rights and technological advancements in fetal diagnostics.

Aim:

- The primary objective of the Act is to expand access to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian, or social grounds.
- **It aims to reduce maternal mortality caused by unsafe abortions and ensure the dignity, autonomy, and confidentiality of women seeking termination.**

Key Features (As per 2021 Amendment):

Upper Gestation Limit:

- **Increased from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women**, including survivors of rape, victims of incest, minors, and differently-abled women.
- The limit remains 20 weeks for general cases.

Medical Opinion Requirements:

- Up to 20 weeks: Opinion of one registered medical practitioner
- 20 to 24 weeks: Opinion of two registered medical practitioners
- **Exception for Fetal Abnormalities:** The 24-week upper gestation limit does not apply if a state-level Medical Board diagnoses substantial fetal abnormalities.
- **The ground for termination due to failure of contraceptive device or method has been extended to unmarried women and their partners (previously only married women).**

Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- **Questions have been raised regarding whether Prime Minister on public media violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by using state resources for partisan messaging.**
- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to regulate the conduct of political parties and candidates during elections.
- It is **not a statutory law (passed by Parliament) but a consensus-based document** that derives its authority from the EC's constitutional powers under Article 324.
- **Kerala Beginnings (1960):** The concept originated during the Kerala Assembly elections when the state administration drafted a code for political parties.
- **The ECI formalized and circulated the code nationwide during the 1968-69 general elections.**
- **Part VII was added specifically to regulate the Party in Power**, ensuring they do not use their official position for an unfair electoral advantage.
- **The Seshan Era (1991):** Former Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan enforced the MCC with unprecedented strictness, transforming it into a powerful deterrent against electoral malpractice.

Did the PM's broadcast violate MCC?



Aim:

- The primary objective of the MCC is to ensure Level Playing Field for all candidates.
- **It seeks to prevent the ruling party from misusing state machinery and** to ensure that election campaigns are conducted in a peaceful, orderly, and ethical manner without inciting communal or personal animosity.

Key Features:

- Parties and candidates are prohibited from activities that aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred between different castes and communities.
- **Ministers shall not combine their official visits with electioneering work.**

- **Public resources, including government transport (aircraft, vehicles), and personnel, must not be used for campaign purposes.**
- **Misuse of publicly funded media** (Doordarshan, AIR, etc.) for partisan coverage or highlighting government achievements to influence voters is strictly prohibited.
- **Parties must inform local police of the venue** and time of any proposed meeting to allow for proper security and traffic arrangements.
- **No advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer** in newspapers or other media to influence prospects of the ruling party.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted permission for the erection of major equipment, including Reactor Pressure Vessels and Steam Generators, for Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP).
- **The AERB is the national nuclear regulatory body of India.**
- It functions as an independent authority to oversee and enforce safety and regulatory standards for all nuclear and radiation-related activities in the country.
- **Founded:** November 15, 1983.
- **Authority:** Constituted by the President of India under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

Key Functions:

- Lays down safety standards for nuclear and radiation facilities.
- Issues permissions for various stages of nuclear projects, such as First Pour of Concrete (FPC) and Equipment Erection.
- Conducts multi-tier safety assessments of the design and civil construction of nuclear plants.
- **Enforces provisions for radiological protection in both DAE and non-DAE (industrial and medical) radiation installations.**
- **Assists the Government in framing rules and regulations under the Atomic Energy Act and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**
- Monitors the performance and safety of operating plants through the Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP).

Bureau of Indian Standards publishes standards for assistive technologies under NLEAP initiative

- The Bureau of Indian Standards BIS has published several standards for medical assistive technologies as a **part of the National List of Essential Assistive Products NLEAP initiative brought about by Indian Council of Medical Research.**
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published six new standards for assistive products**, ranging from elbow crutches to portable wheelchair ramps, as the country moves to align its disability-aid industry with international benchmarks.
- **The NLEAP document aims to serve as a guideline for policymakers, healthcare providers, and the concerned stakeholders for provision of assistive products as well as support the development of assistive technologies across the country.**

NITI Aayog Launches Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal to Strengthen Real-Time Governance and Last-Mile Delivery

- **NITI Aayog launched the Central Prabhari Officer (CPO) Portal, which is aimed at strengthening real-time governance, improving coordination among stakeholders and accelerating last-mile delivery under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme (ADP/ABP).**
- The portal was formally launched by **Ms. Nidhi Chhibber, CEO, NITI Aayog.**
- The platform enables **real-time submission and tracking of field observations**, ensuring that insights from the ground directly inform policy actions and administrative interventions.



- CPO Portal is designed as an advanced digital platform to capture real-time observations, streamline communication and enable faster administrative response across all levels of governance.

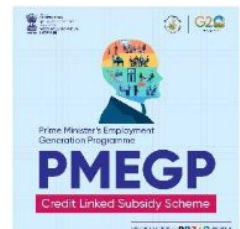
Swasth Bharat Portal

- Recently, the Government of India has launched the Swasth Bharat Portal.
- **It is a unified platform designed to integrate fragmented health programme systems across the country.**
- To eliminate duplicate data entry, streamline reporting, and support faster decision-making across health programmes.
- To provide easy access, along with data visualisation tools and the use of data at the local level for monitoring and evidence-based planning.
- It is designed to evolve into a comprehensive and interoperable digital health ecosystem, further integrating with national registries such as the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry.
- The portal is ABDM-compliant and supports integration with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), enabling seamless and secure exchange of patient health records.



Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

- The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) **has facilitated the establishment of more than 4 lakh micro-enterprises and generated employment for over 36 lakh people during the 15th Finance Commission cycle.**



About Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme

- It is a central sector scheme launched in August 2008.
- It is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- It aims to create self-employment opportunities for first-generation entrepreneurs and promote sustainable livelihoods in the manufacturing and services sectors, especially in rural areas.
- Implemented By: The scheme is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- Eligibility for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme
- Any individual above 18 years of age is eligible.
- There will be no income ceiling for assistance for setting up projects under PMEGP.
- Beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification for setting up of projects costing above Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the business/service sector.
- Self Help Groups (including those belonging to BPL provided that they have not availed benefits under any other Scheme).
- Existing units that have already availed government subsidy under any other scheme of the Government of India or State Government are not eligible.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram

- **Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 Guidelines.**
- It was **launched in February, 2013** under the National Rural Health Mission.
- It is a program to improve the overall quality of life of children and provide comprehensive care to all the children in the community.
- This program **involves screening of children from birth to 18 years of age for four Ds- Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Development delays.**
- Under this programme, its screening spans 32 common health conditions for early detection and free treatment and management, including surgeries at tertiary level.



Major strategies followed are

- **Comprehensive newborn screening** – at delivery points to screen birth defects of the newborn
- **Community screening at the Anganwadi and Government schools for children in the age group 0 -18 years** in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Education

- **Screening of the newborns/infants by ASHA** through the HBNC/HBYC program as a part of Early Childhood Development
- Therapeutic management of the identified children at the District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC)...

Key Feature of RBSK 2.0

- It has **expanded screening scope, covering a wider range of conditions including**, Developmental disorders, mental health issues, behavioural concerns, lifestyle risks, risk factors for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, and additional conditions like kidney disorders,
- It has **introduced digital health cards**, real-time data systems, and integrated platforms for tracking, monitoring and service delivery....

ICMR, ICAR Launch SEHAT Initiative

- Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **launched the 'SEHAT Mission' in Delhi.**
- **SEHAT (Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation) is a national mission-mode programme designed to translate agricultural advancements into tangible health outcomes for the people of India.**
- It has been jointly launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- **Objective:** Launched with the objective of building a framework for 'Healthy Food, Healthy Farms and a Healthy India'.
- It **strategically align agricultural research and innovation with national priorities in nutrition**, preventive and promotive healthcare, non-communicable diseases, farmer well-being, and One Health.



Health Ministry launches JANANI digital platform for maternal and child healthcare

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) as a significant step towards strengthening maternal and child healthcare services in the country.
- **JANANI is a digital platform designed to comprehensively monitor and maintain digital health records of women during their reproductive age.**
- It aims to ensure seamless tracking of maternal and child health services, covering antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care, home-based newborn and young child care, and family planning.
- A key feature of JANANI is the introduction of **QR-enabled digital Mother and Child Health (MCH) Cards**, enabling portability and easy access to health records.
- The platform also incorporates **automated alerts for high-risk pregnancies, real-time dashboards for supervisory review, and due-list generation**, enabling timely tracking, monitoring, and targeted interventions.
- JANANI is designed with strong interoperability features, **enabling integration with national platforms** such as U-WIN and POSHAN, thereby facilitating seamless data exchange, improved coordination across programmes, and comprehensive monitoring of beneficiaries across sectors.



Centre Extends Duty-Free Import of Yellow Peas

- The Union Government has extended the duty-free import of yellow peas and black gram until March 2027.
- **Yellow peas are a pulse commodity used in food processing, while black gram, also called urad, is a major pulse crop in India.**
- Duty-free import means exemption from customs duty for a notified period.
- **India imports pulses to supplement domestic production and manage market supply.**



Dr. Jitendra Singh Reviews Preparations for 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' 2026

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired a high-level

review meeting on preparations for the forthcoming “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar” (SSSS) campaign and separately assessed arrangements for the upcoming India International Science Festival.

- The Minister called for seamless coordination among institutions and wider public participation to ensure effective execution of both national initiatives.
- **The “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar” campaign was launched in 2022 as a 75-day inter-ministerial initiative aimed at cleaning and reducing marine litter across coastal areas of the country.**
- The campaign has since been conducted annually during the week of International Coastal Cleanup Day
- highlighted the contribution of the Sagar App, a citizen-science platform that has facilitated documentation of more than 150 tonnes of marine litter from coastal regions.

Padma Doree

- **The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC) officially launched ‘Padma Doree’, a cross-regional initiative merging Northeast India’s Eri silk with Madhya Pradesh’s Chanderi traditions.**
- It represents a blend of fiber and finesse, combining the warmth and durability of Eri silk with the delicate motifs and sheer texture of Chanderi.
- **Uses Eri Silk, known as Ahimsa silk because it is processed without killing the silkworm, blended with the traditional cotton and silk zari work of Chanderi.**
- The project facilitates direct interaction between artisans from the Northeast and Madhya Pradesh, fostering a collaborative design process.



International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)

- **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized the 35th Plenary and Working Groups meetings of the ISO subcommittee on ‘Space Systems and Operations’ (ISO TC 20 / SC 14) in New Delhi.**
- The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) is an independent, non-governmental international organization that develops and publishes voluntary, consensus-based international standards.
- It is a **global network of national standards bodies, with one member per country (such as BIS for India).**
- **Established In:** February 23, 1947.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.



ISO TC 20 / SC 14:

- This **specific subcommittee is responsible for international standards covering the entire lifecycle of space systems.**
- **Scope:** Standards for design, production, launch, operations, and space-based services.
- The **2026 meeting in Delhi focused heavily on space sustainability, debris mitigation, and mission safety.**
- 131 delegates from 13 countries attended the Indian plenary, including experts from major space agencies like ISRO, industry leaders, and academia.

Education Ministry to organise Bharatiya Bhasha Summer Camp 2026 in schools across country

- The Ministry of Education will organise Bharatiya Bhasha Summer Camp 2026 in all schools across the country during summer vacation.
- **The week-long camp will provide students an engaging opportunity to learn basic communication skills in various Indian languages through interactive activities focused on self-introduction, vocabulary building, real-life conversations and cultural appreciation.**
- **This year the initiative also introduces Indian Sign Language (ISL) as a special highlight, reinforcing the vision of inclusive and equitable education envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020.**



Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Organises ‘Run for Sun’ Marathon on International Sun Day

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) organised the 'Run for Sun' Marathon, on the occasion of International Sun Day, as a tribute to the 'Saur Shakti' lighting the world.
- **The event celebrated over 1,50,000 MW of solar energy installed capacity and the transformative progress under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY), under which 30 lakh solar rooftop installations have been completed, with the highest single-month number -- 2.7 lakh of them -- completed in April 2026.**
- **The 'Run for Sun' featured 2 km and 5 km races at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.**



Why is Koh-i-Noor back in the news? Explained

- New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said,, that he will encourage King Charles III to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond to India.
- **Koh-i-Noor is called the 'blood diamond' because at almost every step of its journey, the repatriation of the diamond happened through war, invasion, and surreptitious treaties.**
- **Discovery:** The diamond is believed to have been found in the Kollur mines in Golconda (modern-day India).
- It eventually came into the possession of the Mughal emperors, where it **became famous as being part of Shah Jahan's Peacock Throne.**
- **1739:** Persian ruler Nader Shah invaded Delhi and took the diamond back to Persia (modern-day Iran). It is alleged that Shah gave the diamond its name- 'Koh-i-Noor' or 'Mountain of Light.'
- **The diamond eventually passed to the Shah's general, who took it to Kandahar (modern-day Afghanistan).**
- **1813:** The Koh-i-Noor diamond came to Punjab to Maharaja Ranjit Singh, after the Afghan ruler Shah Shuja was forced to surrender it.
- **1849:** The British East India Company, following the annexation of Punjab, acquired the diamond by getting the 10-year-old king to sign the Treaty of Lahore.
- **1851-1852:** The Koh-i-Noor diamond was displayed in a Great Exhibition in London in a massive exhibition and was then recut because it looked 'dull', losing half its weight and gaining its current shiny brilliance and Type IIa purity.



Koh-i-Noor diamond size, rarity, and purity

- The gem is classified as a Type IIa diamond, a **rare category that includes only 1-2% of all natural diamonds. These stones are chemically the purest.**
- It **weighs 105 carats and was 191 carat before being re-cut in 1852 by Prince Albert** to give it a shine that is associated with the Koh-i-Noor.
- It lost 43% of its weight during this process.
- In 1849, the British East India Company annexed the Kingdom of Punjab. As part of the peace treaty, Article III specifically required the Koh-i-Noor to be 'surrendered' to the Queen of England.
- **Maharaja Duleep Singh was only 10 years old at the time of signing the treaty and was under the guardianship of the British.**

Cabinet approves extension of SARTHAK-PDS scheme with central outlay of ₹25,530 crore

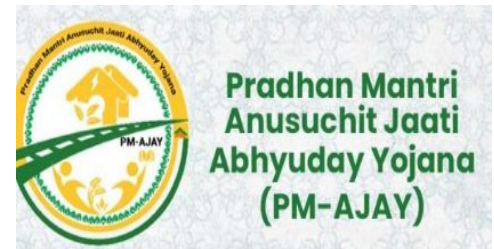
- The Union Cabinet approved **extension of the 'SARTHAK-PDS' scheme, with an outlay of ₹25,530 crore, to provide assistance to State agencies for intra-State movement of food grains and modernisation of public distribution system.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the continuation of the **'Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in PDS' (SARTHAK-PDS) as an umbrella scheme for the next five years, in the 16th Finance Commission cycle award period. The scheme will be implemented for a five-year duration, beginning April 1, 2026,**



- The scheme, in the 16th Finance Commission cycle award period, integrates the ongoing schemes of 'Assistance to State Agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers' margin under NFSA.
- **SARTHAK-PDS Scheme seeks to modernize, integrate and intelligently optimize PDS operations through advanced technologies** such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Blockchain.
- The digital platform of Sarthak-PDS will streamline national food security operations.
- The scheme also proposes state-level command and control centres and unified databases for PDS operations.

The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the centralized PM-AJAY Portal and the AJAY Mobile Application.
- **PM AJAY (Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana) scheme is a comprehensive initiative launched in FY 2021-22.**
- It is aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs).
- It is a merger scheme of three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY).
- It focuses on reducing poverty, enhancing educational opportunities, and improving infrastructure in SC-dominated areas.
- Nodal Ministry: Implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.



Eligibility Criteria for the Scheme

- The Scheduled Castes persons living below the poverty lines are eligible for getting benefits under the various Income Generating Schemes and Skill Development Programmes.
- **In case of Infrastructure Development, the villages having 50% or more SC population are eligible for grants under the Scheme.**

Key Components of the Scheme

- **Transforming SC-majority villages into 'Adarsh Grams'** (model villages) by filling critical gaps in infrastructure and services.
- **Providing financial assistance for district/state-level projects aimed at the socio-economic betterment of SCs.**

This includes:

- Creation of infrastructure in SC-dominated villages
- Construction of hostels/residential schools
- **Comprehensive livelihood projects, including skill development and related infrastructure.**
- Financial assistance towards loans taken by beneficiaries for asset acquisition/creation required for livelihood generation.
- **Construction of Hostels:** It includes building hostels in higher educational institutions ranked under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and funded by the Centre/State/UT Governments, schools funded by the Centre/State/UT Governments and recommended by the Ministry of Education

BHAVYA Scheme

- **Recently, the central government announced the launch of guidelines for the 'BHAVYA (Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna) Scheme'.**
- It is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at developing investment-ready, world-class industrial parks across the country.



The major focus of the Scheme is on creation of

- Investment-ready industrial ecosystems with plug-and-play infrastructure, multimodal logistics connectivity, reliable utility systems, worker-support infrastructure, digital governance systems, and sustainable development features.
- Target:** It provides for development of 100 industrial parks.
- Time Period:** Six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32.

Features of BHAVYA Scheme

- It has been designed to support the Centre's Make in India and PM Gati Shakti programmes by creating integrated, investment-ready manufacturing zones equipped with plug-and-play infrastructure and multimodal logistics connectivity.
- It provides for development of both greenfield and eligible brownfield industrial parks.
- Minimum land requirements have been fixed at 100 acres for non-hilly states and 25 acres for hilly states,** northeastern states, Union Territories, and smaller states.
- Implementation:** It will be undertaken through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013

Cabinet approves Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects with a financial outlay of **Rs.37,500 crore**.
- The **Scheme marks a major step towards accelerating India's coal/lignite gasification programme, advancing the national target of gasifying 100 Million Tonnes (MT) of coal by 2030.**
- The Government has also extended coal linkage tenure up to 30 years under the "Production of Syngas leading to Coal Gasification" sub-sector in the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) linkage auction framework.



Salient Features of the Scheme:

- Financial incentive provided at a maximum of 20% of the cost of Plant and Machinery.
- Selection through a transparent and competitive bidding process, with an evaluation framework benchmarking project cost, coal input, and syngas output.
- Incentive under this Scheme is in addition to, and does not restrict access to, incentives under the commercial coal mining regime or schemes of other Central/State Government ministries.**

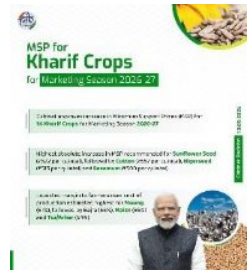
Strategic and Economic Benefits:

- Expected Investment Mobilisation:** Rs.2.5- 3.0 lakh crore
- Energy Security & Import Substitution:** Diversified use of coal resources and substitutes imports of LNG, urea, ammonia, ammonium nitrate, methanol, and coking coal.
- The Scheme is projected to create around 50,000 (Direct + Indirect) jobs across 25 projects in coal-bearing regions.
- Coal/lignite utilization is expected to generate Rs.6,300 crore annually from 75 Million Tonne of gasification** envisaged under the Scheme, plus downstream revenue from GST and other levies.

Cabinet approves Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27.

- Government has increased the MSP of Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce.
- The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for Sunflower Seed (₹ 622 per quintal) followed by Cotton (Rs. 557 per quintal), Nigerseed (Rs.515 per quintal) and Sesamum (Rs.500 per quintal).
- The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of Moong (61%) followed by Bajra (56%), Maize (56%) and Tur/Arhar (54%).
- For rest of the crops, margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50%.



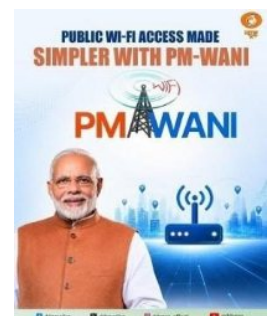
Minimum Support Price (MSP)

- The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the minimum price set by the government to ensure farmers receive fair value for their crops, even when market prices fall.
- This concept was introduced in 1966-67 during the Green Revolution as part of agricultural reforms, MSP serves as a safety measure taken by the union government to protect farmers from financial losses and maintain food security.
- The Indian government announces MSP twice a year, before the Kharif (monsoon) and Rabi (winter) sowing seasons.
- The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends the MSP, which is then approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

S. No	Cropping Season	Time Period	Crops	States
1.	Rabi	Sown: October-December Harvested: April-June	Wheat, barley, peas, gram, mustard etc.	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh
2.	Kharif	Sown: June-July Harvested: September-October	Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut, soybean etc.	Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra
3.	Zaid	Sown and harvested: March-July (between Rabi and Kharif)	Seasonal fruits, vegetables, fodder crops etc.	Most of the northern and northwestern states

PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface)

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduced a series of user-friendly reforms under the PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) framework.
- PM-WANI is a distributed, architecture-driven digital public infrastructure framework designed to proliferate broadband internet across India through unlicensed public Wi-Fi networks.
- Approved On:** December 9, 2020, by the Union Cabinet.
- Nodal Department:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications.



Aim:

- The primary aim of PM-WANI is to democratize internet access by encouraging small local shops, tea stalls, and neighborhood establishments to become last-mile internet service providers

Recent 2026 Upgrades:

- **Simplified Laptop Connection via QR Code:** Eliminates the friction of manual log-ins on secondary devices.
- **Users can instantly link their laptops to a secure public network by scanning a dynamic QR code** on the landing page using an already authenticated smartphone app.
- **Flexible Short-Duration Sachet Plans:** Hotspot operators are advised to roll out highly affordable, short-duration validity plans of 15, 30, and 60 minutes.
- **Standardized Hotspot**
- **Identification (SSIDs):** Mandates the **standard integration of PMWANI branding into network names (SSIDs).**
- **This lets citizens easily distinguish authentic, secure public connections from fake or malicious networks.**

Launch of JEEVAN App and SHATAYU Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard

- **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment Launched “JEEVAN”** (Joint Elderly Empowerment & Virtual Assistance Network) Mobile Application for Senior Citizens and “SHATAYU” (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training For Your Utility) Geriatric Caregiver Dashboard.
- The JEEVAN app provides a range of features aimed at addressing the needs and concerns of senior citizens, including information on Government schemes and welfare programmes, emergency assistance and support services, and details of senior citizen homes supported by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The platform has been designed with a user-friendly interface, simplified navigation and accessibility features, keeping in view the requirements of elderly users.
- **Another, application “SHATAYU” (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training For Your Utility) a Dashboard, developed to support and strengthen caregiving services for senior citizens across the country** was also launched during the National Workshop on “Creating a Well-Functioning Care Economy.”
- It provides features such as information on the **availability of Geriatric Caregivers** in a particular district and the State for the senior citizens.

**The Privilege Notice**

- Congress Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha moved a formal privilege notice against Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- **A Privilege Notice is a specific institutional mechanism available to Members of Parliament (MPs) to raise a question of privilege when they believe an individual, minister, or organization has breached the defined rights, immunities, and privileges of the House, its committees, or its members.**
- If an individual disregards or insults these core protections, it is treated as a Breach of Privilege or Contempt of the House.

Aim:

- **The fundamental aim of a privilege notice is to protect the freedom, authority, dignity, and autonomy of Parliament** from external interference, misrepresentation, or derogatory attacks.
- It acts as a shield to ensure that parliamentarians can execute their legislative duties—and that parliamentary committees can function as mini-Parliaments—without fear, favor, or institutional denigration.

**Key Features:**

- **Grounded firmly in Article 105** (for Parliament and its members) and **Article 194** (for State Legislatures) of the Constitution of India.

Dual Nature: Privileges are split into two groups:

- **Individual Privileges:** Such as freedom of speech in Parliament and immunity from civil arrest 40 days before and after a legislative session.

- **Collective Privileges:** Such as the right of the House to publish its own records, exclude strangers, regulate its internal code, and punish both members and outsiders for contempt.
- **Committee Structure:** The Rajya Sabha Privileges Committee consists of 10 members, while the Lok Sabha panel comprises 15 members, both nominated proportionally to represent cross-party bench strengths.
- **Statutory Codification Gap:** Interestingly, India has never codified its parliamentary privileges into a single statutory law.

The Justice Aravind Kumar Committee

- Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has constituted a high-powered 'Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee' headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar.
- **The Judicial Infrastructure Advisory Committee is a high-level expert panel formed to overhaul the physical and digital landscape of the Indian judiciary.**
- It comprises senior judges from the Supreme Court and various High Courts, along with top administrative and technical officials.
- **Established By:** Supreme Court of India
- **The primary aim of the committee is to address chronic infrastructural gaps in the Indian court system by creating a comprehensive roadmap for the 21st century.**

It seeks to ensure substantial financial backing from the Government of India to transform courts into modern, tech-enabled, and litigant-friendly spaces.

A core focus is on the e-courts initiative, aimed at bridging the digital divide through robust virtual and hybrid hearing infrastructure.



Committee on Empowerment of Women

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla officially reconstituted the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women for the year 2026–27.**
- Senior Lok Sabha MP Daggubati Purandeswari has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the panel.**
- The Committee on Empowerment of Women is a **prestigious Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** in the Indian Parliament.
- It operates as an institutional mechanism to review policies, assess welfare initiatives, and ensure gender equality across central laws and union territories.
- **Establishment:** The committee was constituted for the first time on April 29, 1997, during the 11th Lok Sabha



Composition & Tenure:

- **Lok Sabha:** 18 members nominated by the Speaker.
- **Rajya Sabha:** 10 members nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Tenure:** The term of the committee does not exceed one year. It is reconstituted annually.
- **Working Principle:** Members are expected to rise above party lines and function as a cohesive cross-party unit dedicated to women's advancement.

The National Jute Board (NJB)

- The **National Jute Board has expanded the implementation of the Jute Crop Information System (JCIS)**, a technology-driven platform developed with ISRO to modernize crop monitoring.
- The **National Jute Board** is the apex body under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, responsible for the overall development of the jute sector.
- **Established In:** The board is governed by the National Jute Board Act, 2008, and was formally enacted on February 12, 2009.

Aim:

- To increase the global share of Indian jute goods by exploring innovative uses and disseminating new technologies.
- To facilitate the growth of the jute industry through human resource development, training, and design inputs.

About Jute Crop Information System (JCIS):

- The Jute Crop Information System (JCIS) is a **state-of-the-art digital platform developed in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Jute Corporation of India (JCI).**
- It replaces manual, fragmented reporting with a geo-referenced, evidence-based monitoring framework.
- **The system aims to improve the accuracy of jute crop area, yield, and production estimates** through a data-driven approach, enabling targeted policy interventions and rapid response to environmental stresses.
- Uses ISRO's satellite data and vegetation indices to monitor the health and extent of jute cultivation across districts.

Digital Tools:

- **BHUVAN JUMP:** A mobile application used by the I-CARE field network for large-scale collection of geo-tagged field data.
- **PATSAN:** A web-based analytics platform that provides surveillance and production assessments for stakeholders and government officials.

Public Accounts Committee

- Recently, the reconstituted Public Accounts Committee (PAC) convened and took up certain subjects for examination.

About Public Accounts Committee

- It is the oldest parliamentary committee in India which was established in 1921.
- It is **constituted every year.**
- The **Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its Members of Lok Sabha.**
- The Speaker, for the first time, appointed a Member of the Opposition as the Chairperson of the Committee for 1967-68.
- Purpose: Audits the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India to ensure public funds are spent efficiently and legally

Functions of PAC

- It examines the CAG audit report on government expenditure.
- It ensures money sanctioned by Parliament is spent properly.
- It investigates financial irregularities, losses, and inefficiencies in government spending.

Membership

- It consists of 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha).
- **Chairperson:** A Lok Sabha MP, traditionally from the Opposition.
- **Term:** One year.

Ministers cannot be members of the PAC

The Judges Inquiry Committee

- The **three-member Judges Inquiry Committee submitted its formal investigation report to Lok Sabha Speaker concerning misbehavior allegations against sitting judge Justice Yashwant Varma.**
- The Judges Inquiry Committee is a high-level, ad-hoc statutory judicial tribunal constituted to investigate specific allegations of proved misbehavior or incapacity against a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court.
- It serves as an **essential, independent fact-finding body that** must complete its probe before Parliament can debate or vote on a motion for the removal of a judge.

- **Operates in tandem with Article 124(4) (for Supreme Court judges) and Article 217(1)(b) (for High Court judges) of the Constitution of India.**
- **Statutory Framework:** It is strictly established under Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
- **Composition Mandate:** The Act dictates that the committee must comprise exactly three members **appointed by the Lok Sabha Speaker or Rajya Sabha Chairman:**
 - A sitting Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
 - A sitting Chief Justice of a High Court.
 - An eminent jurist.
- **The 2026 Panel:** The committee that submitted the recent report was headed by Supreme Court Justice Aravind Kumar, alongside Bombay High Court Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekar and Senior Advocate B.V. Acharya.
- **Aim:** The primary aim of the committee is to insulate the judiciary from frivolous political attacks while ensuring accountability for judicial misconduct.

The Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar Committee

- **Union Home Minister announced the constitution of a high-level committee to address the complex challenges arising from unnatural demographic changes across India due to long-term illegal immigration and infiltration.**
- The high-level panel is a specialized, multi-disciplinary central committee established by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs **to investigate illegal immigration and abnormal population shifts.**
- **Chairperson:** Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.



Core Committee Members:

- **The Census Commissioner of India.**
- Durga Shankar Mishra, former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer.
- Balaji Srivastava, former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.
- Shamika Ravi, prominent economist.
- **Member Secretary:** The Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) within the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Key Features:

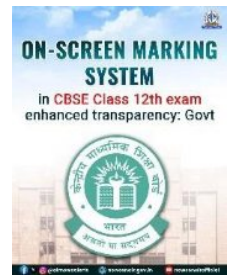
- The committee is legally empowered to collect field data, track border-fringe migration patterns, and review historical census variations up to the district and village levels.
- **Rather than looking at broad national averages, the panel will focus on localized, rapid community alterations to spot clusters experiencing high rates of undocumented growth.**

The Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB)

- India **has been nominated as the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board (CCDB) for a two-year term from April 2026 to April 2028.**
- The CCDB is **the technical heart of the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA).**
- While other committees handle high-level policy, the CCDB is responsible for **the technical management and evolution of the standards used to evaluate the security of Information Technology (IT) products worldwide.**
- Operates under the **Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA), an international treaty for mutual recognition of IT security certificates.**
- India participates through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the STQC (Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification) Directorate.
- **India has been a Certificate Authorizing Nation since 2013 and now serves as the Chair (2026–2028).**
- It ensures that the technical standards for IT security remain robust, consistent, and capable of addressing emerging cyber threats

OSM system in CBSE Class 12th exam enhanced transparency and objectivity in evaluation process: Govt

- A fresh controversy has erupted over the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s newly introduced on-screen marking (OSM) system **to evaluate Class 12 board examination results for 2026.**
- The exam results were declared, recording a huge drop in the overall pass percentage this year to 85.2%, a drop of 3.19 percentage points from last year and the lowest level seen in the past seven years.

**What is on-screen marking (OSM) system?**

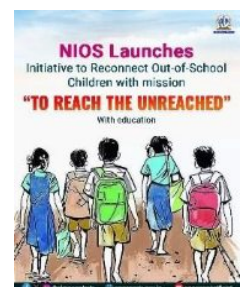
- CBSE moved away from the traditional method of checking papers and introduced digital evaluation for Class 12 through the on-screen marking system.
- Under this process, 98.6 lakh answer sheets were assessed without printing them or transporting physical papers to checking centres.
- As part of this system, **answer sheets were scanned and uploaded to an online platform where teachers checked them on computer screens.**
- Marks were entered digitally**, and comments were made online, while the system automatically calculated totals to reduce the chances of mistakes. Through OSM, CBSE assessed 98,66,622 answer books.
- The **process removes errors** in totalling, posting, and uploading by ensuring that every answer is checked against the prescribed marking scheme.

CBSE introduces 3-language rule mid-session | 'Children being treated like guinea pigs': Delhi schools flag confusion

- For Class 9 CBSE students, what is set to change immediately is that **starting July 1, they will have to study three languages, with at least two of them being "native Indian languages".**
- In its May 15 circular, the CBSE said that **students wishing to study a foreign language may do so only if the other two languages are native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.**
- The new NCERT syllabus includes the study of three languages – R1, R2 and R3 – at the secondary stage
- The third language will not be part of the Class 10 Board examination.

**NIOS Launches Initiative to Reconnect Out-of-School Children with Education Under NEP 2020 Vision**

- The Centre is preparing to roll out a pilot programme across 10 districts in nine States to **proactively connect out-of-school children in the age group of 14-18 years with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for distance learning, moving beyond its existing voluntary framework.**
- According to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey estimates, **over two crore children in the 14-18 age group are currently out of school.**
- The initiative is aligned with the broader national objective of inclusive education, focusing on ensuring that every child has access to quality schooling and pathways to employable skills, thereby contributing to a more equitable and developed India.
- The initiative **will include app-based mapping of out of school children in the age group of 14-18 years, monitoring systems, incentive mechanisms, district-level convergence strategies**

**NHAI Encourages Women Focused Skill Development through 'Project Saksham'**

- National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in partnership with the Vertis Foundation is empowering **rural women through structured skill development for sustainable livelihood opportunities through Project Saksham.**



- **Project Saksham operates through a network of 12 training centres across the country, providing access to underserved communities to industry-relevant skills and pathways into the formal workforce.**
- **Project Saksham is anchored in the belief that communities residing along the National Highways, in particular rural women, should directly benefit from the economic opportunities generated by infrastructure expansion.**

PMAY-G Beneficiary Conference & Maha Awaas Abhiyan State Awards Ceremony to be Held in Maharashtra

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan is scheduled to attend the “Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) Beneficiary Conference & Maha Awaas Abhiyan State-Level Award Distribution Ceremony” in May 2026 in Satara, Maharashtra.
- **The scheme aims to provide pucca houses to homeless rural families and those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses, ensuring housing for all.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin:** It was launched in 2015 as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Urban and in 2016 as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin.

Bail under UAPA

- The Supreme Court recently revisited the issue of bail under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) while granting interim bail to accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case.**
- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) is **India’s principal anti-terror legislation** aimed at preventing unlawful and terrorist activities threatening the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- To **combat terrorism, secessionism, and activities endangering national security and sovereignty.**
- To provide legal tools for investigating and prosecuting terror-related offences across India.



Key Features of Bail under UAPA:

- **Stringent Bail Provision** – Section 43D(5): Bail can be denied if the court finds reasonable grounds to believe the accusations are prima facie true.
- **Reverse Bail Principle:** The normal criminal law principle of bail, not jail is weakened, making bail exceptionally difficult in terror-related cases.
- **Reliance on Prima Facie Evidence:** In National Investigation Agency Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, the Supreme Court held that courts need only examine broad probabilities rather than detailed evidence while deciding bail.
- **Constitutional Override through Article 21:** In Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb, the Court ruled that prolonged incarceration and delayed trial can justify bail despite Section 43D(5).

Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP)

- The Government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) **launched a new eight-year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for the period 2026–2033.**
- COSOP is a strategic investment and development framework **that defines the long-term partnership between a host country and IFAD.**
- **Organizations Involved:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- **Aim:** The primary aim is to enhance rural incomes and scale sustainable livelihood opportunities by connecting grassroots institutions to finance, technology, and global markets, while ensuring they are resilient to economic and climate shocks.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has achieved a major milestone with over 100 crore health records successfully linked with Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA).
- It was launched to build a comprehensive digital health ecosystem for the country.
- The mission aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- The flagship scheme was launched with an outlay of ₹1,600 crore for 5 years from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026.
- It is implemented by the National Health Authority under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



Key Components of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) Number:** It is a 14 digit health ID for hassle-free method of accessing and sharing your health records digitally.
- It is a **comprehensive repository of all healthcare professionals** involved in delivery of healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.
- It is envisioned as an open protocol for various digital health services. UHI Network will be an open network of End User Applications (EUAs) and **participating Health Service Provider (HSP) applications**.
- **National Health Claims Exchange (NHCE):** It enables exchange of standardized health claim-related information between payers, providers, beneficiaries, and other relevant entities

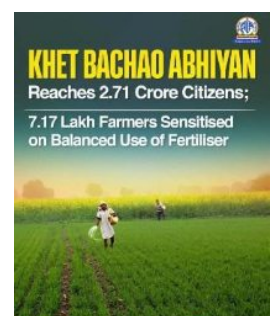
BWSSB to host India's first National AI and Digital Water Summit

- India's first National AI and Digital Water Summit, titled the National AI Summit on Water 2026, will be hosted by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in Bengaluru on 27 May 2026.
- The summit is jointly organised by BWSSB and Elets Technomedia Pvt. Ltd..
- The summit will focus on AI-enabled smart operations, digital twins, water-loss management, energy optimisation, data governance, ethical AI, and cybersecurity.
- The summit will also present BWSSB's Five Panchasutras framework for future urban water governance.
- The framework includes artificial intelligence, data-driven governance, smart infrastructure, sustainable investments, and climate-resilient water security systems.
- BWSSB plans to launch an integrated AI-powered command centre for water and sewage management at Shimsha Bhavan in Jayanagar.



Khet Bachao Abhiyan

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced major achievements under the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan', aimed at promoting balanced fertilizer use and sustainable farming practices.
- 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' is a nationwide awareness and capacity-building campaign launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.
- To encourage soil test-based nutrient management and reduce excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers.
- To improve soil fertility, enhance sustainable agricultural productivity, and promote environmentally responsible farming practices.



SHE-MART initiative

- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) convened a high-level national consultation in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to finalize the operational guidelines for the newly launched SHE-MART initiative.

- **SHE-MART (Self Help Entrepreneurs – Marketing Avenues for Rural Transformation)** is a revolutionary socio-economic initiative designed to build women-led rural marketing and supply chain aggregation
- Moving beyond isolated micro-credit models, it transitions women from loan-dependent, subsistence-level earners into formal enterprise and retail owners.
- **Announced In:** Union Budget 2026–27.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), implemented via the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Intellectual Property Catalyst Initiative

- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India launched IP Catalyst initiative along with its digital platform.
- It is being implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune, supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- It is designed to create a comprehensive digital ecosystem that supports the full innovation lifecycle — from research and patent creation to commercialization, licensing and market deployment.
- It aims to bridge the gap between publicly funded R&D and industry adoption by enabling stronger collaboration among MeitY organizations, startups, MSMEs, academia, and industry.

Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav Launches Ayush Anudan Portal under Ayush Grid Initiative

- Recently, the Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare launched the Ayush Anudan Portal.
- It is developed by the Ministry of Ayush under the Ayush Grid initiative.
- It is a digital platform to streamline the submission, processing, and monitoring of funding proposals under Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry of Ayush i.e. Ayurgyan, Ayurveda, Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants, International Co-operation and Promotion of Information, Education and Communication.
- The primary objective of this portal is to ensure 100% transparency, efficiency, accountability and easy accessibility in the grant management process.
- The portal can be accessed through the Ministry's My Ayush Integrated Services Portal (MAISP), which serves as the Ministry's single-window digital platform.



Features of the Portal

- It has a scheme-wise application management system, enabling proposals to be categorised, processed, and monitored according to the specific requirements of different Central Sector Schemes of the Ministry.
- It also incorporates a real-time application tracking mechanism, allowing applicants and officials to monitor proposal status at every stage of processing.
- It is integrated with the NGO Darpan Portal.

Who Is Abhijeet Dipke, Founder Of Online Sensation Cockroach Janta Party

Why in news?

- On May 16, Abhijeet Dipke launched the Cockroach Janta Party, a satirical digital outfit, following a controversy over Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's "parasites" and "cockroaches" remark
- The website of the Cockroach Janta Party describes itself as a "political party for the people the system forgot to count."



Political Party

- A Political Party is an organised group of people sharing similar political ideology and objectives, which seeks to capture political power through elections and form the government.
- **Examples in India**
 - Bharatiya Janata Party
 - Indian National Congress
 - Communist Party of India (Marxist)

Pressure Group

- A Pressure Group is an organised group that seeks to influence government policies and decisions in favour of a particular interest, cause, or section of society without seeking political power directly

Examples in India

- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Bharatiya Kisan Union

Indian Constitution:

- The Indian Constitution is the one of the longest Constitutions in the world. It even elaborately deals with the co-operative societies.
- The right to form co-operative societies is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1)(c), but the right to form political parties is not.

Difference Between Political Parties and Pressure Groups

Basis	Political Party	Pressure Group
Main Objective	Capture political power	Influence government policies
Elections	Contest elections	Usually do not contest elections
Nature	Broad political agenda	Specific interest-oriented agenda
Aim	Form government	Influence government
Methods	Elections, campaigns, manifestos	Lobbying, protests, petitions
Accountability	Accountable to electorate	Accountable to members/interests
Scope	National or regional governance	Particular issue or cause

Government to organise 75th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle to celebrate Commonwealth Games Day nationwide

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will organise the **75th Mega Edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle to celebrate Commonwealth Games Day nationwide.**
- The initiative is aimed at deepening public engagement around India's hosting of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.



Railways 'CHIRAG' - Centre for HR Excellence inaugurated at Moula-Ali

- The Centre for HR Information Systems, Research and Analytics in Governance (CHIRAG), a Centre of Excellence focused on human resource management training, research, and digital transformation in Indian Railways.
- CHIRAG aims to play a pivotal role in enhancing HR capabilities across Indian Railways.

NEET 2026 Paper Leak

- The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced a re-test for NEET-UG 2026 after admitting that the examination process had been compromised amid allegations of a large-scale paper leak.



- The **2026 NEET-UG crisis** represents a systemic failure in the high-stakes examination framework of India.
- It **highlights the inability of the National Testing Agency (NTA)** to secure confidential materials, leading to a breakdown of student trust and a chequered past of recurring leaks, rank inflation, and administrative lapses that threaten the meritocratic basis of medical admissions.

Government Laws to Prevent Paper Leaks:

- To combat this, the government enacted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:
- **Provides for imprisonment of 3 to 10 years and fines** up to ₹1 crore for organized paper leaks.
- Includes provisions to bar and fine service providers (exam centers) found involved in malpractices.
- **Makes offenses related to paper leaks cognizable and non-bailable.**
- Mandates a Zero Tolerance policy and the use of high-sensitivity technical equipment for surveillance.

About K. Radhakrishnan Committee Recommendations:

- **Transition to CBT:** Shift the exam from Pen-and-Paper to a Computer-Based Test (CBT) format to eliminate physical booklet leaks.
- **Implement Computer-assisted Secure PPT** where encrypted papers are sent digitally and printed locally just before the exam.
- Significantly increase the number of state-of-the-art computer labs and testing centers across India
- **Consider conducting NEET in multiple sessions** or stages to reduce the pressure and risk associated with a single-day event.
- Conduct regular third-party audits of the testing software, storage protocols, and personnel involved in the examination chain.

Eminent Personalities in News

President Murmu pays floral tribute to former President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy on birth anniversary

- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy served as the sixth President of India from July 25, 1977, to July 25, 1982.
- Born on May 19, 1913, in Illur, Andhra Pradesh.
- He served as the first Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1956 (post the reorganisation of Indian states).
- He passed away on June 1, 1996.



No.	Name	Term of Office	Notable Facts
1	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	1950–1962	First President; only one to serve two terms; longest-serving President
2	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1962–1967	first Vice President to become President
3	Dr. Zakir Husain	1967–1969	First Muslim President; died in office
4	V. V. Giri	1969–1974	
5	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed	1974–1977	
6	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	1977–1982	
7	Giani Zail Singh	1982–1987	First Sikh President
8	R. Venkataraman	1987–1992	
9	Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma	1992–1997	
10	K. R. Narayanan	1997–2002	First Dalit President
11	Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam	2002–2007	Renowned scientist; "Missile Man of India"; widely popular
12	Pratibha Patil	2007–2012	First woman President
13	Pranab Mukherjee	2012–2017	

14	Ram Nath Kovind	2017–2022	
15	Droupadi Murmu	2022–Present	First tribal President; second woman President

Shaheed Veer Gundadhur

- Union Home Minister inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendra in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- Veer Shaheed Gundadhur was a legendary tribal revolutionary leader from the Bastar region who led the historic Bhumkal Rebellion of 1910 against the oppressive British colonial empire.**
- Revered as a symbol of tribal sovereignty, identity, and resistance**, his military tactics and grassroots mobilization shook the foundations of colonial administration in central India.
- Born in Netanar village (located in the dense forest stretches of Bastar, Chhattisgarh), he belonged to the Dhurwa tribal community.
- Original Name: Locally, he was known as Baga Dhurva during his youth.
- The title “Gundadhur” was notably recorded by the British to describe his formidable rebel status.



Contribution to the Freedom Movement:

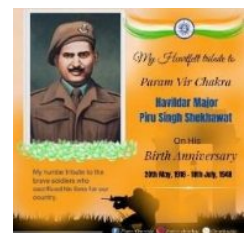
- The Bhumkal Movement (1910):** Gundadhur laid the foundation for the historic Bhumkal (meaning earthquake or earth-rebellion) movement to protest the British exploitation of local resources, severe forest reservation policies, and colonial overreach.

To mobilize tribal communities secretly under the nose of King Rudrapratap (who worked under British oversight), Gundadhur distributed specific local symbols from house to house as a call to rebellion:

- Red Chillies:** Signifying urgent revolutionary action.
- Clay Bows and Arrows:** Symbolizing preparation for armed resistance.
- Mango Branches:** Representing solidarity to protect tribal identity.
- At just 35 years of age, Gundadhur orchestrated advanced ambush tactics, forcing British officers and local forces to flee and take refuge in forest caves. The movement effectively halted colonial governance across Bastar for weeks.

Om Birla pays tribute to Param Vir Chakra awardee Piru Singh Shekhawat

- Piru Singh Shekhawat was born on May 20, 1918, in Bagadu village, Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan.**
- His passion for military service led him to enlist in the Rajputana Rifles of the British Indian Army in 1936.
- After Indian independence, **when the 1947-48 war between India and Pakistan broke out in Jammu and Kashmir, Piru Singh Shekhawat was serving in the 6th Rajputana Rifles Battalion of the Indian Army.**
- Piru Singh Shekhawat was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra



HM Amit Shah pays tribute to revolutionary Rash Behari Bose on his birth anniversary

- Prominent revolutionary leader of India's freedom struggle Rash Behari Bose was **remembered on his birth anniversary (May 25).**
- Born in **Bardhaman district (Bengal).**
- Was **deeply inspired by the French Revolution of 1789.**



Key Contributions

- Was an active member of **Yugantar group of revolutionaries under leadership of Motilal Roy.**
- Acted as an **effective link between revolutionaries of Punjab and United Provinces and Bengal.**
- Involved in **Delhi Conspiracy case (bomb attack on Viceroy Lord Hardinge), 1912.**
- Founded the Indian Independence League (1942) in Tokyo.**

- Played **key role in Ghadar Movement** and in **formation of the Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army).

Veera Pasi

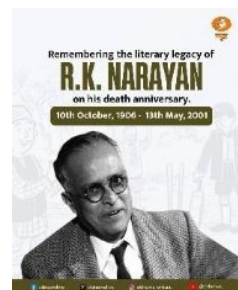
- On May 20, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi unveiled a statue of Veera Pasi, a “forgotten hero” who had fought the British during the Revolt of 1857, in Raebareli.
- Veera Pasi was a trusted companion and commander of Rana Beni Madhav Baksh Singh, the ruler of the Shankarpur Estate in modern-day Raebareli during the 19th century.
- A Dalit belonging to the Pasi caste, Pasi was born on November 11, 1835, into an impoverished family in Lodhwari village of Raebareli district.
- In the local dialect, a brother living with his sister’s family was called “Veerna”, which later evolved into the name “Veera”.
- According to local folklore, when the British captured Singh during the 1857 revolt, Pasi displayed remarkable bravery by rescuing Singh from prison.

The British government then announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for the capture or information on Pasi’s whereabouts.



13TH May R. K. Narayan death anniversary

- R. K. Narayan, one of India's most celebrated English-language authors, passed away on May 13, 2001,
- Born in 1906, Narayan was an Indian writer known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi**
- Malgudi Days and The Man-Eater of Malgudi are few of his noteworthy books that also got turned into TV series and various theatre plays.**
- The film '**Guide**' starring Dev Anand and Waheeda Rahman **was based on RK Narayan's novel.**
- His famous autobiographical trilogy** of “Swami and friends”, “The Bachelor of Arts” and “The English teacher” are one of his finest pieces
- His first published work was the book review of “Development of Maritime Laws of 17th- Century England”.
- His first mythological work was published** in 1964, '**Gods, Demons and Others**', a short story collection from Hindu epics.
- Awards and honours** : He won several awards and honours for his significant contribution to the literary world such as Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, AC Benson Medal, and multiple nominations for the Noble Prize in Literature.
- He was also nominated for the upper house of the Indian Parliament for a six-year term** starting in 1989 for his outstanding contribution to Indian English literature.

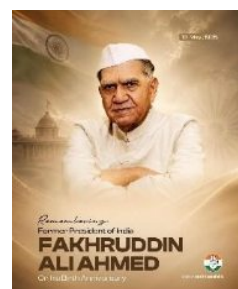


13TH May Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed birth anniversary

- President paid tributes to **former President, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on his birth anniversary.**
- He was a distinguished lawyer, politician, and the 5th President of India (From 1974 till his death in 1977).

Key Contributions

- Indian Freedom Struggle:** Joined the Indian National Congress, loyal follower of Mahatma Gandhi and participated in Individual Satyagraha and Quit India Movement for which he was arrested in 1942.
- Post-Independence:** Elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1952 and to Lok Sabha in 1967. Held Portfolios like Food and Agriculture, Cooperation, Education, Industrial Development, and Company Laws.
- As President:** Notable for his decision to proclaim Emergency by the advice of the then Prime Minister in 1975.
- Key Values:** Patriotism, Leadership, Dedication, Constitutionalism, etc.



HM Amit Shah extends greetings on auspicious occasion of great Sikh warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji's 'Sirhind Fateh Divas

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah extended greetings to the nation on the occasion of Sirhind Fateh Divas and paid tribute to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur,
- Sirhind Fateh Divas commemorates the historic victory of the Khalsa forces led by Baba Banda Singh Bahadur over the Mughal administration of Sirhind in 1710.**
- The victory is regarded as a significant chapter in Sikh history and is remembered as a symbol of resistance against oppression and tyranny.
- Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, originally known as Lachman Dev, emerged as a prominent Sikh warrior and the commander of the Khalsa army.**
- His journey into Sikhism was a transformative one, as he became a devout disciple of Guru Gobind Singh, who bestowed upon him the name Gurbaksh Singh.**
- Banda Singh Bahadur's life took a significant turn when he arrived in Khanda, Sonipat, where he assembled a military force and started a struggle against the Mughal Empire.
- He **abolished the oppressive Zamindari system**, an exploitative land revenue system, and ensured that property rights were granted to the tillers of the land.
- In addition to his land reforms, Banda Singh Bahadur **introduced the Nanak Shahi coins**, showing his commitment to Sikh values and principles.



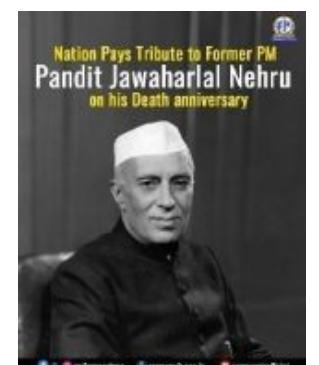
PM Modi pays tribute to Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary

- On **28th May**, India paid tribute to the freedom fighter, **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** (Veer Savarkar) on his birth anniversary.
- VD Savarkar **was born on 28th May, 1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in Maharashtra.**
- He is also known as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar.**
- Founded** a secret society called **Abhinav Bharat Society.**
- Went to the United Kingdom** and was involved with organizations such as **India House** and the **Free India Society.**
- Involved in the **formation of Hindu Mahasabha.**
- He was the **president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943.**
- Savarkar wrote a book titled 'The History of the War of Indian Independence'** in which he wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in 1857 Sepoy Mutiny.
- He also wrote the book 'Hindutva: who is hindu?'**
- Death:** He died on 26th February 1966 due to fasting on his own wish of death.



Prime Minister pays homage to former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

- On **27th May 2026**, the Prime Minister paid homage to India's first Prime Minister, **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**—who died on 27th May 1964 and is remembered as the Architect of Modern India.
- Born on 14th November 1889, in Prayagraj**, he attended his **first Congress session in 1912 at Bankipore (Patna) as a delegate** and joined Annie Besant's Home Rule League in 1916, becoming its Allahabad Secretary.
- Contribution in Freedom Struggle:** He was elected Congress President at the 1929 **Lahore session**, passing the historic **Purna Swaraj resolution for complete independence**, and later presided over the 1936 Lucknow and 1937 Faizpur sessions, promoting socialism.



- He drafted **Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy (1929-31)**, adopted at the **1931 Karachi Session under Sardar Patel**, and **advocated legal defence** for Indian National Army (INA) soldiers. He led the Interim Government in 1946.
- **Post-Independence:** In 1953, he formed the States Reorganisation Commission, promoted industrialisation through Five-Year Plans, and led the Non-Alignment Movement.
- **Awards:** He was awarded the Bharat Ratna (1955) and World Peace Council Prize (posthumously, 1970).
- **Literary Contributions:** The Discovery of India, An Autobiography, Glimpses of World History and Letters from a Father to His Daughter.

State

Delhi

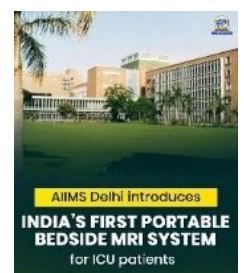
Delhi Launches Aftercare Scheme for Young Persons

- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the **Aftercare Scheme for Young Persons** to provide continued support to youth leaving institutional care after they turn 18 by assisting them with higher education, skill development, and employment opportunities.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to provide continued support, guidance and opportunities to youth leaving institutional care so they can move towards independent, secure and dignified lives.
- The scheme will be implemented under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- **CBSE and AIIMS organise MATE Counselors' Conclave in New Delhi** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) organised the Mind Activation Through Education MATE Counselors' Conclave in New Delhi.
- The event marks the expansion of Project MATE, which is an adolescent well-being initiative developed by AIIMS New Delhi.
- The initiative is aimed at promoting emotional, social and psychological well-being among middle-school students alongside academic growth.
- The Project MATE modules will be implemented from July this year for students of Classes 6 to 8.
- **India Hosts ISO International Subcommittee Meetings on 'Space Systems and Operations'** for the First Time Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, organised the 35th Plenary and Working Groups meetings of the ISO TC 20 / SC 14 'Space Systems and Operations' subcommittee of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) at New Delhi.
- The event witnessed participation of 131 international delegates from 13 countries representing National Standards Bodies, experts from International Space Agencies including ISRO from India, Space Industry, and Academia.



India's First Portable MRI System Deployed at AIIMS Delhi for ICU Patients

- In a first, **AIIMS New Delhi has introduced India's first portable bedside MRI system**.
- The ultra-low-field device can be wheeled directly to a patient's bedside, enabling rapid brain imaging for critically ill patients in ICUs, emergency settings, and neurosurgical care.
- **Unlike conventional MRI machines that require dedicated suites and patient transport, this system eliminates the risks associated with moving unstable patients and allows imaging to be performed within the safety of the ICU environment.**
- Across the world, portable bedside MRI systems are being used in hospitals in the US, Canada, Australia, the UK, New Zealand, and various EU countries.



Raksha Rajya Mantri to inaugurate India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference in New Delhi

- The Department of Ophthalmology at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi, in collaboration with All-India Ophthalmological Society, is set to host India's first International Ophthalmology Research Conference at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment **on May 09 & 10, 2026.**
- This two-day academic event, named All-India Ophthalmological Society - Armed Forces Ophthalmology Update (AIOF-AFOU 2026), **will be inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth.**
- The conference would serve as an inspiring platform for young serving ophthalmologists from across the country to **showcase their skills and simultaneously learn from the experts of the craft.**
- It aims to foster meaningful civil-military cooperation in ophthalmology.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates MLFF barrier-less toll system in Delhi

- Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on inaugurated Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less **tolling system at the Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza on Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II).**
- The Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza in Delhi is the second Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system in India after Choryasi Toll Plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat inaugurated on May 1.
- Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on inaugurated Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less **tolling system at the Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza on Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II).**
- The Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza in Delhi is the second Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system in India after Choryasi Toll Plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat inaugurated on May 1.



Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the **first phase of Census-2027 under the theme "Hamari Janaganana, Hamara Vikas", formally beginning house listing and housing census operations at a programme**
- The exercise marks the beginning of **India's first digital census**, which the State government said would support data-driven planning and welfare delivery.
- The first **phase, running from May 7 to May 21**, will allow citizens to self-enumerate online before enumerators begin door-to-door verification across Uttar Pradesh.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh takes stock of interdisciplinary facility "SATHI" set up at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi

- Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh visited the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and inspected the interdisciplinary facility "SATHI" set up with the support of Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India.

Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI)

- SATHI-BHU has been established with the support of nearly Rs. 72 crores from the Department of Science & Technology**
- As a **national-level shared scientific infrastructure facility** providing access to advanced instrumentation, analytical services and technical expertise for academia, research institutions, industries, MSMEs and start-ups.



Madhya Pradesh

Bargi Dam

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **ordered a high-level inquiry following a tragic cruise boat capsize at Bargi Dam that resulted in nine deaths.**
- Bargi Dam is one of the most significant multipurpose river valley projects in Central India.
- It serves as a vital source of water for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower, while also functioning as a major eco-tourism hub in the Jabalpur district.

Established In:

- Construction Period: Construction began in 1974.
- Completion:** It was one of the first major dams to be completed (1988) among the planned chain of 30 large dams on its parent river.

River Associated:

- The dam is built across the Narmada River, which is the fifth-largest river in the Indian subcontinent and often referred to as the Life Line of Madhya Pradesh.

History:

- The dam is part of the Narmada Valley Project, a massive undertaking by the state government to harness the river's potential.
- Over the decades, the backwaters (reservoir) created by the dam have been developed into a scenic destination,** officially promoted by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board through facilities like the Maikal Resort.

Key Features:

- Structure:** The dam features 21 spillway gates to regulate water flow.

Irrigation Projects: It supports two major irrigation schemes:

- Rani Avantibai Lodhi Sagar Project

Bargi Diversion Project

- Tourism Facilities:** The reservoir offers water sports, including cruise boat rides, water scooters, and fishing.
- Biodiversity:** The vicinity is a known spot for birdwatching, attracting species such as the Sarus Crane, Parakeets, and local Mynas.
- Maikal Resort:** A state-run tourism complex that provides a panoramic view of the vast reservoir.
- Madhya Pradesh: One-member commission set up to investigate Bargi Dam cruise tragedy** The Madhya Pradesh government has set up a one-member inquiry commission headed by retired High Court judge Sanjay Dwivedi to conduct a judicial investigation into the Bargi Dam cruise accident that took place on April 30 in Jabalpur.
- The commission will submit its report to the government within three months.
- It will examine the causes of the accident and whether the rescue operations were carried out properly.



Jharkhand

Hazaribag Becomes India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

- Hazaribag in Jharkhand has been notified as India's first pearl farming cluster **under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**
- The cluster has received an investment of ₹22 crore under a joint initiative of the Central government and the Jharkhand government.
- Training revolution takes root** The **Purty Agrotech Training Centre, established in Ranchi in 2024** using corporate CSR funds, has emerged as the nerve centre of this training revolution.
- Hazaribag is located in Jharkhand, which is a landlocked State in eastern India.
- Hyriopsis cumingii is a freshwater mussel species used in pearl cultivation.**



Chhattisgarh

Baiga Tribe

- 13 children belonging to the Baiga tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, were recently rescued from bonded labour in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district.
- They are found in central India, primarily in the state of Madhya Pradesh, and in smaller numbers in the surrounding states of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.
- The **Baiga tribe primarily speaks Baigani, a dialect of Chhattisgarhi heavily influenced by Gondi and Hindi.**
- Traditionally semi-nomadic, **they practised slash-and-burn cultivation, locally called "Bewar",** and now depend mainly on minor forest produce.
- Live-in relationships are common among the Baiga.** If marriage does take place, the man compensates the woman's family for the loss of a working member.
- Tattooing is integral to their culture,** with specific tattoos designated for different body parts and age groups.
- Mahua Tree:** These are fermented and distilled to prepare an intoxicant, forming an essential part of their diet and culture.
- The **Baiga tribe is the first community in India to be granted habitat rights, reflecting their deep connection with forests.**



Odisha

Odisha to replicate Kerala's advanced disaster warning infrastructure 'KaWaCHaM'

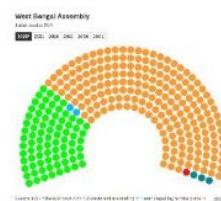
- Odisha is set to adopt a **customised version of the Kerala Warnings, Crisis and Hazard Management system (KaWaCHaM), the State's technologically advanced Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDs), to strengthen disaster preparedness along the cyclone-prone coastline of Odisha.**
- The name **'KaWaCHaM'** means **'shield'** in Malayalam, symbolising protection for communities against disasters.
- The **Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), with support from the National Disaster Management Authority and the World Bank, successfully implemented and operationalised the KaWaCHaM in 2024.**
- KaWaCHaM, the name given by Kerala, is a cutting-edge, intelligent decision-support and last-mile early warning dissemination system designed to **strengthen disaster risk reduction** through the integration of advanced technology.

West Bengal

Assembly Election Results 2026

West Bengal (Total AC : 294)

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has secured a landslide victory in West Bengal, ousting Mamata Banerjee's TMC which has been at the helm since 2011.
- The **BJP has emerged as a winner in 206 of 294 seats,**
- The party is set to **form a government in the State for the first time ever.**



Suvendu Adhikari Sworn in as West Bengal Chief Minister

- Bharatiya Janata Party leader Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal**
- West Bengal Governor R. N. Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy**
- The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) first chief minister of West Bengal**
- Five other BJP leaders—Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik—were also sworn in as Ministers.**
- The BJP party won 207 of 293 constituencies that went to the polls, while the Trinamool Congress was reduced to 80 seats.**



Annapurna Bhandar Scheme Announced in West Bengal

- West Bengal announced the proposed Annapurna Bhandar scheme on 11 May 2026 after the first cabinet meeting of the new BJP government.
- The scheme is linked to financial support for eligible women in the state and is scheduled for rollout from 1 June 2026.
- The Annapurna Bhandar scheme is a state welfare initiative for women in West Bengal.
- Eligible women are expected to receive Rs 3,000 per month through direct bank transfers.
- The scheme has been described as a replacement or major upgrade to the earlier Lakshmir Bhandar scheme.



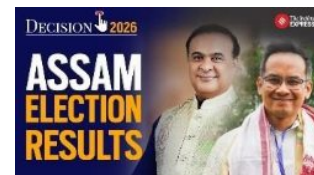
Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme

- Lakshmir Bhandar was a women-centric welfare scheme in West Bengal.
- It provided Rs 1,500 per month to general category women and Rs 1,700 per month to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries.
- The new proposal places Annapurna Bhandar in the same policy area of direct cash support to women.
- Sikkim
CJI Justice Surya Kant declares Sikkim as the first paperless state judiciary in the country in event being held in Gangtok
- Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant declared Sikkim as the country's first fully paperless State judiciary, marking a decisive shift in court administration and adjudicatory processes towards a digitised, technology-driven framework.
- The development coincides with Sikkim's 50th Statehood anniversary, Sikkim celebrates its Statehood Day on May 16

Assam

Assembly Election Results 2026 - Assam (Total AC : 126)

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, romped home to victory in Assam, increasing its tally to 82 seats
- Along with its allies, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 102 seats.
- The BJP won 82 seats—18 more than the simple majority mark of 64—while its regional allies, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), won 10 seats each



Himanta Biswa Sarma takes oath as Assam CM for second successive time

- Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second consecutive term, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Mr. Sarma.
- He was sworn in as the CM for a second consecutive time on May 12, 2026, making him the first non-Congress leader to hold the post, twice in a row.
- He first assumed the office in 2021.
- The swearing-in ceremony marks the formation of the third successive NDA government in the State.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) scripted a record victory in the Assam Assembly elections, bagging 102 of the 126 seats to retain power for a third straight term.
- The BJP won 82 seats—18 more than the simple majority mark of 64—while its regional allies, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), won 10 seats each.



Foundation laid for India's first riverine lighthouses

- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones for India's first riverine lighthouses along the Brahmaputra River on National Waterway-2 in Assam.



Locations of the Riverine Lighthouses: Four modern river lighthouses will be constructed at strategic points along the Brahmaputra in Assam:

- Pandu (Kamrup Metropolitan district)
- Bogibeel (Dibrugarh district)
- Silghat (Nagaon district)
- Biswanath Ghat (Biswanath district)
- NW-2: These sites lie along National Waterway-2, one of India's most important inland water transport corridors.
- Objective: To enhance night navigation safety and efficiency for cargo and passenger vessels operating on National Waterway-2.
- **benefits, reaffirming the government's commitment to universal health protection.**

Assam Assembly passes Uniform Civil Code Bill

- The Assam Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill even as the Opposition demanded that it be sent to a select committee.
- Assam became the third State, after Uttarakhand and Gujarat, to pass a Uniform Civil Code Bill.
- **Goa also has one common civil law, which continued from its erstwhile Portuguese colonial period.**
- **A UCC provides for the formulation of one law for the entire country, which would apply to all religious communities in their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and succession.**
- Article 44, enshrined in Part IV of the Indian Constitution, recognises the need for a UCC, but it is not mandatory and is left to the government's discretion.
- Currently, Indian personal law is complex, with each religion adhering to its specific laws.



Personal Laws in India:

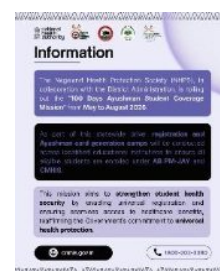
- Hindu Succession Act 1956 governs Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists
- Muslim Personal Law governs Muslims
- Indian Succession Act 1925 applies to Christians, Parsis, and Jews
- The Special Marriage Act provides for the solemnization of interfaith marriage as well as registration by a Marriage Officer.

Nagaland

Nagaland Health Protection Society Launches '100 Days Ayushman Student Coverage Mission' to Expand Youth Health Coverage

- Under the initiative, registration and Ayushman card generation camps will be held in selected educational institutions to enroll eligible students under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme.

The mission aims to strengthen student health security through universal registration and improved access to healthcare



Mizoram

Mizoram declared 'insurgency-free' as last militant group lays down arms

- **The last active insurgent group in Mizoram, a faction of the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) [HPC(D)] led by Lalhmingthanga Sanate, has laid down arms, making the state "insurgency-free," as announced by CM Lalduhoma.**
- It had demanded an autonomous district council for the Hmar community under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- 43 cadres, including Sanate, surrendered at a ceremony near Aizawl. The Sanate faction was considered the last surviving insurgent group in the northeastern State.
- Mizoram launches 'Khuarel' app to boost real-time disaster response

Mizoram's Last Militant Group Lays Down Arms, State Declared Insurgency-Free

The Sanate faction was considered the last surviving insurgent group in the northeastern state.



- Mizoram has launched the “Khuarel” mobile application, a real-time disaster incident reporting and management system designed to enhance coordination and information flow during emergencies.
- The app would allow citizens to quickly report disaster incidents while **enabling authorities, including the State and District Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA & DDMA), to respond more efficiently.**

Rajasthan

Rajasthan Promotes Breast Milk Donation Through Yashoda Mothers

- Rajasthan’s breast milk donation programme includes the Mother Milk Bank at Barmer District Hospital, the state-run human milk bank Jeevan Dhara in Jaipur, and the Yashoda programme under the Norway-India Partnership Initiative.
- Human milk banks collect, screen, process, store, and distribute donated breast milk for newborns who cannot receive milk from their mothers.
- These banks are used in neonatal care units and are linked with lactation support, infection screening, and safe storage systems.
- Jeevan Dhara was Rajasthan’s first state-run human milk bank.
- The banks of the Sabarmati River have Indian cities like Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.
- **Major Tributaries:** Wakal River, Harnav River, Hathmati River, Watrak River, and Madhumati River.



For the first time in history, the sacred shores of Somnath will witness the thunder of the Indian Air Force’s Suryakiran AIR show.

- The Indian Air Force's renowned Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) will present an air show over the Somnath Temple on May 11 as part of the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav-2026' **celebrations marking 75 years of the temple's reconstruction, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi,**
- The show will feature the **IAF's elite Suryakiran Aerobatics Team (SKAT), utilising six Hawk-MK-132 fighter jets operating out of the Jamnagar airbase.**
- Flying at incredible speeds of 800 to 900 kilometers per hour, the pilots will execute a series of complex maneuvers designed to showcase the pinnacle of pilot training and combat readiness.
- Prime Minister is set to visit the iconic Somnath Temple in Gujarat to mark the **75th anniversary of the restored Hindu temple's inauguration by President Rajendra Prasad in 1951.**

About Somnath Temple

- It is a **Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.**
- It is located in Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Saurashtra on the western coast of Gujarat.
- It is the **first of the 12 jyotirlinga shrines in India that are regarded as the manifestation of the Lord Shiva Himself.**
- The site of Somnath has been a pilgrimage site from ancient times on account of being a Triveni Sangam: the confluence of three rivers, namely Kapila, Hiran, and Saraswati.
- The ancient temple’s timeline can be traced from 649 BC but is believed to be older than that.
- The **temple faced several invasions, the most notable being by Mahmud Ghazni in the 11th century.**
- **Reconstruction Efforts:** Rebuilt multiple times by different dynasties, including the Paramaras, Chalukyas, and the Marathas.
- The **present temple was reconstructed in the Chalukya style of Hindu temple architecture and completed in May 1951.**
- The reconstruction was completed by Vallabhbhai Patel
- The temple’s positioning is quite unique. The temple is positioned in such a way that not a single piece of land is visible from the Somnath seashore until Antarctica.



Cabinet approves ship repair facility in Vadinar with an investment of ₹1,570 crore

- The government approved the development of a state-of-the-art ship repair facility in Vadinar, Gujarat, with an investment of ₹1,570 crore.
- The project will be jointly implemented by Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).**
- The project is planned as a brownfield facility with a 650-metre jetty, two large floating dry docks, workshops and associated marine infrastructure.
- Vadinar's natural deep draft, connectivity to major shipping routes, and proximity to key ports, such as Mundra and Kandla, make it an optimal location for repair operations, particularly for large commercial and foreign-flagged vessels.**
- The Vadinar Ship Repair Facility will directly address a critical gap in India's ship repair infrastructure, as the country currently lacks adequate domestic capacity to repair large vessels exceeding 230 metres in length.
- By enabling repair of vessels up to 300 m, the facility will allow high-value repairs of large vessels within India.**



Cabinet approves Micro LED plant, OSAT facility in Gujarat

- The Union cabinet approved support worth a combined ₹3,936 crore in support for two new semiconductor plants by Crystal Matrix Ltd and Suchi Semicon Pvt Ltd.
- These are the final projects to be approved under the first phase of the India Semiconductor Mission.

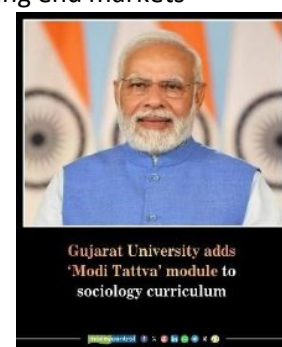
The details of the two approved proposals are as follows:

- Crystal Matrix Limited (CML) will establish an integrated facility **for compound semiconductor fabrication and ATMP in Dholera, Gujarat for manufacturing Mini/Micro-LED display modules.**
- The annual proposed production capacity for Mini/Micro-LED Display Panels is 72,000 sq. meters, and for Mini-Micro-LED GaN Epitaxy Wafers is 24,000 sets of RGB wafers.
- The proposed products will have applications in large displays for TVs and signages/commercial displays, Medium-sized displays for tablets, smartphones, and in-car displays, and Micro-displays for Extended Reality (XR) glasses and smart watches.
- Suchi Semicon Private Limited (SSPL) will be setting up an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Surat, Gujarat for manufacturing discrete semiconductors.
- The proposed production capacity of the Suchi Semicon is 1033.20 million chips per annum.
- The target applications include power electronics, analog ICs, and industrial systems, serving end markets such as automotive, industrial automation, and consumer electronics.



Gujarat university introduces 'Modi Tattva' module in sociology syllabus

- A first-of-its-kind module on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership philosophy has been added to the sociology syllabus of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, one of western India's oldest public universities.
- The module, titled 'Modi Tattva', forms part of a paper on the 'Sociology of Patriotism', under the university's BA and MA programmes in Sociology.
- It will be taught alongside content on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and historical figures including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the reformist Maratha ruler after whom the university is named.

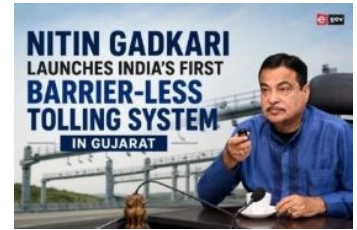


Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Launches India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Barrier-less Tolling System in

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari** announced the launch of India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on the Surat-Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat.
- The state-of-the-art system enables seamless toll collection without requiring vehicles to stop, using advanced technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Launches India's First Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) Barrier-less Tolling System in Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari announced the launch of India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on the Surat–Bharuch section of NH-48 in Gujarat.

- The state-of-the-art system enables **seamless toll collection without requiring vehicles to stop, using advanced technologies such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and FASTag.**



Maharashtra

Dimethyl Ether

- **Oil and** Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), along with CSIR–National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), is set to launch an industrial pilot project to produce dimethyl ether (DME) in Pune.
- It is a synthetically produced **alternative to diesel for use in specially designed compression ignition diesel engines.**



Properties of Dimethyl Ether

- **High Cetane Number:** It has a very high cetane number, which is a measure of the fuel's ignitability in compression ignition engines.
- Under normal atmospheric conditions, DME is a colorless gas.
- It burns cleaner, emitting minimal amounts of soot, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), and particulate matter.
- It exhibits thermal efficiency that is comparable to traditional fuels, making it a viable substitute
- Alternate Fuel: It can be a **viable alternative fuel and engine technology to adapt to conventional diesel engines used in India's economy's agricultural and transport sectors.**

Application of Dimethyl Ether

- It is used extensively in the chemical industry and as an aerosol propellant.
- It is used in chemical industries and also to produce dyes and plastics

Maharashtra Approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026

- **Maharashtra approved the** Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026, on 22 April 2026, and the policy was officially released on 5 May 2026.
- The Maharashtra Cabinet approved it under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and the policy provides ₹500 crore for 2026-27.
- Compressed biogas is a renewable fuel produced from organic waste through anaerobic digestion and purification.
- The Maharashtra policy covers urban waste and agricultural residue.
- The policy aims to establish compressed biogas projects in every district of Maharashtra. It provides for implementation through Public-Private Partnership and hybrid annuity models, and it requires source segregation of waste into organic and inorganic categories.
- A steering committee chaired by the Chief Secretary will oversee implementation, and district-level coordination committees will also function under the policy framework.
- The policy includes Viability Gap Funding of up to ₹75 lakh per tonne of capacity, with a ceiling of ₹15 crore per project.
- It also provides priority electricity and water supply to biogas units.
- Land allocation will be cancelled if a project does not become operational within two years.
- The policy aligns with SATAT, GOBARDHAN, and the **Swachh Bharat Mission. These programmes relate to compressed biogas, waste-to-energy systems, and solid waste management in India.**
- **Morchella Mushroom Cultivated in Controlled Conditions in Kashmir** Recently, the Sheri Kashmir University of Agriculture and Sciences (SKUAST) in Srinagar has cultivated the Morchella mushroom for the first time in controlled condition.

Morchella Mushroom

- It is an edible mushroom from the Ascomycota group.
- Morels** or Morchella is locally known as Kangaech or Gucchi mushroom.
- It grows naturally in specific high elevation forest ecosystems during a narrow rainy season.



