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JUNE 2026

(Current affairs simplified for TGPSC & APPSC exams)

Preface

This Monthly Current Affairs Magazine is thoughtfully designed for aspirants of **APPSC**, **TGPSC**, and other state-level competitive examinations. It features **exam-focused, tailor-made content**, curated to meet the evolving demands of these exams.

The magazine is divided into **thirteen (13) comprehensive sections**, covering international, national, and regional (Andhra Pradesh & Telangana) developments. Each topic is presented in a clear, concise, and exam-oriented manner, **seamlessly connecting static knowledge with dynamic current affairs** to help readers develop a deeper and more integrated understanding.

Every edition also includes a set of **50 practice MCQs**:

- ✓ 25 questions based on the most important current events of the month &
- ✓ 25 questions derived from static concepts closely linked to those events.

In essence, this magazine serves as a **one-stop source for current affairs**, meticulously curated to strengthen your preparation and guide you on your journey toward excellence in state-level competitive examinations



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Section-I: POLITY AND POLICIES - recent issues related to Indian constitution, new bills & acts passed by Parliament as well as State Legislatures.

1. Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner: Fresh motion moved by Opposition MPs.

Opposition parties moved a fresh notice in the Rajya Sabha seeking the **removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** Gyanesh Kumar, accusing him of acting in a partisan manner.



OPPOSITION MOVES MOTION AGAINST CEC

Opposition MPs in Rajya Sabha moved a fresh motion seeking removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging partisan conduct.

1. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL
The CEC can only be removed on the grounds of "proved misbehaviour" or "incapacity".

2. INITIATION OF MOTION
A removal motion must be signed by at least 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha and submitted to the Speaker/Chairman.

3. INVESTIGATION
The Speaker or Chairman may admit or refuse the motion. If admitted, a three-member committee (comprising a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a distinguished jurist) is formed to investigate the charges.

4. RIGHT TO DEFEND
The CEC has the right to appear and defend themselves before this committee.

5. PARLIAMENTARY VOTE
If the committee finds the CEC guilty, the motion must be passed by both Houses of Parliament in the same session with a **Special Majority** (a majority of the total membership of the House AND a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting).

6. PRESIDENTIAL ORDER
Upon passage by both Houses, the President issues the final order for removal.

KEY POINT
The process for removal of CEC is similar to the impeachment of a Supreme Court Judge.

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Procedure for removal of Chief Election Commissioner:

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India can be removed from office only through a parliamentary process **like the impeachment of a Supreme Court Judge**, based on "proved misbehaviour or incapacity". The process requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament, after which the President issues the final removal order.
 - Grounds for Removal:** The CEC can only be removed on the grounds of "proved misbehaviour" or "incapacity".
 - Initiation of Motion:** A removal motion must be signed by at least **100 members of the Lok Sabha** or **50 members of the Rajya Sabha** and submitted to the Speaker/Chairman.

- Investigation:** The Speaker or Chairman may admit or refuse the motion. If admitted, a three-member committee (comprising a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a distinguished jurist) is formed to investigate the charges.
- Right to Defend:** The CEC has the right to appear and defend themselves before this committee.
- Parliamentary Vote:** If the committee finds the CEC guilty, the motion must be passed by both Houses of Parliament in the same session with a **Special Majority** (a majority of the total membership of the House AND a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting).
- Presidential Order:** Upon passage by both Houses, the President issues the final order for removal.

2. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0: Measuring progress in local self-governance.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report** for the financial year 2023-24 on **April 24, 2026**, coinciding with **National Panchayati Raj Day**.



- It is prepared by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj after assessing panchayats based on their performance across 150 indicators covering nine SDGs –from poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods to women-friendly panchayats-during the 2023-24 financial year.

- Under this Gram Panchayats have been ranked under five categories based on their score on a scale of 0-100: 'Achiever' (90-100), 'Front Runner' (75-90), 'Performer' (60-75), 'Aspirant' (40-60) and 'Beginner' (below 40).
- Tripura ranked first followed by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Interconnected concept:

National Panchayati Raj Day

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated annually in India on **April 24th** to commemorate the 1993 enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which formalized grassroots democracy

3. Supreme Court strength increased as Cabinet approves four additional judges.

- 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 of **38**.
- The increase is aimed at addressing the mounting backlog of nearly 92,000 pending cases and ensuring faster justice delivery.

Under **Article 124(1)**, the Constitution specifies that the Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such number of other judges as "Parliament by law prescribes".

4. SC status for Dalits after conversion: Panel receives a third extension.

Centre has extended the tenure of the Commission of Inquiry headed by former Chief Justice of India **K G Balakrishnan**.



- This commission was established in October 2022 to investigate **whether Scheduled Caste (SC) status should be extended to Dalits who have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism**

Interconnected concepts:

The issue of Scheduled Caste (SC) status for converts revolves around the legal restriction that reserves this classification exclusively for individuals professing **Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism**.

- Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950:** This presidential order originally limited SC status to Hindus. It was later amended in 1956 to include Sikhs and in 1990 to include Buddhists. **Paragraph 3 explicitly states that no person professing a religion different from these three can be deemed a member of a Scheduled Caste.**
- Distinction from Scheduled Tribes (ST):** Unlike SC status, ST status is generally not tied to religion. Conversion does not automatically end ST status unless the individual completely renounces tribal customs and loses recognition from their community.



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 OF THE
SUPREME COURT

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Interconnected concepts:

- The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court lies with the **Parliament of India**.

5. Election Commission appointments: Supreme Court examines challenge to the revised selection process.

The Supreme Court turned down the Centre's request to adjourn a batch of PILs challenging its decision **to exclude the Chief Justice of India from a selection committee** responsible for appointing the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners.



Interconnected concept:

Appointment of CEC & other ECs:

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs) in India are **appointed by the President** based on the recommendations of a **three-member Selection Committee**. This process is governed by the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**

The selection follows a two-stage process involving search and selection committees:

- Search Committee:** A panel headed by the Minister of Law and Justice, along with two other members (not below the rank of Secretary), prepares a shortlist of five names.
- Selection Committee:** This three-member body reviews the shortlist and makes the final recommendation to the President. It consists of:
 - The Prime Minister (Chairperson).**
 - The Leader of the Opposition (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha.**
 - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister**
- The 2023 Act is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court (as of May 2026). Critics and

petitioners argue that **replacing the Chief Justice of India** (who was part of the selection panel under a previous 2023 court order) with a Union Cabinet Minister.

Eligibility and Tenure:

- Qualifications:** Candidates must have held a position equivalent to Secretary to the Government of India and possess expertise in managing elections.
- Term:** They serve for six years or until they reach the age of 65, whichever comes first.
- Status:** Their salary and service conditions are equivalent to those of a Supreme Court Judge.

6. Governor's role in Government Formation: Constitutional position and evolving conventions.

Article 164(1) of the Constitution provides that the Chief Minister of a State shall be appointed by the Governor, while other ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

Role of Governor in Government Formation:

- Clear Majority Situation:** If a single party wins a majority, the Governor invites the leader of that party to form the government.
- Hung Assembly Situation:** If no party gets a majority, the Governor uses discretionary powers to appoint the Chief Minister.

Sarkaria Commission (1987) & Punchhi Commission (2010):

The Constitution does not prescribe any criteria for selecting the Chief Minister in the event of a hung Assembly. These commissions suggested the following order of preference in a hung Assembly:

- Pre-poll alliance with majority support.
- Single largest party with support from others.
- Post-poll coalition where all partners join the government.
- Post-poll alliance where some parties support from outside.

Major Issues and Concerns:

- Governors have **not always followed the same principles** while inviting parties to form governments.
- Governors are often **accused of acting in favour of the Union government** rather than remaining neutral constitutional authorities.

Supreme Court Judgments:

- **S. R. Bommai v. Union of India:** The Supreme Court held that majority support must be tested on the floor of the Assembly.
- **Rameshwar Prasad case:** Reaffirmed that the floor test is the correct constitutional method to determine majority.

Way Forward:

- **Need for Clear Rules:** Different interpretations by Governors and courts have created inconsistencies.
- **Justice Kurian Joseph Committee Recommendation:** Suggested adding a new constitutional schedule to clearly define the Governor's discretionary powers.

Governors should exercise discretionary powers fairly, impartially, and in accordance with constitutional principles to maintain democratic stability.

7. CBI Director Praveen Sood granted a one-year extension in office.

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.

**Interconnected concepts:****CBI Director & Tenure:**

The CBI Director is the head of India's premier investigating agency, appointed for a **minimum two-year term** by a high-level committee (PM, LoP, CJI) under the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**. Their tenure can be extended to five years total (in 1-year increments).

- **Selection Committee:** The Director is appointed by the Central Government on the

recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of:

- **Prime Minister** (Chairperson)
- **Leader of Opposition (LoP)** in Lok Sabha
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by him.
- **Legal Basis:** The appointment is governed by the DSPE Act, 1946, as amended by the CVC Act, 2003 and the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

8. RTI and Sports Bodies: CIC rules that the Cricket Board is outside the Act's ambit.

Central Information Commission (CIC) held that the **BCCI does not fall within the ambit of a "public authority" under the RTI Act**, observing that the cricket board functions as an autonomous body neither "directly nor indirectly" financed by the government.

**Interconnected concepts:****i. Right to information Act:**

- Right to Information (RTI) Act, enacted in 2005, mandates timely responses to citizen requests for government information. Its core purpose is to promote transparency, combat corruption, and empower citizens by holding public authorities accountable.

ii. CIC-Chief Information commission:

- Central Information Commission (CIC) is an independent **statutory body** established in 2005 under Section 12 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. It serves as the highest appellate authority for citizens denied information by Central public authorities.

Structure:

- Comprises one Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and up to 10 Information Commissioners (ICs).

- **Appointment:** The **President of India** on the recommendation of a selection committee comprises of Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha
- A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- **Tenure:** The Central Government prescribes their term of office (which is typically **3 years or until the age of 65**, whichever is earlier). Commissioners are not eligible for reappointment.

9. Justice Varma case: Inquiry panel submits its investigation report.

The Judges Inquiry Committee investigating allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma - against whom **impeachment proceedings were initiated** over the discovery of unaccounted cash from his official residence during a fire - submitted its report to Lok Sabha Speaker.



- The **three-member inquiry committee** was constituted by the Speaker on August 12, 2025. The report, which was presented in accordance with statutory requirements under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, will be laid before both Houses of Parliament in due course.

Interconnected concept:

Procedure for Impeachment of judge:

The procedure for impeachment of Supreme court/High court judge is governed by a

combination of constitutional provisions and statutory laws.

- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 124(4) outlines the removal process for Supreme Court judges. Article 218 extends this exact same process to High Court judges.
- **Statutory Law:** The procedural steps are comprehensively regulated by the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
- **Grounds for Removal:** A judge can only be removed on two specific grounds: **Proved misbehaviour** (corruption, lack of integrity, or moral turpitude) and Incapacity (physical or mental infirmity that impedes judicial duty).

Impeachment Procedure:

- **Motion Initiation:** Impeachment motion can be introduced in either House with signatures of **100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha members**. The **Speaker/Chairman may admit or reject it**.
- **Inquiry Committee:** A **3-member committee** - a Supreme Court judge, High Court Chief Justice, and eminent jurist - investigates the charges.
- **Parliamentary Approval:** If charges are proved, both Houses must pass the motion in the same session by: absolute majority, and two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
- **Presidential Order:** The President issues the removal order after approval by both Houses.



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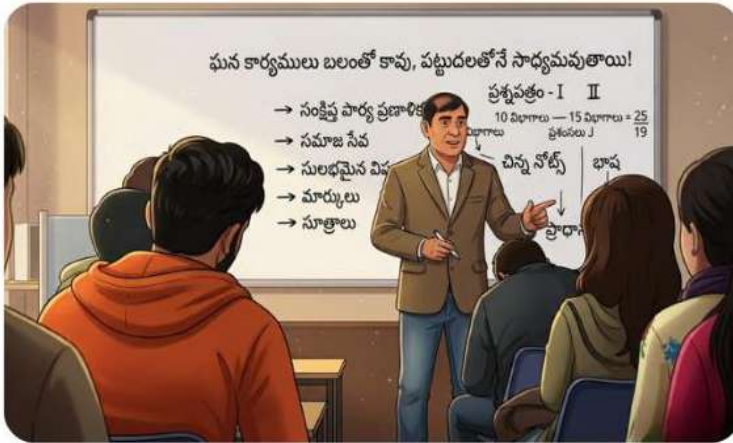


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Section-II A: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - including achievements of ISRO, new innovations & other related issues of S & T.

1. Chandrayaan-5 mission: ISRO team visits Japan to assess launch site preparedness.

In a key step forward for the India-Japan space partnership, members of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently visited **Japan's Tanegashima Space Centre**.



- The team inspected launch facilities and prepared for tests ahead of the planned lift-off of the **Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission**, called Chandrayaan-5 in India.
- This joint project will send an Indian-built lander and a Japanese-built rover to the Moon's South Pole to hunt for water ice.

Interconnected concepts:

i. LUPEX:

Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, also known as **Chandrayaan-5**, is a joint venture between the ISRO and the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.