2nd edition of WAVES Doc Bazaar will return from June 16 to 18, 2026

- The 2nd edition of WAVES Doc Bazaar will return from June 16 to 18, 2026, alongside the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), at the NFDC Complex, Mumbai.
- WAVES Doc Bazaar is a premier one-stop platform designed to nurture and accelerate the journey of documentary, animation and short filmmakers by creating opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, market access and global visibility.
- Among the key segments of WAVES Doc Bazaar is the Viewing Room (VR), where documentary, short and animation films that are recently completed or in post-production will be showcased to a curated audience of registered delegates
- The Work-In-Progress Lab (WIP) is specially designed for documentary and animation films in the rough-cut stage.
- Conducted in a closed-door setting, the lab enables selected participants to receive valuable feedback, guidance and mentorship from experienced filmmakers, editors and international mentors, helping them refine their projects for wider audiences.
- For the first time, WAVES Doc Bazaar will also **introduce the Immersive Market, a dedicated platform for immersive content creators, producers and technology partners.**



Operation WHITE STRIKE

- The Operation WHITE STRIKE led to the seizure of 349 kg of high-grade cocaine worth ₹1,745 crore in the Mumbai logistics corridor.
- A large-scale anti-narcotics operation conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) targeting an international **cocaine trafficking syndicate operating through India's logistics networks.**



Aim:

- To dismantle organized narcotics supply chains and disrupt transnational drug networks.
- To implement India's zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking through intelligence-driven enforcement.

SHORT NEWS

- India's first** mangrove park, which has been constructed at Gorai in Mumbai's western suburbs and has been awaiting opening for nearly a year, is set to be named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Telangana

Hanamkonda's Thousand Pillar Temple

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) completed the 42-year-long restoration of the 12th-century dance pavilion (Kalyana Mandapam) at the Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamkonda, Telangana.
- The structure, which had sunk into the ground due to foundational failure, was rebuilt piece-by-piece using indigenous Kakatiya-era sandbox technology.
- The Thousand Pillar Temple is an iconic 12th-century monument and a popular pilgrimage center.
- It is a Trikutalaya, dedicated to a troika of deities: Lord Shiva, Vishnu, and Surya Deva.
- Built By: Constructed in 1163 AD by the ruler Rudra Deva.



Key Characteristics:

- Depicts the typical Chalukya style of architecture.

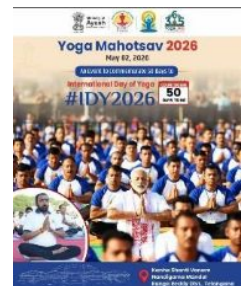
- The temple features a unique star-shaped architecture, a testimony to the expertise of medieval craftsmen.
- Houses a massive Nandi sculpture made of a single black basalt stone, recently restored with a complete tail and folded leg.
- The temple is supported by richly carved pillars; it carries the name Thousand Pillar because many columns have vertical carvings that give the impression of multiple pillars.
- The dance pavilion was ransacked during the conquest of Ulugh Khan in 1323-24 and lay in ruins for centuries until this recent restoration.

Kakatiya-era Sandbox Technology:

- Sandbox technology is an ancient geotechnical engineering technique where a building is constructed on a sand-filled pit rather than a conventional hard-rock foundation.
- It was a unique architectural hallmark developed during the Kakatiya dynasty (12th–14th century) in Southern India.
- A deep pit is dug where the foundation is to be laid.
- Binding Mixture: The pit is filled with a mixture of sand, lime, jaggery (as a binder), and karakkaya (black myrobalan fruit).
- Construction: The heavy stone structure, including pillars and beams, is then raised on this sandbox.
- The sandbox acts as a cushion; vibrations from earthquakes lose their intensity as they pass through the sand before reaching the building's foundation.
- Laboratory experiments show that a sandbox can reduce the impact force of vibrations by nearly 60%.
- Unlike modern rubber-based isolation techniques that wear out in 40 years, sand has a very slow weathering rate, allowing monuments like the Thousand Pillar and Ramappa temples to last for hundreds of years.
- It is an economical and environmentally sustainable technique as sand is naturally available.
- While highly effective for shear-predominant structures common in India, it is not suitable for modern skyscrapers or extremely tall buildings.

MDNIY to organise Yoga Mahotsav 2026 in Telangana

- Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), under the Ministry of Ayush, will organise Yoga Mahotsav 2026, marking the 50-day countdown to 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2026) on May 02, 2026, at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana.
- The 12th International Day of Yoga will be celebrated on June 21, 2026.



TG Organics App connecting organic farmers in Telangana with customers to be launched by govt.

- The Telangana government in a few days will launch a mobile app (TG Organics) to connect organic farmers with customers.
- People can select vegetables, fruits, or pulses they want, to get a list of the organic farmers concerned in a selected radius, location of the farm, their phone number and other details. Farmers will get to decide the prices.



Mahua Flower Festival Celebrated in Telangana's Adilabad

- The annual Mahua flower festival, locally known as 'Ippa Puvvu Panduga', was celebrated with traditional fervour in Jamidi village of Adilabad district, Telangana.
- Mahua, scientifically known as Madhuca indica, holds immense cultural and economic value for Adivasi communities.
- Its flowers are used for food, traditional beverages, and medicinal purposes, while also serving as a key source of livelihood.

Andhra Pradesh

Startup Kadapa Initiative Launched in Andhra Pradesh

- "Startup Kadapa" is an ambitious project in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, aimed at nurturing entrepreneurial talent and providing a platform for youth to explore new opportunities.
- The initiative is designed to support approximately 15,000 tech professionals in Kadapa who are currently working from home and seeking entrepreneurial platforms.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary inaugurates Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed in Visakhapatnam

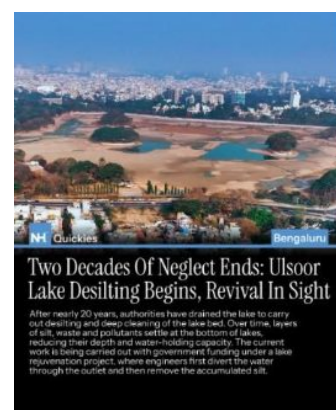
- Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary M. Ravichandran inaugurated the Coastal Atmospheric Research Testbed (C-ART) at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam.
- The facility has been set up by the Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under Mission Mausam.
- The facility has been set up to support research on coastal weather systems, atmospheric changes and climate-related studies.
- The testbed is equipped with a suite of advanced in-situ and remote-sensing instruments, including aerosol mass spectrometers, cloud condensation nuclei counters, ceilometers and greenhouse gas analysers.
- C-ART is the third such facility in the country and the first on the East Coast. Advanced instruments, including Doppler Radar, Wind Lidar and Wind Profiler systems, have been installed at the centre for weather observation and atmospheric studies.

Karnataka**AI, GIS-enabled Kartavya-KAAMS app launched for attendance of school teachers, staff**

- The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has launched the 'Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System (Kartavya-KAAMS) to identify and monitor the attendance of permanent teaching and non-teaching staff and officers.
- The Kartavya-KAAMS is an artificial intelligence (AI) and geographic information system (GIS) enabled facial recognition mobile app.
- It is mandatory for teaching and non-teaching staff to register attendance twice a day on the app from the place where they are on duty from the academic year 2026-27.

Ulsoor Lake

- As Ulsoor Lake has been drained and the desilting process has been taken up after more than three decades, lake conservation activists have taken objection to the lakebed being desilted by only 0.6 metres, arguing that it is insufficient.
- Ulsoor Lake, also known as Halasuru Lake, is a man-made lake located in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- It is the largest and oldest lake in the entire city of Bangalore.
- It was built by Kempe Gowda II, the founder of Bangalore, in 1648 and named after the nearby village of Halsur or Alasur.
- It was later renovated by Sir Lewin Benthall Bowring, the commissioner of Bangalore, in 1862 and renamed as Ulsoor after the anglicized version of Halsur.
- It has an irregular shape that resembles a map of India.
- It has seven islands that are connected by bridges.
- There is also a garden at one end of the lake known as Kensington Park

**5th BRICS SAI Leaders' Summit begins under theme "Ease of Living with Focus on Urban Mobility"**

- The two-day 5th BRICS Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Leaders' Summit began in Bengaluru under the theme "Ease of Living with a Focus on Urban Mobility".
- Organised by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as part of India's BRICS Chairmanship 2026, the summit has brought together 42 delegates, including Heads of SAIs from BRICS countries.
- The summit was inaugurated by Comptroller and Auditor General of India K. Sanjay Murthy.
- Delegates from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, and the UAE are participating in the summit.
- The event will conclude with the adoption of the BRICS SAI Work Plan 2027-28 and the Bengaluru Declaration.

**Karnataka government launches India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers**

- The mechanism — a first of its kind in India — has been developed by the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers' Board in collaboration with the Department of e-Governance.

- With the new initiative coming into force, gig workers can now officially lodge grievances, including regarding pay, working conditions, and platform-specific disputes, through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS) portal.
- Under The Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (**Social Security and Welfare**) Act and Rules, every aggregator platform must constitute an Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC).

Kerala

Assembly Election Results 2026 - Kerala Assembly: Total seats: 140

- The Congress-led** United Democratic Front (UDF) secured a decisive victory in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, unseating the Left Democratic Front (LDF) after its decade-long rule.
- The UDF collectively won 102 seats, with Indian National Congress securing 63 seats, while Indian Union Muslim League won 22 seats and Kerala Congress (KEC) seven seats.

Kavu Nurseries

- The Kerala State Biodiversity Board has launched a pilot programme to restore sacred groves (kavus) across selected districts.**
- Kavu nurseries are specialized plant nurseries developed to propagate native, endemic, and threatened plant species found in sacred groves (kavus).
- They serve as biodiversity regeneration hubs to restore degraded grove ecosystems.
- Aim: To regenerate sacred grove ecosystems by cultivating and reintroducing native plant species.

Key Features:

- Propagation of Native Species:** Cultivation of over 100 indigenous and threatened plant species specific to sacred groves.
- Support for Restoration:** Provides saplings (≈3,000 planned) for replantation in degraded kavus.
- Invasive Species Management:** Helps replace invasive flora with ecologically suitable native vegetation.
- Community-Based Implementation:** Managed with local Biodiversity Management Committees ensuring participatory conservation.
- Chitra Pournami festival The Chitra Pournami festival at the Mangala Devi Kannagi Temple on the Keralam – Tamil Nadu border held.
- Located inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve, the temple **will open to devotees from 6 a.m.**
- Chitra Pournami (or Chaitra Purnima) is a significant Hindu full moon festival, predominantly celebrated in Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the Tamil month of Chithirai (April-May).**



Kerala starts sacred groves restoration



Tamil Nadu

Assembly Election Results 2026 - Tamil Nadu (Total AC : 234)

- Actor-turned-politician Vijay's** Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has emerged as the single largest party in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly with 108 seats, falling 10 short of the majority mark.
- In a major political shift, the Congress has extended full support to TVK for forming the new government in the state, effectively breaking its long-standing alliance with the DMK in Tamil Nadu

Governor's Role in a Hung Assembly

- Actor-turned-politician Vijay's swearing-in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has been delayed as** Governor Rajendra Arlekar insisted on proof of majority before an invitation to form the government
- A hung Assembly occurs when no single political party or pre-poll alliance secures an absolute majority of seats in the state legislature.
- In such situations, the Governor exercises constitutional discretion to appoint a Chief Minister who, in their judgment, **is most likely to command the confidence of the House.**

Constitutional Article:

- Article 164(1):** The Constitution of India provides that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor.



Tamil Nadu Governor Not Convinced Vijay's TVK Has Majority, No Swearing-In Tomorrow: Sources

Aim:

- **The** primary aim of the Governor's role is to ensure the formation of a stable government that commands the widest possible support in the Legislative Assembly.
- The Governor's task is purely administrative—to see that a government is formed—rather than political.

Governor's Role & Order of Precedence:

Based on the norms established by the Sarkaria Commission (1983) and the Punchhi **Commission (2007)**, the **Governor should follow a specific order of precedence:**

- **Pre-poll Alliance:** Invite the group of parties that contested the election together and command the largest number of seats.
- **Single Largest Party:** Invite the single largest party that can demonstrate it has gained the support of others to reach a majority.
- **Post-election Coalition:** Invite a post-poll alliance where all constituent parties agree to join the government.
- **Outside Support:** Invite a post-election alliance where some parties join the government and others (including Independents) provide support **from the outside**.

Key Procedures:

- **Floor Test:** The Commission norms emphasize that the issue of majority support must be tested on the floor of the House (Assembly) and not determined by the Governor privately.
- **Timeframe:** A newly appointed Chief Minister is typically required to seek a vote of confidence within 30 days of taking office.
- **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam** founder and actor C. Joseph Vijay became the second debutant Legislator to be sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu since 1967.
- He is also the first member of a minority religious denomination (**Christian**) to occupy the top post in the State.

**Chief Minister and Council of Ministers Constitutional Provisions**

- **The Chief Minister** and the Council of Ministers, as outlined in Part VI of the Indian Constitution, form a key part of the state executive, alongside the Governor and Advocate General of State.

The following are the constitutional provisions:

- Article 163 establishes that the Council of Ministers, headed by the Chief Minister, is responsible for aiding and advising the Governor in the exercise of most of the Governor's functions, except the discretionary ones.
- Article 164 outlines other provisions regarding the appointment, roles, and responsibilities of ministers, including the Chief Minister, within the state government.
- Article 166 deals with the conduct of the business of the state government.
- Article 167: Under Article 167, it is the Chief Minister's duty to inform the Governor of all decisions made by the Council of Ministers regarding state administration and legislative proposals.
 - He must also provide any information the Governor requests about state affairs and legislation.
 - Additionally, if required, the Chief Minister must present any matter decided by a minister but not yet reviewed by the Council of Ministers for its consideration
- **Rights of Ministers:** Article 177 grants ministers including the Chief Minister the right to speak in, and participate in the proceedings of, the legislative assemblies and councils of the state, as well as any committee of the state legislature of which they may be named a member.
- However, they do not have the right to vote unless they are members of a particular House of bicameral state legislature.

Chief Minister Appointment

- **The Constitution provides no specific procedure for selecting or appointing the Chief Minister, stating only** in Article 164 that the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor.
- While this appointment is at the Governor's discretion, the Governor traditionally appoints the leader of the majority party in the legislative assembly as Chief Minister, following parliamentary conventions.

- Absence of a Clear Majority: If no party has a clear majority, the Governor may use personal discretion to appoint the leader of the largest party or coalition as Chief Minister and require a confidence vote within a month.
 - Moreover, in cases where a Chief Minister dies unexpectedly without an obvious successor, the Governor may exercise judgment in the selection, although the ruling party typically elects a new leader for appointment.
- Membership Criteria: The Governor may also appoint a Chief Minister before h/she proves a majority in the assembly, granting time to do so.
 - A person not yet a member of the state legislature can be appointed as Chief Minister but must secure a legislative seat within six months to retain the position

Appointment of Council of Ministers

- The Chief Minister advises the Governor on the appointment of the Council of Ministers, meaning the Governor can only appoint those individuals recommended by the Chief Minister. Ministers serve at the discretion of the Governor.
- While the Council of Ministers is typically appointed from the state legislature, either the legislative assembly or council, a person who is not yet a member can also be appointed.
 - However, such a minister must join either House within six months, or he/she will lose ministerial position.
- If any question arises regarding whether a matter falls within the discretionary powers, the decision made by the Governor is final, and the validity of any action taken cannot be challenged on the grounds that it should or should not have been done at the Governor's discretion.
- Furthermore, the advice given by the Ministers cannot be examined by any court.

Chief Minister and Council of Ministers Disqualification

- The 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 stipulates that any member of the state legislature, belonging to a political party, who is disqualified due to defection, shall also be ineligible for appointment as a minister or Chief Minister.

Who is a Pro-tem Speaker, and why is the role crucial for a new Assembly?

- Tamil Nadu got a new Pro-tem speaker on May 10, 2026. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam MLA Karuppiyah M.V. was sworn in as the Pro-tem Speaker by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

Who is a Pro-tem Speaker?

- A Pro-tem ("for the time being") Speaker is a temporary presiding officer appointed to fulfil specific constitutional and procedural requirements during the transition between two legislative assemblies.

Why is a Pro-tem Speaker appointed?

- They are appointed for two primary reasons:
- Oath-administration: To administer the oath of office to all newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) so that they can legally participate in the House proceedings.
- Conducting elections: To preside over the matters of the House until a permanent Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by the members.

How is a Pro-tem Speaker appointed?

- The senior-most member of the House (usually by number of terms served) is chosen for the role. This is not a legal rule, and the government may recommend other members, too.
- The Governor of the State appoints the Pro-tem Speaker and administers the oath of office to them.



Tamil Nadu Launches Singappen Special Task Force

- The Tamil Nadu government has ordered the formation of the "Singappen Special Task Force" to strengthen women's safety and preventive protection measures in the state.
- The special unit will function under the direct supervision of the Chief Minister.

TVK legislator JCD Prabhakar elected as Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker

- TVK legislator J.C.D. Prabhakar was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly.
- Mr. Ravishankar was elected unopposed, Deputy Speaker.

Mission Mausam Urban Testbed Launched

- The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, operating under the 'Mission Mausam' initiative, has established a state-of-the-art Urban Testbed and Aerosol Observatory at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in Ramapuram, Chennai.
- The facility is aimed at monitoring aerosols, clouds, precipitation, atmospheric dynamics, and thermodynamic parameters across the city to enhance monsoon prediction and provide early warnings of severe weather.



Mission Mausam

- Mission Mausam was launched in September 2024 by the Prime Minister of India as a major scientific initiative of MoES with a futuristic vision.
- The mission aims to enhance disaster preparedness through the modernization of observational infrastructure, improving monsoon prediction, and nowcasting and early warning of severe weather.
- The Mission also focuses on strengthening climate services to support key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, disaster management, aviation, and energy, thereby making India a "Weather-Ready and Climate-Smart Nation."

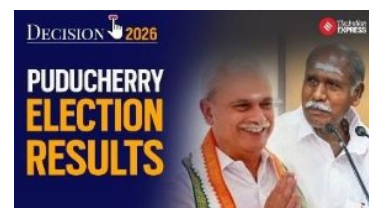
IIT Madras Launches California Centre for Deep-Tech Startups

- **The** Indian Institute of Technology Madras Global Research Foundation has announced the establishment of its first centre in the United States, expanding India's deep-tech innovation footprint into global ecosystems.
- Strategically located near Silicon Valley, the IITM Centre is envisioned as a launchpad for Indian deep-tech startups to access global capital, markets, mentorship, and partnerships.

Puducherry

Assembly Election Results 2026 - Puducherry (Total AC : 30)

- The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has secured a thumping win in the Puducherry Assembly elections 2026, bagging 18 seats.
- In the 30-member Puducherry Assembly, the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) emerged as the single-largest party, winning 12 seats. Its ally BJP won 4 seats, ADMK 1 seat and LJK 1 seat.
- NDA (AINRC+BJP allies) 18
- Among NDA constituents, the All India NR Congress has won 12 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party 4 seats while other allies All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi winning one seat each.



President Droupadi Murmu appoints N Rangasamy as Puducherry Chief Minister

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed N Rangasamy as Chief Minister of Puducherry.
- Following the appointment, Lieutenant Governor K Kailashnathan invited Mr Rangasamy to form a new government in the union territory.
- Mr Rangasamy is set to assume office for a record fifth term after the AINRC-led National Democratic Alliance secured a comfortable victory in the Assembly elections.
- In the 30-member assembly, NDA has the support of 18 MLAs, two more than the majority mark.



Ladakh

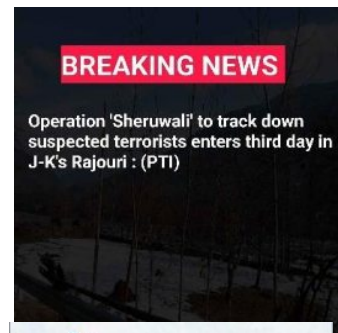
Mahey Tokpo-Raldho Canal Inaugurated in Ladakh's Changthang

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the high-altitude irrigation canal in Changthang region, constructed at an altitude of over 14,000 feet,
- The Mahey irrigation canal, along with the mass plantation drive, will immensely benefit the people of Changthang
- The canal, draws water from Yaya Lake



Operation 'Sheruwali' to track down suspected terrorists enters third day in J&K's Rajouri

- A joint team of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had launched the operation 'Sheruwali'
- A search operation to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the dense woods of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district .



Jammu & Kashmir

The Gulmarg Gondola

- More than 300 tourists, including women and children, were safely rescued during a massive seven-hour joint operation after a major technical snag halted the Gulmarg Gondola ropeway in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Gulmarg Gondola is a world-famous, premier commercial cable car lift system that stands as a core anchor of the region's tourism economy.
- Location: Situated in the alpine resort town of Gulmarg within the Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, India.



Key Features:

- Asia's Highest Aerial Ride: It holds the distinct geological title of being the longest and highest gondola ride in Asia, as well as the second longest and highest anywhere in the world.
- Substantial Transit Elevation: The two-stage ropeway ascends to a maximum altitude of 4,200 meters (13,780 feet) near the snow-covered Apharwat Peak.



Panzath Nag Spring Conservation Festival

- The centuries-old community-led spring cleaning and fish-catching festival at Panzath Nag in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district was recently observed with participation from thousands of villagers.
- The Panzath Nag festival is a traditional community-driven ecological conservation practice in which villagers collectively clean a natural spring and surrounding water channels while participating in controlled traditional fish-catching activities.
- Region: Panzath village, Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Aim: To conserve and restore the natural spring ecosystem by removing silt, weeds, and waste materials obstructing water flow.
- To ensure sustainable water availability for irrigation, drinking purposes, and aquatic biodiversity.

Key Features:

- Thousands of villagers from nearly 45 surrounding communities voluntarily participate in cleaning the spring every year.
- Participants are allowed to catch fish using traditional methods like wicker baskets and mosquito nets, avoiding destructive modern fishing gear.
- Removal of silt and weeds immediately improves water clarity, groundwater recharge, and irrigation flow to surrounding paddy fields.

J&K: MOUNGARI MELA also known as Shiv-Parvati Mela in Udhampur to commence

- Mounhari Mela is one of the famous Melas of Udhampur District which is organised with great religious fervour and gaiety every year on the eve of first Jyeshth and lasts till the 3rd Jyeshth, which generally falls in May-June,
- At Sar Dabbar at a distance of 51 Kilometers from Udhampur which attracts thousands of visitors from within and outside the UT.
- The historic 3-day annual Mounhari Mela also known as Shiv-Parvati Mela



Himachal Pradesh

India Launches Chenab Hydropower Projects Amid Indus Treaty Freeze

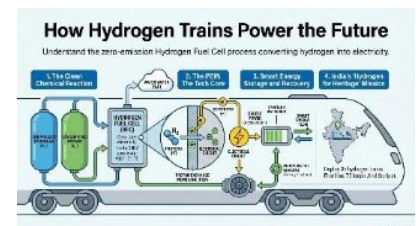
- India has launched two major Chenab-linked projects worth nearly Rs 2,600 crore weeks after putting the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) framework with Pakistan in abeyance,
- The projects will be executed by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) as part of a wider push to increase India's utilisation of waters governed under the 1960 treaty framework.
- The larger of the two ventures is the Rs 2,352 crore Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel Project in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti region.
- The proposal involves constructing an 8.7-km tunnel to divert surplus water from the Chenab basin into the Beas river system
- The tunnel forms part of a wider inter-basin river-linking initiative aimed at transferring water from the Chandra river, a tributary of the Chenab toward the Beas basin through hydraulic structures and tunnels.
- A 19-metre-high barrage is also proposed across the river in the Lahaul valley as part of Phase-I construction.



Haryana

India's first hydrogen train: How does hydrogen fuel cell technology work?

- The Railway Board (RB) approved the introduction of the country's first hydrogen-powered trainset. Hydrogen trains – often referred to as 'hydrail' or 'H-trains' provide a viable alternative to diesel locomotives on non-electrified railway routes.
- The country's first hydrogen-powered train will run between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana. It is developed by Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory (ICF). The 10-car hydrogen-powered set will operate at a maximum speed of 75 kmph.
- Decarbonisation of the railways is a significant step towards attaining the net-zero goal by 2070. Indian Railways under "Hydrogen for Heritage" envisages deploying 35 hydrogen-powered trains on heritage and hill routes across the country.
- Hydrogen trains are electric trains with an onboard power source, unlike conventional electric trains that are powered via overhead wires.
- They use HFC (Hydrogen Fuel Cell) technology, which generates energy through the electrochemical reaction of compressed hydrogen with atmospheric oxygen, emitting water vapour as the sole byproduct. This makes the system a zero-emission mechanism at the point of use.



Delhi

Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles launches Bharat Tex 2026 Mobile App

- India's flagship global textile event, Bharat Tex 2026 will be held in New Delhi from 14th to 17th July 2026.
- The app is designed to identify the interests of buyers and automatically link them with relevant suppliers, enabling better networking and business engagement during Bharat Tex events.



SHORT NEWS

- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the 'Metro Monday' initiative, joining ministers and government officials in using public transport as part of a campaign focused on sustainable mobility and fuel conservation.

**India's First Hydrogen Buses To Begin Central Vista Service**

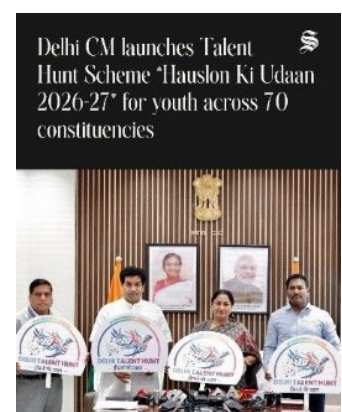
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has begun operating the first hydrogen-powered shuttle bus service in the Central Vista area
- The shuttle services will provide last-mile connectivity between Central Secretariat and Seva Teerth metro stations and offer a cleaner alternative to fossil fuel-powered vehicles.
- The bus has been provided to DMRC by IOCL and is a product of Tata Motors.
- It was delivered to the oil company in 2023 as part of a fleet of buses to be assessed as a potential mass-transport solution.
- The hydrogen-powered bus, now operated by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, uses hydrogen-powered PEM fuel cell technology.
- It features a 350-bar hydrogen storage system and a 70 kW fuel cell stack, providing it with the necessary power.

**National AI Doctors Mission Launched in New Delhi**

- The National AI Doctors Mission (NAIDM) was launched at Health AI Con 2026 in New Delhi on 17 May 2026.
- The mission is a national initiative for training India's medical fraternity in Artificial Intelligence (AI), clinical practice, and ethical use of digital tools in healthcare.
- NAIDM is a doctor-led initiative conceptualised by Medical Dialogues in collaboration with the National Medical Forum. The mission covers AI knowledge, practical skills, and an ethical framework for medical professionals in India.
- The National Medical Commission was established under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.

**Delhi govt launches 'Hauslon ki Udaan' to explore talents in youth**

- Delhi Government today announced the launch of the Talent Hunt Scheme-Hauslon ki Udaan 2026-27.
- The initiative aims to identify, nurture and provide a national platform to the hidden talent of Delhi's youth.
- The scheme will offer equal opportunities to young people from different social and economic backgrounds and help channel their creative potential in a meaningful direction.
- The youth between the ages of 16 and 35 can register free of cost through the dedicated online portal www.delhitalenthunt.com.
- The competition will feature seven major categories, including dancing, singing, acting and digital art.

**Uttar Pradesh****National Test House establishes advanced Shoe Testing Laboratory in Ghaziabad**

- The National Test House (NTH) of Northern Region in Ghaziabad, under the Department of Consumer Affairs, has established a state-of-the-art Shoe Testing Laboratory.
- The laboratory will significantly enhance NTH's capability to provide comprehensive, reliable and high-precision footwear testing services for MSMEs, manufacturers, exporters, consumers and regulatory authorities across the country.

UP: Yogi Adityanath cabinet approves constitution of OBC commission

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the formation of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) commission for the three-tier rural bodies.
- The proposal for the formation of the 'Uttar Pradesh State Local Rural Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission' ('Uttar Pradesh Rajya Sthaniya Gramin Nikaay Samarpit Pichhada Varg Aayog')
- It is being set up with the objective of providing reservations in the three-tier panchayat bodies in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- The OBC panel will have five members, with a retired high court judge as the Chairperson, for a term of six months.
- The tenure of the Chairperson and members of this commission shall be for a period of six months from the date of their appointment and may be extended if necessary.
- As per the proposal, the State government shall, by an order, reserve seats and offices in all three levels of the panchayat bodies for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.
- The reservation for the Backward Classes shall not exceed 27% of the total number of offices in the three-tier panchayats.

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh High Court Declares Bhojshala Complex a Temple

- The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court delivered a historic verdict declaring the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in district a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- The Bhojshala complex is an 11th-century protected historical monument originally served as a premier center for Sanskrit learning and a temple to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- Over centuries of regional shifts, parts of the temple structure were utilized to construct the Kamal Maula Mosque, making it a deeply contested religious site.
- Location: Dhar (historically known as Dhara), Malwa region, Madhya Pradesh, India.
- The city of Dhar, which served as the capital of the famous Paramara dynasty.
- The Foundation (1000–1055 A.D.): Founded by Raja Bhoja, the most celebrated monarch of the Paramara dynasty.
- The center was expanded and maintained by immediate successors like Udayaditya and Naravarman, and later patronized by King Arjunavarma Deva (early 13th century).
- In the 14th century, during the rule of the Malwa Sultanate, the site was converted into a mosque. It became associated with the tomb of the Sufi saint Shaikh Kamal Maula, giving rise to its dual identity.
- It was designated a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act in March 1904.



Architectural Features:

- The monument features a large open courtyard surrounded by side colonnades and a prayer hall.
- The delicately carved pillars and decorated ceilings used throughout the mosque display definitive Hindu temple motifs and structures.
- Sarpabandha Inscriptions: The site uniquely preserves two Sarpabandha (serpentine chart) pillar inscriptions.



Stone slabs engraved with two distinct odes to the Kurma-Avatara (the crocodile/tortoise incarnation of Lord Vishnu) written in Prakrit are fixed to the walls.

- **Classical Sanskrit Drama:** Slabs lining the mihrab contain a theatrical composition written by Royal Tutor Madana (disciple of Jain scholar Ashadhara) during King Arjunavarma's reign.
- The latest ASI survey recovered 94 sculptures (including images of Ganesha, Vishnu, and Narasimha) and documented chopped-off structural images along the pilasters.

Urtan and Dhirauli Mines

- The Ministry of Coal announced the commencement of coal production from the Urtan and Dhirauli coal mines in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Urtan and Dhirauli mines are freshly operationalized, high-capacity coal blocks allocated to private players under the government's liberalized commercial coal mining framework.

Locations and Corporate Allocations:

Urtan Coal Mine:

- Situated in the Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh, this specialized underground asset has been allocated to M/s JMS Mining Private Limited.

Dhirauli Coal Mine:

- Located in the heavily industrialized Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, this large-scale block has been allocated to M/s Mahan Energen Limited (a subsidiary of Adani Power).



Key Features:

- Both blocks are structurally embedded within the resource-rich Gondwana rock system of central India, which archives over 98% of the country's total black coal deposits.
- The **Dhirauli mine forms a critical part of the continuous Soagpur-Singrauli coal basin. This region is geologically famous for hosting some of the thickest coal seams in the world**, blanketed underneath layers of structural sandstone and carbonaceous shales.
- The Urtan block is situated near the drainage basin of the Son and Narmada rivers.

Bihar

Bihar Cabinet hikes DA, clears 19 major development proposals

- The Bihar Cabinet approved a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for State government employees, pensioners and family pensioners getting revised salary or pension as per the 7th Pay Commission recommendations.
- The **DA has been hiked from 58% to 60%, effective January 01, 2026.**
- The Cabinet also hiked a 5% DA for employees, pensioners and family pensioners under the 6th Pay Commission, revising it from 257% to 262%.
- The **Cabinet also gave its nod to transfer 100 acres in Vaishali district to the Union Food Processing Industries Ministry for setting up the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM).**
- It also approved the Home Department's proposal to create the post of Superintendent of Police (Rural) in five districts—East Champaran, Samastipur, Madhubani, Vaishali, and Siwan
- The **government approved opening three new degree colleges in West Champaran and Munger** as part of its Saat Nischay-3 (2025-30) programme "Unnat Shiksha-Ujjwal Bhavishya (Advanced Education-Bright Future),



The Cabinet approved the Chief Minister Bihar Environment-Friendly Transport Employment Scheme and the Bihar Electric Vehicle (Amendment) Policy, 2026.

- Under the policy, women purchasing electric four-wheelers will receive a subsidy of up to ₹1 lakh per vehicle.
- Women buying electric two-wheelers will get an incentive of ₹12,000, he said, adding the incentive amount will be applicable for the financial year 2026-27.

Odisha

Odisha Launches Bomkai Weaving Revival Drive

- Odisha's Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department has launched a **revival plan for the original Bomkai weaving tradition in Ganjam district.**
- The project is titled Revival of Languishing Products (Cotton Bomkai Saree) and was approved by the state government in the last financial year.
- **The Bomkai saree has Geographical Indication status under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999.**



Machkund Hydroelectric Project

- A major fire broke out at the Machkund Hydroelectric Project **located on the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border recently.**
- It is a 120 MW hydropower project located in the Koraput district of Odisha along the border with Andhra Pradesh.
- It is **located on the western slopes of the Eastern Ghats near the well-known Duduma Falls**, on the Machkund River (a tributary of the Godavari River system).
- The **Jalaput Dam, along with its reservoir, supports the project.**
- It is an inter-state Project of Government of Andhra Pradesh and Government of Odisha.
- **The plant was originally proposed by Maharaja Vikram Dev Varma of Jeypore to provide electricity to his villages in the 1920s.**
- The project construction commenced in 1948 and subsequently entered into commercial operation in 1955.
- It was **formally inaugurated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India.**



Power Sharing:

- In the beginning, electricity distribution was divided in a 70:30 ratio between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Rupa Tarakasi

- **Cuttack's centuries-old Rupa Tarakasi, silver filigree industry is getting impacted by the soaring prices and fresh import curbs push on silver.**
- It is one of the most exquisite silver crafts.
- **In Odia, "tara" means wire and "kasi" means to design.**
- **Origin:** While the exact origin of the filigree art in Cuttack is not clear, it is known to have existed as far back as the 12th century.
- **Patronage:** The art form received considerable patronage under the Mughals.
- As part of Rupa tarakasi, silver bricks are transformed into thin fine wires or foils and used to create jewellery, artefacts or showpieces.
- While different grades of silver are used in the main metal alloy, the craftsmen also use other metals like copper, zinc, cadmium, and tin.
- **The artists involved with this filigree work are called "Rupa Banias" or "Roupyakaras" (in Odia).**
- **The famed handicraft work received a geographical indication (GI) tag in 2024**



Bhimmandali Eco Heritage Site Inaugurated in Sambalpur, Odisha

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Bhimmandali Eco Heritage Site in Sambalpur district of Odisha to preserve the region's prehistoric heritage and promote eco-tourism.
- The Bhimmandali Eco Heritage Site is located in the **Naktideul Forest Range of Sambalpur district in Odisha.**
- The site **contains ancient rock paintings and stone inscriptions believed to be over 20,000 years old**, indicating evidence of early human habitation from the Old Stone Age to the Neolithic period.
- **Objective:** The project aims to conserve prehistoric archaeological remains while boosting eco-tourism and local economic opportunities in the region.
- **Mythological Significance:** Bhimmandali is associated with the Pandavas from the Mahabharata and is **believed to have been linked to Bhima, after whom the site is named.**
 - The caves are also known for the **worship of Lord Shiva** and Goddess Parvati in the form of Gupteswar inside the cave complex.
- **Tourism Development:** The government plans to develop the site as a major global heritage and tourism destination with improved infrastructure and visitor facilities.

West Bengal

Matua Community

- **Most of the Matuas, who migrated from neighbouring Bangladesh during different time-periods do not have sufficient documents to apply for citizenship under the CAA.**
- The Matua community, a marginalized Hindu sect with roots in the 19th century, holds a significant socio- religious presence in the Bengal region, particularly across Bangladesh and West Bengal.
- **Founded by Harichand Thakur in the 1860s**, the Matua movement arose as a response to the deep-seated caste discrimination present within Hindu society at the time.
- **Religious Beliefs:**
- As followers of the Matua faith, the **community primarily belongs to the “Namashudra” caste**, traditionally regarded as a lower-caste group within Hinduism.
- The **Matua sect is monotheist**.
- It **does not follow Vedic rituals**, and singing hymns in praise of the deity is their way of prayer and meditation.
- The **Matua have no distinctions of caste, creed, or class. They believe that everyone is a child of God.**
- Shrishriharilamrta is a principal religious scripture of the Matua.
- Following the partition of Bengal in 1947, the Matua community experienced profound socio-political shifts.
- **Many Matua families migrated to India to escape religious and political persecution, although a large portion of the community remained in what later became Bangladesh.**
- Today, Matuas constitute the second largest SC population of West Bengal



Rathindra Bose, a Chartered Accountant from north Bengal, elected Speaker of Bengal Assembly

- Rathindra Bose, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from the Cooch Behar Dakshin Assembly seat, was elected as the Speaker of West Bengal Legislative Assembly.
- Mr. Bose was elected the Speaker of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly unanimously through a voice vote.
- **This is the first occasion when a leader from north Bengal has been selected for the Speaker's post.**



WB govt gives in principle approval for 7th Pay Commission

- The West Bengal Cabinet has given in-principle approval for the formation of the 7th Pay Commission for state government employees, staff of government boards and corporations, state-aided bodies, and educational institutions.
- The 7th Pay Commission was set up by the UPA Government on 28 February 2014 to review and revise the salary structure of Central Government employees and pensioners.
- It was chaired by Justice Ashok Kumar Mathur and was headquartered in New Delhi. The Commission was given 18 months to complete its study and submit its report



West Bengal raises upper age limit for state jobs

- West Bengal has raised the upper age limit for recruitment to state government jobs from 11 May 2026 through amendments to the West Bengal Services (Raising of Age-limit) Rules, 1981.
- The notification was issued by the Finance Department (Audit Branch) of the West Bengal Government and applies to recruitment across multiple categories.
- The upper age limit for Group A posts has been fixed at 41 years. The upper age limit for Group B posts has been fixed at 44 years. The maximum age limit for Group C and Group D posts has been fixed at 45 years.
- For recruitments under the West Bengal Regulation of Recruitment in State Statutory Bodies, Government Companies and Local Authorities Act, 1999, the upper age limit outside the Public Service Commission, West Bengal, will also be 45 years.
- The Public Service Commission, West Bengal, conducts recruitment for several state-level posts in West Bengal.
- The West Bengal Regulation of Recruitment in State Statutory Bodies, Government Companies and Local Authorities Act, 1999 covers recruitment in specified public bodies.