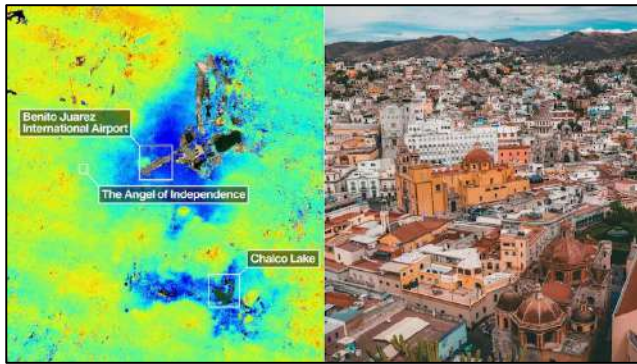
- Targeted for launch between 2027 and 2029 on **Japan's H3 rocket**, the mission aims to explore the Moon's south polar region to find and analyze water ice.
- ISRO's Role:** Developing the **Lunar Lander**, which will likely weigh around 6,000 kg and utilize advanced engines like the recently hot-fired prototype L9.
- JAXA's Role:** Building the **Lunar Rover** (approx. 350 kg) and providing the H3 launch vehicle.

ii. Chandrayan Missions:

Mission	Year	Aim
Chandrayaan-1	2008	To explore the Moon's surface and map its mineral composition; confirmed presence of water molecules on the Moon.
Chandrayaan-2	2019	To land a rover on the Moon and study lunar topography, mineralogy, and exosphere (lander crash-landed, orbiter still functional).
Chandrayaan-3	2023	To achieve a successful soft landing and rover exploration near the Moon's south pole.
Chandrayaan-4	Planned (2027-28)	To collect and return lunar samples to Earth for detailed analysis.
Chandrayaan-5	Planned (2030s)	To explore lunar polar regions in collaboration with Japan (LUPEX mission), focusing on water ice and sustainability.

2. NISAR mission reveals rapid land subsidence in Mexico City.

NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite mission confirms that parts of Mexico City are sinking at an alarming rate of more than 2 centimetres per month. This rapid land subsidence, or sinking, is primarily caused by intensive groundwater extraction to support the city's 20 million resident.



NISAR Mission:

The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** is a joint **Earth-observation satellite mission** developed by NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- Launched in 2025, it is the **first mission to use dual-frequency radar** (L-band and S-band) on a single platform to monitor global environmental changes with centimetre-level precision.

3. ANRF strengthens disclosure requirements for advanced research grants.

The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** has introduced stricter disclosure requirements for its Advanced Research Grant (ARG) program to ensure research integrity.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation:

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is a statutory body established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023.

- It serves as the apex body for providing high-level strategic direction to scientific research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in India.

Key features:

- Establishment:** It replaces and subsumes the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), which was established in 2008.
- Administrative Department:** It functions under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- Governance Structure:**
 - Governing Board:** Chaired by the Prime Minister (Ex-officio President), with the Union Ministers of Science & Technology and Education as Vice-Presidents.

- Executive Council:** Chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, responsible for implementing the board's decisions.

4. Pixxel and Sarvam plan to establish AI data centres in space.

Bengaluru-based **Pixxel** has announced a strategic partnership with Sarvam to build and launch **India's first orbital data centre satellite, named Pathfinder**.



The 200 kg-class demonstrator is targeted for launch in late 2026 and will integrate high-performance computing with advanced Earth observation technology directly in orbit.

- Pixxel:** Responsible for the design, construction, launch, and operation of the Pathfinder satellite.
- Sarvam AI:** Providing the AI backbone, including the integration of full-stack language models for **training and inference** directly in orbit.

5. Skyroot becomes India's first space-tech unicorn.

Weeks before the launch of **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** has raised nearly \$60 million in fresh funding, becoming the country's first space-tech unicorn with a valuation of \$1.1 billion.



Skyroot Aerospace:

- Skyroot Aerospace is India's leading private aerospace company, Hyderabad-based startup is focused on making space flight as routine and affordable as commercial air travel.
- Skyroot develops the **Vikram** series of launch vehicles, named after Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
- **Vikram-S**: A sub-orbital rocket that made history in November 2022 as the **first privately developed Indian rocket** to reach space.
- **Vikram-I**: An orbital-class vehicle currently in the final stages of integration at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) for its maiden flight, expected in mid-2026.
- **Vikram-II**: A future heavy-lift vehicle designed for a **1-tonne payload capacity** to Low Earth Orbit, targeted for launch in 2027

6. India successfully tests Agni missile with MIRV capability.

- India conducted a second successful flight trial of its advanced Agni-5 missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.



- This technology allows a **single missile to deploy multiple warheads to different targets simultaneously**, significantly enhancing India's strategic deterrence

Interconnected concepts:

Agni Missile:

- The Agni missile family is a series of surface-to-surface, nuclear-capable ballistic missiles.

- Developed indigenously by the DRDO, these missiles form the backbone of India's land-based nuclear triad and support its doctrine of **Credible Minimum Deterrence and No First Use (NFU)**.

Missile	Range (km)	Type
Agni-I	700 – 1,200	Short Range (SRBM)
Agni-II	2,000 – 3,500	Medium Range (MRBM)
Agni-III	3,000 – 5,000	Intermediate Range (IRBM)
Agni-IV	3,500 – 4,000	Intermediate Range (IRBM)
Agni-V	5,000 – 8,000	Intercontinental (ICBM)
Agni-P (Prime)	1,000 – 2,000	Next-Gen MRBM

7. National Technology Day (May 11): Celebrating Innovation and Technological progress.

National Technology Day, observed on **11 May**, celebrates India's scientific achievements and its journey towards technological self-reliance.

The date was officially designated in 1999 by then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It marks the following breakthroughs

- **Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II)**: India successfully conducted three underground nuclear tests at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. These tests established India as a nuclear-capable nation and the sixth member of the "Nuclear Club".
- **Hansa-3 Flight**: India's first indigenously developed **two-seater aircraft, the Hansa-3**, completed its maiden flight in Bangalore.
- **Trishul Missile Test**: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the Trishul missile.

8. Sweden joins India's Shukrayaan mission to Venus.

- India's **mission to Venus, Shukrayaan mission**, has received an international boost with **Sweden** formally joining the project.



- As part of the mission, Sweden's Swedish Institute of Space Physics will develop a scientific instrument called the **Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA)**, which will fly aboard India's Venus orbiter.

Shukrayaan-1:

Shukrayaan-1 (officially called the Venus Orbiter Mission or VOM) is **India's first planned interplanetary mission to the planet Venus**.

- Launch Vehicle:** LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), India's heavy-lift launch vehicle.
- Target Orbit:** Elliptical orbit around Venus with a 500 km **periapsis** (closest point) and 60,000 km **apoapsis** (farthest point).
- Timeline:** The launch window is March 2028, taking approximately 112 days to reach Venus by July 2028.

9. Government launches the IP Catalyst initiative to promote Innovation and Intellectual Property Creation.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the **Intellectual Property (IP) Catalyst** initiative alongside its dedicated digital platform, **CIPIE (cipie.in)**, to **accelerate the commercialisation of patents in the Electronics and IT sectors**.



- Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Implementing Agency:** Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.

10. Intellectual Property (IP):

Intellectual Property (IP) refers to creations of the human mind-such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, and names.

- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** are the legal protections granted to creators, allowing them to earn recognition or financial benefit from their innovations and preventing unauthorized use.

Major Types of IP:

- Patents:** Protects inventions (products or processes) that are new, involve an inventive step, and are industrially applicable. Generally valid for 20 years.
- Copyright:** Protects literary and artistic works (books, music, paintings, films, and computer software). Usually lasts for the author's life plus 60 years in India.
- Trademarks:** Protects brand identity, including words, symbols, logos, or colours used in commerce. Valid indefinitely as long as it is renewed.
- Geographical Indications (GI):** Protects goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation attributable to that origin (e.g., Darjeeling Tea). Valid for 10 years and renewable.
- Industrial Designs:** Protects the visual design, shape, or ornamentation of manufactured products. Valid for 10 years, extendable to 15.
- Trade Secrets:** Protects confidential business information (e.g., the Coca-Cola recipe). Unlike other IPs, they are protected without registration, provided reasonable steps are taken to keep them secret.

11. Chandrayaan-3 hop experiment reveals layered structures beneath the Moon's surface.

ISRO's **Chandrayaan-3 hop experiment** has revealed that the Moon's upper surface near the south pole is not a uniform pile of dust, but a distinct, two-layer "cake-like" structure within just a few centimetres of depth.



Chandrayaan-3:

Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar exploration mission, which achieved a historic **soft landing near the lunar South Pole** on August 23, 2023. This milestone made **India the first country to land in the south polar region** and the fourth country overall to successfully soft-land on the Moon (after the USA, the former USSR, and China).

- Launch Date: 14 July 2023.
- Landing Date: 23 August 2023 (Celebrated as **National Space Day**).
- Launch Vehicle: **LVM3-M4** (Launch Vehicle Mark-3, formerly known as GSLV Mk-III).
- Mission Life: **1 Lunar Day (~14 Earth Days)** for the lander and rover modules.
- Landing Site: Near the lunar South Pole (specifically at latitude, named **Shiv Shakti Point**).

12. Chandrayaan-3 honoured with the 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 Vinay Kwatra, accepted the award on behalf of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).



Goddard Astronautics Award:

- The Goddard Astronautics Award is the highest honour bestowed by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) for notable, outstanding achievements in the field of astronautics



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Section II B: DEFENSE - achievements of DRDO and other defense related issues.

1. India conducts maiden salvo launch of an indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile.

India's indigenous maritime strike programme achieved a major milestone as the DRDO, and the Indian Navy successfully carried out the maiden salvo launch of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR)**.



- The trial marked the first salvo launch of an advanced indigenous **air-launched anti-ship missile system** and validated a capability considered critical for real-world naval strike operations.

Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range:

- The **Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)** is India's first indigenously developed air-launched anti-ship cruise missile. Developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, it is designed for the Indian Navy.
 - Operational Range:** 55 km.
 - Maximum Speed:** Mach 0.8.
 - Guidance System:** Uses an indigenous **Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) seeker** for terminal guidance, which is immune to jamming.

2. Vikram VT-21 project launched by DRDO.

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.
- It is also capable to fire **third generation Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) Nag**, which are precision missiles used to destroy heavily armoured vehicles.

Interconnected concept:

NAG:

- Nag is an Indian third generation, "**fire-and-forget**" **anti-tank guided missile (ATGM)** developed by DRDO.

Launch Platforms:

- NAMICA:** The Nag Missile Carrier is a BMP-II based armored vehicle (tank destroyer).
- HELINA/Dhruvastra:** Helicopter-launched variants for the Indian Army and Air Force.

3. Mission Drishti: GalaxEye launches India's largest privately developed Earth observation satellite.

Mission Drishti, the **world's first OptoSAR satellite** developed by Bengaluru based space startup **GalaxEye** has been successfully launched aboard a **Falcon 9** by **SpaceX** from Vandenberg, California.



Key Mission Highlights:

- **OptoSAR Technology:** Drishti is the first satellite globally to combine **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** and **Electro-Optical (EO)** sensors on a single platform. This allows for high-resolution imaging in all weather conditions, including through cloud cover and in complete darkness.
 - **Largest Private Satellite:** Weighing **190 kg**, it is the largest Earth observation satellite ever developed by a private Indian company.
 - **Performance Metrics:** Operating at an altitude of roughly **500 km**, the satellite is capable of delivering images with a resolution of **1.2 to 1.8 metres**.
- 4. DRDO and IAF conduct maiden trial of the TARA glide weapon.**
- DRDO and the Indian Air Force have conducted the maiden flight-trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon system.

DRDO, IAF

CONDUCT MAIDEN TRIAL OF

TARA

GLIDE WEAPON




DRDO and the Indian Air Force have conducted the maiden flight-trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon system.

TARA:

TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system capable of converting conventional unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons for accurately engaging ground-based targets.

RANGE:
Capable of a maximum range of **80 km**.

ALTITUDE:
Can be launched from altitudes ranging between **10 and 45,000 feet**.

WEIGHT VARIANTS:
Available in **250 kg, 450 kg, and 500 kg** options.

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5. Lieutenant General N. S. Raja Subramani (Retd) appointed as Chief of Defence Staff.

The Government has appointed Lieutenant General **NS Raja Subramani**, as the **Chief of Defence Staff**, who shall also function as the Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs.



Chief of Defence Staff:

The **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** is the highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military and serves as the single-point military advisor to the Government of India.

- **Eligibility:** Any serving or retired 3-star (Lieutenant General/Air Marshal/Vice Admiral) or 4-star officer under the age of 62.
- **Tenure:** Serves until the maximum age of **65 years**.
- **Current CDS:** Lieutenant General **N S Raja Subramani (Retd.)** was appointed as India's third CDS on May 9, 2026.

- **Predecessor:** He succeeds **General Anil Chauhan**, who completes his tenure on May 30, 2026.
- **First CDS:** General **Bipin Rawat** (2020–2021).

6. India and Vietnam hold talks on the BrahMos missile system.

During the state visit of Vietnamese President To Lam to India, Indian government officially confirmed that discussions regarding the sale of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system** to Vietnam are underway.



BrahMos supersonic cruise missile:

BrahMos is a medium-range supersonic cruise missile that is widely considered the **fastest of its kind in the world**, reaching speeds between **Mach 2.8 and 3.0**.

- It is a joint venture between India's **DRDO** and Russia's **NPO Mashinostroyenia**, with its name derived from two major rivers: the **Brahmaputra** (India) and the **Moskva** (Russia).

Key features:

- **Speed:** Operates at approximately 3 times the speed of sound.
- **Range:** Originally limited to 290 km by international treaties, newer versions have extended ranges of **450 km, 500 km, and 800+ km**.
- **Propulsion:** Uses a **two-stage system**-a solid propellant booster for initial
- **Global Export:** In 2024, the Philippines became the first international customer for the shore-based variant, and as of May 2026, India is in advanced talks with other nations like **Vietnam** for potential sales.

7. Indian Coast Guard commissions ICGS Achal at Goa Shipyard Limited.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICGS) commissioned **ICGS Achal**, the latest vessel in the new-generation **Adamy-class Fast Patrol Vessel series** at **Goa Shipyard Limited**.



- The vessel, designed and built indigenously by M/s **Goa Shipyard Limited**, represents a significant milestone in India's shipbuilding capabilities.
- The vessel will undertake a wide spectrum of maritime operations, including coastal and offshore surveillance, interdiction, Search and Rescue (SAR), anti-smuggling operations, and marine pollution response.

8. Foundation stone laid for the ₹15,000-crore AMCA defence hub at Puttaparthi.

Union Minister for Defence laid foundation stone for **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** project at **Puttaparthi**.



- **Location:** The Aircraft Integration and Flight-Testing Complex is being constructed across nearly 650 acres in Puttaparthi (Sri Sathya Sai district).
- **Project Value:** The infrastructure investment for the overall AMCA ecosystem is valued at ₹15,803 crore.

Strategic Impact

- **Fifth-Generation Stealth Flight:** The facility will serve as the national hub for integration, testing, validation, and flight certification for India's upcoming indigenous stealth fighter jets.
- **Local Economy:** The mega project is expected to create 7,500 high-skilled direct jobs and pave the way for a dedicated industrial aerospace township in the Rayalaseema region.

Interconnected concept:

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is establishing a **missile manufacturing plant at Donakonda in Prakasam district**.
- In the private sector, **Kalyani Strategic System (Bharat Forge) is setting up a unit at Madakasira** in Anantapur district, Sagar Defence Engineering at **Juvvaladinne** in Nellore district, and **HFCL in Sri Sathya Sai district**.

9. Dhruva Space receives government support for the Project Garud satellite platform.

The Government of India's **Research, Development & Innovation Fund (RDIF)** has extended Rs.105 crore to Hyderabad-based Dhruva Space for **Project Garud**, a next-generation flat-pack 500 kg-class satellite platform programme.



Project Garud:

- Project Garud is an Indian satellite platform programme developed by Hyderabad-based space tech startup **Dhruva Space** to establish indigenous, high-volume manufacturing of **500 kg-class communications satellite platforms**.

Interconnected concepts:

i. Research, Development & Innovation Fund (RDIF):

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme / Fund (RDIF) is a ₹1 Lakh Crore flagship initiative by the Government of India designed to catalyze private sector participation in research and development.

- **Nodal Department:** The Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- **Strategic Direction:** Guided by the Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

10. DRDO successfully tests the indigenous UAV-launched precision missile ULPGM-V3.

DRDO has successfully completed the final development trials of the **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3** in both air-to-ground and air-to-air modes.

- The trials were conducted at the **DRDO test range near Kurnool** using an integrated Ground Control System (GCS) designed to command and control the missile system.



ULPGM-V3:

ULPGM-V3 (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3), also known as the ULM-ER (Unmanned Launched Munition – Extended Range), is an indigenous Indian fire-and-forget, precision-guided missile.

- It is specifically engineered to target armored vehicles, bunkers, and low-flying airborne threats.

11. India receives the fourth squadron of the S-400 air defence missile system.

India received its fourth squadron of the **Russian-origin S-400 Triumf air defence missile system**. This deployment marks a major expansion of India's long-range air defence umbrella, which the Indian Air Force (IAF) has officially designated as the "**Sudarshan Chakra**".



Interconnected concepts:

1. S-400:

- The **S-400 Triumf**-renamed "**Sudarshan Chakra**" by the Indian Air Force (IAF)-is a mobile, long-range **Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system** designed and developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau.
- India signed a \$5.43 billion contract in October 2018 to procure five squadrons of this advanced air defence grid. As of May 2026, four squadrons have been delivered, with the fourth deployed along the western frontier in Rajasthan, while the final unit is expected by November

12. Nibe Limited successfully tests the Suryastra rocket system.

Pune-based private sector defence firm Nibe Limited successfully conducted test firings of its indigenous **Suryastra Universal Rocket Launcher system**.



Variants & Precision:

- 150 km range (EXTRA rocket): Achieved a 1.5-metre CEP.
- 300 km range (Predator Hawk rocket): Achieved a 2-metre CEP.

Significance:

- **Accuracy:** A CEP (a standard measure of weapon precision) under 2 metres for long-range strikes is exceptionally precise, significantly reducing collateral damage against high-value targets.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** The success highlights the growing, vital role of India's private sector in building advanced, indigenous defense capabilities to supplement state-run entities.

13. India achieves a major breakthrough in hypersonic missile technology.

- DRDO accomplished a 1,200-second runtime of its actively cooled **scramjet** full-scale combustor. The test was conducted at the Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) facility in Hyderabad.



Interconnected concepts:

i. Hypersonic missile:

- Hypersonic missiles travel at a **speed Mach 5**, or at least five times the speed of sound in the upper atmosphere.
- The two types of hypersonic weapons systems are **Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs)** and

Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCMs).

- HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target,
- HCMs are powered by air-breathing high-speed engines or 'scramjets' after acquiring their target.

14. India successfully test-fires the Agni-1 ballistic missile.

India successfully tested the **short-range ballistic missile Agni-1** from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha. The launch, carried out under the aegis of **Strategic Forces Command**, validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile system.

Agni-1 missile:

Agni-1 is an indigenously developed, nuclear-capable **Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)** that serves as a cornerstone of India's strategic minimum deterrence capability.

- Managed and operated by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Indian Armed Forces, the missile system was developed by the DRDO to bridge the critical tactical gap between the **short-range Prithvi-II missile and the longer-range Agni-II**.
 - Range:** 700 km to 1,200 km
 - Payload Capacity:** 1,000 kg
 - Propulsion:** Single-stage, solid-fuel rocket

Strategic Forces Command (SFC), or Strategic Nuclear Command, is India's specialized tri-service military command responsible for the operational **management, administration, and execution of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile**.

15. Indian Navy's next-generation offshore patrol vessel 'Sanghmitra' launched at GRSE Kolkata.

Indian Navy achieved another milestone in its indigenous shipbuilding programme with the launch of '**Sanghmitra**', the Next Generation

Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

- The vessel, designated as Yard 3039. The ship has been named '**Sanghmitra**' after the **daughter of Emperor Ashoka**, reflecting India's cultural and historical heritage.
- The vessel will undertake missions including maritime surveillance, coastal and offshore defence, search and rescue operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), anti-piracy patrols, and protection of offshore assets.

Sanghmitra:

- 'Sanghmitra' was the daughter of Emperor Ashoka. Along with her brother Mahendra (or Mahinda), **Sanghmitra was sent by Ashoka to Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka)** as a Buddhist missionary to propagate the teachings of Dhamma.
- She famously carried a sapling of the original sacred Bodhi tree (under which Buddha attained enlightenment) to Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. This tree is known today as the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi.