Vande Mataram Made Compulsory in Bengal Madrasas

- The West Bengal Directorate of Madrasa Education has made the singing of "Vande Mataram" mandatory during assembly prayers before classes in all government, aided and recognised madrasas across the State with immediate effect.
- Vande Mataram is a Sanskrit patriotic song composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in his novel Anandamath, published in 1882.
- The song became associated with the Indian freedom movement and was adopted as the National Song of India in 1950.



Short news

- Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and MLA from Maniktala, Tapas Roy, took oath as the Pro-Tem speaker of the West Bengal Assembly. Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath to Mr. Roy at the Lok Bhavan

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science

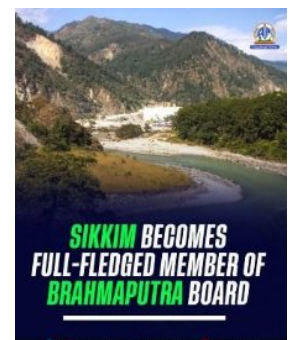
- Union Minister joined the 150-year celebrations of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Kolkata.
- The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) is a premier, historic autonomous research institution and a deemed-to-be university.
- It holds a unique position in global scientific history as the oldest institute in India and the first research facility in Asia established entirely by Indians for the cultivation of modern science.
- Established In: July 29, 1876.
- Founder: Dr. Mahendralal Sircar.
- Aim: The original and continuing objective of the IACS is to cultivate science in all its departments through original fundamental research and its varied practical applications to elevate the arts and comforts of life.



Sikkim

Centre adds Sikkim, West Bengal to Brahmaputra Review Board

- Sikkim has officially become a full-fledged member of the Brahmaputra Board, along with West Bengal.
- Board is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament (Brahmaputra Board Act 1980) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- The jurisdiction of the Brahmaputra Board includes both the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley and covers all the States of the North Eastern Region, including Sikkim and part of West Bengal, which fall under the Brahmaputra basin.
- With the current notification, the total number of members on the board has increased from 15 to 17, including the chairperson.



- The High-Powered Board, headquartered in Guwahati, now includes representatives from the Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, now from Sikkim and West Bengal.

About Brahmaputra River System

- Different Names:
- Tibet: Yarlung Tsangpo.
- India: Dihang in Arunachal Pradesh; Brahmaputra in Assam.
- Bangladesh: Jamuna.



Origin:

- Source: Chemayungdung Glacier, near Mount Kailash, Tibet.
- Divided from Manasarovar Lake by Mariam La Pass.

Sikkim marks 51st Statehood Day

- Sikkim commemorates its statehood day annually on May 16 to acknowledge its integration with India and its emergence as the 22nd state in the country in 1975.
- The state of Sikkim was formed by the 36th Amendment of the Constitution of India in 1975.
- In the 17th century, the Namgyal dynasty formed the Kingdom of Sikkim. The Namgyal dynasty ruled Sikkim until 1975.
- Sikkim became a protectorate of India in 1950 following the Indo-Sikkimese Treaty, with India assuming responsibility for the external relations, defense and strategic communications of Sikkim.
- Sikkim is located in the northeastern part of the country, in the eastern Himalayas and is one of the smallest states in India.
- It derives its name from the Limbu (a tribe) words *su him*, meaning 'new house'.
- Capital: Gangtok.
- Borders: Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and northeast, Bhutan to the southeast, Indian state of West Bengal to the south and Nepal to the west.
- Mount Kanchenjunga, India's highest peak (undisputed) and the world's third highest mountain lies in Sikkim (Indo-Nepal border).
 - Kanchenjunga National Park (established in 1977)
 - KNP was designated a World Heritage Site in 2016 under the 'mixed' category (sites containing elements of both natural and cultural significance).
- Sikkim is drained by the Teesta river and its tributaries such as the Rangit, Lhonak, Talung and Lachung.
 - Teesta river water conflict is one of the most contentious issues between India and Bangladesh.
 - Teesta river is a tributary of Brahmaputra river.



Arunachal Pradesh

Idu Mishmi Tribe

- The Idu Mishmi tribal people of Arunachal have a unique cosmology rooted in conservation.
- It is one of the tribal groups who have been living primarily in the Dibang Valley, lower Dibang, and Lohit districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- They primarily live in Mishmi Hills, bordering Tibet in Arunachal Pradesh.
- They can be distinctively identified by their typical hairstyle, distinctive customs and artistic pattern embedded on their clothes.
- Occupation: They are known for their weaving and craftsmanship skills.
- Language: Their language, called 'Idu Mishmi', is considered endangered by UNESCO.

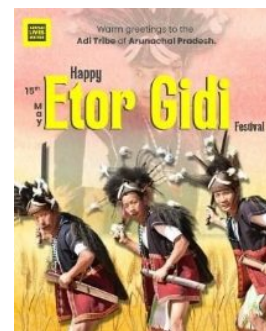
Relationship with Nature

- Traditionally animists, the tribe has strong ties with the region's rich flora and fauna.
- Tigers are especially important to the Idu Mishmis — according to Idu mythology, they were born to the same mother, and thus, tigers are their "elder brothers".

- Iyu-ena': It is a strict belief system of myths and taboos that restrict them from hunting many animals, including a complete prohibition on killing tigers.
- Festivals: They celebrate festivals such as Reh and Ke-Meh-Ha.
- They brew local rice beer called Ebu.

Etor Gidi Festival Celebrated by Adi Community

- Etor Gidi is an agro-based traditional festival of the Adi community in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is celebrated at the beginning of the farming season (generally falls in Mid May) and is associated with agricultural rituals, communal participation, and village-level customs.
- Delong dance is associated with the cultural observance of Etor Gidi.



Nagaland

Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches Mission "Coffees of Nagaland"

- The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, launched the Cluster-based Coffee Value Chain Development Mission for Nagaland.
- With an outlay of Rs. 175 crores, the Mission "Coffees of Nagaland" .
- The initiative seeks to address critical gaps across the coffee value chain by integrating plantation development, post-harvest processing, branding, marketing, traceability, export, tourism and capacity building.



Manipur

Anal Naga Tribe

- For generations, the Anal Naga tribe in Manipur has followed Uju and Rangrang, community-led forest systems that protect trees, water sources and village life.
- They are an indigenous Tibeto-Burman ethnic group found in Manipur, India, and in Myanmar.
- They are confined mostly in Chandel District, Manipur.
- They are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in India.
- They speak the Anāl language, a Northern Kukish dialect of the Sino-Tibetan family.
- Religion:
- The ancient religion of Anal is 'animist'.
- At present, the overwhelming majority of the population are Christians.
- Livelihood:
- They make their living by farming and animal husbandry.
- For generations, the Anal Naga tribe has protected forests through Uju and Rangrang-community-led systems

What is Uju?

- It refers to community-managed reserved forests located near Anal villages.
- These are protected collectively, usually under the supervision of village authorities and elders, who regulate how resources can be used.
- Decisions are made collectively during annual assemblies attended by residents.
- Discussions range from land disputes and road repairs to forest regulations and jhum cultivation cycles.
- Commercial logging is prohibited.
- Forest products such as mushrooms, herbs, wild vegetables, flowers, fruits, berries, and medicinal plants may be gathered carefully for household use, but extraction for profit is restricted.

What is Rangrang?

- It refers to untouched forest areas located deeper within jhum cultivation landscapes.
- Unlike Uju, which is actively managed, Rangrang forests are left largely undisturbed.
- Over generations, communities have intentionally avoided cultivating these regions, allowing dense ecosystems to regenerate naturally.

Indian Scientist Discovers Loktak Protocluster

- A major international astronomy study led by an Indian scientist has discovered a massive structure of young galaxies in the early universe, naming it after a famous lake in Manipur.
- The cosmic structure has been officially named the Loktak Protocluster. It is a primitive galaxy cluster, described by scientists as a "city of galaxies" that is still being built by the forces of gravity.
- The discovery was led by Dr Ronaldo Laishram, an astrophysicist from Manipur who is currently a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ).
- Age: The Loktak Protocluster is seen as it existed 12.6 billion years ago.
- The research team used data from the Subaru Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to study this distant structure.



Why Loktak Lake?

- The decision to name the "city of galaxies" after Manipur's Loktak Lake bridges the gap between Earth's natural heritage and deep space.
- Loktak Lake is famous for its floating islands of vegetation, known as phumdis, which exist within a single connected body of water.
- Similarly, the newly discovered cosmic structure contains four distinct concentrations of galaxies that are interconnected as part of one massive, evolving system.

Thadou Tribe

- Three Thadou Tribe Church Leaders were shot dead and several others injured after unidentified armed men ambushed their vehicles in Manipur's Kangpokpi district recently.
- They are an indigenous people residing primarily in the State of Manipur in India, as well as in the surrounding regions encompassing parts of other Northeastern Indian States and neighbouring Myanmar.
- In Manipur, they primarily live in the hill country adjacent to the Imphal Valley.



Mizoram

Mizoram Ginger Mission Launched With Rs 189 Crore Outlay

- Recently, the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) launched the ₹189.79-crore Mizoram Ginger Mission.
- It is an herbaceous perennial plant of the family Zingiberaceae.

Required Climatic Conditions

- It requires a warm and humid climate (up to an altitude of 1500m).
- The crop performs well in a temperature range of 19°C- 28°C.
- It requires moderate to high rainfall of about 1,500–2,500 mm per year or reliable irrigation.
- Ginger does not tolerate frost or prolonged drought.
- It requires loose, fertile, well-drained loam or sandy-loam soils rich in organic matter.
- India is the largest producer of ginger and mainly in Kerala, Orissa, Meghalaya, West Bengal, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is the most widely used spice both for flavouring and for medicinal purposes. It is used in food preparations, confectionery, beverages, making ginger candy/ preserves.
- Ginger supplementation significantly reduces the levels of fasting blood sugar, hemoglobin A1c, apolipoprotein B etc.



Tripura

Tripura Becomes First State in India to Complete All Priority Areas Under Deregulation Phase-II

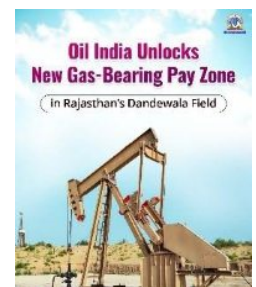
- Tripura has created history by becoming the first State in India to complete all Priority Areas under Deregulation Phase-II of the national Compliance Reduction and Deregulation initiative led by the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of India.
- With this achievement, the State has also become the first in the country to complete all 51 Priority Areas under both Phase-I and Phase-II of the reform programme,
- Deregulation Phase-II began in January 2026 and included Digital Governance as one of its sectors.
- The reforms, launched in January 2026, focused on reducing compliance burdens, removing unnecessary procedures, digitising approvals and building a transparent and investor-friendly administrative system across sectors, including Revenue, Urban Development, Industries, Labour, Environment, Tourism, Health, Education, and Digital Governance.
- The SWAGAAT Single Window System was further strengthened to improve transparency and ease of access for businesses and citizens.



Rajasthan

India Finds New Gas Zone in Rajasthan's Dandewala Field

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed that Oil India Limited has successfully unlocked a new gas-bearing pay zone in the Dandewala Field, Rajasthan.
- The Dandewala field is located in the hydrocarbon-rich Rajasthan basin, which has emerged as one of India's key onshore oil and gas producing regions over the past two decades.
- While the basin is better known for crude oil output, recent exploration efforts have increasingly focused on expanding gas production



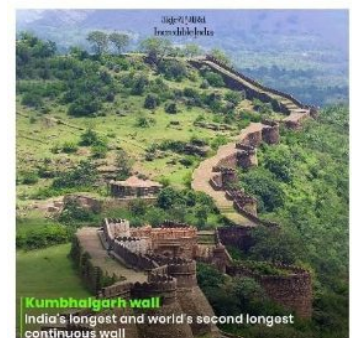
Central University of Rajasthan launches research promotion scheme for scholars

- The Central University of Rajasthan (CUoR) has launched a new research promotion scheme for scholars to empower them financially and encourage them to pursue quality research without financial stress.
- Research scholars admitted from the academic session of 2025 onwards will be eligible for the scheme's benefits.
- Under the scheme, the research scholars will receive an additional financial support of ₹5,000 per month over and above the existing non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowship of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- An additional contingency grant of ₹10,000 will also be provided to support research-related expenses
- Research scholars will continue to receive the existing non-NET fellowship of ₹8,000 per month during the coursework, while the eligible scholars will get the additional support of ₹5,000 from the second semester onwards.
- From the third semester, continuation of the support will be based on the annual progress review conducted at the beginning of the second, third, and fourth year of the Ph.D. programme.



Kumbhalgarh Fort

- Kumbhalgarh Fort Wall in Rajasthan, often called the Great Wall of India, has been named the second-longest surviving wall in the world by a UNESCO survey.
- It is located in the Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.
- It is strategically located in the western Aravalli hills.
- Considered to be the second most significant citadel in the Mewar region after Chittorgarh, this majestic fort was constructed in the 15th century AD by Rana Kumbha, the ruler of the Kingdom of Mewar.
- The massive fort is 3,600 feet tall.
- Spanning over 36 kilometers, its walls are second only to the Great Wall of China, earning it the moniker "the Great Wall of India."



- The fort has also been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the group of Hill Forts of Rajasthan.
- The fort contains seven fortified gateways and over 360 ancient temples—both Hindu and Jain, as well as the Lakhola Tank, the most famous tank within the fort, which was built by Rana Lakha.
- For centuries, Kumbhalgarh Fort served as a refuge for Mewar rulers during times of war.
- It is the birthplace of Mewar's legendary king, Maharana Pratap. Maharana Pratap led numerous battles against the Mughal Empire, with Kumbhalgarh serving as his sanctuary.
- Its defences could be breached only once by the combined armies of the Mughal and of Amber, primarily for scarcity of drinking water.
- The fort is surrounded by the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary.



Rajasthan Inaugurates First Semiconductor Cluster in Bhiwadi

- Rajasthan entered India's strategic semiconductor sector with the inauguration of its first Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT facility at Bhiwadi.
- It is India's first SME-led Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging / Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility established by Sahasra Semiconductors Pvt. Ltd.
- To strengthen India's domestic semiconductor manufacturing and packaging ecosystem while reducing dependence on imports for strategic electronic components.
- Equipped with Class 10K and 100K cleanrooms and developed with an investment exceeding ₹150 crore under the SPECS scheme.

Gujarat

Cabinet approves ₹20,667 crore for semi high-speed rail project connecting Ahmedabad-Dholera

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a semi high-speed double line rail project linking Sarkhej in Ahmedabad to Dholera, which lies about 100 km away, for a total cost of approximately ₹20,667 crore.
- It will be Indian Railways' first semi high-speed project, planned with indigenously developed technology,
- The project will facilitate faster travel between Ahmedabad, the Dholera special investment region (SIR), the upcoming Dholera Airport, and the (NHMC).

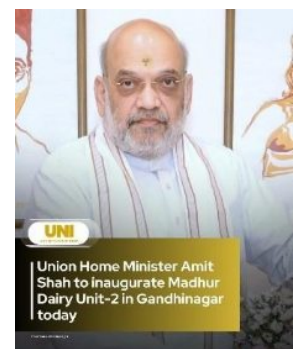


Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the newly built 'Million Minds Tech Park' and 'GREMI City Campus' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- the 'Million Minds Tech Park', developed across 13.5 lakh square feet at a cost of nearly Rs. 1,100 crore, will in its first phase provide a state-of-the-art work environment for 9,000 highly skilled professionals.
- Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute (GREMI) Campus institute is an important initiative for the country as the real estate sector has rarely been approached in a comprehensive manner.

Shri Amit Shah inaugurates State-of-the-Art Milk Processing Plant of Madhur Dairy at Dashela.

- Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art automated milk processing and packaging plant of Madhur Dairy Unit-2 at Dashela in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The plant, built over 15 acres at a cost of around ₹128 crore, currently has the capacity to process 2.5 lakh litres of milk per day, which will be expanded to 5 lakh litres per day in the future.



- National Workshop on “Grassroots Innovation Pathways - From Local Resilience to National Advancements” NITI Aayog organized a two-day National Workshop on “Grassroots Innovation Pathways – From Local Resilience to National Advancements” on 19th – 20th May 2026 at Science City, Ahmedabad, Gujarat in collaboration with the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) and the National Innovation Foundation – India.
- The workshop brought together grassroots innovators, researchers, state representatives, incubators, and community-driven innovation actors from across the country to deliberate on strengthening India’s grassroots innovation ecosystem and enabling pathways for scaling local innovations for wider societal impact.
- Pyrite Geologists have discovered a rare, microscopic sunflower-shaped mineral, pyrite, commonly known as fool’s gold, within the lignite coal reserves of Gujarat, India.
 - It is a naturally occurring iron disulfide mineral.
 - It has the chemical formula FeS_2 and is the most common sulfide mineral.
 - It is a brass-yellow mineral with a bright metallic luster.
 - The name comes from the Greek word pyr, “fire,” because pyrite emits sparks when struck by metal.
 - Pyrite is called fool’s gold because its colour is deceptively similar to that of a gold nugget.
 - Pyrite is found in a wide variety of geological settings, from igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock to hydrothermal mineral deposits, as well as in coal beds and as a replacement mineral in fossils.
 - It can be either disseminated throughout igneous rock or concentrated in layers, depending on the depositional mechanism and environment.



Major Producers:

- For many years, Spain was the largest producer.
- Today Italy and China are the world’s largest producers, followed by Russia and Peru.

Pyrite Uses

- It is a source of iron and sulfur and is used for the production of sulfuric acid.
- It is used to create iron sulfate that is used to make nutritional supplements, ink, lawn conditioner, water treatment and flocculation, moss killer, and many other chemical processes.
- Iron sulfate, which comes from pyrite, is used to treat iron-deficiency anemia.
- Some types of pyrite contain enough microscopic gold to warrant mining them as a gold ore
- Maharashtra Ambazari Lake Deployment of high-capacity harvester machines at Ambazari Lake has finally given a major push to the long-pending battle against the massive spread of water hyacinth.
 - It is located near the southwest border of Nagpur in Maharashtra.
 - It was built in 1870 under the rule of the Bhonsle dynasty.
 - It was constructed as a reservoir to supply water to Nagpur, and it played a crucial role in meeting the city’s water needs for over 30 years.
 - The lake’s origins are tied to the Nag River, which flows from it.
 - The name “Ambazari” is derived from the Marathi word “Amba,” meaning mango, as the lake is surrounded by mango trees.
- Maharashtra launches ‘Kasa Kay?’ campaign to boost healthcare awareness in rural areas The Maharashtra government has launched the ‘Kasa Kay?’ public awareness campaign under the ‘Majhe Gaav, Arogya Sampanna Gaav’ initiative to strengthen healthcare awareness in rural areas.
- The programme focuses on preventive healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, clean drinking water and disease control.
- Villages showing strong performance on health indicators will be recognised as “Arogya Sampanna Gaav”.
- Cabinet clears upgradation of Nagpur International Airport The Union Cabinet approved the upgradation of the Nagpur International Airport through a public-private partnership.
- The Cabinet has cleared the extension of the lease period of the Airports Authority of India's land allotted to MIHAN India Ltd beyond August 6, 2039.

- This will enable MIL to license the airport to GMR Nagpur International Airport Ltd (GNIAL).
- Goa Telangana Telangana Women Safety Wing intensifies 'Stand With Her' campaign against harassment The Telangana Police's Women Safety Wing has intensified the Statewide awareness campaign titled 'Stand With Her', calling on men to actively speak up against harassment and violence against women instead of remaining mute bystanders.
- The campaign, led by Director General of Police (Women Safety Wing) Charu Sinha
- The initiative seeks to engage men as active participants in creating safer public and digital spaces for women.
- Prime Minister lays the foundation stone, inaugurates and dedicates to the nation multiple development projects in Hyderabad, Telangana Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple infrastructure and industrial projects worth around Rs 9,400 crore at Hyderabad in Telangana.
- Among the major projects unveiled today include, PM MITRA Park in Warangal, also known as the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park.
 - Built at an estimated cost of around 1,700 crore rupees, it is the country's first fully operational PM MITRA Park and is aimed at creating an integrated textile ecosystem under the Centre's "5F" vision – spanning farm, fibre, factory, fashion and foreign markets.
- The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the the four-laning of National Highway-167 between Gudebellur and Mahabubnagar as part of the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor, and the development of the Zaheerabad Industrial Area in Sangareddy district.
- The Prime Minister also flagged off several railway and logistics projects, including sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada rail multi-tracking corridor.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Sindhu Hospital, a state-of-the-art, cancer-focused multi-super speciality quaternary care not-for-profit institution in Hyderabad.



About PM MITRA Park

- **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) is a mega textile hub that brings every step of textile production, like spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, and garment-making, into one single place.**
- MITRA parks can be either Greenfield or Brownfield.
- The seven approved PM Mitra Parks are being set up in: Tamil Nadu (Virudhunagar), Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow district) and Maharashtra.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Textiles
- The Ministry of Textiles will provide financial assistance up to Rs 800 crores per park for Greenfield projects and up to Rs 500 crores per park for Brownfield projects.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Recently, the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) organized a Scientific Conclave & Interactive Session on Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad, Telangana.
- It is an autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- It is created to set standards of drugs in the country.

Functions of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission

- Its basic function is to regularly update the standards of drugs commonly required for treatment of diseases prevailing in this region.
- It publishes official documents for improving Quality of Medicines by way of adding new and updating existing monographs in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).
- It further promotes rational use of generic medicines by publishing National Formulary of India.
- It also provides IP Reference Substances (IPRS) which act as a fingerprint for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.
- SCSC launches 'Suraksha Kavach' initiative to promote student safety and well-being in colleges The Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) has launched Suraksha Kavach – College Women Safety & Well-being Handbook,

- A comprehensive initiative aimed at strengthening student safety, mental wellness, anti-drug awareness and responsible campus culture through student-led clubs and participation.
- Andhra Pradesh “Operation Clean Sweep” launched in Vijayawada Swachha Andhra Corporation Chairman K. Pattabhi Ram launched “Operation Clean Sweep,” a month-long campaign aimed at transforming cities and towns into garbage-free zones, in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

A.P. to launch ‘Operation Clean Sweep’ in all 123 ULBs to improve sanitation

- The Andhra Pradesh government has announced the launch of an intensive cleanliness campaign, titled Operation Clean Sweep, across all 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) from May 23 to June 20.
- The move aims to improve urban sanitation and strengthen solid waste management practices.
- The four-week drive is intended to convert growing public participation under the ‘Swarna Andhra–Swachh Andhra’ (SASA) programme.

Naidu to inaugurate MSME Growth Summit-2026 in Vijayawada on May 25

- The city of Vijayawada is fully geared up to host the prestigious Andhra Pradesh MSME Growth Summit 2026 at the newly constructed Dr Ambedkar Kala Vedika Convention Centre, which will be formally inaugurated by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu ahead of the summit.
- The MSME Growth Summit-2026 is a flagship initiative of the Andhra Pradesh government aimed at accelerating the growth, competitiveness and future readiness of the micro, small and medium enterprises sector across the State.
- The AP Cluster Development Programme (Rs 200 crore) will be rolled out to establish Common Facility Centres across 45 clusters, while the RTIH Outpost RuTAGe Smart Village Centres in Kuppam, Mangalagiri, and Pithapuram will be inaugurated to support rural entrepreneurs.
- The Advanced Prototyping & Innovation Centre (APIC) in collaboration with KIA India will be unveiled, alongside the SIDBI-RTIH Seed Fund of Rs 20 crore to support deep-tech startups.
- An initiative extending National Pension System (NPS) coverage through PFRDA to MSME workers and entrepreneurship training for PwBD youth at Sri City will be launched
- ‘Yuva Sangam Phase-6 – Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ programme inaugurated at IIT Tirupati, Yerpedu
- YUVA Sangam is a flagship programme under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- The programme is aimed at fostering national integration, cultural exchange, and experiential learning among youth across the country.
- During the ongoing Phase VI of the initiative, states across India are paired up for cultural exchange.
- The state of Maharashtra is paired with the state of Andhra Pradesh, and IISER Pune and IIT Tirupati have been designated as the Nodal Institutions from the two states.



Karnataka

Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited

- Hutti Gold Mines, the only functional gold mine in the country, earned a whopping ₹633.34 crores more in 2025-26, thanks to the skyrocketing price of gold in the world market.
- It is a Government of Karnataka undertaking established in 1947.
- It has the unique distinction of being the only producer of primary gold in the country.
- HGML has been active in the exploration, development, and exploitation of gold deposits occurring in Karnataka.
- The company's corporate office is situated in Bangalore.
- The Hutti mine is probably one of the most ancient metal mines in the world, dating to the Pre-Ashokan period.

Keralam

VACB launches 'Project Zero' to make Kerala corruption-free

- Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala announced the launch of 'Project Zero', an anti-corruption initiative by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) that aims at making Kerala a corruption-free State.
- Also announced a reward of ₹5,000 for people who provide video evidence of corruption or bribery incidents.



India's First Private Medical Museum Opens in Thiruvananthapuram

- The Museum of Medical Archives opened in Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram.
- It is Kerala's first private medical museum and India's first private medical museum.
- A medical museum is a collection space that preserves teaching aids, anatomical specimens, models, charts, and archival material related to medicine and medical education.
- Such museums are used in anatomy, embryology, pathology, microbiology, and history of medicine.

Koraga Tribe

- The plight of the Koraga tribe has spotlighted deep housing inequality globally, with the UN-Habitat World Cities Report 2026 noting that entrenched caste barriers and policy gaps continue to deny many communities access to secure housing.
- The Koraga is an indigenous tribal community found mainly in the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka and the Kasaragod district of Kerala state.
- They are also found in small numbers in almost all districts of Karnataka
- They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- Language: People communicate either in their language, known as Koraga Bhasha, or in Tulu.
- The Koragas mainly depend on agriculture and forest resources for their livelihoods.
- They follow a matrilineal family system .
- Koragas are led by the most senior person in the village, often known as Mooppan. He ensures the well-being of the members of the community.
- Dholu and Voote (Drum and Flute) were two important musical instruments of the Koragas.
- The Koragas follow Hinduism but have distinct tribal religious beliefs and practices.
- They worship spirits known as "Bhutas" and believe in the power of magic and rituals to ward off evil.

VD Satheesan has been named the new Chief Minister of Kerala

- Senior Congress leader V.D. Satheesan will be sworn in as Kerala's next Chief Minister,
- The 61-year-old Mr. Satheesan, who led the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly from 2021 to 2026, will be the 13th person to hold the Chief Minister's position in the southern State.
- The UDF scored a landslide victory in the April 9 election, winning 102 of the 140 seats in the State Assembly and ending the ten-year rule of the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Left Democratic Front (LDF).



SHORT NEWS

- Ambalappuzha MLA G Sudhakaran was sworn in as pro tem Speaker of the 16th Kerala Assembly
- Senior Congress leader and former Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was elected as Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly
- KERALA HOME Minister Ramesh Chennithala announced a special drive against drug menace — 'Operation Toofan, the narco hunt' to uproot the drug mafia



Tamil Nadu

33 history-sheeters arrested in southern districts during 'Operation SHIELDNET'

- Madurai, Tamil Nadu: An intensive preventive policing and crime deterrence drive, christened Operation SHIELDNET, was rolled out across all 10 districts and Tirunelveli City in the South Zone .
- The operation is focused on preventive policing measures, including checking of history sheeters, suspects, execution of non-bailable warrants (NBWs), vehicle checks, bail cancellation efforts, initiation of preventive proceedings under 126 BNSS and strengthen crime prevention mechanisms.

Velimalai Pumped Storage Hydro Electric Project

- The 1,100 MW Velimalai Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project in the Kanniyakumari district has been granted Terms of Reference (ToR) clearance by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recently.
- It is an 1100 MW pumped hydropower storage plant to be developed at Vellimalai in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
- This is the first project in Tamil Nadu to be developed under the public-private partnership model on a build-own-operate-transfer basis in accordance with Section 63 of the Electricity Act.
- The project, planned as a closed-loop off-river system, is aimed at strengthening peak power management in the State and enabling round-the-clock integration of renewable energy.
- The project will comprise an underground powerhouse comprising four units of 275 MW each.
- Two new off-river reservoirs will be built.
- The lower reservoir, upstream of the existing Mambazhathuraiyar dam.

T.N. government announces 2% increase in DA for government employees, teachers

- The Tamil Nadu government under Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, announced a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for State government employees and teachers with retrospective effect from January 1, 2026.
- The increase in DA from 58% to 60% would benefit about 16 lakh State government employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners

**What is Dearness Allowance (DA)?**

- DA is paid by the government to its employees as well as pensioners to offset the impact of inflation.
- The effective salary of government employees requires constant enhancement to help them cope with increasing prices.
- As the impact of inflation varies according to the location of the employee, the DA is calculated accordingly.
- Thus, DA varies from employee to employee based on their presence in the urban, semi-urban or rural sectors.
- It is calculated based on the All-India Consumer Price Index for the past 12 months.

Short news

- Senior AIADMK legislator A. Anbalagan has been appointed as the Pro tem Speaker of the 16th Puducherry Legislative Assembly.

GURUGYAN ACADEMY

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

B.ED

- ◆ SPOKEN ENGLISH ◆ B.P.ED
- ◆ OSSTET ◆ OTET ◆ P.G.
- ◆ +2 & +3 ADVANCE COACHING ON ECONOMICS & ENGLISH

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX



+91 6372725912
gurugyanacademy.in

ENROL NOW

International

Trump announces 'Project Freedom' to help stranded ships leave Strait of Hormuz

- The United States will launch an effort to "guide" stranded ships from the Iran-gripped Strait of Hormuz - "Project Freedom"
- **US will "help free up" ships stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, suggesting that his administration will break Iran's blockade of the strategic waterway.**



US Proposes Higher Minimum Wages for H-1B Workers

- The United States wants to make hiring foreign workers under the H-1 B visa programme significantly more expensive.
- **The proposed rule would raise minimum wages across the H-1 B programme by 30 per cent above previously set limits.**
- **The administration's argument is straightforward:** the existing wage levels have not been revised in 20 years and have allowed employers to hire foreign workers at rates well below those earned by similarly employed US nationals.
- The new rule covering workers from entry-level to the most experienced.
- The rule is currently open for public comments until May 26. After that window closes, the Department of Labour will review the responses before notifying the final rule.



Canada Bill C-22 and Encryption Debate

- Canada's Bill C-22, **formally called the Supporting Authorized Access to Information Act (SAAIA)**, is a proposed law under debate in the House of Commons in 2026.
- **Apple and Meta have opposed the bill** over provisions linked to encryption, metadata retention, and possible government access to electronic service providers' systems.
- **Bill C-22 is linked to lawful access powers in Canada** and includes provisions on electronic service providers, metadata retention, and investigative powers.
- Part 2 of the bill can allow the Public Safety Minister **to order retention of metadata for up to one year**, including transmission data, device data, routing data, and location data.



The Five New Members Joined IUCN

- The **IUCN Council approved the admission of 48 new members globally, including five organizations from the Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean region.**
- This expansion brings the total **membership in the Mesoamerica and Caribbean region to 123 organizations.**
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership union composed of both government and civil society organizations.
- **It serves as the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.**
- Established in: 1948.

Functions:

- **Knowledge Hub:** Harnesses the expertise of over 19,000 specialists to provide authoritative reports, standards, and guidelines.
- **Neutral Forum:** Provides a neutral space where governments, NGOs, scientists, and Indigenous peoples can collaborate on environmental challenges.
- **Project Implementation:** Executes a diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide to reverse habitat loss and restore ecosystems.
- **Policy Influence:** Conducts research and analysis to inform global environmental policies.

The Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor

- A new report revealed that the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor—home to the world's largest population of isolated Indigenous Peoples—is **under imminent threat from oil expansion, logging, and organized crime**.
- The **Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor** is a massive, proposed 16-million-hectare protected territory.
- It is a global biodiversity stronghold and home to the **largest population of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) in the western Amazon**.
- Location:** It runs along the western border of **Brazil (Amazonas and Acre states)** and **Peru (Loreto and Ucayali departments)**.
- It is situated in the southern basin of the Amazon River.

Tribes and Groups Involved

- Isolated Groups:** Brazil recognizes at least 17 isolated Indigenous groups within the corridor, primarily in the Vale do Javari Indigenous Territory.
- Recognized Communities:** Includes the Matsés, Isconahua, Remo, Kapanawa, Mayoruna, Matis, Korubo, Marubo, and others.
- First Line of Defense:** The Matsés people act as the primary guardians for their isolated relatives, using their deep traditional knowledge to monitor and protect the territory.



India to Host Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit

- India will host the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) in New Delhi from 28 May to 31 May 2026.** The summit will be held with the African Union Commission and will bring together leaders and representatives from across the African continent.
- The **India-Africa Forum Summit is a diplomatic platform for India and African states.** The previous summit was held in 2015, and IAFS-IV marks the return of the forum after more than a decade.
- The **theme of IAFS-IV is "IA SPIRIT: India-Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation."**
- Agenda 2063 is the African Union's long-term development framework adopted in 2013.



India and Vietnam agree to enhance trade, investment and technological partnership

- Recently, a **high-level bilateral meeting between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, and the Ministry of Ethnic and Religious Affairs, Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, was convened.**

About Vietnam

- Location:** It is located in the eastern portion of mainland Southeast Asia.
- Bordering Countries:** It is bordered by China to the north, and Cambodia and Laos to the west.
- Maritime Boundaries:** It shares a border with South China Sea (East and South), Gulf of Thailand (Southwest).
- It is roughly S-shaped, running for a distance of about 1,650 km in the north-to-south directions.**
- Capital City:** Hanoi.



India to Host Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit

- India will host the **Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV)** in New Delhi from **28 May to 31 May 2026**. The summit will be held with the African Union Commission and will bring together leaders and representatives from across the African continent.
- The **India-Africa Forum Summit is a diplomatic platform for India and African states**. The previous summit was held in 2015, and IAFS-IV marks the return of the forum after more than a decade.
- The **theme of IAFS-IV is "IA SPIRIT: India-Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation."**
- Agenda 2063 is the African Union's long-term development framework adopted in 2013.

India Gifts 10 BHISHM Cube Units to Jamaica

- Strengthening ties between India and the Caribbean, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar handed over 10 Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri (BHISHM) Cubes to Jamaica.

What is BHISHM?

- Full form:** Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri.
- Purpose:** Provides compact, mobile medical units for emergency care, designed to deliver medical facilities swiftly and effectively.
- Compact and organised:** Medical supplies and equipment are packed into 15-inch cubical boxes.
- These boxes are organized based on injury types and medical needs, making them efficient for quick deployment in emergencies.**
- Transport flexibility:** The cubes are mounted on an adjustable framework, allowing them to be transported via multiple modes, including air, sea, land, and drone.
- Each cube weighs up to 20 kg and is designed to be carried by an individual.

Mother and BHISHM cubes:

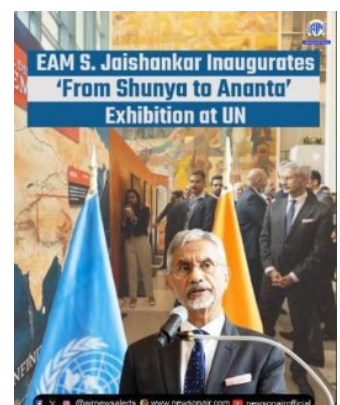
- 36 mini cubes combine to form one mother cube.**
- Two mother cubes combine to form one BHISHM Cube.
- One Mother Cube offers first-line care, shelter, and food for up to five people for 48 hours.**
- The second mother cube is equipped for surgical care, handling 10-15 basic surgeries per day.
- Ease of use and management:** Medicines and equipment are classified, with RFID inventory management and real-time stock updates.
- Additionally, a dedicated app and a tablet with support for 180 languages are provided for operational instructions.

Capacity and Features:

- Each BHISHM Cube can handle around 200 emergency cases, including trauma, burns, fractures, and shock.
- The cubes are capable of supporting basic surgeries and can generate their power and oxygen for limited durations.
- Technological Integration:** BHISHM cubes incorporate **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **data analytics** for effective coordination, real-time monitoring, and efficient management of medical services.

New York: External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated a special exhibition titled 'From Shunya to Ananta' at the United Nations headquarters

- The exhibition titled 'From Shunya to Ananta - The Indian Civilization's Contribution to Mathematics', **hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, has been organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in collaboration with the India International Centre.**
- He inaugurated the exhibition, which forms part of 'SAMHiTA', a project of the India International Centre, supported by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The special interactive exhibition highlights ancient mathematical concepts with roots in India that then spread across the world over millennia - from zero, the decimal place value system, algebra and algorithms to planetary models,**



astronomical computation, combinatorics, and binary enumeration and geometry - the 'Baudhayana-Pythagorean theorem.

CARICOM

- The External Affairs Minister recently arrived in Kingston, Jamaica, at the start of his own nine-day visit to the Caribbean 'CARICOM' grouping of countries.
- **CARICOM, which stands for Caribbean Community, is the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world.**
- It is an organization of Caribbean countries and dependencies originally established as the Caribbean Community and Commons Market in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas.
- It replaced the former Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), which had become effective in 1968.
- **The treaty spurred the development of associate institutions, including the Caribbean Development Bank and the Organization of East Caribbean States, both of which promote economic growth and cooperation.**
- In July 2001 the heads of government revised the Treaty of Chaguaramas, establishing the Caribbean Community and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), which would harmonize economic policy and create a single currency.
- **In 2007, CARICOM officially inaugurated the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which serves as the final court of appeal for CARICOM members and also handles regional trade disputes**



Members:

- **It has 15 members;** Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Of the 15, all except Montserrat are nation-states.**
- Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Turks & Caicos Islands are associate members of the community.
- **The chairmanship of the community is rotated every six months among the member countries' heads.**
- **The permanent secretariat headquarter - Georgetown, Guyana.**



MERCOSUR Group

- Recently, India and Brazil agreed to significantly expand their existing trade agreement between India and the MERCOSUR bloc.