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Section-III: ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY - important current issues with respect to environment and climate change.

1. E100 fuel approval and India's transition towards ethanol-based mobility.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a draft notification by amending **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR)**.



- The amendment is to recognize **E100 (or 100% ethanol)** as an approved automotive fuel, clearing the way for certification and large-scale production of vehicles capable of running entirely on ethanol.

The proposed amendments relate to **Rule 115, sub-rule (18)** of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), which governs the recognition and specification of alternative fuels in India. A key change allows vehicles earlier approved for up to 85% ethanol blends to **now be certified for 100% ethanol (E100)**, paving the way for **pure ethanol-powered vehicles** rather than just blended fuel options.

The amendments will allow for “**homologation**”, which is the official certification process ensuring a vehicle (or its components) comply with government technical, safety, and environmental regulations before it can be sold or used on public roads.

E100:

- E100** refers to a high-octane automotive fuel consisting of approximately 93-95% ethanol, with small amounts of petrol and co-solvents added for safety and technical reasons

- The composition of E100 includes 93% anhydrous (or dehydrated) ethanol, 3% ethanol, 2% gasoline and 2% additives used to stabilise the fuel and improve performance.

2. Green methanol from invasive species: Kutch's sustainable marine fuel initiative.

India's first green methanol plant is being established at **Deendayal Port, Kandla**, in Kutch to convert the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* (Invasive weed) from the **Banni grasslands** into clean fuel for ships.



- This initiative aims to tackle the ecological threat posed by the weed while supporting the global maritime industry's shift toward sustainable green energy.

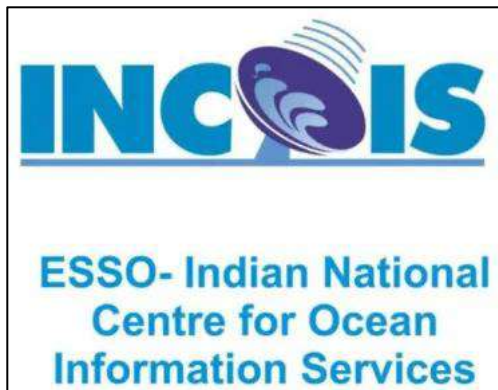
Interconnected concept: Banni grasslands

Banni Grasslands, located in Gujarat's **Kutch district**, is Asia's largest tropical grassland, formed by tectonic uplift of the Indus riverbed.

- It is a vital, biodiverse arid ecosystem known for salt-tolerant flora, pastoral communities like the Maldharis.
- Flora & Fauna:** Dominated by *Prosopis juliflora* (invasive), *Acacia*, and grasses (e.g., *Sporobolus*). Key species include the Indian Wolf, Asiatic Wild Ass, Caracal, Desert Fox, and the Great Indian Bustard.

3. INCOIS and India's advancements in disaster early warning systems.

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has been conferred the **Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (SCBAPP) 2025** in recognition of its outstanding contributions to disaster management and early warning services for ocean-related hazards.



Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is a prestigious Indian national award established to recognise and honour the selfless service and invaluable contribution of individuals and organisations in the field of **disaster management**.

- The award is announced annually on **January 23**, coinciding with the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

4. SACHET: India's integrated emergency alert and warning platform.

SACHET (which means 'alert') is an Integrated Alert System that aims to **deliver disaster and emergency related alerts via SMS to mobile users** within the geo-targeted areas.



- Launched by the **Department of Telecommunications** in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the mobile-based disaster communication system will ensure **timely dissemination of crucial information**, related to natural disasters, or man-made emergencies such as gas and chemical leakages, to its citizens.

Core Technology & Features

- Cell Broadcast (CB) Technology:** Unlike standard SMS, Cell Broadcast allows alerts to be sent simultaneously to all mobile devices within a specific geographic area.
- No Internet Required:** Messages reach users through cellphone towers directly, ensuring delivery even in areas with no data connectivity or during network congestion.
- Geo-Targeting:** Alerts are sent only to phones in the affected zones to prevent mass panic in safe areas.

5. International Big Cat Summit 2025 and global wildlife conservation cooperation.

The inaugural **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit**, to be held here from June 1 to 3, is expected to adopt the first-ever global declaration on big cat conservation.



- Titled the '**Delhi Declaration**', it will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats and their habitats.

International Big Cat Alliance:

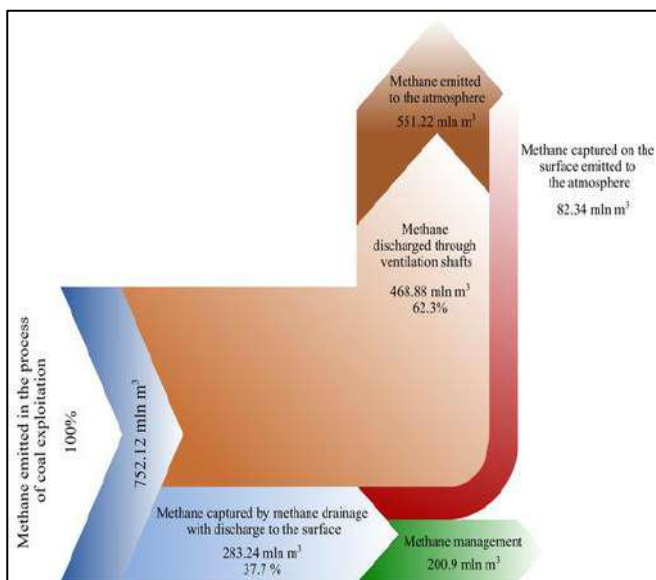
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization headquartered in **New Delhi, India**, dedicated to the global conservation of the world's **seven major**

big cat species Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

- The primary goal is to foster international collaboration, share successful conservation practices, and mobilize financial resources to halt the decline of these species and secure their habitats.

6. Expansion of the UN methane alert system to coal and waste sectors.

The United Nations is expanding its methane monitoring system (**International Methane Emissions Observatory**) to cover coal mines and waste facilities, after satellite analysis identified a landfill in India among the world's three largest methane-emitting sites.



International Methane Emissions Observatory:

The **International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)** is a data-driven initiative launched by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** with support from the European Union to tackle global methane emissions.

- **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS):** Launched at COP27 in 2022, MARS is the first global satellite-based detection and notification system. It identifies "super-emitters" and sends actionable alerts directly to governments and companies.
- **Sector Expansion:** Initially focused on the fossil fuel sector (oil, gas, and coal), IMEO is expanding its monitoring capabilities to include waste (landfills) and agricultural sectors.

Interconnected concept:

Methane:

- Methane is called a greenhouse gas because it has a unique molecular structure that allows it to trap heat within the Earth's atmosphere, much like the glass walls of a greenhouse.

7. Mission Mausam Urban Testbed and advancements in monsoon forecasting.

SRM Institute of Science and Technology launched the **Mission Mausam Urban Testbed and observational facilities**, developed by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Interconnected concepts:

i. Mission Mausam:

Mission Mausam is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to modernize India's weather and climate services.

- Aimed at making India a "**Weather-ready and Climate-smart**" nation, it addresses the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and provides actionable data for critical sectors like agriculture and disaster management

8. India's solar energy expansion and progress towards renewable energy targets.

India added a record **44 gigawatts of solar capacity in 2025**, pushing the total installed capacity in the country to 150 GW.



- India now ranks behind only China and the EU in annual solar growth, surpassing the U.S.

Driving Factors: Key government programs driving this surge include:

- **PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (2024):** The flagship scheme aimed at providing free electricity to 1 crore households by March 2027 by subsidizing rooftop solar installation, aiming for over 40% cost reduction.
- **PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan):** Focuses on solarizing the agricultural sector. It includes installing small solar plants on barren land (Component A), standalone solar pumps (Component B), and solarizing grid-connected agricultural pumps (Component C).
- **PLI Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules:** To boost domestic manufacturing of solar modules, reduce import dependence, and incentivize high-efficiency PV module production, attracting over ₹52,000 crore in investments by late 2025.

9. INCOIS coastal flood monitoring and Kallakkadal surge forecasting.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), headquartered in Hyderabad, has installed a second **Coastal Flood Monitoring System (CFMS)** near the Kollam harbour in Kerala to enhance the accuracy of **Kallakkadal** (swell surge) forecasts along India's southwest coast.



Kallakkadal:

- Kallakkadal is a phenomenon of **sudden, intense coastal flooding along Kerala's coast**, caused by "swell waves" (swell surges) generated by distant, powerful storms in the Southern Indian Ocean, often occurring during pre-monsoon (April-May) without local wind warnings.

Interconnected concept:

INCOIS:

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** headquartered in Hyderabad provides the highest quality ocean information and advisory services through continuous ocean observations and focused scientific research.

- It serves as **apex center for real-time tsunami monitoring**. It issues critical warnings within 10 minutes of an undersea earthquake to India and 28 Indian Ocean Rim countries.

10. Coal Gasification Mission and India's Clean Coal Strategy.

Union Cabinet approved a **₹37,500 crore incentive scheme** titled the "**Scheme for Promotion of New Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects**"



Key Objectives & Economic Impact of the scheme:

- **Target Capacity:** Gasify roughly **75 million tonnes (MT)** of coal and lignite.
- **National Goal:** Accelerate progress toward the **100 MT gasification target by 2030**.
- **Investment Mobilisation:** Projected to draw **₹2.5 lakh crore to ₹3 lakh crore** in investments.

- **Job Creation:** Generate around **50,000 direct and indirect jobs** in coal-bearing regions.
- **Government Revenue:** Expected to generate **₹6,300 crore annually** for central and state governments

Coal gasification:

- Coal gasification is a thermo-chemical process that converts solid coal into a pressurized, combustible gas mixture called **synthesis gas or syngas**.

11.E30 fuel standards and the roadmap for higher ethanol blending.

The Union government has notified new fuel standards **for petrol blended with up to 30 per cent ethanol**, the next step in the government's push towards higher ethanol use in transport fuels as it looks to cut crude oil imports and expand its domestic biofuels ecosystem.



The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) only lays down the technical specifications required for such blends to be introduced in the market; it does not mandate immediate nationwide sale of E30 fuel.

E30 fuel:

- E30 fuel is a blend of **30% anhydrous ethanol and 70% petroleum gasoline**. It is part of the next-generation biofuels movement aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering dependency on crude oil imports.

12.IUCN membership expansion and Global Biodiversity Governance.

During its 117th Council meeting, the IUCN Council admitted 48 new IUCN Members to the Union.



IUCN:

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a unique global environmental organisation composed of both government and civil society organisations.

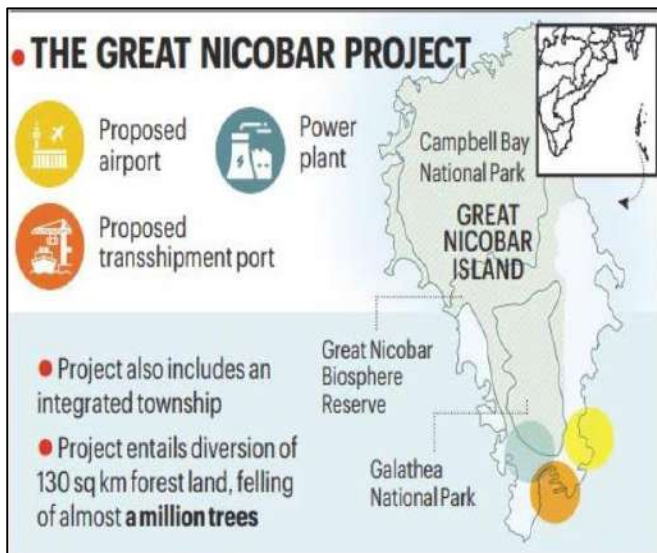
- Established in **1948 and headquartered in Gland, Switzerland**, it serves as the ultimate global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Established in 1964, the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** evaluates the extinction risk of thousands of species using quantitative biological indicators. It classifies species into **nine distinct categories**.

- **Extinct (EX):** No known living individuals remain anywhere globally.
- **Extinct in the Wild (EW):** Survives only in captivity or as naturalised populations outside its historic range.
- **Critically Endangered (CR):** Facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild (e.g., population decline over 10 years).
- **Endangered (EN):** Facing a very high risk of extinction (e.g., population decline).
- **Vulnerable (VU):** Facing a high risk of extinction in the wild (e.g., population decline).
- **Near Threatened (NT):** Close to qualifying for or likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
- **Least Concern (LC):** Widespread and abundant species.
- **Data Deficient (DD):** Inadequate information to make an assessment of its risk.
- **Not Evaluated (NE):** Has not yet been evaluated against the criteria

13. Forest Rights Act concerns in the Great Nicobar development project.

Calcutta High Court's Port Blair circuit bench agreed to hear a **public interest litigation** alleging violations of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, while seeking tribal consent for the **Great Nicobar infrastructure project**.



- The Union Government raised preliminary objections regarding the maintainability of the PIL and two other matters: on the reduction of the buffer zone of **Galathea National Park** and **Campbell Bay National Park**. However, the court overruled these objections and agreed to hear PIL.

Interconnected concepts:

i. Great Nicobar infrastructure project:

Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project is a ₹81,000-crore mega infrastructure initiative approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021. The plan involves four core components:

- International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT):** Located at Galathea Bay, designed to capture global cargo traffic and handle up to 14.2 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units).
- Greenfield International Airport:** A dual-use civil-military facility featuring a 3,300-metre runway capable of handling wide-body aircraft.
- Integrated Greenfield Township:** A modern smart city built across 16,000+ hectares to cater to residential, commercial, and tourism sectors.
- 450 MVA Gas and Solar Hybrid Power Plant:** To ensure localized energy self-sufficiency.

ii. **Galathea and Campbell Bay National Parks** are located on Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost island of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago.

iii. PIL:

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Borrowed from American jurisprudence. In India, it was pioneered by **Justice P.N. Bhagwati** (often called the father of Indian PIL) and Justice **V.R. Krishna Iyer** in the late 1970s.