MERCOSUR Group

- The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) is a South American regional economic organization.
- It is the fourth largest integrated market after the European Union (EU), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and ASEAN.
- It was **created in 1991 by signing the Treaty of Asunción.**
- **Objective:** Free movement of goods, services, capital and people and it became a customs union in January 1995.
- **It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as its members.**
- **Bolivia and Venezuela joined it later. (Venezuela has been suspended since December 1, 2016).**
- Mercosur also counts Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname as associate members.
- **Headquarters:** Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Its official working languages are Spanish and Portuguese.
- India and MERCOSUR signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2004

India included in USTR Priority Watch List

- India's inclusion in the **United States Trade Representative (USTR) Priority Watch List in 2026 has renewed focus on global concerns over intellectual property (IP) protection.**
- Alongside India, nations such as China, Russia, Chile, Indonesia, and Venezuela have also been flagged, indicating broader systemic concerns in emerging and major economies.



What is the USTR Special 301 Report?

- The USTR's Special 301 Report is an annual review that **evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of IP rights protection among US trading partners.**
- It categorises countries into three tiers: Priority Foreign Country (most severe), Priority Watch List, and Watch List.
- The report serves as a policy tool to pressure countries to strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms related to IP.

Kailash Man Sarovar Yatra

- Nepal has officially objected to the India-China plan to conduct the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the Lipulekh Pass, claiming the route violates its sovereignty.**
- The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is a high-altitude pilgrimage organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India.
- It involves a trek and travel to Mount Kailash, considered the abode of Lord Shiva, and the sacred Mansarovar Lake.
- The destination—Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar—is located in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China.** However, the journey involves crossing high-altitude mountain passes in India (Uttarakhand or Sikkim) to enter Tibet.



Routes:

The MEA traditionally organizes the yatra through two distinct routes:

- Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):** This route involves trekking through the Dharchula region. It is historically the oldest route but has been the center of the recent territorial dispute with Nepal.
- Nathu La Pass (Sikkim):** Opened later to provide a motorable alternative, this route is more comfortable but involves a longer journey through the Himalayan terrain.
- Duration:** Typically conducted between June and August/September each year.
- Eligibility:** Restricted to Indian citizens (18–70 years old) with a valid Indian passport (minimum 6 months validity). OCI cardholders and foreign nationals are not eligible.
- Medical Fitness:** Due to the extreme altitude (over 15,000 ft), pilgrims must have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 or less and pass rigorous medical tests.
- Organization:** Conducted with the support of the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) and the Border Security Force (BSF) or Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Oman

- Oman's strategically located Sohar and Salalah Indian Ocean ports are facilitating vital food exports from India to six GCC nations.**
- About Oman**
- Location:** It is located in the Arabian Peninsula of Western Asia.
- Bordering Countries:** It shares a north western border with the United Arab Emirates (UAE); a western border with Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- Maritime Boundaries:** It shares coastline borders with the Arabian Sea in the south and east along with the Gulf of Oman in the northeast.
- It is strategically situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf in the south eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Capital City:** Muscat.



- **Highest Point:** Mount Shams, the country's highest point at 9,777 feet.
- **Ports:** The Port of Salalah is the largest port in Oman.
- **Deserts:** The Rub' al-Khali desert, shared with Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Life Found Two Metres Underground in Atacama Desert

- A microbial ecosystem containing bacteria, archaea and DNA was found two metres below the surface of Chile's Atacama Desert.
- The **Atacama Desert is the driest hot desert in the world** and is often used in astrobiology studies because of its Mars-like conditions.

About Atacama Desert

- **Location:** It is the driest desert in the world, located in northern Chile.
- It is **nestled between the Andes Mountains on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west.**
- It forms a continuous strip for nearly 1,000 km along the narrow coast of the northern third of Chile.
- **Bordered by:** It is bordered by Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia
- It also hosts 12 volcanoes, mainly located in the western outliers of the Andes.



Korowai Tribe

- **Papua's Korowai tribe, often labelled 'cannibals', is re-examined as myths fade, revealing a misunderstood culture shaped by isolation, conflict, and historical misrepresentation.**
- The Korowai tribe is a group of indigenous people who live in the **southeastern part of Papua, Indonesia.**
- They hunt and gather food from the forest, including wild animals and plants.
- **They are living high up in the trees which they built on the tree trunks.**
- They build tree houses to protect their homes from floods and wild animals, as well as to keep them safe from rival tribes.
- The Korowai people were totally disconnected from the outside world until the 1970s.
- **They have been sensationalised in modern media for their association with cannibalism, a practice of eating human flesh.**



Madame Tussauds launches new "Icons of India" exhibition in London

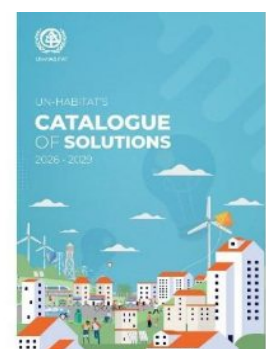
- **Madame Tussauds launched a new "Icons of India" celebration at its London headquarters this week, uniting the wax models of celebrities from the world of cinema and cricket.**
- The **limited-time experience includes 13 figures of leading Indian actors and cricketers.**
- **Most iconic wax figures, including Amitabh Bachchan and Sachin Tendulkar.**
- Some of the wax figures have made their journey to London on loan from other Madame Tussauds attractions, including Virat Kohli's wax figure from Bangkok and Aishwarya Rai's wax figure from New York



Recently, UN-Habitat launched the Catalogue of Solutions 2026-2029.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

- It is also commonly known as UN-Habitat, is the UN agency responsible for promoting sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all.
- It was **established in 1977 after the Habitat I Conference (1976).**
- Its mandate is derived from several UN General Assembly resolutions and from the Habitat Agenda adopted during Habitat II (1996).
- **Purpose:** Its central mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities.
- Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Pakistan PM announces to celebrate May 10 as 'Marka-e-Haq Day' every year

- Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that May 10 will be celebrated as 'Marka-e-Haq Day' annually.
- To mark the first anniversary of 'Marka-e-Haq', the name given by Islamabad to last year's four-day conflict with India, Mr. Shehbaz also claimed that Pakistani armed forces gave a "historic and befitting response" to the enemy.



Sports

National/ international Championships

Football

India to Participate in FIFA ASEAN Cup

- India has signed a participation agreement with FIFA for the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup, which is scheduled for the international window from 21 September to 6 October 2026.
- **The All India Football Federation has accepted the invitation and is awaiting further tournament details.**
- The tournament will use a two-division format, with Indonesia hosting Division 1 and Hong Kong hosting Division 2.
- **Division 1 winners of the FIFA ASEAN Cup are set to receive US\$1 million**, while Division 2 winners are set to receive US\$300,000.



Barcelona clinches 29th LaLiga title with 2-0 victory over Real Madrid

- Barcelona secured their 29th Spanish league title **after beating Real Madrid 2-0 in El Clasico**.
- Real Madrid still holds the overall record for most LaLiga championships.



Lens lift French Cup for the first time after beating Nice in final

- Lens beat Nice to win the Coupe de France for the first time in their 120-year history.
- Lens' maiden French Cup is their first major trophy since a League Cup triumph in 1999

Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes has claimed the Premier League Player of the Season award

- Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes has claimed the 2025/26 Premier League Player of the Season award.
- **This accolade follows his recent recognition as the Football Writers' Association's Men's Footballer of the Year, making him the first United representative to win the FWA prize since Wayne Rooney in 2010.**



Cricket.

India Retains No. 1 Spot in World T20I Rankings

- India has retained its position at the top of the ICC Men's T20I rankings, showcasing their dominance in the cricketing world.
- **India had created history by becoming the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title and also win it for a record-extending third time in March.**
- With this achievement, **India continue to hold the top position** in the rankings, with 275 rating points. **England are second** with 262 points, while Australia are close behind on 258.



Table Tennis

Team SERSA wins 2026 DRM Cup Table Tennis title at Railway Indoor Stadium in Visakhapatnam

- Team SERSA emerged as the champions of the DRM Cup Table Tennis Tournament 2026, which concluded at the Railway Indoor Stadium
- The two-day event**, organised by the East Coast Railway Sports Association (ECRSA), Waltair Division, saw the participation of 51 players across 17 teams from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Chandigarh.
- The SERSA trio of Ankit Bose, Bolik Bose and Prapthi Sen secured the top spot.**
- Team SPINX, comprising Preyash S, Munmun Kundu and Maheedhar Varma, finished as runners-up,**



Delhi to Host 2026 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

- Delhi will host the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026 at the Thyagraj Stadium**, with players from more than 35 countries expected to participate.
- Jointly organised by the Delhi government and the Table Tennis Federation of India, the championship will be held from July 27 to August 2.

J&K's Ritvik Gupta Wins Under-17 Boys National Table Tennis Title

- Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a historic milestone in table tennis as Ritvik Gupta clinched the Under-17 Boys National title at the UTT 87th Inter-State Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships, organised under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India.
- Ritvik Gupta has become the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to win a national championship title in the Under-17 Boys category,

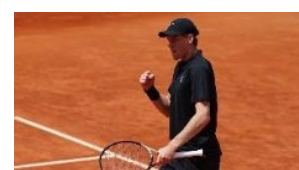
Biryukov clinches maiden Challenger singles title

- Petr Bar Biryukov secured his maiden ATP Challenger singles title, by defeating Belarusian Ilya Ivashka in the final of the SM Krishna Memorial Open.
- The results: Finals: Singles:** Petr Bar Biryukov bt Ilya Ivashka
- Doubles:** Adil Kalyanpur & Mukund Sasikumar bt Biryukov & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz)



Italian Open 2026 results

- The Italian Open 2026, also known as the Internazionali D'Italia.
- Tennis world No. 1 Jannik Sinner defeated Norway's Casper Ruud in the Italian men's title final.**
- Sinner became the first Italian to win the men's singles title in Rome since Panatta in 1976,
- Since becoming Italy's first men's world No. 1 in June 2024, Sinner has four major titles**, the Australian Open and US Open in 2024, followed by a Australian Open crown and the Wimbledon title in 2025.
- Elina Svitolina claimed a third Italian Open women's title by beating Coco Gauff.**
- Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider won the 2026 Italian Open women's doubles title
- Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori won the 2026 Italian Open men's doubles title
 - Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori beat Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos 7-6(8) 6-7(3) 10-3 to become the first Italian pair to win the men's doubles title in 66 years**
 - Jannik Sinner reaches Italian Open semis, breaks Masters 1000 winning streak record**



- The world No. 1 set a new tennis record as he became the **first man to win 32 consecutive singles matches at ATP Masters 1000 level**, the tier below the Grand Slams.

Siddhant Banthia with Alexander Donski clinch doubles title at Oeiras 4 2026 ATP Challenger 100 tournament

- India's Siddhant Banthia and his Bulgarian partner **Alexander Donski won the doubles title at Oeiras Open 4 2026, an ATP Challenger 100 tennis tournament, in Portugal,**
- The title marked Siddhant Banthia's second ATP Challenger doubles crown of the season and third overall, all alongside Alexander Donski.



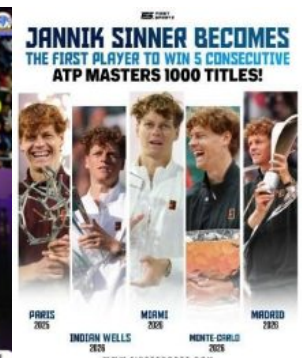
Tennis

Marta Kostyuk Wins Madrid Open 2026

- In Tennis, Marta Kostyuk has captured the the women's singles title after winning the Madrid Open 2026, **defeated world No. 8 Mirra Andreeva .**
- Jannik Sinner , The world No. 1 made more history at the Madrid Open 2026, becoming the first man to claim five Masters 1000 titles in a row and putting him on the cusp of a series sweep with eight of the nine events just below tennis' Grand Slams.

Singles Results

- Men's Singles Final:** Jannik Sinner (1) defeated Alexander Zverev (2) 6–1, 6–2.
- Women's Singles Final:** Marta Kostyuk (26) defeated Mirra Andreeva



Doubles Results

- Men's Doubles Final:** Henry Patten and Harri Heliövaara defeated Guido Andreozzi and Manuel Guinard.
- Women's Doubles Final:** Kateřina Siniaková and Taylor Townsend (2) defeated Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider

Badminton

Thomas and Uber Cup 2026

- The 34th edition of the Thomas Cup – the men's team world championships in badminton and the 31st Uber Cup – the women's variant was held in Horsens, Denmark. The finals were played on 3rd May.
- It is a biennial international championship.** In 2022, India made history by winning the maiden Thomas cup and the women's team won the bronze medal in the 2014 and 2016 editions.
- In the Thomas cup 2026, the Indian team was defeated by the French team in the semi-final.

Badminton: Shriyanshi Valishetty Wins Silver at Baoji China Masters

- In Badminton, India's Shriyanshi Valishetty clinched the silver medal in women's singles at the Baoji China Masters in China in the summit clash of the **Super 100 event at Baoji City Gymnasium.**



National/ international Championships

India bag 10 medals in Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 in Gandhinagar

- India finished the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026 in Gandhinagar with **10 medals, including one silver and nine bronze.**
- This was only the second time India hosted the Asian Weightlifting Championships after New Delhi hosted it in 1982.
- At the Asian Weightlifting Championships, **separate medals were awarded for the snatch and clean and jerk disciplines in addition to the medals for the overall total.**
- Asian Weightlifting Championships 2026: Indian medal winners**
- Silver:** Gyaneshwari Yadav (snatch women's 53kg)
- Bronze:** Komal Kohar (women's 48kg)



- Bronze: Komal Kohar (clean and jerk women's 48kg)
- Bronze: Gyaneshwari Yadav (women's 53kg)
- Bronze: Ajith Narayana (men's 71kg)
- Bronze: Ajith Narayana (clean and jerk men's 71kg)
- Bronze: Harjinder Kaur (women's 69kg)
- Bronze: Sanjana (women's 77kg)
- Bronze: Sanjana (women's clean and jerk 77kg)
- Bronze: Sanjana (women's snatch 77kg)

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches championship film of 1st World Yogasana Championship 2026

- Mansukh Mandaviya launches first World Yogasana Championship 2026.
- **The inaugural edition of the World Yogasana Championship (WYC) 2026, the first-ever global championship dedicated to Yogasana as a competitive sport**
- **WYC 2026, scheduled to be held from June 4 to 8 at the Eka Arena, Ahmedabad, will bring together elite Yogasana athletes and delegations from over 60 nations including Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Japan, Oman, Mauritius and Netherlands.**



Short news

- **At the Senior Open Ranking Wrestling Tournament 2026 held at Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya campus in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, Sandeep of Rohtak won the Greco-Roman 60 kg title.**

Chess

Iniyan Panneerselvam wins double gold at Commonwealth Chess Championship

- **Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam clinched double gold after winning both the Rapid and Blitz titles at the Commonwealth Chess Championship in Sri Lanka.**
- In the Rapid event, Grandmaster Srihari took the silver medal, while GM Mitrabha secured bronze.
- In the Blitz competition, Grandmaster Rohith Krishna finished with the silver medal, while Srihari added another podium finish with bronze.
- The Classical title was won by **Mitrabha, while Sri Lankan player Ranindu Liyanage claimed silver and Srihari settled for bronze.**



Aravindh becomes 1st Indian chess player to qualify for Esports World Cup

- **Aravindh Chithambaram** became the first Indian grandmaster to secure a spot in the Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026 after he emerged victorious in the Road to EWC qualifier held at DreamHack Atlanta.
- \$15,000 (approximately Rs 14 lakh) in prize money
- EWC 2026 chess main event, set to **take place from August 11 to 15 with an overall prize pool of \$1.5 million (approx Rs 14 crore).**



Golf

British golfer Aaron Rai wins first PGA championship

- **English golfer Aaron Rai** won the PGA(Professional Golfers' Association) Championship 2026 at Aronimink Golf Club.
- The 31-year-old became the first English golfer since Jim Barnes in 1919 to capture the PGA crown.
- Aaron Rai grew up hardworking and **humble in central England, Rai's father is of Indian ancestry while his mother has Kenyan heritage**



Race

Andrea Kimi Antonelli won the 2026 Canadian Grand Prix

Di Giannantonio wins Catalan Grand Prix

- VR46 Racing's Fabio Di Giannantonio claimed victory at the Catalan Grand Prix
- The Italian secured only his second MotoGP victory and VR46 Racing's first since the Indian **Grand Prix in 2023**.



Athletics

Gurindervir and Vishal set the track ablaze with national records

- On the second day of the 2026 Athletics Federation Cup, Gurindervir Singh clinched the gold medal in the men's 100m event in Ranchi with a new national record timing of 10.09 seconds.
- He improved his previous personal best of 10.17 seconds and comfortably surpassed the Commonwealth Games qualification mark of 10.16 seconds.
- Animesh Kujur secured the silver medal with a timing of 10.20 seconds, while Pranav Pramod took bronze clocking 10.29 seconds.
- In the men's 400m event, Vishal TK won the gold medal with a new national record of 44.98 seconds, becoming the first Indian athlete to break the 45-second barrier in the event.



Miscellaneous

India's First Freediving Team for World Championship

- For the first time ever, **Team India will be representing the country at the World Apnea Pool Championship in Budapest starting June 2, 2026.**
- Earlier this year, FAI (Freediving Association of India) became an Observer Member of AIDA(International Association for the Development of Apnea) International as AIDA India, giving Indian freedivers official representation at the global level.
- Under AIDA India, three athletes will represent India at the 2026 World Apnea Pool Championship:**
- **Archana Thiagarajan** - India's leading freediver, holding all national records in pool and depth disciplines, and the first Indian to compete at a World Championship in Wakayama, Japan (2025).
- **Akshay Thatte** - India's first Freediving Instructor Trainer, leading pool freediver and four-time national record holder.
- **Vachan H U** - Advocate, national record holder, and the first athlete to compete officially under AIDA India.
- Along with the athletes, **Archana Sankaranarayanan has been selected as the first Indian Assistant Judge at the World Championship.**

Rupamoni Gorh becomes first woman from Assam to scale Mount Everest

- Rupamoni Gorh has become the first woman from Assam to successfully summit Mount Everest.
- The mountaineer reached the **8,848.86-metre summit**, waving the Indian and Assam flags at the top.
- Her success is being celebrated as a major milestone for women in adventure sports from the Northeast region.



Indian Army organises Batalik Volleyball Championship in Ladakh under Operation Sadbhawna

- The Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army successfully organised the week-long **Batalik Volleyball Championship in the border region of Ladakh, which concluded on May 23, 2026.**
- Conducted under the aegis of Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill), the initiative aimed to foster sportsmanship, national integration, and healthy community engagement among local youth
- Team Sarchay emerged victorious .**



India creates history with five medals at International Association of Ultrarunners 24-Hour Asia and Oceania Championships

- India created history at the International Association of Ultrarunners 24-Hour Asia and Oceania Championships **held in Japan**.
- The championship was held in Hirosaki City, Japan, **with 81 athletes from nine countries participating in the endurance event**.
- India won a total of five medals** - two Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze medals.
- Amar Singh Devanda won the gold medal after covering an impressive 282 point 881 kilometres in 24 hours**.
- Geeno Antony claimed silver**, while the bronze also went to India
- In the women's category, the Indian team secured the bronze medal** with a combined distance of 667 point 722 kilometres.
- Tenzin Dolma was the top Indian **performer, finishing fourth individually**.



Goa to host 5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships from June 21

- The prestigious fifth Asia Cup Bridge Championships** will be held from June 21-27 at the Taj Cidade de Goa Horizon, Goa, the Bridge Federation of India (BFI).
- Held once in four years, the Asia Cup ranks among the most distinguished continental Bridge Championships, conducted under the aegis of the Asia Bridge fraternity**, with participation from leading nations across Asia and Oceania.
- This year, the championship is expected to welcome participants from over 20 countries**, including India, China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
- This is the second time India has been honoured **to host the prestigious Asia Cup Bridge Championship**.



Nepal's mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa climbs Mt. Everest for 32nd time, beats own record

- Nepal's mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa made history **by breaking his own world record for the highest number of ascents of Mt. Everest as he scaled the world's highest peak for the 32nd time**.
- Lhakpa Sherpa, also known as the "Mountain Queen"** and the first Nepali woman to summit Mt. Everest, broke her own world record by completing her 11th successful ascent of the peak.



9-year-old mountaineer from Siddipet scales Australia's highest peak

- Vihaan Ram, a nine-year-old mountaineer from Hanuma Thanda in Dhoolimitta mandal of Siddipet district, Telangana, has successfully scaled Mount Kosciuszko, the highest peak on the Australian continent
- Vihaan undertook the expedition with a social message, carrying a banner urging youth to 'Say No to Drugs'.
- He earlier climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, which rises to 5,685 metres, and also climbed Mount Pathalsu (4,250 metres) near Manali in Himachal Pradesh.



Ishank Singh Becomes Youngest to Swim Palk Strait

- Seven-year-old swimmer Ishank from Ranchi has achieved a rare feat by crossing a challenging sea route between Sri Lanka and India, setting a new world record at a very young age**.
- The young swimmer from Dhurwa in Ranchi created history by swimming nearly 29 kilometres from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in India across the dangerous Palk Strait in just 9 hours and 50 minutes.
- For this feat, he has been awarded the Youngest and Fastest Palk Strait Swimmer world record certificate by the Universal Records Forum.



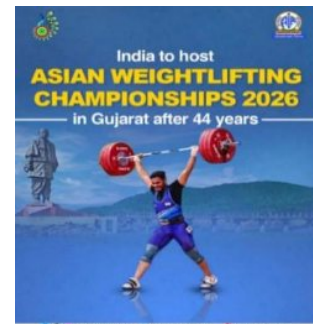
Madhya Pradesh pole vaulter Kuldeep Kumar breaks national record at Bhubaneswar

- Indian pole vaulter Kuldeep Kumar rewrote the men's national record after recording 5.41m mark at the inaugural Indian Indoor Open Combined Events and Pole Vault Competition in Bhubaneswar.
- He cleared the mark of 5.41m in his first attempt and decided to go for 5.46m but failed to cross that mark.
- He broke the national record of 5.40m set last year by Dev Kumar Meena and also improved the national indoor record of 5.30m set earlier in March by Reegan G of Tamil Nadu.
- This was first time that Kuldeep has participated in an indoor Pole Vault competition.



India to host Asian Weightlifting Championships after 44 years

- India is set to host the prestigious 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 11th May, marking the country's first time hosting the event in 44 years. The championship will conclude on the 17th of this month.
- Around 180 athletes from 28 countries will compete in one of Asia's biggest weightlifting events of the year, which also serves as an important qualification event for the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.
- India is hosting the continental weightlifting championships for the second time. New Delhi was the host city for the 1982 Asian Championships.



The Sports Authority of India and MyBharat Launches Nationwide Engagement Initiatives Ahead of Commonwealth Games

- In the run-up to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030, set to be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with MyBharat, has launched three nationwide engagement initiatives.
- These initiatives aim to promote sporting spirit, creativity, and youth participation across the country. As part of the campaign, participants can take part in the 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Torch Design Contest', the 'CWG Reel Challenge', and the 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Quiz'.



Archery World Cup Stage 2 2026 Results

- India concluded the Shanghai leg of the Archery World Cup 2026 series with two medals.
- India's Sahil Jadhav won a bronze medal in the men's individual compound event.
- The Indian women's recurve team, comprising Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Kumkum Mohod, won the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2026 in Shanghai after beating hosts, the People's Republic of China.
- Stage 3 of the World Cup will be held in Antalya, Turkey, from June 9-14.
- The 2026 Archery World Cup Stage 2 took place from 5-10 May 2026 in Shanghai, China.



Banking / finance

NCDEX introduces RAINMUMBAI weather future contracts

- The National Commodities and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) recently announced the launch of India's first SEBI-approved exchange-traded weather derivatives contract, named "RAINMUMBAI".
- It is India's first exchange-traded weather derivatives contract.
- It was launched by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).



- The instrument will be used to hedge losses from unpredictable weather and monsoon variability.
- **Unlike conventional insurance products, weather derivatives are settled directly against observed weather data rather than physical loss assessments, enabling faster payouts and reducing operational complexity.**
- These products are widely used globally by sectors such as agriculture, power, construction, logistics, tourism, and energy, where revenues can be heavily impacted by weather variability.
- **RAINMUMBAI, which has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), was developed in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, based on rainfall data in Mumbai.**
- India Meteorological Department (IMD) surface rainfall and automatic weather stations (AWS) observations at Santacruz and Colaba will be the source of rainfall data.

What are Derivatives?

- Derivatives are financial contracts that derive value from an underlying asset.
- **Common underlying assets:** Stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates, and market indexes.
- **Derivatives allow traders to bid on the direction of the underlying asset's price change without owning them.**
- They allow investors to speculate on price movements, hedge against risks, or enhance portfolio returns.

National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)

- It is a commodities exchange dealing primarily in agricultural commodities in India.
- **The NCDEX was established in 2003, and its headquarters are in Mumbai.**
- The primary purpose of the exchange is to facilitate the electronic trading of agricultural derivative contracts like futures.
- **The exchange mainly focuses on agricultural commodities like wheat, sugar, spices, and cotton.**
- At present, the NCDEX is managed by an independent board, with the SEBI maintaining supervision and oversight of the exchange

MSMEs and the New Strategic Initiatives

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman **launched three major digital portals and cluster-based initiatives during the 37th-anniversary celebrations of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in Mumbai.**
- Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of the Indian economy, **contributing roughly 30% to the country's GDP, 45% to manufacturing output, and over 48% to total exports while employing more than 11 crore citizens.**

New Initiatives Launched by the Finance Minister:

SIDBI MachFin Mart:

- **Aim:** To function as a centralized, investment-ready digital B2B marketplace that helps MSMEs seamlessly browse, evaluate, and purchase advanced manufacturing machinery.

RRB Co-Lending Portal

- **Aim:** To build an operational, data-sharing bridge between SIDBI and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to maximize the flow of structured capital to remote and underserved rural micro-enterprises.

MoRE (Modernisation of Rural Enterprises) Programme

- **Aim:** A targeted, transformational three-year framework designed to modernize 10,000 rural micro and artisanal units across India between 2026 and 2029.

DFS launches Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) formally inaugurated **India's domestic insurance pool, that is, the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) which holds a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore that seeks to accord a continuous stream of maritime insurance coverages.**



- The pool would cover all risks associated with maritime operations as hull and machinery, cargo, protection and indemnity (P&I) and war risk for Indian-flagged vessels, those owned by India and having either their destination or origin in India.
- The **Union Cabinet had accorded their approval for setting up of the Maritime Insurance Pool April 18 this year.**
- BMIP would service claims of up to \$100 million utilising its own capacity, that is, without any help from the government and by the insurers in the pool themselves.
- However, should it exceed \$100 million, the sovereign guarantee **would be invoked to service claims as a “contingent backstop of last resort” after the pool’s accumulated reserves have been exhausted, alongside the individual contribution from members and reinsurance arrangements.**
- The pool will enable the country to strengthen sovereign control over maritime trade and ensure continuity of trade even in the event of withdrawal of re/insurance coverage due to sanctions or geopolitical tensions.
- This would strengthen India’s maritime risk protection framework and support secure global trade operations in future, promoting India’s financial sovereignty.

Memflation

- Global semiconductor revenues are projected to surpass the unprecedented \$1.3 trillion threshold this year, marking a staggering 64% increase compared to 2025.
- **A primary driver of this surge is a phenomenon dubbed memflation, which is triggering massive price hikes for memory chips and disrupting non-AI technology supply chains well into 2028.**
- **Memflation is a term coined by Gartner analysts to describe the rapid,** structural price inflation sweeping the semiconductor market, specifically targeting data storage and memory components.
- It represents a significant market distortion where the hyper-growth of AI infrastructure consumes the lion’s share of semiconductor fabrication resources, triggering severe shortages and soaring costs for traditional computing hardware.

Primary Causes of Memflation:

- **Rapid spending by hyperscalers and cloud firms on AI infrastructure** has diverted memory resources away from traditional computing markets.
- Companies like Micron Technology are prioritizing high-margin AI GPUs and enterprise memory over consumer components.
- **Fear of tariffs and price hikes pushed firms** to stockpile chips in 2025–26, sharply reducing available inventories.

Impacts of Memflation:

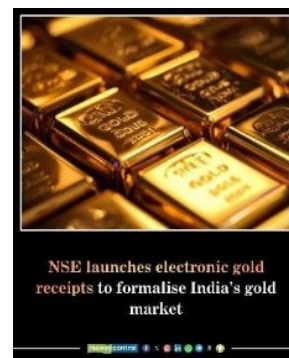
- Rising memory costs are **slowing enterprise IT upgrades and delaying deployment of conventional digital infrastructure.**
- Semiconductor shortages and logistics bottlenecks have caused widespread shipment delays across global hardware markets.
- **Laptop, server, and enterprise hardware makers are passing Analysts caution CIOs against locking into expensive multi-year semiconductor supply agreements amid volatile pricing trends.**

NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts

- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) announced the launch of Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), a new segment aimed at bringing greater transparency, efficiency and formalisation to India’s gold market
- The NSE stated that the launch, effective from May 4, 2026, is expected to bridge the gap between physical gold and financial markets by offering a regulated and secure platform for trading in gold.

What are EGRs and how do they work?

- EGR is an **electronic receipt issued against physical gold deposited with a Sebi-accredited vault manager.**
- These are **dematerialised securities** and are tradable on the exchange like a stock, thus **seamlessly integrating gold into the formal financial system.** These EGRs represent real gold stored securely in vaults.



- It **successfully dematerialised a gold bar of 1000 grams into an Electronic Gold Receipt**, symbolising the conversion of physical gold into a secure and tradable electronic instrument

How are EGRs different from gold ETFs?

The core difference between EGRs and gold ETFs is the underlying asset. **While EGR represent physical gold in a vault, ETFs are units of a fund that invests in gold.**

Debt Recovery Tribunals

- **The Department of Financial Services (DFS) convened a colloquium of** Chairpersons of Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals and Presiding Officers of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) in New Delhi.
- **DRTs are quasi-judicial bodies established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.**
- **Role:** Their primary role is adjudicating debt recovery disputes related to banks and financial institutions.
- DRTs handle loan default cases above ₹20 lakh, focusing on secured debts.
- DRTs also hear Securitisation Applications (SAs) filed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 by borrowers or aggrieved parties.
- There are currently 39 DRTs functioning across India, each headed by a Presiding Officer.

Composition

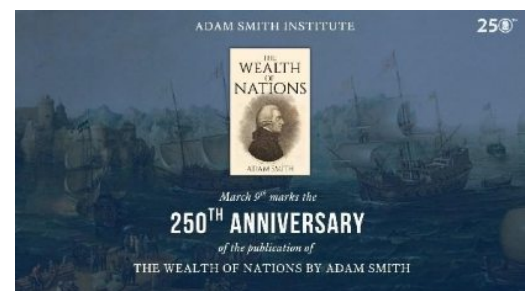
- A DRT is presided over by a judicial officer qualified to be a District Judge.
- It can also have administrative and technical members appointed by the Central Government

Powers of DRTs

- Summon and examine witnesses,
- Compel the production of documents,
- Receive evidence on affidavits,
- Review or dismiss applications,
- Conduct ex parte proceedings,
- Issue commissions for document and witness examination.
- Jurisdiction of DRTs: Each DRT has a territorial jurisdiction defined by the Central Government.
- Jurisdiction is limited to cases involving debt recovery by banks and financial institutions

Das Adam Smith Problem

- The 250th anniversary of The Wealth of Nations has revived debates on the Das Adam Smith Problem in economic thought.
- **The Das Adam Smith Problem refers to the perceived contradiction between self-interest in The Wealth of Nations and moral sympathy in The Theory of Moral Sentiments.**
- Modern scholars argue it is a misinterpretation, asserting that Smith's philosophy integrates ethics and economics into a unified framework.



Key Features:

- **Apparent Dichotomy:** Early scholars saw conflict between self-interest (markets) and sympathy (morality) in Smith's works.
- **Unified Philosophy:** Later economists like Jacob Viner argued both works share a common moral foundation.
- **Invisible Hand Reinterpreted:** The concept reflects socially beneficial outcomes of individual actions, not pure selfishness.
- **Modern Relevance:** Seen as a reflection of balancing self-interest with pro-social behavior in contemporary capitalism.

UDGAM Portal

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently told the Supreme Court that 30 banks have been integrated into its centralised web portal, UDGAM, to enable legal heirs to trace funds belonging to deceased account holders.
- UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access inforMation) is an online portal developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The RBI collaborated with Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and selected banks to develop this platform.
- It facilitates the registered users to search unclaimed deposits/accounts across multiple banks at one place in a centralized manner.
- All unclaimed deposits/accounts that are part of the DEA Fund of RBI can be searched in the UDGAM portal.
- It provides information related to both individual and non-individual category of unclaimed deposits.

Whether a user can settle/claim his/her unclaimed deposits through UDGAM portal?

- No, the UDGAM portal facilitates only

the search of unclaimed deposits/accounts across multiple banks at one place and provides information on the claim/settlement process of each bank (which will be available in the search result).

- The unclaimed deposits can be claimed only from the respective bank.

What is the Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number (UDRN)?

- After registration on the UDGAM portal, a person will get UDRN, which is a unique number generated through Core Banking Solution (CBS) by banks and assigned to each Unclaimed account/ deposit transferred to the DEA Fund of RBI.

What are Unclaimed Deposits?

- According to RBI, “Unclaimed Deposits” refers to funds held in savings or current accounts that have remained inactive for a duration of 10 years, or in the case of fixed deposits (FDs), have not been withdrawn within 10 years from the maturity date.
- Such amounts are transferred by banks to the “Depositor Education and Awareness” (DEA) Fund, which is maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

SEBI Proposes GARUDA Green-Channel for AIF Launches

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed GARUDA, a green-channel mechanism for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- GARUDA stands for “Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement”
- The proposal seeks to reduce the waiting period for launching regular AIF schemes from the current 30 days to 10 working days after filing the Placement Memorandum (PPM) with Sebi.
- AI-only schemes and Angel Funds may get immediate launch approvals with easier filing norms
- AIFs in India are classified into Category I, Category II and Category III, and they include venture capital funds, private equity funds, hedge funds and angel funds.



Defence

MILITARY EXERCISE

Indian Army contingent departs to Cambodia for 2nd edition of India-Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II

- The Indian Army contingent has departed to Cambodia for the second edition of India-Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II.
- **The exercise is scheduled to be conducted at Techo Sen Phnom Thom Mreas Prov Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil), from 04 to 17 of this month.**
- The primary objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability, coordination and operational synergy between the contingents of India and Cambodia.



The Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) Weapon

- The DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the maiden flight-trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon off the coast of Odisha.**
- TARA is a modular range extension kit and **India's first indigenous glide weapon system.**
- It is designed to be **fitted onto existing unguided warheads, converting them into advanced precision-guided weapons.**
- **Developed By:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.



- **Aim:** The primary objective of TARA is to provide a low-cost solution to enhance the lethality and accuracy of existing unguided munitions. It is specifically designed to neutralize ground-based targets with high precision, reducing collateral damage and improving mission success rates.

Key Features:

- First weapon system of its kind developed entirely within India to **provide gliding capabilities to traditional bombs.**
- Features a kit that can be easily integrated with a variety of unguided warheads.
- Built using low-cost systems to ensure that advanced precision capabilities can be deployed at scale without prohibitive expenses.

India Tests Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile with 1500km Range.

- India has successfully conducted the second flight test of its **long-range hypersonic anti-ship missile (LR-AShM).**
- **Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO),** the missile was tested off the Odisha coast and is designed to enhance India's strategic reach in deep ocean regions.
- The LR-AShM boasts a strike **range exceeding 1,500 kilometres and can reach speeds of up to Mach 10,** making it one of the fastest weapons in India's arsenal.
- During its glide phase, it maintains an average speed of around Mach 5, enabling it to evade modern radar and interception systems.

India Conducts Maiden Test of Nuclear-Capable ICBM

- India has conducted the maiden test of a **nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) off the Odisha coast.**
- The test was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO),
- The **launch took place from Abdul Kalam Island near Chandipur,** and the missile test involved a danger corridor of about 3,560 km over the Bay of Bengal.
- **Only four countries — US, Russia, China and North Korea — possess ICBM technology** and have deployed ICBMs with over 12,000-km range.
- Last week, India also hinted at the Agni-6 launch, claiming the missile would have a strike range exceeding 10,000km and feature MIRV technology.



India conducts successful flight trial of advanced variant of Agni missile with MIRV system

- India conducted a successful Flight trial of an **Advanced Agni missile** with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha
- The missile Agni 5 was flight tested with Multiple payloads, targeted to different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Agni is a long-range missile system indigenously developed by the DRDO. It is the main land-based delivery system for India's nuclear arsenal.
- The first-generation Agni missiles were developed in the 1990s, and entered service with the armed forces in the mid-2000s.
 - The Agni-1 to Agni-IV missiles have ranges of 700 to 3,500 kilometres and can carry single payloads weighing 12 to 40 kilotonnes.
 - **But the latest variant of the Agni missile family – Agni-5 equipped with MIRV technology – is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with a very high degree of accuracy.**
- In addition to going over 5,000 kilometres, the Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile may enter the intercontinental range, which is estimated to be 5,500 kilometres or more.
- **The next-generation Agni-6 missile, which is presently in development, is also expected to be equipped with MIRV.**



Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)

- India recently issued a **Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)** designating a vast stretch of the Bay of Bengal as a danger zone for a long-range missile test.

Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)

- Notice to Airmen, also known as Notice to Air Mission, is a notice containing information concerning the establishment, condition, or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure, or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.
- In short, a NOTAM is a notification from an official body alerting airspace users to hazards along their route, both in the air and on the ground.**
- NOTAMs update pilots about changes in airspace, airports, and equipment that affect aircraft operations.
- NOTAMs are issued by national aviation authorities for a number of reasons,**
- NOTAMs are typically accessible through online platforms,** electronic flight planning tools, and aviation weather services, allowing pilots to conveniently access up-to-date information and make informed decisions regarding their flight activities.

MBDA Signs Pact with IAF for MICA MRO

- European missile and related systems giant MBDA has signed an agreement with the Indian Air Force for the development of a local capability for the Maintenance, Repair, and Mid-Life Overhaul (MRO) of MICA Missiles.
- MICA is the **multi-mission air-to-air missile system** for the Rafale and the upgraded Mirage 2000 combat aircraft.



Yildirimhan Missile

- Turkiye has unveiled a prototype of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) named Yildirimhan Missile as part of a push to become self-reliant and to gain a foothold as a key defence player in the Middle East and among its NATO allies.
- It is an **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) developed by Turkey.**
- It has a **range of 6,000 km.**
- If launched from Turkey, the Yildirimhan will be able to hit targets across Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- The **missile can travel at up to Mach 25**, an extreme hypersonic speed equivalent to 25 times the speed of sound, or nearly eight kilometres per second.
- It has four rocket propulsion engines and **is fuelled by liquid nitrogen tetroxide.**



- The missile is reported to be capable of **carrying a warhead, or multiple warheads, with a total weight of up to three tonnes.**
- It is expected to be launched from a mobile wheeled launcher

Vikram VT 21

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently launched its Vikram VT 21 project with two Advanced Armoured Platforms wheeled and tracked.
- **An Advanced Armoured Platform (AAP), Vikram VT 21 is a modern military combat vehicle built with enhanced armour protection** to withstand certain projectiles, blasts, and shrapnel plus which has improved mobility across varied terrains and integrated weapons and surveillance systems.
- The Vikram VT 21 project includes two variants. **First is wheeled**, which run on tyres and are faster, easier to maintain, and better suited for roads and urban and semi urban environments.
- **Second is tracked**, which moves on continuous tracks like tanks, offering superior grip, stability, and performance on rough, uneven, or off-road terrain.
- **These vehicles are fitted with an indigenously designed 30 mm crewless turret a remotely operated gun system mounted on top, with no soldier sitting inside it** built to improve mobility, firepower and and protection.



DELIVERY OF PROJECT 17A INDIGENOUS ADVANCED STEALTH FRIGATE 'MAHENDRAGIRI'

- **Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the sixth ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) and fourth ship of the class built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 Apr 2026 at MDSL, Mumbai.**
- Project 17A frigates are versatile multi-mission platforms designed to address current and emerging challenges in the maritime domain.
- This state-of-the-art frigate reflects a quantum leap in naval design, stealth, firepower, automation, and survivability, and stands as an admirable symbol of Aatmanirbharta in warship building
- Designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Mumbai),
- **P17A frigates reflect a generational leap in indigenous ship design, stealth, survivability, and combat capability. P17A ships are fitted with an advanced weapon and sensor suite as compared to the P17 (Shivalik-class).**

Indian Coast Guard Commissions ICGS Achal at Goa Shipyard Limited

- Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) 'Achal' was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard, bolstering the maritime force's operational capabilities
- **'Achal' is the fifth one in a series of eight FPVs being constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the coast guard.**
- The new-generation **Adamya-class fast patrol vessel** was commissioned into the ICG at Goa Shipyard Limited,
- **The ship will be stationed at Vadinar, Gujarat**, operating under the administrative and operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (North West)
- **The vessel will undertake a wide range of missions**, including surveillance, interdiction, Search and Rescue (SAR), anti-smuggling operations, and pollution response, **reinforcing the Indian Coast Guard's role in safeguarding India's eastern maritime frontier.**
- **'Achal', meaning 'firm', embodies the coast guard's steadfast commitment.** "It signifies our resolve to protect life at sea and secure our maritime frontiers.
- **Powered by two 3000 kW advanced diesel engines**, the vessel delivers a top speed of 27 knots and an operational endurance of 1500 nautical miles, enabling extended missions in India's maritime zones,



INS Sindhukesari

- The Indian Navy's Kilo-class submarine, **INS Sindhukesari**, recently arrived in **Colombo for an Operational Turnaround (OTR)**.
- It is a 3,000-tonne Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine of the Indian Navy.
- It was **commissioned** on 19 December **1988**.
- It was **designed as part of Project 877** and built under a contract **between Rosvooruzhenie, Russia, and the Ministry of Defence (India)**.

Features:

- It measures 72.6 meters in length and is powered by diesel-electric propulsion.
- It has an **operational endurance of up to 45 days** with a crew of around 53 personnel.
- It is **armed with a combination of torpedoes**, anti-ship missiles, and mines, and has been retrofitted to carry advanced Klub/3M-54E cruise missiles.

What are Kilo-class submarines?

- The Kilo Class is the NATO designation for a naval diesel-electric attack submarine designed and built by the Soviet Union (now Russia).
- The original version of the vessels were designated Project 877 Paltus (Halibut) in Russia.
- **They are mainly intended for anti-shipping and anti-submarine operations in relatively shallow waters.**

INS SAGARDHWANI ENHANCES INDIA–VIETNAM MARITIME & SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- Recently, the INS Sagardhwani visited Cam Ranh, Vietnam which marked a significant step in India's scientific cooperation with Vietnam

About INS Sagardhwani

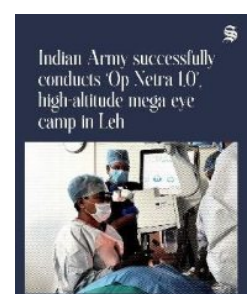
- It is an oceanographic research vessel which was commissioned in July 1994.
- The **meaning of the name 'Sagardhwani' is the sound/ voice of the sea.**
- It was **designed by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi.**
- It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- It is equipped with an array of scientific equipment and laboratories for conduct of scientific research in the field of oceanography.
- INS Sagardhwani has **completed more than 200 scientific missions** aimed at developing theoretical models for development of weapons and sensors.
- It has **participated in the Sagar Maitri initiative.**
 - Sagar Maitri is a flagship collaborative initiative of the Indian Navy and DRDO, aligned with the Government of India's vision of 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR)'.

MIDHANI launches advanced Aerospace Fasteners facility

- **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)**, a premier Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its state-of-the-art Aerospace Fasteners Facility at its Hyderabad plant .
- The **new facility is designed to ensure high precision, consistency and efficiency in the manufacture of aerospace-grade fasteners.**
- **MIDHANI will manufacture a wide range of critical fasteners at the facility, including special steel fasteners engineered to withstand extreme aerospace conditions**, titanium fasteners offering superior strength-to-weight performance, and superalloy fasteners capable of operating in high-temperature and corrosive environments.

Op Netra 1.0

- The Indian Army successfully concluded 'Op Netra 1.0,' a four-day high-altitude mega eye camp in Leh, Ladakh, which provided advanced surgical care to 950 patients.
- **'Op Netra 1.0' was an Advanced Surgical Eye Camp conducted by the Indian Army.**
- The primary goal was to provide **high-end ophthalmic medical care and humanitarian outreach to citizens in remote, high-altitude regions.** It aimed to ensure that



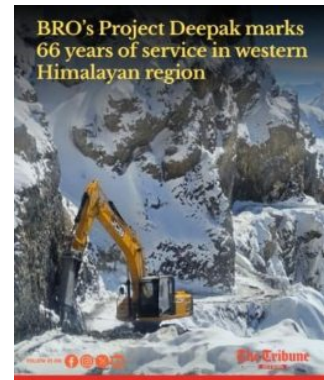
geographical barriers do not prevent citizens from accessing essential healthcare services.

Project Deepak

- Recently, the Project Deepak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 66th Raising Day at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

About Project Deepak

- It was initiated in 1962 by the Border Roads Organisation.
- The project has been instrumental in executing critical infrastructure works in some of the most challenging terrains of the country.
- Its area of responsibility spans key districts of Himachal Pradesh including Shimla, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti.



Achievements

- Project Deepak- one of the oldest projects- has also been at the forefront of developing critical infrastructure such as Hindustan-Tibet Road and key stretches of Manali-Leh axis.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Inaugurates Brain-Computer Interface Conference

- The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, inaugurated a conference on 'Brain-Computer Interface(BCI): Expanding Neural Frontiers & Its Strategic Implications'
- jointly organised by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies at New Delhi on May 05, 2026.
- The event witnessed participation of ten start-ups, which displayed and demonstrated innovative devices, products, and technologies related to Brain-Computer Interface systems.

PM Modi hails first anniversary of Operation Sindoor

- In response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, last year, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, carrying out airstrikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir.
- Operation Sindoor was a joint tri-service effort.
- It integrated land, air and maritime capabilities with shared situational awareness, common operation and intelligence pictures and real time decision making.
- The Operation was conceived to punish perpetrators and planners of terror and aimed to destroy terror infrastructure across the border



OPERATION SINDOOR- 88 HOURS COMMEMORATIVE RUN 07 MAY TO 10 MAY 26

Ministry of Defence

OPERATION SINDOOR- 88 HOURS COMMEMORATIVE RUN 07 MAY TO 10 MAY 26

88 hours, 600 runners from IAF, IA and Civil volunteers participated in the Run.

Posted On: 11 MAY 2026 12:43PM by PFD DADR

The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted an 88 hours "Op Sindoor Commemorative Run" from 07 May to 10 May 26 at New Delhi.

The event commemorated the first anniversary of the 88 hours of successful air operations, carried out by the IAF, which demonstrated its capability to deliver decisive and precise strikes. A total of 600 runners from across all Commands of the Indian Air Force and Indian Army participated in this event.

The event was flagged off on 07 May 26 at 0915 Hrs by the Air Officer in Charge, Administration (AOA) from India Gate and concluded with a flag-in by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) on 10 May 26 at 1700 Hrs at Air Force Station, New Delhi (AFSD).

The run was organized as a continuous relay format for 88 hours in which civil authorities played a vital role towards conduct of the event. Civilian volunteers also participated with lot of vigour in the run.

The route encompassed running past important landmarks of Delhi, which included India Gate, Birla House, Rashtrapati Bhawan, Air HQ Vayu Bhawan, Indira Park and New Moti Bagh road before concluding at Air Force Station, New Delhi.

The aim of the run was to foster esprit de corps amongst IAF personnel while enhancing public outreach and visibility of the Indian Defence Forces.

The successful conduct of "Op Sindoor Commemorative Run" was not only a tribute to the significant milestone of the Indian Air Force's operational history, but also a testament to the excellent teamwork achieved through public engagement, showcasing the ethos of the Indian Air Force.

The Indian Air Force has also performed live at Indira Park on 10 May 26, from 0915 Hrs to 0900 Hrs as a part of associated activities.

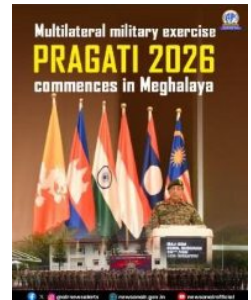


- The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted an 88 hours "Op Sindoor Commemorative Run" from 07 May to 10 May 26 at New Delhi.
- The event commemorated the first anniversary of the 88-hours of successful air operations, carried out by the IAF, which demonstrated its capability to deliver decisive and precise strikes.

- The run was organized in a continuous relay format for 88 hours in which civil authorities played a vital role towards conduct of the event. Civilian volunteers also participated with lot of vigour in the run.

MULTILATERAL EXERCISE PRAGATI 2026 COMMENCES AT UMROI, MEGHALAYA

- The multilateral military exercise 'PRAGATI 2026' (Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region) commenced at Umroi Military Station **with the participation of 12 friendly nations — Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.**
- **The objectives of the exercise** include enabling seamless coordination among participating nations in joint operations, identifying common areas of cooperation, sharing expertise and establishing an institutionalised mechanism for exchange of best practices evolved through individual experiences.



Agni-1 Missile

- Recently, India successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha.
- **It is a single-stage, solid-fuel missile.**
- It is a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) with a heavy payload but can travel up to 1200 km with lighter payloads, which makes it a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM).
- **Range:** 700 km- 1200 km
- It is **powered by a solid-propellant booster** based on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) SLV-3.
- Its **nuclear-capable road-mobile missile** was first deployed by the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command in 2007.
- **The Agni-I is designed to be launched from rail-based platforms** or road-mobile transporter erector launchers (TELS).
- **The Agni missile series includes missiles I–V**, with the most advanced, Agni-V. In addition to the Agni-V, India currently has the following Agni missiles: Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III, and Agni-IV and Agni Prime.
- The Agni-I originated from India's 1983 Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).



Indigenous Vayu Astra-1 completes high-altitude trials in Uttarakhand, Pokhran

- **Pune-based defence technology firm Nibe Limited has successfully completed no-cost, no-commitment demonstrations of its indigenous loitering munition system 'Vayu Astra-1'** during trials conducted at Pokhran in Rajasthan, and Joshimath (Malari) in Uttarakhand for the Indian Army.
- The company conducted the first demonstration of the anti-personnel variant of the Vayu Astra-1 at the Pokhran Range ,
- Equipped **with a 10-kg warhead**, the loitering munition **successfully struck its target at a range of 100 km in a single attempt**, achieving a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of less than one metre



Indian Army Inducts Indigenous ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 Drones

- The Indian Army has inducted the ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 FPV Kamikaze Drone after successful trials in challenging operational environments, strengthening India's indigenous unmanned warfare capabilities.

About ULPGM:

- ULPGM stands for Ultra Light Precision Guided Missile.

Developed jointly by:

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Adani Defence & Aerospace
- India's first indigenous loitering munition in its category.

Equipped with:

- Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker
- Anti-jamming systems
- Operational range:
- UAV range: 20 km
- Strike range: 2.5 km



- Carries a 2-kg warhead for precision attacks.

About AGNIKAA VTOL-1:

- India's first FPV (First Person View) kamikaze drone in its category.
- Equipped with VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) capability.
- Operational range: 5 km
- Endurance: 30 minutes

Can operate in:

- GPS-denied environments
- Electronic warfare zones
- Designed for rapid and accurate strikes.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3

- Recently, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed the final development trials of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 in Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air modes.
- It is a precision-guided air-to-surface missile launched from drones.
- It has been developed by Research Centre Imarat Hyderabad as the nodal lab along with other DRDO laboratories.

Features

- The ULPGM-V3 is equipped with a high definition dual-channel seeker that can strike a wide variety of targets.
- It can be fired in plain and high-altitude areas.
- It has day-and-night capability and two-way data link to support post-launch target/aim-point update.
- It is equipped with three modular warhead options:
- Anti-armour to destroy modern age armoured vehicles equipped with Rolled Homogeneous Armour (RHA) with Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA); Penetration-cum-Blast warhead with Anti Bunker application and Pre-fragmentation warhead with a high lethality zone.
- The ULPGM-V3 can be carried and operated by individual soldiers in remote and mountainous regions.
- It can achieve a maximum range of 4 km during the day and 2.5 km at night.
- 12.5 kg which enables integration with lightweight drones.



Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay"

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently launched an AI-based helpbot called "Abhay" for authentication of CBI notices.
- ABHAY (AI-Based Helpbot for Authentication of Your Notice) is an AI-powered notice verification system launched by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Purpose: It is designed to help citizens identify fake CBI notices and protect themselves from rising "digital arrest" scams.
- It is India's first real-time notice verification system developed specifically to combat cyber-enabled fraud and impersonation scams.

How does the System Work?

- Users receiving notices in the name of the CBI can upload scanned copies of the documents on the platform after completing OTP verification.
- The AI-based system then checks the authenticity of the notice and flags it as either genuine or potentially fraudulent.
- The ABHAY system is available round-the-clock through the official CBI website and the dedicated verification portal, the ABHAY Verification Platform

Suryastra Rocket System

- India recently achieved a major milestone in indigenous defence technology after private defence firm Nibe Limited successfully tested the long-range Suryastra rocket system at Chandipur.
- It is India's first indigenous universal multi-calibre rocket launcher system.
- It is developed by Pune-based NIBE Limited in collaboration with Israel's Elbit Systems.
- It is designed to deliver precision strikes against enemy positions, command centres, radar installations and logistics hubs deep inside hostile territory
- It is an advanced long-range rocket launcher system.
- It is mounted on a highly mobile 6x6 Tatra truck.
- It is designed to engage multiple targets simultaneously at varying ranges.
- This includes 122 mm rockets for closer engagements, 306 mm EXTRA missiles capable of hitting targets at 150 kilometres, and 370 mm Predator Hawk missiles that can reach up to 300 kilometres.
- The system can also launch SkyStriker loitering munitions—often referred to as suicide drones, capable of traveling up to 100 kilometres .
- The system is based on Elbit Systems' PULS (Precise & Universal Launching System) launcher technology.



Four-Dimensional Grid' Border Security Model

- Union Home Minister proposed a new Four-Dimensional Grid border security framework during his visit to the Sanchu Border Outpost in Rajasthan along the India-Pakistan border.
- The Four-Dimensional Grid is a proposed integrated border security framework designed to create a coordinated, multi-layered defense mechanism along India's international borders.
- It combines the operational strengths of the Border Security Force (BSF), the Army, local administration, cyber surveillance units, and vigilant border residents into a **unified security architecture**.

Aim:

- To establish foolproof border security against infiltration, smuggling, drones, and cross-border terrorism.
- To improve coordination between military, civil administration, and local communities for faster threat detection and response.

Indian Army Develops AI Platforms Kautilya and Q-FORCE

- The Indian Army developed two Artificial Intelligence-based digital systems, Kautilya and Q-FORCE, in 2026 for command intelligence and logistics management.
- Kautilya is an AI-powered command intelligence platform.
 - It uses AI-enabled dashboards and Natural Language Processing-based interfaces for structured data generation, analytics, and decision support.
- Q-FORCE is an integrated digital application for supply chain and sustainment operations.
 - Q-FORCE was launched around 22–25 May 2026 as an integrated digital application for logistics management.
 - It is designed to streamline inventory handling, supply chain management, and sustainment operations.



Dunagiri, Agray and Sanshodhak: Indian Navy to induct three indigenous vessels to boost maritime edge

- The Indian Navy is set to commission three indigenous vessels — a stealth frigate, an anti-submarine warfare craft and a survey ship — in a fresh push to strengthen its operational edge in the Indian Ocean Region,
- The vessels — Dunagiri, Agray and Sanshodhak — were built by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and were recently delivered to the navy.
- The three vessels, delivered recently by GRSE, represent different mission profiles: a stealth frigate for multirole combat, an anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft for coastal defence, and a survey ship for hydrographic operations.



- INS Dunagiri is the fifth stealth frigate under the ₹45,000-crore Project 17A program, which is delivering seven Nilgiri-class warships as successors to the Shivalik-class.
 - With around 75% indigenous content, these frigates are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Barak-8 surface-to-air missiles, MF-STAR radar, and advanced anti-submarine warfare systems.
- INS Agray is the fourth of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC) being built by GRSE.**
 - Designed for operations in coastal waters and littoral zones, the 77-metre vessel is capable of sub-surface surveillance, search and attack missions, and can coordinate with aircraft for extended reach.
- INS Sanshodhak is a large survey vessel designed to conduct hydrographic surveys, chart coastal and deep-sea waters, and support navigation safety.

Indian Navy Inaugurates Premier Naval Sailing Node at Upper Lake in Bhopal

- The Indian Navy inaugurated its premier Naval Sailing Node at Upper Lake (Bhojtaal) in Bhopal.
- The Ministry of Defence said that the facility aims to motivate the youth of Madhya Pradesh to embrace competitive water sports and inspire them to join the Defence Forces.
- The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi



Indian Coast Guard Holds ACV Girder-Laying Ceremony in Goa

- The Indian Coast Guard conducted the girder laying ceremony for the fourth, fifth and sixth Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) being built for the force at the Rassaim Yard of Chowgule Shipyard in Goa.
- The ACVs are being manufactured under the Centre's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative with around 50 per cent indigenous content.
- The contract for six indigenously designed and constructed ACVs was signed between the Coast Guard and Chowgule & Company Private Limited in October 2024.
- According to the ministry, the modern air cushion vehicles will be used for multiple maritime operations, including high-speed coastal patrolling, reconnaissance in shallow waters and marshy terrain, deep-sea operations, interception and interdiction missions, and search and rescue activities.
- The vessels are also expected to assist ships and boats in distress and enhance the Coast Guard's operational capabilities across India's coastal areas.



Landmark MoU Signed for India's First Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi

- India's maritime sector received a major boost with the signing of a landmark tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of the country's first mega greenfield shipyard at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.
- The agreement was signed, between HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering (HD KSOE), National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park, Tamil Nadu Limited (NSHIP-TN), and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- The project has been launched under the India-Republic of Korea maritime cooperation framework 'VOYAGES' – Shared Vision for Operation of Yard Assisted Growth with Efficiency and Scale – which was initiated following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae Myung.
- The proposed shipyard at Thoothukudi is **expected to have an annual shipbuilding capacity of 2.5 million Gross Tonnage (GT), making it one of the largest maritime infrastructure projects in the country**



Launch of Sanghmitra, Yard 3039 (Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel) at M/S Grse, Kolkata

- Yard 3039 (Sanghmitra), Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), was launched at M/s GRSE, Kolkata
- The construction of 11 NGOPVs is being undertaken concurrently at two shipyards (GSL, Goa and GRSE, Kolkata).
- These indigenously designed and built ships will augment the existing OPVs/ NOPVs for multi-domain operations, such as surveillance and defence in area of interest, search and rescue, protection of offshore assets, HADR, and anti-piracy missions.
- These ships derive their names from India's heritage, with this ship being named 'Sanghmitra', after the daughter of King Ashoka.
- The crest design of the ship depicts the constellation of Ursa Major and a red and white coloured lighthouse.



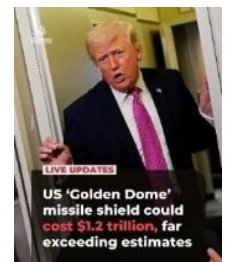
Indian Navy awards ADITI 3.0 contract for HPM system to Tonbo Imaging

- Defence technology company Tonbo Imaging has bagged a contract from the Indian Navy under the ADITI 3.0 innovation framework to integrate and commission a High Power Microwave (HPM) system for naval platforms.
- The programme is supported by iDEX and the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- ADITI (Advanced Defence Technology Incubation) is a Government of India initiative designed to enable the maturation, integration, and validation of advanced defence technologies prior to induction.



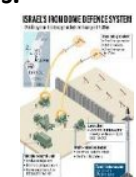
Trump's proposed 'Golden Dome' estimated to cost \$1.2 trillion

- President Donald Trump's plan to put weapons in space — pitched as a “Golden Dome for America” missile defence program — is estimated to cost \$1.2 trillion over a 20-year period.
- The concept for the missile system is at least partly inspired by Israel's multitiered defences, often collectively referred to as the “Iron Dome,”
- The U.S. Golden Dome is envisioned to include ground- and space-based capabilities able to detect, intercept and stop missiles at all major stages of a **potential attack**.



Key Features:

- Multi-layered defense: space-based, midcourse, boost-phase, and terminal protection.**
- Capable of engaging ICBMs, hypersonic weapons, and cruise missiles.**
- Global detection via advanced Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor Satellites.**
- Collaboration with private sector firms like SpaceX, Palantir, Anduril, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, RTX.**



Iron Dome of Israel:

- It is a short-range, ground-to-air, air defence system of Israel.
- The Iron Dome has three main systems that work together to provide a shield over the area where it is deployed.

Russia Tests Sarmat Nuclear Missile

- Russia conducted a test launch of the Sarmat super-heavy intercontinental ballistic missile from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in the Arkhangelsk region.**
- The Sarmat is a liquid-fuelled intercontinental ballistic missile
- It is known to NATO as SS-29 Satan II and is intended to replace the Soviet-era R-36M2 Voyevoda, which NATO designated as SS-18 Satan.
- The missile is designed to carry multiple nuclear warheads and to penetrate missile defence systems.
- Sarmat was capable of suborbital flight, giving it a range exceeding 35,000km (21,750 miles),



Oreshnik Missile

- **The Ukrainian President said recently that Russia used the powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile during a mass drone and missile attack on Kyiv.**
- It is a Russian-made intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile.
- It was first used by Russia in November 2024 to target the Ukrainian city of Dnipro. It can travel at Mach 10
- The missile is based on the RS-26 Rubezh ballistic missile, and, like other Russian weapons systems, Oreshnik is capable of carrying nuclear as well as conventional warheads
- With a reported range of **5,000 kilometres, the missile can strike targets across Europe and even reach the west coast of the United States.**



Kaal Bhairava AI Combat Aircraft to Be Made in Portugal

- Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA), an Indian AI warfare company, announced the establishment of its first international manufacturing node in Portugal for its flagship autonomous combat aircraft, Kaal Bhairava.
- India's first AI-powered combat aircraft, Kaal Bhairava will be manufactured in Portugal through a partnership with SKETCHPIXEL LDA, a European technology firm known for developing advanced fighter jet simulation systems for aircraft including the F-16.
- The Portugal facility will serve as the first international node under Operation 777, a long-term strategic initiative conceptualised by, Founder and CEO of FWDA.
- First unveiled during the launch of the Kaal Bhairava platform in 2025, the initiative aims to establish manufacturing, integration, and deployment partnerships for Indian-origin autonomous warfare systems across seven continents and 77 countries.

Captagon Seized in India Under Operation Ragepill

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced India's first-ever seizure of Captagon, a banned synthetic stimulant often referred to internationally as the "Jihadi Drug", in an operation valued at ₹182 crore.**
- The seizure was made under "Operation Ragepill"
- Captagon is a banned synthetic stimulant that has been linked internationally to organised **crime networks and conflict zones in parts of West Asia.**

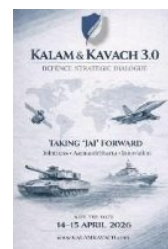


Captagon

- It is a synthetic drug which was originally manufactured in Germany in the 1960s and 1970s where it was intended to treat attention deficit disorders.
- It was commercially sold in several countries until the 1980s and was banned due to fears of its highly addictive nature.
- It is commonly known as "poor man's cocaine," has emerged as the drug of choice among young adults throughout the Middle East and North Africa.
- It contains fenethylamine, a synthetic amphetamine, caffeine, and other **stimulants.**

Raksha Rajya Mantri to inaugurate Kalam & Kavach 3.0 themed 'Taking JAI Forward With I²'

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth inaugurated the third edition of Kalam & Kavach at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on May 14, 2026**
- The event is centred around the strategic vision of Jointness, Aatmanirbharta and Innovation (JAI), along with emphasis on Indigenisation and International Collaboration (I²).
- The conference will serve as a premier strategic platform bringing together senior policy makers, military leadership, defence industry stakeholders, diplomats, innovators, start-ups, academia & strategic experts to deliberate on India's evolving defence transformation, indigenous capability development, and future warfighting preparedness.
- Kalam & Kavach **3.0 aims to highlight MSME participation, iDEX-driven innovation ecosystems, defence industrial corridors, indigenous production capabilities, and production scalability for achieving Viksit Bharat@2047.**



Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team to celebrate 30th anniversary on May 26 at Bidar

- **Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) of the Indian Air Force will celebrate its 30th anniversary on May 26 in Bidar.**
- Popularly known as the “Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force”, the nine-aircraft formation aerobatic team has inspired millions through professional flying in close formations and thrilling low-level manoeuvres.
- The team, “Suryakiran” -- the “Rays of the Sun”, was formed on May 27, 1996 at the Air Force Station Bidar, initially flying the Kiran Mk-II aircraft.
- Since 2015, SKAT has switched over to **Hawk Mk-132 aircraft.**

QUICK FACTS- BAE SYSTEMS Hawk Mk 132	
	Range: 2,500 km
	Service Ceiling: About 44,500 ft.
	Engines: Rolls-Royce Turbomeca Adour Mk871 turbofan
Crew capacity: 2 (Pilot + Co-pilot/Instructor)	Maximum Take-off Weight: 9,100 kg
Length: 11.9 m	Maximum Take-off Weight: 9,100 kg
Wingspan: 9.4 m	Armament Capability: Guns, rockets, bombs, and air-to-air missiles (combat versions)
Height: 4 m	
Speed: 1,000 km/h (Mach 0.84)	

Science & tech

First-of-its-kind satellite by Indian start-up flies on SpaceX rocket

- **An Indian start-up, GalaxEye, rode on a SpaceX rocket this morning to launch a first of its kind satellite that is meant to fill a long-standing gap in space imaging. The satellite, aptly called Drishti,**
- **Equipped to take optical images, very much like a normal camera, as well as radar-generated images of the same place at the same time, something that has not been tried before.**
- Drishti is the first satellite of GalaxEye, a company started by alumni of IIT Madras.
- The optical images ensure clarity and intuitiveness, while radar images, through a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), brings all-weather reliability.
- **It rode on a Falcon 9 rocket by SpaceX from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, United States, as one of the 45 payloads on the CAS500-2 mission.**



First-of-its-kind satellite by Indian start-up flies on SpaceX rocket



Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn

- Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace announced that it had become India's first space-tech unicorn following its latest round of funding of nearly USD 60 million, taking its valuation to USD 1.1 billion.
- A unicorn is a privately held startup valued at \$1 billion or more.
- **Skyroot Aerospace aims to make Vikram-1 India's first privately developed orbital rocket.** In 2022, the company launched Vikram-S, which became India's first privately built rocket to reach space.



Pixxel to launch India's first orbital data centre satellite this year

- Space-tech startup Pixxel, announced a partnership with LLM provider Sarvam AI to develop and build India's first orbital data centre satellite called The Pathfinder.
- **Expected to reach orbit by the end of 2026, the 200-kg satellite will house GPUs (graphics processing units) that will be used to carry out training and inference of Sarvam's AI model.**
- **Unlike conventional satellite computing, which relies on low-power edge processors optimised for survival rather than performance, the Pathfinder satellite will house the same generation of hardware as on-ground data centres used to power frontier AI models.**

Pixxel-Sarvam partnership

- As part of the partnership, Pixxel said it will design, build, launch, and operate the Pathfinder satellite.
- **The satellite will be developed at Gigapixxel, the company's upcoming facility that will be designed to scale satellite production to up to 100 units.** Sarvam, on the other hand, will handle the training and inference of its language models directly in orbit.



Psyche Spacecraft

- Recently, NASA's Psyche spacecraft **captured a stunning crescent image of Mars from nearly 5 million kilometres away.**
- It **was launched on October 13, 2023 by NASA.**
- It is on a mission to reach the **metal-rich asteroid also named Psyche.**
- **Asteroid Psyche's gravity will capture the spacecraft in late July 2029,** and Psyche will begin its prime mission in August.
- It will spend about two years orbiting the asteroid to take pictures, map the surface, and collect data to determine Psyche's composition
- The **body of the Psyche spacecraft is about the size of a small van.**



DAMPE Satellite

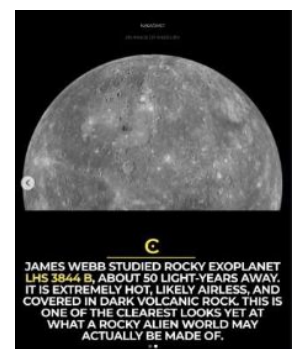
- **China's DAMPE space telescope recently made an observation on the acceleration of cosmic rays, such as nuclei of hydrogen, helium, etc.,** and found that the intensity of the cosmic radiation decreases more rapidly upon reaching a specific high-energy threshold.
- **DAMPE (Dark Matter Particle Explorer), also known as "Wukong", is China's first astronomical satellite.**
- The **satellite was launched into a polar, sun-synchronous orbit with an altitude of 500 km on December 17, 2015.**
- The main scientific objective of DAMPE is to measure electrons and photons with much higher energy resolution and energy reach than achievable with existing space experiments in order to identify possible dark matter signatures.

South Korea Launches CAS500-2 Earth-Observation Satellite

- South Korea launched its domestically developed Earth-observation satellite Compact Advanced Satellite 500-2 (CAS500-2) into orbit.
- **The satellite, also called Next-Generation Medium Satellite No. 2 or Cha Middle 2, lifted off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, United States**
- It's the second of two satellites that KAI calls Phase 1 of its CAS500 program, which is designed for "precision ground-based observation."
- **CAS500-2 separated from the Falcon 9 rocket and entered a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 498 kilometres.**
- Sun-synchronous orbit is a near-polar orbit used by Earth-observation satellites for consistent lighting conditions over the same area.

James Webb Telescope studies rocky exoplanet LHS 3844 b

- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) directly **studied the rocky exoplanet LHS 3844 b, also called Kua'kua.**
- LHS 3844 b is a super-Earth located about 49 to 50 light-years away and is around 30% larger than Earth.
- **LHS 3844 b is a tidally locked exoplanet,** which means one hemisphere permanently faces its host star.
- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a **monumental leap in space exploration and astrophysics. Launched on December 25, 2021,**
- **Initiation and collaboration:** The JWST project began in 1996 as a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).
- **Successor to Hubble:** It has been conceived as the next-generation space telescope succeeding the Hubble Space Telescope, with a focus on infrared astronomy



Trans-Neptunian Object: 2002 XV93

- Astronomers have discovered a **thin atmosphere on the trans-Neptunian object (612533) 2002 XV93, making it only the second such body after Pluto known to possess one.**
- (612533) 2002 XV93 is a small, icy celestial body **located in the Kuiper Belt**, a vast region of the solar system beyond the orbit of Neptune.
- It is a trans-Neptunian object (TNO) that likely dates back to the dawn of the solar system, approximately 4.5 billion years ago.

**Discovered By:**

- The atmosphere was identified through stellar occultation—observing the object as it passed in front of a distant star—**using ground-based telescopes in Japan (Kyoto, Nagano, and Fukushima).**

Key Features

- **Dimensions:** It has a diameter of roughly 310 miles (500 km), making it much smaller than dwarf planets like Pluto or Eris.
- **Atmospheric Composition:** The atmosphere is extremely tenuous—roughly 5 to 10 million times thinner than Earth's.
- It is **believed to be dominated by methane, nitrogen, or carbon monoxide.**
- **Orbital Characteristics:** It follows an elliptical path around the Sun, completing one orbit every 247 years. Its distance from the Sun averages about 39.6 AU (3.7 billion miles).
- **Composition:** Primarily consists of water ice, rock, and organic-rich materials.

Possible Origin of Atmosphere:

- **Cryovolcanism:** Gases seeping or venting from the interior through surface cracks (internal supply).
- **Recent Impact:** Temporary gases released following a collision with another smaller object.

South Korea Introduces First Humanoid Robot Monk Gabi

- South Korea introduced its first humanoid robot monk, Gabi, at a Buddhist ceremony at Jogyesa Temple in Seoul
- A humanoid robot is a machine designed with a human-like body structure, including a head, torso, arms, and legs.
- **The name combines Siddhartha, the birth name of the Buddha, and jabi, the Korean word for mercy.**
- **Built on China's Unitree G1 humanoid platform,** Dressed in traditional grey-and-brown monk robes, the four-foot-tall robot joined chanting monks, bowed during rituals and even responded to questions during the ceremony.
- **Gabi was introduced as part of an initiative by the Jogye Order, which is South Korea's largest Buddhist sect,** to modernise Buddhism and connect with younger generations in an increasingly digital society.
- **A few weeks ago, researchers at Kyoto University in Japan introduced an AI-powered robot called "Buddharoid",** designed to interact with visitors, learn Buddhist scriptures and respond to spiritual questions.
 - Unlike traditional sermon-based systems, Buddharoid was created to hold conversations and adapt to human interactions in real time.

**Anthropic unveils 'dreaming' feature to help its AI agents self-improve**

- Artificial intelligence lab Anthropic touted a new feature for its Claude AI, which it calls "dreaming."
- **Available as a research preview, "dreaming" comes with its software for managing agents, or AI programmes that perform tasks with little human involvement.**
- The feature's goal is self-improvement. It can review agents' work in between sessions, unearth patterns, and update files that store user preferences and other context.

Germanium

- Recently, in a major defence-tech breakthrough, **Hyderabad based company has developed India's first germanium-free thermal imaging payload for drones.**

About Germanium

- It has the chemical symbol Ge and the atomic number 32.
- It is a **silvery-gray metalloid**, intermediate in properties between the metals and the nonmetals.

Major Producers

- The major worldwide producer of germanium is China, responsible for around 60% of total production.
- The remaining production of germanium comes from Canada, Finland, Russia, and the United States.

Properties of Germanium

- It has a **diamond-like crystalline structure**, and it is similar in chemical and physical properties to silicon.
- It is **stable in air and water** and is unaffected by alkalis and acids, except nitric acid.
- It **remains of primary importance in the manufacture of transistors and of components** for devices such as rectifiers and photocells.
- Germanium ores are rare.** They are found in small quantities as the minerals germanite and argyrodite.
- It is **extracted as a by-product of zinc production** and from coal fly ash.

Applications: Its main use is to produce solid-state electronics, semiconductors and fiber optic systems.

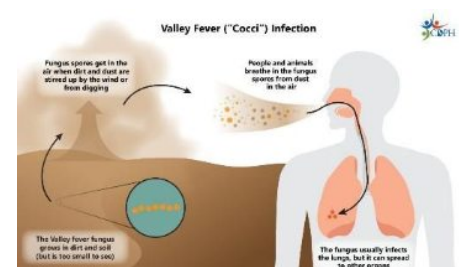


Valley Fever

- A 37-year-old Indian tech professional based in California recently died after battling Valley fever, a rare fungal infection that damaged his lungs and led to respiratory failure.**
- Valley fever, also known as **acute coccidioidomycosis**, is a fungal infection that primarily affects the lungs.
- It is caused by the **Coccidioides fungus**, which grows in dry and dusty soil in parts of the southwestern United States, Mexico, and regions of Central and South America.

Valley Fever Transmission

- The fungi's spores can be stirred into the air by anything that disrupts the soil, such as farming, construction, and wind.
- People can then breathe the fungi into their lungs.**
- Pets can also become infected.
- It does not spread from person to person or between people and animals.**



There is no vaccine to prevent valley fever.

Hantavirus

- Recently, three people have died and three are ill after a **Netherlands-based cruise ship was hit by a suspected outbreak of hantavirus**
- Hantavirus is a strain of virus **carried by rodents.**
- Transmission:** It is transmitted to humans through inhalation of particles from dried rodent droppings.
- People most typically become infected when a virus in rodent droppings, saliva and urine becomes airborne.**
- The virus is known to cause two severe illnesses one that primarily affects the lungs and the other that attacks the kidneys.
- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS):** It is a respiratory illness and has a high fatality rate of about 40%.
- Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS),** which is a more severe infection and impacts the kidneys. Symptoms can include low blood pressure, internal bleeding, and acute kidney failure.

Symptoms

- Hantavirus usually begins with flu-like symptoms, such as fatigue and fever, one to eight weeks after exposure, according to the CDC.
- Four to 10 days later, coughing, shortness of breath and fluid in the lungs appear.**



- **Treatment:** There is no specific therapy for hantavirus infection, so treatment focuses on supportive care including rest and fluids.

What is ICMR Syndromic Surveillance?

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has **developed a priority pathogen list for syndromic surveillance in India.**
- The list was released by the Division of Communicable Diseases on 17 November 2025 and is linked to infectious disease monitoring, diagnostic standardisation, and outbreak detection.

Syndromic Surveillance

- Syndromic surveillance is a **public health method that tracks symptom patterns such as fever, respiratory illness, diarrhoea, and encephalitis before laboratory confirmation.**
- It is used in epidemic-prone settings to identify unusual clusters of illness and to support early public health action.

Priority Pathogen List

- The **ICMR list was prepared through 44 expert consultations with clinicians, laboratory specialists, and epidemiologists.** It classifies pathogens for acute febrile illness, encephalitis, respiratory infections, and diarrhoeal diseases.
- The **pathogens are grouped into four tiers based on prevalence, outbreak potential, national elimination goals, and diagnostic availability.** Such tiering is used to guide patient care, laboratory testing, and public health planning.
- Multiplex testing is a laboratory method that detects more than one pathogen from one sample.
- **Standardised pathogen screening is linked to faster diagnosis** and reduced antibiotic misuse.
- Missed infections and varied institution-specific diagnostic practices are associated with gaps in surveillance and antimicrobial resistance.

The SMILE Mission

- **The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) successfully** launched their first-ever fully joint space mission, the Solar wind Magnetosphere Ionosphere Link Explorer (SMILE).
- SMILE is a pioneering, multi-wavelength space exploration mission designed to observe the global interaction between Earth's protective magnetic shield (the magnetosphere) and the highly charged plasma streamed by the Sun (the solar wind).
- It marks a unique scientific **bridge, merging European rocket tech and imaging sensors with Chinese engineering.**



China Launches Shenzhou-23 Three-Member Space Mission

- **China launched the Shenzhou-23 mission with a three-member crew** aboard a Long March 2-F rocket from the Jiuquan launch centre in north-western China.
- Payload specialist Li Jiaying, a former Hong Kong police inspector, is the first astronaut from the city to take part in a Chinese space mission.
- The other crew members are commander Zhu Yangzhu and pilot Zhang Yuanzhi.
- Shenzhou is China's crewed **spacecraft series used for human spaceflight missions.**
- **The mission includes experiments in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics, and medicine.**



What is the Zwan-Wolf effect at Mars?

- In a new study published in *Nature Communications*, researchers from France, the U.K., and the U.S. used the NASA MAVEN spacecraft to find evidence of the Zwan-Wolf effect at Mars
- The solar wind is a stream of charged particles flowing outwards from the sun.
- As the solar wind nears the magnetic field of a planet, it becomes compressed near the magnetic boundaries.

- This creates a difference in pressure, or pressure gradient, that squeezes the charged particles along the magnetic field, away from the stream.
- As a result, closer to the stream is an area with a lower density of charged particles. This is called the Zwan-Wolf effect.

MAVEN had recorded the data containing the effect in December 2023, when a powerful solar storm called a coronal mass ejection struck Mars.

- The event created intense magnetic structures in Mars's magnetic field that moved downwards into the planet's ionosphere.
- These structures squeezed the charged particles in the ionosphere towards the planet's unlit side, reducing the local density of the particles by around 50%.
- According to the researchers, the findings indicate that even "unmagnetised" planets like Mars can experience complex magnetic phenomena like the Zwan-Wolf effect.



Project Garud

- Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space recently secured ₹105 crore under the Research, Development & Innovation Fund (RDIF) to power 'Project Garud', a major step towards strengthening India's private-sector satellite capabilities.
- **It is a satellite platform programme launched by Hyderabad-based space startup Dhruva Space.**
- **It is focused on developing a flat-pack 500 kg-class satellite platform designed for scalable and high-volume manufacturing.**
- **It is positioned to bridge the gap between smaller experimental satellites and larger traditional systems.**
- **The platform is being developed as a standardised, production-oriented spacecraft capable of supporting multiple mission configurations.**
- **The satellite architecture is aimed at applications across Telecommunications, National Security, Earth Observation, and emerging data-driven use cases.**
- **The platform introduces a flat-pack architecture** that enables efficient launch stacking, faster system integration, and improved deployment timelines, making it suitable for large-scale satellite deployments.
- The manufacturing roadmap is designed to support production of up to two satellites per day, translating into an annual manufacturing capacity of nearly 500-600 satellites

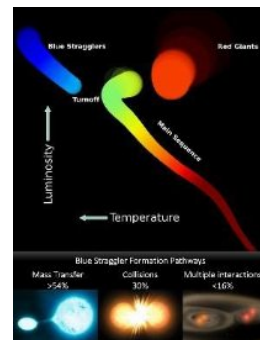


Blue Straggler Star

- **Recently, researchers have made the world's first confirmed discovery of a blue straggler star hosting a brown dwarf companion in an extraordinarily compact binary system.**
- **Blue Straggler Stars are hot, blue, massive stars that seem to have a different trajectory of evolution from the norm.**
- **These are a class of stars observed in old, dense stellar systems such as globular clusters.**
- **They lie on an extension of the main sequence star and are bluer and brighter than the main-sequence turn-off stars.**
- These objects are found in star clusters, dwarf galaxies, and in the field.

How are they Different?

- **There are a few stars, when they are expected to start expanding in size and cooling down, do just the opposite.**
- They grow brighter and hotter as indicated by their blue colour, thus standing out from the cooler red stars in their vicinity in the colour-magnitude diagram.
- Since they lag behind their peers in evolution, they are called stragglers, more specifically, blue stragglers, because of their hot, blue colour.
- **Why do they Behave Differently?**
- They do not belong to the family of stars in the cluster, and hence not expected to have the group properties.
- The straggler draws matter from the giant companion star and grows more massive, hot and blue, and the red giant to end up as a normal or smaller white dwarf.
- **The straggler draws matter from a companion star, but that there is a third star that facilitates this process.**



What is the Kuiper Belt?

- **It is a large, doughnut-shaped cold region of icy bodies located in the outer reaches of our solar system beyond the orbit of Neptune.**
- It's sometimes called the "third zone" of the solar system.
- It is similar to the main asteroid belt, found between Mars and Jupiter, in that its objects are composed of material leftover from the formation of the solar system around 4.6 billion years ago.
- However, it is far larger than the main asteroid belt, up to 20 times as wide and 20 to 100 times its mass.
- Like the asteroid belt, it has also been shaped by a giant planet, although it's more of a thick disk (like a donut) than a thin belt.
- The icy bodies in the Kuiper Belt are called "Kuiper Belt Objects", or KBOs for short. Pluto is the best-known KBO.

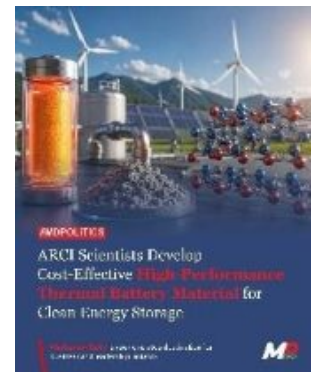


Scientists Find Possible Dwarf Galaxy Inside Milky Way

- Scientists have discovered new clues suggesting that the Milky Way grew larger billions of years ago by absorbing a smaller dwarf galaxy.
- The findings, published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, indicate that remnants of this ancient galaxy may still exist inside our own.
- Researchers have named the dwarf galaxy "Loki," after the Norse god of trickery.
- The study suggests that the Milky Way expanded over time by merging with smaller star systems and dwarf galaxies. Loki is believed to have been one such dwarf galaxy made up of billions of stars.
- The discovery was made after scientists examined 20 metal-poor stars located on the Milky Way's galactic plane, the flat region **where most of the galaxy's stars are found.**
- **Metal-poor stars are considered extremely old and are believed to preserve chemical details from the environments in which they originally formed.**

Thermal Energy Storage (TES) Systems

- **Researchers at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)** announced the development of a low-cost, high-performance spinel nanocomposite Phase Change Material (PCM).
- A Thermal Energy Storage (TES) system is an advanced clean technology designed to stock thermal energy by heating or cooling a storage medium.
- It functions essentially as a thermal battery, retaining heat during peak generation hours (like midday solar cycles **or active industrial manufacturing**) and **discharging it on demand for continuous electricity generation or space heating**.



Materials Used:

- **Traditional TES frameworks rely on sensible heat storage (like molten salts or thermal oils) or latent heat storage materials** known as Phase Change Materials (PCMs), which absorb and release energy when transitioning between solid and **liquid states**.

The 2026 ARCI breakthrough introduces a new material classification:

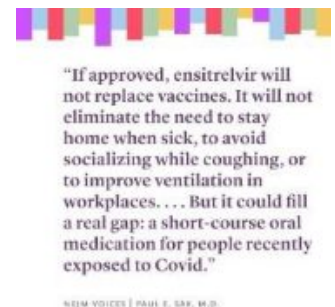
- **The Base Medium:** Standard commercial Phase Change Materials (PCMs).
- **The Nanocomposite Additive:** Custom-tailored spinel-type metal oxide nanoparticles synthesized via a cost-effective, scalable **co-precipitation method**.

Applications:

- **CSP Plants:** Store excess daytime solar heat to generate electricity even after sunset.
- **Industrial Waste Heat Recovery:** Captures unused heat from steel, cement, and chemical industries for energy reuse.
- **Grid-Scale Thermal Batteries:** Store surplus renewable energy and release it during peak electricity demand.
- **Green Buildings & HVAC:** Helps regulate indoor temperatures naturally, reducing cooling and energy costs.

Antiviral Drug Ensitrelvir

- A recent study published in The New England Journal of Medicine reported that the antiviral drug Ensitrelvir significantly reduced symptomatic COVID-19 infections among exposed household contacts.
- Ensitrelvir is an oral antiviral drug that inhibits the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (3C-like protease/Mpro), an enzyme essential for viral replication.
- By blocking this protease, **the drug prevents the coronavirus from processing viral proteins required for multiplication inside human cells**.



Aim:

- To treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infections and reduce viral transmission after exposure.
- To provide a safer and longer-lasting oral antiviral **option without requiring booster drugs like ritonavir**.

Key Features:

- **Protease Inhibitor Mechanism:** Targets the SARS-CoV-2 main protease (Mpro), preventing viral replication.
- **Oral Antiviral Drug:** Can be administered orally, making it suitable for outpatient and household use.
- **Broad Variant Activity:** Showed **effectiveness against multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants, including Omicron**.

CLEAR Technology

- **Researchers in India have** developed a groundbreaking protein imaging platform called CLEAR, which allows multiple proteins to be mapped within a single biological sample using a single fluorescent marker.
- A novel, highly multiplexed spatial protein imaging platform that allows a vast number of proteins to be visualized and mapped within the same cells or tissue sections.
- Full Form: **Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter (CLEAR)**.

- Developed By: The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Aim:

- **The primary aim of CLEAR technology** is to overcome the structural limits of conventional imaging, which struggle to map multiple proteins simultaneously within a single specimen while preserving their spatial organization.
- It aims to provide high-resolution, high-plex **protein maps to decode complex cellular behavior in diseases like cancer and neurological disorders.**

Information Agents

- **Google unveiled** something called information agents, a feature that will be built into Search to monitor the web on your behalf.
- **An information agent** is a computational software entity (an intelligent agent) that may access one or multiple, distributed, and heterogeneous information sources available, and proactively acquires, mediates, and maintains relevant information on behalf of its users.
- Information agents are supposed to cope with the difficulties associated with the information overload of the user.

Wi-Fi 7 (IEEE 802.11be)

- **Global networking brand TP-Link announced the start of local manufacturing for its Wi-Fi 7 product portfolio in India**, beginning with enterprise access points.
- Wi-Fi 7 is the newest generation of wireless communication, formally designated as IEEE 802.11 be Extremely High Throughput (EHT).
- While previous standards like Wi-Fi 6 focused primarily on managing high device density, Wi-Fi 7 is engineered to maximize raw data rates, **eliminate network congestion, and deliver ultra-low latency.**

Key Features:

- Reaches a massive maximum theoretical data speed of up to 46 Gbps—roughly 4.8 times faster than Wi-Fi 6.
- Fully utilizes the newly delicensed 5925–6425 MHz spectrum band in India, providing a clean, interference-free environment for high-density traffic.

Applications:

- **Enterprise & Cloud Computing:** Ensures smooth virtual meetings, stable connectivity, and fast access to cloud-based files in offices and campuses.
- **Immersive Media & Gaming:** Supports real-time 4K/8K streaming, AR/VR devices, and low-latency online gaming.
- **Industrial IoT:** Enables real-time monitoring, robotics, and dense sensor networks in smart factories.
- **Smart Homes:** Connects multiple smart devices, cameras, and voice assistants without network congestion.

The Union Minister for Science & Technology dedicated the UMMID Programme

- UMMID (Unique Methods of Management of Inherited Disorders) programme is launched for Rare Genetic Disorders/ Diseases.
- It is a national initiative promoting early intervention and affordable healthcare for families affected by rare genetic disorders
- It is aimed at improving the diagnosis and management of inherited and rare genetic disorders.
- The initiative represents India's first comprehensive national effort to address inherited genetic disorders through an integrated approach encompassing diagnosis, counselling, prevention, training and public health awareness.

The programme functions through three major pillars such as:

- **NIDAN Kendras** for diagnostics and counselling, **outreach programmes** in aspirational districts, and **specialised training centres** for capacity building.

- It supports implementation of the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) 2021 by creating structured care pathways for patients suffering from inherited disorders.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is a national initiative led by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology to tackle inherited genetic disorders

Health Ministry Brings Pregabalin Under Schedule H1

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare officially brought the neurological drug Pregabalin under the stricter purview of Schedule H1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945.
- **Introduced in India in 2013 as an amendment to check drug abuse** and slow down antimicrobial resistance, Schedule H1 is a highly restricted classification for prescription drugs.
- It sits as a legal middle ground between ordinary prescription drugs (Schedule H) and heavily restricted narcotics (Schedule X).
- It **specifically covers third- and fourth-generation antibiotics, anti-tuberculosis medications, and high-risk, habit-forming psychotropic substances.**
- **Act Governed Under:** Deployed under the statutory framework of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 (enforced via the parent Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940).
- **Aim:** To establish absolute accountability across the pharmaceutical supply chain, enforce meticulous prescription monitoring, stop illegal trafficking, and prevent the unauthorized OTC sale of habit-forming medications.
- Schedule H1 medicines must carry a red-bordered warning box and red Rx symbol on packaging.



Semaglutide

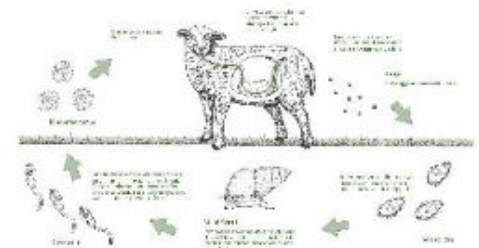
- Dr Reddy's Laboratories recently has launched its **generic version of Semaglutide injection** used in treatment of type 2 diabetes in Canada.

About Semaglutide

- It is a prescription medication used primarily to treat type 2 diabetes.
- **Type 2 diabetes is a common condition that causes the level of glucose (sugar) in the blood to become too high.**
- Semaglutide **works by increasing insulin levels in your body, which decreases your blood sugar (glucose).**
- It also reduces the amount of glucose, or sugar, produced by the liver, and slows down how quickly food is digested.
- **Semaglutide can also lead to weight loss.** This is because it slows down how quickly food is digested.
- Semaglutide resembles a natural hormone, GLP-1, released from the body after eating.
- It **may also be used to lower the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with type 2 diabetes.**
- Changes to diet are often combined with this medication

Rumen Fluke

- Around 70 cattle have died in Odisha's Kendrapada district recently, **with the chief district veterinary officer attributing most of the deaths to amphistomes, or rumen flukes disease, locally known as 'Kurmi'.**
- Rumen flukes are parasites of ruminants and occur worldwide.
- They **have a snail intermediate host.**
- The adult parasites live in the rumen (stomach), and the immature larval forms live in the small intestine.
- They have been associated with significant disease (paramphistomosis) in tropical and subtropical countries.
- The **disease is due to intestinal damage caused by massive numbers of larvae in the intestine.**
- **Transmission:** Through ingestion of contaminated water or vegetation carrying larval stages.



Symptoms:

- Key signs of rumen fluke disease are severe diarrhoea, rapid weight loss, and swelling under the jaw, known as “bottle jaw”.
- It includes reduced milk yield and curdling and significant loss in body mass despite the animal’s willingness to eat.
- The disease can be treated with targeted anthelmintic medicines. Anthelmintics are medications used to eradicate parasitic worms (helminthes).

Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect

- **The Indian Council of Medical Research launched India’s largest biomedical innovation and technology transfer platform, “Medical Innovations Patent Mitra: Innovators-to-Industry (I2I) Connect,” in New Delhi to bridge the gap between scientific research and industry commercialization.**
- It aims to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and public deployment of indigenous healthcare technologies through industry partnerships.



Key Features:

- **Technology Transfer Platform:** Facilitates direct transfer of biomedical technologies from research institutions to industry for large-scale production.
- **Indigenous Healthcare Innovation:** Showcased over 100 Indian technologies in diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and medical devices.
- **Public Health Focus:** Transferred technologies include vaccines and diagnostics for diseases such as typhoid, paratyphoid, tuberculosis, Japanese Encephalitis, Mpox, KFD, and Chandipura virus.
- **Intellectual Property Ecosystem:** Released the **Indian Biomedical Patent Landscape Report and Technology Compendium** to strengthen biomedical IP development.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** Promotes collaboration between researchers, startups, and healthcare industries to expand India’s biomedical manufacturing base.

Parag Agrawal Launches Index for Creator Compensation

- **Parallel Web Systems, the startup** founded by former Twitter chief executive Parag Agrawal, launched Index.
- **Index is a platform for content creators and publishers to receive compensation when artificial intelligence systems use their work.**
- Index uses a game theory method called the Shapley value to calculate the contribution of each creator to AI output.

Environment

Union Environment Minister inaugurates ‘Lion’ Species Spotlight Programme at Sasan Gir Gujarat, as a Pre-IBCA Summit Event

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the ‘Lion’ Species Spotlight Programme at Gir National Park in Sasan Gir, Gujarat, **as part of the pre-summit events leading up to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026.**
- **The lion population in the Greater Gir Landscape has risen to an estimated 891 individuals in 2025,** dignitaries launched a ‘Lion Conservation Brochure’, while educational films and presentations on big cat conservation
- **India will host the first-ever IBCA Summit 2026 in New Delhi on June 1 and 2** under the chairmanship of PM Modi.
- **The summit, themed “Save Big Cats, Save Humanity, Save Ecosystem”.**



Big Cat Summit in New Delhi postponed

- India has postponed the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) summit scheduled in New Delhi on June 1.
- Delhi Declaration: The first global declaration on big cat conservation, promoting shared priorities, transboundary cooperation, and a based approach for protecting big cats and their habitats.
- The summit was expected to have significant representation from countries.
- The First IBCA Summit **was scheduled in conjunction with the Fourth Forum Summit (IAFS IV)**, as several African countries host big cats and are important partners in global efforts towards conservation, ecological sustainability and biodiversity protection.



India-Africa Forum Summit

- **It is the highest apex institutional platform for dialogue and cooperation between India and African countries.**
- It was established in 2008.
- Purpose: It aims to strengthen political dialogue, economic cooperation, trade, investment, technology transfer, capacity building **and people-to-people relations between India and Africa**

Saudi Arabia joins International Big Cat Alliance as 26th member nation

- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister during Global Tiger Day celebration in July 2019 to form an alliance of global leaders to curb poaching, eliminate demand, and halt illegal **wildlife trade**.



About IBCA

- Establishment: Launched in 2023 by India.
- Headquarter: New Delhi, India.

Objective: Global conservation of seven big cat species - Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

- Organizational Nature: IBCA is a multi-country, multi-agency coalition comprising of 95 big cat range countries, non-range countries, conservation partners, scientific organizations, business groups and corporates with an interest in big cat conservation.
 - Presently, it consists of 26 member countries and 5 observer nations.
-

- **Nodal Agency: Established** by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Nicobarese **Opposition to Proposed Wildlife Sanctuaries**

- **The Tribal Council of Little and Great Nicobar** has called for the revocation of three newly notified wildlife sanctuaries on the Little Nicobar, Menchal, and Meroe islands
- The primary aim of these sanctuaries is to mitigate the ecological damage caused by the Great Nicobar Project by conserving the nesting habitats of the leatherback turtle, the megapode bird, and various coral colonies in nearby, less-developed islands.



The Three Proposed Sanctuaries:

Leatherback Turtle Sanctuary (Little Nicobar Island):

- **Focused on protecting the nesting beaches of the Giant Leatherback Turtle.**
- The Nicobarese community is concerned that this will lead to the loss of their traditional coconut and areca nut plantations and restrict their ancestral ritual hunting grounds.

Megapode Sanctuary (Menchal Island):

- Established to conserve the Nicobar Megapode, a unique bird that builds large mounds to incubate its eggs.
- For the locals, Menchal is a sacred site believed to be the dwelling place of ancestral spirits, and they fear sanctuary status will bar them from spiritual practices.

Coral Sanctuary (Meroe Island):

- Aims to preserve diverse coral reef ecosystems and marine biodiversity.

Barda Wildlife Sanctuary

- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary is being developed as a crucial second habitat for Asiatic lions to reduce the extinction risk posed by keeping the world's entire wild lion population confined to Gir Forest alone.
- It is located in the **Barda Hills of Gujarat, near the coastal city of Porbandar.**
- **Known locally as Jam Barda, it was once a private hunting ground for the royal families of Jamnagar and Porbandar.**
- **Rivers:** There are two waterways, the Bileshvary River and the Joghri River, and two dams, Khambala and Fodara.
- **Tribes:** Ethnic races such as Maldharis, Bharvads, Rabaris, and Gadhis live in this region.
- To develop Barda as the second home for the Asiatic lion, the state government implemented the 'Gir-Barda Project' in 1979.
- It is the first fully protected satellite lion habitat in Gujarat.



The Kopra Reservoir

- The Kopra Reservoir has emerged as a national biodiversity model embodying the 2026 International Day for Biological Diversity theme, "Local Action, Global Impact."
- The Kopra Reservoir is a premier ecological wetland ecosystem that serves as Chhattisgarh's inaugural Ramsar Site of International Importance.
- **Location:** Situated in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, India.
- Functions as a vital socio-economic and hydrological anchor for regional communities while acting as a crucial sanctuary for diverse aquatic life and avifauna.
- Originally constructed as an artificial water storage reservoir to support local agricultural irrigation and fish farming, Kopra gradually transformed over the decades into a thriving, self-sustaining wetland ecosystem.
- Local communities and village panchayats traditionally co-managed its waters for survival.

Saraswati Wildlife Sanctuary

- Haryana's first constellation garden has been developed at the Saraswati Wildlife Sanctuary in the Seonsar forest area of Pehowa.
- Saraswati Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as the Seonsar Forest, is located in the districts of Kaithal and Kurukshetra, in **Haryana.**
- **Culturally and ecologically significant, the sanctuary is tied to the mythical Saraswati River, believed to have flowed through the region.**
- **The sanctuary is also home to ancient archaeological remains, with bricks found here dating back to the Kushan and Gupta periods, suggesting the area was inhabited over 1,500 years ago.**
- **There is also a 400-year-old Water well made of small lakhauri bricks associated with the Mughal empire era.**
- **The forest is characterized by "tropical deciduous forest" vegetation, featuring dense clusters of Kikar, Neem, Shisham, and Peepal trees.**
- It is a critical habitat for a variety of wildlife, including the Blue Bull (Nilgai), Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, and the rare Hog Deer.

AI-Enabled Monsoon Forecasting Platforms

- Union Minister launched two path-breaking AI-enabled weather forecasting products developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- These systems are designed to provide hyper-local, impact-based monsoon forecasts to support 16 states.

Organizations Involved:

- India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune
- National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF)

The Two New Systems & Their Features:

AI-enabled Forecast of Monsoon Advance:

- Provides probabilistic forecasts at the block-level (sub-district level) for the first time in India.
- Offers weekly probabilistic updates on monsoon progression up to 4 weeks in advance.
- Blends nearly a century of IMD's meteorological data with global weather models and AI analysis to track the monsoon itinerary from its onset in Kerala.
- Feeds directly into the Ministry of Agriculture's advisory pipeline to help farmers time sowing and irrigation precisely.

High Spatial Resolution Rainfall Forecast (UP Pilot)

- System Name:** Derived from the Mithuna weather model.
- Provides an unprecedented 1-km spatial resolution rainfall forecast (downscaled from the standard 12.5-km resolution).
- Valid for 10 days in advance.
- Utilizes a dense network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), Doppler Weather Radars, and satellite datasets specifically optimized for Uttar Pradesh as a pilot service.
- Specifically designed for precision in urban planning, water resource management, and disaster mitigation in densely populated regions.

Development of new lotus varieties brings Ajitha national recognition

A couple of new lotus varieties developed -- Mayoore and Paneer Rose -- have now received registration from the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority of the Government of India.

Sonerila roxburghii

- Researchers recently identified a new species of flowering plant named *Sonerila roxburghii* from the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats in Kerala.
- It was discovered in the Mankulam and Kallar areas of the Idukki district of Kerala, at elevations ranging between 1,380 and 1,480 metres above sea level.
- The species has been named in honour of renowned botanist William Roxburgh – hailing from Scotland – often regarded as the Father of Indian Botany.
- Light pink flowers. Adaptation to moist, high-altitude rocky habitats.
- has been placed in the Critically Endangered category.



Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary

- The first instance globally of a Western hoolock gibbon using an artificial canopy bridge over a railway line was recorded in Assam's Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary recently.
- The Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, previously called the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary or Hollongapar Reserve Forest, is an isolated evergreen forest in Jorhat district, Assam, India. It was renamed on May 25, 2004.
- It is home to India's only gibbons, the hoolock gibbons, and Northeast India's only nocturnal primate, the Bengal slow loris.
- The Hollongapar sanctuary got its first artificial canopy bridge in 2015.

Hoolock Gibbon

- The forests of Northeast India are home to the country's only apes: the western hoolock gibbon (Hoolock hoolock) and the eastern hoolock gibbon (Hoolock leuconedys).

The western hoolock gibbon is found in all the states of the northeast, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River.

- It is also found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar.
- It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red list and Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.

The eastern hoolock gibbon inhabits specific pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, southern China, and north-east Myanmar.

- It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red list.

Amur Falcons satellite-tagged in stopover site in Manipur

- **Two of the three Amur falcons, which were satellite-tagged in Manipur's Tamenglong district in November 2025,** are returning to their breeding grounds in the Far East through India, after migrating to the warmer southern Africa region during the winter.
- A tagged young female Amur falcon named 'Alang' is currently headed for India's west coast and is crossing the **Arabian Sea**



Amur Falcon

- **It is a** migratory raptor of the falcon family.
- This falcon is known by a few other names, such as Eastern Red-footed Falcon, Eastern Red-footed Kestrel, Manchurian Falcon, and Red-legged Falcon.
- They breed in southeastern Siberia and Northern China and migrate long distances in large flocks to winter in Southern and East Africa.
- Along the way, large numbers pass through India, with the biggest congregations seen in the northeastern states.
- It undertakes the longest regular overwater passage of any raptor.
- It is classified as 'Least Concern' **under the IUCN Red List.**

India Releases First Satellite-Tagged Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle

- **India's first satellite-tagged Ganges soft-shell turtle was released into its natural habitat along the** northern bank of the Brahmaputra River inside Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- The Ganges soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*), also known as the Indian softshell turtle, is a large, highly aquatic freshwater reptile belonging to the family Trionychidae.
- It serves as an essential river apex predator and scavenger, playing a vital role in cleaning the riverine ecosystem by feeding on dead organic and animal matter.
- It primarily inhabits deep, turbid rivers, large streams, canals, lakes, and reservoirs, showing a strong preference for wetlands with muddy or sandy bottoms where it can bury itself.
- Widely distributed across South Asia, specifically in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- In India, it is densely found across major riverine ecosystems, including the Indus, Ganges/Yamuna, Mahanadi, Narmada, and Brahmaputra **basins.**
- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I (Part II)**



Eublepharis jhuma

- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India recently discovered a new species of leopard gecko named **Eublepharis jhuma** from the rocky hills of Bihar, India.
- It is a new species of leopard gecko.
- It was discovered during a wildlife survey on the outskirts of the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar.
- It is the first of its kind ever recorded in the state, with unique physical traits and distinct DNA.
- It is named in honour of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, the first female director of the Zoological Survey of India, nicknamed Jhuma.



New worm-eating snake species named after Mizoram herpetologist

- **Trachischium lalremsangai** is a new worm-eating snake species described in the journal *Herpetozoa* on 19 May 2026.
- The researchers named their find after Hmar Tlawmte Lalremsanga, a professor of Zoology at Mizoram University, for his “remarkable contributions to herpetology in India”, mentoring students, and fostering research collaborations within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.
- The Mizoram University team found the first specimen during an expedition to the 100 sq. km Murlen National Park close to Mizoram’s 510-km border with Myanmar.



The Kali Night Frog

- Scientists announced the discovery of a new amphibian species, *Nyctibatrachus kali* (commonly called the Kali night frog), in the central Western Ghats of Karnataka.
- The Kali night frog is a newly documented amphibian belonging to the ancient genus *Nyctibatrachus* (night frogs), which is entirely endemic to the Western Ghats mountain range.
- It inhabits the pristine, torrential stream ecosystems and humid leaf litter of the Castlerock rainforest region within the Kali river catchment basin.
- It exhibits specialized micro-habitat preferences, remaining highly active at night near fast-flowing, clear mountain streams and shadowed rock crevices.



Red-Necked Phalarope

- Chandu Budhera wetland(Haryana) recently emerged as a migratory stopover for the rare red-necked phalarope.
- It is a small shorebird known for spinning frantically on water to stir up small invertebrates.
- **Scientific Name:** *Phalaropus lobatus*.



Red-Necked Phalarope Habitat and Distribution

- This species has a circumpolar distribution.
- A long-distance migrant, it breeds in Arctic bogs and winters at sea in the tropics, often travelling overland.
- Russian breeders winter in the southwest Pacific, North American birds off Peru, and European birds mainly in the Arabian Sea.
- It is classified as ‘Least Concern’ under the IUCN Red List

Himalayan Tricarinate Hill Turtle

- **Forest officials recently found the rare Himalayan Tricarinate Hill Turtle in the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve forests of Chhattisgarh, marking an unusual sighting of the Himalayan species in central India.**
- **It is a small, terrestrial turtle species belonging to the family Geoemydidae.**
- **Scientific Name: Melanochelys tricarinata**
- **It is found along the narrow sub-Himalayan belt, stretching across northeastern India, southern Nepal, southern Bhutan, and northern Bangladesh.**
- **The species primarily inhabits temperate forests, as well as grasslands and foothills of the Himalayas.**
- **It is classified as 'Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.**



Microeledone Galapagensis

- **Recently, Charles Darwin Foundation scientists have discovered a tiny blue octopus species called Microeledone galapagensis.**
- **It is a tiny blue octopus species discovered near Galapagos Islands.**
- **This tiny blue creature was first discovered during a deep-sea expedition in 2015.**
- **Appearance: It is roughly the size of a golf ball and displays an unusually blue coloration.**
- **Habitat: It lives in the deep sea.**

Charles Darwin Foundation scientists have discovered a tiny blue octopus species the size of a golf ball called Microeledone galapagensis



Key Facts about Galapagos Islands

- **Location:** It is situated in the Pacific Ocean, roughly 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador.
- It is distributed on either side of the Equator.
- **Highest Point: Mount Azul, at 5,541 feet**
- **It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978.**



Operation Gajamukthi: wild elephants driven away from vulnerable zones in Aralam farm

- **Operation Gajamukthi is an ongoing, multi-phase wildlife management initiative executed by the Kerala Forest Department to mitigate human-elephant conflict at Aralam Farm and its adjoining tribal rehabilitation areas in Kannur, Kerala.**
- **The primary goal of the mission is to safely drive wild elephants away from human settlements and agricultural zones and guide them back into their natural habitat inside the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Andhi

- **Earlier this week, powerful pre-monsoon thunderstorms (locally known as Andhi) tore through Uttar Pradesh, claiming over 100 lives, with Prayagraj, Mirzapur, and Bhadohi being the worst-hit districts.**
- **Andhi is the meteorological term for intense, convective dust storms or thunderstorms that occur predominantly during the pre-monsoon season in Northern India.**
- **These severe atmospheric disturbances are characterized by a sudden drop in temperature, blinding dust clouds, torrential rain, violent lightning.**
- **Primary Zone: The Indo-Gangetic Plains of Northern India, particularly stretching across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, and Punjab.**



How it Forms?

- **Extremely high summer temperatures exceeding 45°C created a severe low-pressure zone over the land, causing the surface air to rapidly heat up and expand.**

- **Strong** southeasterly winds pumped high levels of humidity from the Bay of Bengal across Uttar Pradesh, making the rising air highly volatile and **moisture-laden**.
- **Active Western Disturbances (eastward-moving, extra-tropical storm systems originating over the Mediterranean/Caspian Sea)** introduced a layer of cool, dry air in the upper troposphere.
- **The dramatic contrast between** the blistering, moist air at the ground and the cool, dry air aloft created severe atmospheric instability.
- This acted as a classic trigger, forcing the warm air to shoot upward violently, condensing rapidly into massive, energy-dense cumulonimbus **clouds**. **Unlike tropical cyclones, which track linearly from the sea to coastlines, these thunderstorms are highly localized.**

Ammonium Sulphate Fertilizer

- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) urged state governments to promote ammonium sulphate as an alternative to urea for paddy cultivation.**
- **Ammonium sulphate is an** inorganic, water-soluble chemical mineral fertilizer containing two crucial plant macronutrients: 21% Nitrogen (in the readily available ammonium form) and 24% Sulphur (as active sulphate).
- It is historically used in alkaline soils to provide immediate nourishment and to lower the soil's pH baseline.

Ammonium sulphate is manufactured through multiple chemical synthesis pathways:

- **Direct** : Reacting gaseous ammonia directly with a concentrated solution of sulfuric acid.
- **Byproduct** : Extracted as a valuable structural byproduct during the industrial manufacture of caprolactam (a chemical used **to make nylon**) or **recovered from coke-oven gases in large-scale steel plants.**

Limitations

- **Continuous or excessive application increases soil acidity significantly, requiring higher lime treatment to maintain long-term** soil fertility and productivity.
- In flooded or clay-heavy soils, sulphur may convert into hydrogen sulphide gas under anaerobic conditions, damaging rice roots severely.
- Being highly water-soluble, **its nutrient effect lasts only about 4–6 weeks.**

National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management

- **The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) recently completed the documentation and ground-truthing of all but 11 of Maharashtra's 23,415 wetlands.**
- It was established by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in 2011 as an autonomous institution to support the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, management, and policy advice **of the coast.**
- **Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

CurrentAffairsAI

CODE

Maharashtra Documents 23,415
Wetlands Under NCSCM Atlas; Ground-
truthing for 11 Sites Remaining

Aims and Objectives:

- **Strive for being a world-class knowledge institution related to coastal zones, environment, resources, and processes.**
- **To promote** integrated and sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas in India for the benefit and well-being of the traditional coastal and island communities.
- Advise the Union and State Governments and other associated stakeholder(s) on policy and scientific matters related to Integrated **Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).**

The Six Research Divisions of the NCSCM are:

- **Geospatial Sciences, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS),**
- **Integrated** Social Sciences & Economics,
- Coastal environmental impact assessment,
- Conservation of Coastal & Marine Resources,

- Knowledge, Governance and Policy,
- Futuristic Research and **Integrated Island Management Unit.**

Pulicat Lake

- **A historic Pulicat Lake draws birders and photographers from across South India who visit the lake to see the graceful flamingo in still waters.**
- **It is a vast** coastal shallow, brackish water lagoon along the coast of Bay of Bengal into which streams drain.
- It is the second largest brackish water lagoon in India after Chilika, sprawling across Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- This lagoon is separated from the Bay of Bengal by the Sriharikota island.
- It is fed by the Aarani River at the southern tip and the Kalangi River from the northwest.
- The Buckingham Canal, a navigation channel, passes through the lagoon.
- It was designated as a Ramsar site in 2002.
- It includes migratory birds **such as Flamingo, Eurasian curlews, oystercatchers, bar-tailed godwits, sand plovers, and greater flamingos.**



Delhi's Sanjay Lake

- **Due to heatwave conditions in Delhi, Sanjay Lake in East Delhi's Trilokpuri into a fish graveyard.**
- The deaths came amid rapidly receding water levels at the lake.
- Environmental experts said low water levels during a heatwave may result in becoming more concentrated.
- Higher temperatures also **reduce the ability of the water to hold dissolved while decomposing organic matter and waste consume more oxygen.**



India to host first Big Cat Summit in June

- Union Environment Minister launched the official website and logo for the 1st International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
- **The IBCA is a first-of-its-kind inter-government international organisation and multi-agency coalition.**
- It serves as a global platform uniting 95 big cat range countries, conservation partners, scientific organisations, and business groups to address conservation challenges through cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- **Launched In:** April 9, 2023.
- **Headquarters:** The IBCA Secretariat is headquartered in India.



Aim:

- The primary objective of IBCA is to halt the decline in big cat populations and reverse current trends.
- It aims to facilitate synergy among stakeholders, consolidate successful conservation practices into a centralized repository, and provide financial and technical support to resource-lacking range countries.
- **The alliance is dedicated to the conservation of seven big cats:** Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma

Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)

- The UN expanded its Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) to include the coal and waste sectors.
- **This decision follows satellite data identifying an Indian landfill (Kanjurmarg) among the world's three largest methane emitters, alongside sites in Chile.**
- MARS is the first global satellite-based system that monitors methane super-emitters and connects that data to rapid mitigation efforts. **It is a component of the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).**
- **Launched In:** The system was announced at COP27 and officially launched in January 2023.
- **Aim:** The primary goal is to identify and quantify major methane emission events, notify relevant governments and companies, and track the progress of their mitigation actions to slow global heating.



How it Works?

The system operates through a four-step lifecycle:

- **Detection and Attribution:** MARS scans data from over 35 satellites to identify large methane plumes. High-resolution imagery then attributes these plumes to specific facilities and operators.
- **Notification and Engagement:** The IMEO team directly alerts governments and companies about large emissions within their jurisdiction.
- **Mitigation Action:** Stakeholders are responsible for responding to the leaks. MARS partners provide technical assistance as needed.
- **Tracking and Verification:** IMEO continues to monitor the site to ensure the leak is addressed and publishes data publicly on the Eye on Methane platform.

India launched C-DoT cell broadcasting system for nationwide disaster alerts

- Mobile phones across the country went abuzz after Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the **cell broadcast alert system on Saturday that will warn citizens about emergency and natural disasters in their area.**
- The Department of Telecom had already alerted citizens about the **trial run of the service on April 29 to avoid panic, with an appeal to ignore any alerts they receive.**

What is a cell broadcast test?

- In contrast to standard text messages, **cell broadcasts can reach all mobile phones within a designated geographical area, providing extensive and rapid coverage without putting excessive strain on telecom networks.**
- This system has been particularly used by government agencies to deliver warnings and important updates to the public.
- To enhance the effectiveness of alert distribution in urgent situations—such as tsunamis, earthquakes, lightning strikes, and human-made emergencies like gas leaks or chemical hazards—**Cell Broadcast (CB) technology has been implemented alongside SMS.**

What is NDMA test cell broadcast?

- It is a test message sent by the NDMA in collaboration with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India.
- **NDMA has successfully operationalised the Integrated Alert System (SACHET), created by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), which is the leading research and development centre under the Department of Telecommunications.**
- The system is based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) as recommended by the **UN body International Telecommunication Union.**
- It is currently operational across all 36 States and Union Territories of India and delivers disaster and emergency-related alerts via SMS to mobile users within geo-targeted areas.



NITI Aayog Proposes Standards for Tyre Pyrolysis Oil

- NITI Aayog has proposed new standards for **tyre pyrolysis oil and recovered carbon black, two products obtained from the thermal decomposition of waste tyres in the absence of oxygen.**
- **Tyre pyrolysis is an industrial process used to convert end-of-life tyres into oil, gas, char, and steel, and recovered carbon black is a solid carbon-rich material obtained from the process.**



Tyre Pyrolysis Process

- Pyrolysis is a **thermochemical conversion** method that breaks down organic material at high temperatures without combustion.
- In the case of waste tyres, the process generally produces tyre pyrolysis oil, recovered carbon black, steel wire, and pyro-gas.
- The **process is used in waste management** and material recovery for used tyres.

Tyre Pyrolysis Oil

- Tyre pyrolysis oil is a **liquid hydrocarbon product** derived from waste tyres. It can be used as an industrial fuel after suitable processing and quality control.
- Its composition varies with feedstock, reactor design, and operating conditions, which makes product standardisation relevant for industrial use.

Recovered Carbon Black

- Recovered carbon black is a carbonaceous solid obtained from tyre pyrolysis residue.
- It is **used in rubber, plastics, inks, coatings, and other industrial applications after further treatment.**
- Its properties depend on the tyre type, pyrolysis temperature, and post-processing methods.

Morchella Mushroom Cultivated in Controlled Conditions in Kashmir

- Recently, the Sheri Kashmir University of Agriculture and Sciences (SKUAST) in Srinagar has cultivated the Morchella mushroom for the first time in controlled condition.

Morchella Mushroom

- It is an edible mushroom from the Ascomycota group.
- **Morels or Morchella is locally known as Kangaech or Guccchi mushroom.**
- It grows naturally in specific high elevation forest ecosystems during a narrow rainy season.
- It traditionally belongs to the family morchellaceae of the Ascomycota.
- **Properties:** It is a **highly valued gourmet mushroom** known for its intense and distinct flavour, superior nutritional profile and medicinal properties.
- **Appearance:** They are pale yellow in colour with large pits and ridges on the surface of the cap, raised on a large white stem.
- **Climatic conditions for Growth:** Ideal weather conditions for the great morel **are daytime temperature is between 15 and 20 Celsius** and night-time temperatures are in the five to nine.
- **Distribution:** They grow in conifer forests across temperate regions, and the foothills in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir.
- These **mushrooms usually grow in clusters on logs of decaying wood, leaves or humus soil.**
- They may or may not grow in the same spot the next season, which only makes the process of collection more tedious.
- It is **known to be one of the most expensive mushrooms**



Peacock Tarantula

- The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Eastern Ghats Wildlife Society, **has initiated a conservation status survey of the Peacock Tarantula (Poecilotheria metallica) in the vast landscape of the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR).**
- The genus Poecilotheria belongs to the family Theraphosidae and is made up of arboreal species of spiders, **which are known to occur in India and Sri Lanka.**
- Peacock Tarantula is also called Gooty tarantula, or metallic tarantula because of its attractive iridescent colouration.
- **The Gooty in the name comes from a town in Andhra Pradesh in India, where it was first discovered in 1899.**
- Peacock Tarantula is found predominantly in the deciduous forests of central and southern India. It has a distinct blue hue, one that darkens with age and maturity.
- **The tarantula preys upon a variety of insects, including crickets, grasshoppers, and other small bugs.**
- It is classified as 'critically endangered' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Caracal

- Recently, officials have confirmed the return of the rare caracal in the Thar Desert near the India-Pakistan border.
- It is an elusive **medium-sized wild cat species.**
- It is often referred to as the desert lynx, however, they are more closely related to the African golden cat and the Serval.
- In India, it is called **siya gosh**, a Persian name that translates as 'black Ear'.
- The cat's fur is generally a red-tan or sand, although some black caracals have also been seen.
- It is native to Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East, northwestern India (primarily in Rajasthan and Gujarat) and arid areas of Pakistan.
- **IUCN:** Least Concern



Timor Green Pigeon Faces Extinction Risk

- The Timor Green Pigeon (Treron psittaceus) is an **endemic bird species of Timor Island** and nearby islands such as Rote, Semau, Atauro and Jaco.
- The Timor Green Pigeon is endemic to Timor Island and a few adjacent islands in the Lesser Sunda region.
- The Timor Green Pigeon is currently listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List.**
- Nino Konis Santana National Park is located in Lautem District in Timor-Leste.



Rusty Spotted Cat

- **Recently, for the first time in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and Haryana, a rusty-spotted cat has been photographed.**
- It is the world's smallest and lightest known cat.
- **Appearance:** It weighs less than 1.5 kilograms and is 20 to 29 inches in length, about half the size of a domestic cat.
- Its large eyes may be an adaptation to its nocturnal behaviour.
- **Habitat:** It prefers moist and dry deciduous forests, scrublands, grasslands, and rocky areas.
- **Distribution:** It is found in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In India, its range extends from Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Odisha.



Conservation Status

- **IUCN:** Near Threatened
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Lutjanus Arakan

- Researchers recently recorded a **new snapper species 'Lutjanus arakan'** in **Indian waters for the first time at Gopalpur in Ganjam district**, in a significant contribution to Indian marine fish taxonomy.
- It is a species of snapper.
- Snappers, belonging to the family Lutjanidae, **are marine fishes** typically found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- They are known for their ecological importance as mid-level predators and are often associated with reef and coastal ecosystems.
- The species had previously been recorded off the coast of Bangladesh but had not been documented in Indian waters until now.



Forest Owlet

- Recently, in **Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh forest owl has been spotted 113 years after it was last seen.**
- It is a member of the typical owl family, Strigidae.
- It was first described in 1873. As it was not sighted after 1884, it **was considered extinct for many years. In 1997, it was rediscovered.**
- **It is mainly found in tropical and subtropical moist lowland woods**, dense deciduous woodlands, open dry deciduous teak woods, and tropical and subtropical dry forests.
- It is **endemic to the forests of central India.**
- It was observed in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, and at a few locations in the Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.



Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I.

Features of Forest Owlet

- It is a typical owlet with a rather unspotted crown, presence of full throat collar, thickly feathered legs, heavily banded wings, and a tail.
- These birds are diurnal and have been observed to hunt during the day.
- They eat rodents, reptiles such as lizards and skinks, and insects.

Recently, scientists have recorded that a new invasive buff tip moth is threatening Ladakh's farm-based economy

- The buff-tip (*Phalera bucephala*) moth belongs to the family Notodontidae.
- **Distribution:** It is native to parts of Africa, East Asia, and Europe.

Buff Tip Moth Ecological Impact

- It is a voracious feeder and can strip an entire tree bare in a few weeks.
- Its polyphagous nature (ability to feed on a wide range of plants) makes it particularly threatening.



White-Bellied Heron

- A THDC India Ltd proposal seeking clearance for **the Kalai-II hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh does not make any mention of the habitat of the critically endangered White-Bellied Heron.**
- — **Lohit River is a habitat** for the critically endangered White-Bellied Heron, which has been accorded Scheduled-I status, the highest protection, under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The bird's presence has been recorded both upstream and downstream of the Kalai-II project.
- They are an indicator of the health of the Himalayan freshwater ecosystem.



Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)

- A tigress and her last surviving cub recently died at the Mukki quarantine facility in Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve following a suspected outbreak of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).
- Canine Distemper Virus is a highly contagious and potentially fatal viral disease caused by a single-stranded RNA virus of the Paramyxoviridae family (the same family as measles and mumps).**
- It is a multi-systemic disease, meaning it attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems of a wide variety of mammals.



Origin:

- First Reports:** Officially reported in Spain in 1761 and described by Edward Jenner in 1809.
- Viral Discovery:** Henri Carré identified the viral cause in 1905.
- Historical Impact:** The virus has historically threatened endangered species, contributing to the near-extinction of the black-footed ferret and causing significant declines in Serengeti lion populations.

Vector & Transmission:

- Primary Vector:** Domestic dogs are the most common source of infection for wildlife, especially at the forest-village interface.
- Transmission Mode:** Spread primarily through aerosol droplets (coughing, sneezing, or barking).
- It can also be transmitted through direct contact with infected bodily fluids like saliva, urine, or feces, or by consuming contaminated carcasses.

Key Symptoms:

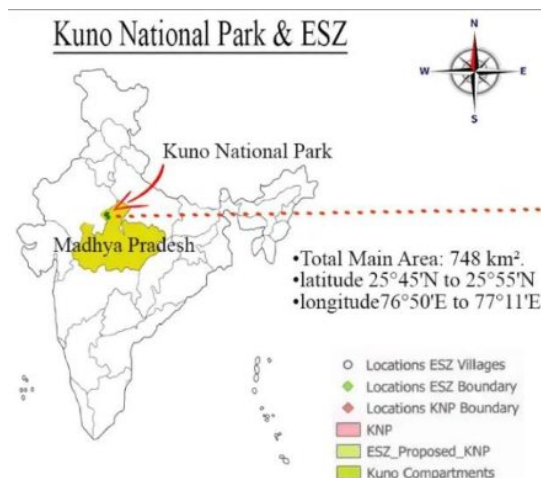
- Early Stages:** Fever, watery discharge from eyes and nose, coughing, lethargy, and loss of appetite.
- Gastrointestinal:** Vomiting and diarrhea (often leading to empty stomachs in cubs).
- Physical Changes:** Hard pad disease (thickening/crusting of paw pads and nose) and enamel hypoplasia in young animals.
- Neurological (Severe):** Muscle twitches (myoclonus), chewing-gum fits (jaw seizures), stumbling, paralysis, and grand mal convulsions.

Treatment:

- No Cure:** There is currently no specific antiviral treatment or cure for CDV.
- Supportive Care:** Treatment focuses on managing symptoms and preventing secondary bacterial infections.
- Vaccination is highly effective in domestic dogs and is the primary tool for prevention.

Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav releases two cheetahs in Kuno National Park

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister will release two cheetahs into the wild at Kuno National Park.
- This event marks a continuing milestone for Project Cheetah, which has seen the park's cheetah population grow to 57 individuals.
- It is **located in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.**
- It is **nestled near the Vindhyan Hills.**
- Originally established as Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981,** it was upgraded to a national park in 2018.
- Project Cheetah (2022):** Prime Minister of India launched the modern reintroduction project in September 2022 with cheetahs from Namibia, followed by batches from South Africa and Botswana.
- The **park's historical significance lies in its role as a relocation site for Asiatic lions under the "Asiatic Lion Reintroduction Project,".**
- It derives its name from the meandering **Kuno River** (one of the main tributaries of the Chambal River), which flows from south to north and divides the park into two sections.



D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary

- For the first time in nearly two decades, a tiger has been captured by camera traps in Arunachal Pradesh's D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary
- The D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary is a unique protected area spanning 190 sq. km. **It is renowned for its riverine island ecosystem, characterized by vast alluvial grasslands that provide a critical habitat for a variety of rare, threatened, and endangered species.**
- State: Arunachal Pradesh, India (East Siang district).
- **Established:** The sanctuary was established in 1978.
- **Naming:** It is named after Daying Ering, a former Union Minister and influential chairman of the Ering Commission, which played a pivotal role in shaping India's Panchayati Raj system.
- **A premier birdwatching destination, it hosts rare species like the Bengal Florican (migratory), black-breasted parrotbill, and various babblers.**



Kanha Tiger Reserve

- **A tigress and her four cubs recently died at the Kanha Tiger Reserve due to a suspected outbreak of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).**
- These fatalities have brought the total tiger death count in Madhya Pradesh to 27 so far in 2026, prompting urgent wildlife investigations.
- **Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) is one of India's most renowned protected areas, globally recognized for its typical Central Indian floral and faunal biodiversity.**



- The reserve is situated in the Maikal ranges of the Satpuras and falls within the Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh.

History:

- It is one of India's oldest protected areas, declared a reserve forest as early as 1879.
- **It was officially designated a National Park in 1955.**
- **Project Tiger:** Kanha was among the first nine tiger reserves included in India's 'Project Tiger' initiative due to its high tiger population and prime habitat.

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)

- The Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district unveiled **vibrant wildlife statistics during its annual 'Machan Census on Waterholes'**
- It is located in the Chandrapur district in Maharashtra.
- It is the **largest and oldest tiger reserve in Maharashtra.**

- **Established in 1955, the reserve consists of Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- The word 'Tadoba' is derived from the name of the God "Tadoba" or "Taru," which is **praised by local tribal people of this region, and "Andhari" is derived from the name of the Andhari River that flows in this area.**
- It has **corridor linkages with Nagzira-Navegaon and Pench Tiger Reserves within the State.**
- It has a hilly topography with an average elevation of 200–350 metres.

Baksa Honey

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) **facilitated the first-ever export of 20 Metric Tons of ODOP honey from Assam's Aspirational District, Baksa, to the USA.**
- **Baksa honey is a premium, near-organic honey variety produced in the Baksa district of Assam** (part of the Bodoland Territorial Region).
- It has been identified as the signature product of the district **under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative** due to its traditional significance and export potential.

Key Features:

- Sourced from eco-friendly, pesticide-free environments, it is known for its high quality and near-organic characteristics.
- It is highly regarded for its rich nutritional profile and medicinal properties, rooted in centuries of traditional use by communities like the Bodo tribes.

About One District One Product (ODOP):

- The One District One Product (ODOP) initiative is a transformative program aimed at identifying, branding, and promoting a unique product from each district across India.
- **Aim:** The primary goal is to strengthen local economies by enhancing the value addition of district-specific products, generating local employment, and connecting small-scale producers directly to national and global markets.

Litchi

- Recently, **the Union Agriculture Ministry constituted a special expert task force to study the damage caused to litchi crops by the litchi stink bug.**
- It is a delicious juicy fruit belonging to the Sapindaceae family....
- It is a **sub-tropical fruit** and thrives best under moist sub-tropical climate.
- It **usually prefers low elevation and can be grown up to an altitude of 800 m.**
- **Soil:** Deep, well drained loamy soil, rich in organic matter and having pH in the range of 5.0 to 7.0 is ideal for the crop.
- Prolonged rain may be harmful especially at the time of flowering, when it interferes with pollination.
- It is sensitive to frost during winter and dry heat in summer.
- India is the second largest producer of litchi in the World after China. Other major producing countries are Thailand, Australia, South Africa, Madagascar and Florida in the US.
- **It is widely cultivated in India, especially in Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Assam**



Fermented Organic Manure

- Recently, the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) has called for **10% mandatory blending of fermented organic manure with chemical fertilizers by 2030.**

About Fermented Organic Manure

- It is a type of organic fertilizer produced through a controlled fermentation process of organic materials like manure, crop residues, and compost.
- **It is a byproduct of operational biogas or compressed biogas (CBG) plants used as a fertilizer.**

Preparation of Fermented Organic Manure

- It involves organic materials like animal manure, crop residues, and kitchen scraps which are combined with water **and allowed to ferment in a controlled environment.**
- This fermentation process breaks down the organic matter, releasing nutrients and beneficial microorganisms

Benefits of Fermented Organic Manure

- It improves soil fertility
- It enhances soil structure
- It is beneficial for microorganisms
- It helps in waste management
- It also helps in sustainable farming...

'ANEEL' fuel

- Chicago-based nuclear fuel company Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) **announced that its patented 'ANEEL' fuel has completed its high burnup irradiation test in an Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) at Idaho National Laboratory (INL).**
- — It is only the second American company to have secured an export license from the US Department of Energy (DAE) to sell nuclear technology to India in nearly two decades.
- — **CCTE has developed a thorium-based fuel, called ANEEL or Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life, that can be deployed in the country's Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) at scale.**
- — ANEEL is a new type of fuel that blends thorium with HALEU (high-assay low-enriched uranium) **which is an important step towards the third leg of India's 3-stage nuclear programme.**
- — **STAGE 3 of nuclear programme:** The third stage will be based on the ThU233 cycle. U233 produced in the second stage can be used for the third stage of the power programme, which consists of advanced thermal and fast breeder reactors, for long-term energy security.

ANEEL Fuel

WHY IN NEWS?

Chicago-based nuclear fuel company Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE) announced that its patented 'ANEEL' fuel has completed its high burnup irradiation test in an **Advanced Test Reactor (ATR)** at **Idaho National Laboratory (INL).**



The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

- New research indicates the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) **could weaken by up to 59% by 2100, far more severely than previous estimates of 15%.**
- The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is a **vast system of ocean currents that acts as a massive, invisible conveyor belt for the planet.**
- It is a critical component of Earth's climate system, responsible for moving heat and regulating temperatures across the globe.
- **Located in:** As the name suggests, this system is primarily located in the Atlantic Ocean, **spanning from the tropical regions to the freezing Arctic waters near Greenland.**



Formation

The circulation is driven by **differences in water temperature and salt levels (density):**

- **Surface Flow:** Warm, salty water from the tropics flows north toward Greenland.
- **Cooling and Sinking:** As it reaches the Arctic, the water cools, becomes denser, and sinks several kilometers into the deep ocean.
- This cold water drifts back south as a deep-water current.
- **Rising:** Eventually, the water rises back to the surface to warm up and restart the thousand-year loop.

Functions:

- **Heat Distribution:** It moves vast amounts of heat across the globe, which is the primary reason Europe enjoys a relatively mild climate.
- **Rainfall Regulation:** It influences global rainfall patterns in Africa, the Americas, and Asia.



Western Disturbances

- Northwest India is enjoying a brief respite from rain and thunderstorms **after the latest Western Disturbance weakened and moved eastward.**
- They are **extratropical storm systems that form over the Mediterranean Sea and travel eastwards towards the Indian subcontinent.**
- They carry moisture-laden air and interact with the subtropical jet stream, influencing weather conditions over vast regions, including parts of Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- Western Disturbances primarily affect India during the winter months, from November to March.
- They bring crucial rainfall and snowfall, vital for the Rabi crop season, especially in northwestern India, including Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi

Why is it Named Western Disturbances?

- Western Disturbances are named so because of their origin and movement patterns.
- These weather systems originate from the western regions of the Earth, specifically from the Mediterranean region.
- As they form over the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent areas, they are referred to as Western Disturbances.**

Mount Dukono

- Mount Dukono in eastern Indonesia erupted recently, sending an ash column up to 1,400 meters above its summit.
- It is **an active volcano located on Halmahera Island in North Maluku, Indonesia.**
- It is a complex volcano presenting a broad, low profile with multiple summit peaks and overlapping craters.
- It is **part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region with high tectonic activity.**
- Since its first eruption in 1933, the volcano has exhibited significant volcanic activity, including frequent eruptions and smoke emissions.
- Eruptions have been explosive and also produced lava flows and mudflows.**
- It often produces ash plumes that can reach several kilometers into the atmosphere.
- The tropical rainforest surrounding the volcano is home to various endemic flora and fauna species



Index/rankings/reports

QS MBA Rankings 2026: IIM Bengaluru Tops India

- The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore has ranked the highest among Indian institutions in the **QS Executive MBA rankings 2026, but recorded a sharp fall of 14 ranks compared to the previous year.**
- IIM Bangalore ranked 64th globally** this year, the institute's lowest rank so far. It is, however, the only Indian institute in the top 100.
- IIM Bangalore's descent has been steady over the last four years.**
- Global higher education analysts QS** Quacquarelli Symonds released the rankings
- IIM Kozhikode (151-160 rank band, marginally better than 161-170 last year).
- IIM Indore (161-170, up from 181-90 last year), Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad (191-200, down from 181-190 last year), and Woxsen School of Business, Hyderabad (191-200, same as last year).

IIM Bangalore slips to 64th globally; remains India's only school in top 100; QS Executive MBA Rankings 2026



Institution	2026 rank	2025 rank
IIM Bangalore	64	50
Indian School of Business	111-120	111-120
IIM Kozhikode	151-160	161-170
IIM Indore	161-170	181-190
Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad	191-200	181-190
Woxsen School of Business, Hyderabad	191-200	191-200
IIM Ranchi	201+	NA

- IIM Ranchi has made the rankings as a new entrant this year, at 201+.
- Globally, the top institution in the executive MBA rankings is the University of Oxford, followed by HEC Paris and MIT Sloan School of Management.**
- The National University of Singapore Business School is the highest-ranked institution in Asia-Pacific. City University of Hong Kong makes its first appearance in the rankings, ranking 58th.**

India Ranks 157 in Press Freedom Index

- India ranked 157th out of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- Reporters Without Borders is a Paris-based organisation that publishes the World Press Freedom Index every year.**
- The journalism watchdog, originally called Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF)
- The ranking placed India in the "very serious" category for press freedom, and India fell six places from its 2025 rank of 151.**
- The World Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking prepared by Reporters Without Borders, also known as RSF.
- Top 5:** Norway (1st for the 10th consecutive year), Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark, and Sweden.
- Bottom 5:** Eritrea (180th), North Korea, China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.
- Most Dangerous Region:** The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) remains the most catastrophic region, with 18 out of 19 countries classified as "difficult" or "very serious".
- Almost all of India's neighbours rank higher than India** – Pakistan is 153rd, Bhutan is 150th, Nepal is 87th, Sri Lanka is 134th, and Bangladesh is 152nd. China, however, is 178th.



Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index

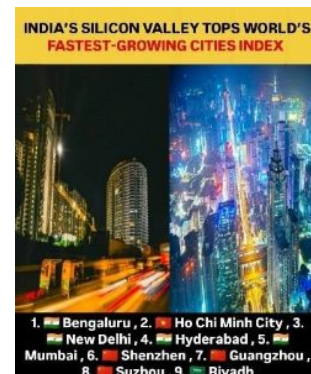
- According to the department of administrative reforms and public Grievance, for March 2026 the department of financial services' **insurance division tops Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) Rankings in Group A Category.**

About Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index

- It is developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- The first edition of GRAI 2022 was released on 21 June 2023.
- Objective:** It evaluates ministries and departments on the effectiveness and timeliness of grievance resolution through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
 - It is an online platform available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery.
 - It is a single portal connected to all the ministries/departments of the Government of India and States.
 - The status of the grievance filed in CPGRAMS can be tracked with the unique registration ID provided at the time of registration of the complainant.

Bengaluru Tops Savills' Fastest-Growing Cities Ranking

- Bengaluru has been ranked the world's fastest-growing major city through 2035 in Savills' Growth Hubs Index**, which is part of the firm's Resilient Cities research programme.
- Bengaluru's top position is attributed to its strong talent pool and its growing appeal as a destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs)
- The index assessed 245 cities globally using projected GDP growth to 2035**, personal wealth expansion, demographic trends, inward migration, and the number of high-income households.
- Savills is a global real estate advisory firm that publishes research on cities, property markets, and investment trends.**
- India emerged as a standout performer in the index, with multiple cities featuring in the top 20,



Delhi Tops NCRB Data in Child Crimes

- Data released by the National Crime Records Bureau for 2024 showed a notable decline in the number of crimes registered in Delhi**, even as several categories of violent and targeted offences continued to raise serious concerns for law enforcement agencies.
- Delhi reported the highest number of such crimes**, far ahead of other metropolitan cities such as Chennai (466), Bengaluru (386), Hyderabad (316), and Ahmedabad (295).
- The figures indicated that overall IPC and BNS crimes in the national capital fell by 15.1% compared with the previous year.
- The data was particularly concerning in relation to crimes against children, where Delhi continued to report the highest numbers among major metropolitan cities.**
- The disparity was especially stark in child abduction cases. Delhi registered 5,404 such cases, far exceeding Mumbai's 1,831 and Bengaluru's 1,136.



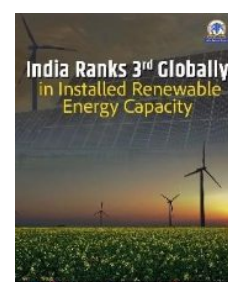
Crimes against elderly

- The Capital also reported a decline in crimes against senior citizens between 2022 and 2024, though it still recorded the highest number of such cases among all metropolitan cities.
- Mumbai reported the second-highest number of such crimes at 791, followed by Bengaluru (660), Kochi (263), and Nagpur (204).



India Ranks 3rd Globally in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity

- India has emerged as the world's 3rd largest country in installed renewable energy capacity, reflecting rapid growth in solar and wind power generation.
- A recent Morgan Stanley report highlighted that India's renewable energy transition is accelerating, though dependence on imported upstream solar components remains a challenge.**



- India's non-fossil fuel energy capacity crossed 262.7 GW, accounting for over 50% of total installed power capacity.
- Solar and wind energy constitute the majority of new renewable energy additions in India.

UNCTAD Flags Rising Cost of Non-Tariff Barriers

- UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its '**Invisible Barriers: The Costs of Non-Tariff Measures**' Report highlights that global trade is increasingly being shaped by regulatory restrictions, technical standards and geopolitical trade interventions.

Key Findings of the Report

- Dominance of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs):** NTMs now impose higher export costs than tariffs for 88% of countries.
- Double Burden on Developing Nations:** of both rising tariffs and heavy NTM compliance costs.
- Modern trade negotiations:** have shifted away from simply lowering tariffs to focusing heavily on regulatory easing. E.g. EU-India Trade Deal.
- LDCs lose approximately 10% of their exports to G20 markets as they often lack the financial resources** and accredited testing facilities to navigate complex regulations.

Recommendations of UNCTAD

- Enhance Transparency:** It can reduce trade costs associated with non-tariff barriers by about 19 %.
- Fostering Regulatory Cooperation and Alignment:** Aligning domestic regulations with international standards can reduce NTM related trade costs by 15-30% without compromising safety.



About UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- Genesis:** Established as a permanent intergovernmental body by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.
 - It is a **part of the UN Secretariat and United Nations Development Group.**
- Objective:** To aid developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, and transitioning economies, in integrating effectively into the global economy.
- Members:** 195 nations (including India)
- Key Reports:** Trade & Development report, World Investment report, Least Developed Countries report etc.

NITI Aayog Report on the School Education System in India

- NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive policy report analyzing a decade of India's school education system (2014-15 to 2024-25).
- The report provides a strategic roadmap to enhance quality and equity as India moves toward its **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision
- The report, titled '**School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement**', is an independent academic and policy-oriented research document.
- It **utilizes secondary data from national surveys** (UDISE+, PARAKH, NAS, and ASER) to assess key parameters like access, infrastructure, equity, and learning outcomes across all 36 States and UTs.

Key Data/Stats on School Education:

- India manages the world's largest school system with 14.71 lakh schools serving over 24.69 crore students.**
- The system is supported by a workforce of over 1.01 crore teachers.
- While elementary enrolment is near universal, the national **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher secondary stands at 58.4%.**
- Government schools account for 68.1% of all schools and serve 49.2% of the total student population.

Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development Report

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released a landmark report titled **Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development**.
- Sand mining is the extraction of sand from various sources, including riverbeds, beaches, and the seabed, primarily for use in construction, land reclamation, and manufacturing.
- The report emphasizes that sand is the most extracted solid material on Earth, second only to water in terms of global consumption.

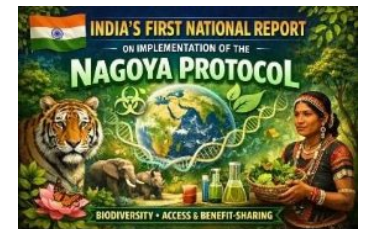


Key Data/Stats on Sand Mining:

- **Global consumption reached 50 billion tonnes annually in 2020**, up from 9.6 billion tonnes in 1970, with an average annual growth rate of 3.2%.
- **Urban Expansion:** The average built-up area per person globally grew from 43 sq. meters in 1975 to 63 sq. meters in 2025.
- The **global sand market** was valued at \$569.4 billion in 2024 and **continues to grow alongside infrastructure booms**.
- Approximately 2.3 billion people depend on small-scale fisheries that are directly supported by healthy sandy ecosystems.

India Leads Global IRCC Issuance Under Nagoya Protocol

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published insights from India's First National Report on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
- The Nagoya Protocol is a landmark supplementary international treaty to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that was adopted globally in 1992.
- Officially titled the **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization**, it creates a transparent, legally binding framework to ensure that physical biological materials or Digital Sequence Information (DSI) are accessed and used fairly.



Key Findings of India's First National Report:

- **Massive Scale of Legal Approvals:** Between November 1, 2017, and December 31, 2025, India granted a total of 12,830 approvals under the ABS framework.
- **India has emerged as a clear global leader in biodiversity traceability**, publishing 3,556 Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) via the global clearing-house. This single-handedly accounts for 60.24% of all certificates issued worldwide.
- The report highlights India's vast community-based governance network. This includes the NBA at the apex, SBBs in all states, and more than 2,76,653 local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) set up by elected local bodies to manage regional resources.

Successful Domestic Case Studies Highlighted:

- **The Dengue Treatment Resource (Madhya Pradesh):** Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. paid an upfront fee of ₹4,50,000 to access the medicinal plant *Cocculus hirsutus* from the forests of Chhindwara.
- **The Bioethanol Agricultural Project (Uttar Pradesh):** Indian Oil Corporation Limited paid an upfront benefit-sharing fee of ₹18,60,000 to access local agricultural residues in Aligarh for bioethanol research.

LEADS 2025 Report

- Union Minister of India released the LEADS 2025 Report and felicitated the winners of the LEAPS 2025 Awards in New Delhi.
- **LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) is the flagship annual assessment and benchmarking tool for India's logistics sector.**
- It evaluates the logistics ecosystem of each State and Union Territory (UT) across various parameters like infrastructure, services, and regulatory environment.



- **Published By:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The report aims to provide an evidence-based framework for States and UTs to identify logistics bottlenecks, prioritize reforms, and improve global competitiveness by reducing overall logistics costs.
- It fosters a spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism.

Key Features of the 2025 Report:

- **Methodological Evolution:** LEADS 2025 (the 7th edition) features a more rigorous methodology, **moving from a 3-tier to a new 4-tier performance framework** to better reflect the maturity of different logistics ecosystems.
- **Emphasis on Objective Indicators:** To ensure robustness, nearly 59% weightage is now assigned to measurable, objective indicators rather than purely perception-based data.
- **Alignment with National Policies:** The report is tightly integrated with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy (NLP).
- **Assessment Parameters:** States are evaluated on Policy and Institutional Framework, Infrastructure Quality (Road, Rail, Warehouse), Reliability of Services, and Operating Environment (Safety, Ease of Entry).

The new four-tier categorization is as follows:

Tier	Definition	Top Examples (LEADS 2025)
Exemplars	The Gold Standard performers. States demonstrating sustained excellence across policy, infrastructure, and regulatory dimensions.	Coastal States: Tamil Nadu Landlocked States: Uttar Pradesh North- Eastern States: Mizoram Union Territories: Delhi
High Performers	States that demonstrate strong and consistent outcomes across the majority of performance indicators.	Coastal States: Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra Landlocked States: Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar North- Eastern States: Tripura, Meghalaya Union Territories: Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry
Accelerators	States showing notable improvement momentum and a very clear <u>reform-oriented trajectory</u> in recent years.	Coastal States: Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka Landlocked States: Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh North- Eastern States: Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam Union Territories: Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep
Growth Seekers	States at the foundational stage of logistics system development and institutional strengthening.	Coastal States: West Bengal Landlocked States: Rajasthan North- Eastern States: Sikkim Union Territories: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The winners of LEAPS 2025 are as follows:

A. Core Logistics

- Air Freight Service Provider – FedEx Express Transportation and Supply Chain Services (India) Pvt Ltd
- Maritime Freight Service Provider – MSC Agency India Private Limited
- Road Freight Service Provider – Safexpress Private Limited
- Rail Freight **B. MSME**

- MSME Logistics Service Provider – Shipwaves Online Limited
- **C. Startup**
- Startup – Logistics Technology Service Provider – MatchLog Solutions Pvt Ltd
- Startup – Logistics Operation Service Provider – Yellowings Delivery Services Private Limited
- **D. Institutions**
- Education Institute Promoting Logistics Sector – IIM Mumbai
- **E. Special Categories**
- Logistics Service Delivery for E-Commerce Operations – Delhivery Ltd
- Multimodal Logistics Service Provider (3PL Service Provider, Freight Forwarder, Custom Broker/Agent) – Indev Infra Private Limited
- Service Provider – DP World Rail Logistics Private Limited
- Multimodal Transport Operators (MTOs) – Paradeep Parivahan Limited
- Warehouse Service Provider (Industrial & Consumables) – TVS Industrial and Logistics Parks
- Warehouse Service Provider (Agriculture) – Indicold Pvt Ltd

The Global Forest Goals Report 2026

- **A new United Nations assessment titled Global Forest Goals Report 2026 warned that rising demand for fuelwood and charcoal has emerged as a major driver of global forest degradation, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia.**
- **The Global Forest Goals Report 2026 is a UN assessment report prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.**

Key Findings in the Report:

- **Forest cover declined** from 4.18 billion hectares (2015) to 4.14 billion hectares (2025), with a net annual loss of 4.12 million hectares.
- **The world lost nearly 16 million hectares of primary forests between 2015–2025**, with South America recording the largest decline.
- Growing demand for fuelwood and charcoal emerged as a major cause of forest degradation, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia.
- **Conversion of forests into agricultural land remained the largest global driver of deforestation.**
- Droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, pests, and diseases are accelerating forest degradation worldwide.
- **Restoration Gap:** Although 91 countries pledged to restore 190 million hectares of forests, only 44 million hectares had been restored by 2025.
- **Asia's Progress:** Asia recorded the highest restoration performance, restoring over 31 million hectares (42.2% of pledged area).

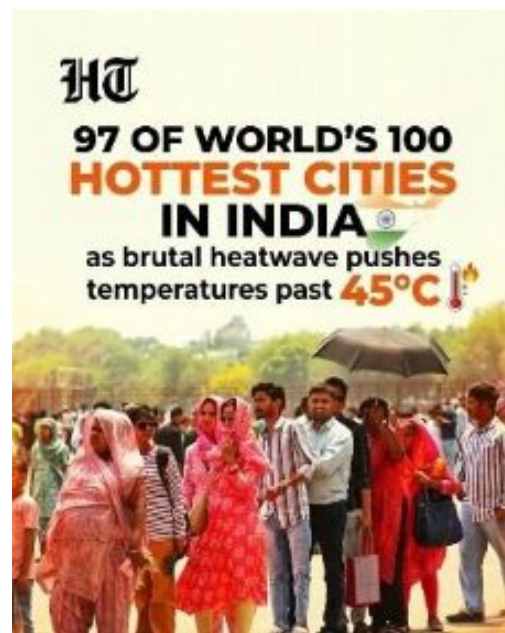
Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024

- **The Sample Registration System is a large-scale demographic sample survey that is being conducted in a random sample of villages and urban blocks.**
- **— It is released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.**

What are the silent features of the SRS Report?

- **In 2024, the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) at the National level stands at 18.3 exhibiting a decline of 0.1 points over 2023.**
- The maximum CBR has been reported in Bihar (26.8) and the minimum in Kerala (11.1).

- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined by one point to 24 in 2024 at the National level. Chhattisgarh recorded the highest IMR at 36, while Kerala reported the lowest at 8.
- Sex Ratio at Birth has gone up by 1 point to 918 in 2022-24 from 917 in 2021-23. Chhattisgarh and Kerala have reported the highest Sex Ratio at Birth at 978 and 974 respectively, while Uttarakhand has the lowest (872).
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is estimated at 1.9 in 2024. Bihar recorded the highest TFR at 2.9, while Delhi had the lowest at 1.2.
- Crude Birth Rate (CBR): According to the WHO, the crude birth rate is the annual number of live births per 1,000 population.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of a baby that occur between the time it is born and 1 year of age out of every 1,000 live births.
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR): According to the website of OECD, the total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.
- According to AQL.in, the global top-100 hottest cities list at 2:50 pm IST were overwhelmingly dominated by Indian cities, with Balangir in Odisha emerging as the hottest location at 48°C.
- It was followed by Sasaram in Bihar at 48°C and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh at 47°C.
- According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains and 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, and remains 4.5 to 6.4 degrees Celsius above normal, or when temperatures touch 45 degrees Celsius.



GURUGYAN

ACADEMY

Creating Better Future For Tomorrow...

ENROLL NOW

B.ED.

B.P.ED.

AKU, BSAEU, ANU

Equivalent with Utkal University

+2 Arts

(Both 1st & 2nd Year)

Advance Level Spoken Eng.

MO: 9583166723, 6372725912

BHADRAK, BALASORE & RAYAGADA