- Relaxed Locus Standi:** Traditionally, only the person whose rights were violated could approach the court. PILs allow any public-spirited citizen or organization to file a petition on behalf of those who are poor, uneducated, or marginalized.

14. International Big Cat Alliance and expanding global conservation partnerships.

Saudi Arabia became the newest member of the **International Big Cat Alliance**, a platform that brings together countries which are home to the **seven big cats** lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.



- With this, the alliance now has **26 member countries and five observer nations**.

International Big Cat Alliance:

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led, treaty-based intergovernmental organization dedicated to the global conservation of **seven major big cat species and their natural habitats**.

- The seven major big cat species conserved are: **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India serves as the host country and permanent Secretariat.
- **Nodal Agency:** In India, it is coordinated through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

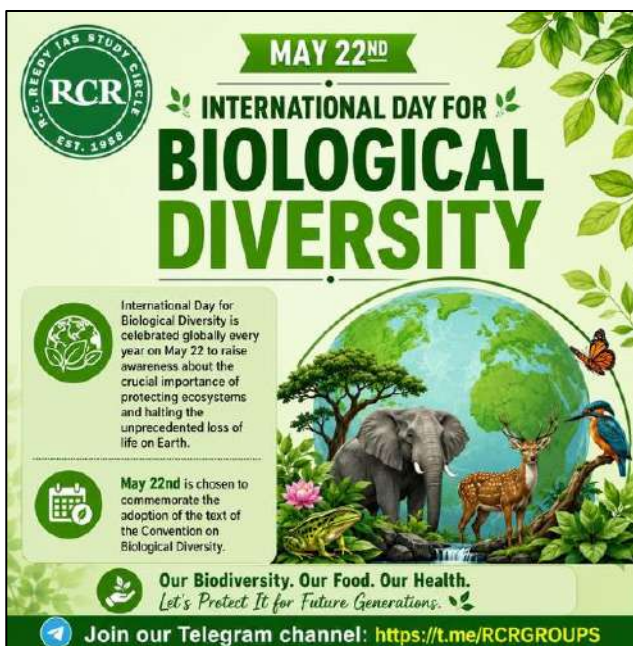
Interconnected concept:

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) -

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It provides legal backing, policy directives, and oversight to **Project Tiger**, which is India's premier flagship initiative for conserving its wild tiger population.

- **Chairperson:** The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Members:** Includes three Members of Parliament (two from Lok Sabha, one from Rajya Sabha), the Secretary of MoEFCC, and eight experts with qualifications in wildlife conservation and tribal welfare.

15. May 22nd: International Day for Biological Diversity



International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated globally every year on **May 22** to raise awareness about the crucial importance of protecting ecosystems and halting the unprecedented loss of life on Earth.

May 22nd is chosen to commemorate the adoption of the text of the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** on this exact date in 1992 at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally binding international treaty designed to promote nature conservation and sustainable development.

- It is one of the three critical "Rio Sisters" agreements that emerged from the **1992 Earth Summit** (alongside the UNFCCC for climate change and the UNCCD for desertification).

2. Earth Summit:

- **Earth Summit**, officially known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), was a landmark global conference held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992**.



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Section IV: NATIONAL EVENTS - covers current national happenings.

1. UNESCO, Sikkim govt partner to document Ru-Soam engineering practices

UNESCO has partnered with the **Sikkim government** to document the indigenous engineering heritage of cane bridges, also known as **Ru-Soam**, in the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve** in the state.

Ru-Soam refers to the traditional bamboo and cane suspension footbridges engineered by the **Lepcha community** in Sikkim, India. These structures are recognized as remarkable examples of indigenous engineering, built entirely without nails or metal using wild cane, bamboo, and wood.



Interconnected concept:

- The **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR)** in **Sikkim** recognized as India's first "mixed" UNESCO World Heritage Site (2016) and part of the UNESCO **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** (2018).

2. Cabinet gives nod to make insult to Vande Mataram an offence

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**.



Vande Mataram:

- Composer:** Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** (Chatterjee) in 1875.
- Language:** Composed in a mix of **Sanskrit and Bengali**.
- Literary Source:** It was later included in Bankim's seminal novel **Anandamath** (1882), which is set against the backdrop of the **Sanyasi Rebellion** and the Bengal famine of 1770.
- English:** The novel was translated into English as **Abbey of Bliss** by **Nares Chandra Sen-Gupta** in 1906. The original novel's context was the Sannyasi rebellion against Muslim rule, where the author welcomed British rule and its positive potential for transforming India.
- First Public Rendition:** Sung by **Rabindranath Tagore** at the **1896 session** of the Indian National Congress (INC) in Calcutta.
- Freedom Struggle:** It became the "mantra of awakening" during the **Swadeshi Movement (1905)**. Revolutionary leaders like **Sri Aurobindo** elevated its status into a spiritual and political call for self-rule.
- Global Presence:** **Madam Bhikaji Cama** unfurled the first tricolour flag on foreign soil (Stuttgart, 1907) with "Vande Mataram" inscribed on it.

Constitutional & Legal Status:

- Adoption:** On **January 24, 1950**, Dr. Rajendra Prasad announced in the Constituent Assembly that **Vande Mataram** would be honoured **equally** with the National Anthem (**Jana Gana Mana**).
- Constitutional Mention:** Unlike the National Anthem, the "National Song" is **not explicitly mentioned** in the Constitution of India.

- **Fundamental Duties:** Article 51A(a) mandates respect for the National Anthem and Flag but does not specifically name the National Song, though it is held in equal reverence

3. SEHAT: Centre launches national mission integrating agriculture, nutrition and human health.

In a significant initiative to reinforce the convergence of agriculture, nutrition, and public health, the centre launched a national mission **SEHAT**.



- **SEHAT- Science Excellence for Health through Agricultural Transformation** aims to translate agricultural advancements into tangible health outcomes for the Indian people.
- It is a joint initiative by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- This first-of-its-kind, mission-mode programme merges the fields of **agriculture, nutrition, and public health** to convert agricultural research into tangible medical benefits.

4. Centre clears funds for India's first semi high-speed rail project.

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.

It will be Indian Railways' first semi high-speed project.



- **Route:** Connects Ahmedabad (Sarkhej) to the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), passing through 284 villages.
- **Significance:** Designed as a reference model for future semi high-speed, indigenously developed, 220 km/h-capable tracks under the PM Gati Shakti framework.

5. PM Modi receives FAO's highest honour- Agricola Medal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the prestigious **Agricola Medal by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** at its headquarters in Rome, Italy.



The award was conferred for his exceptional leadership in ensuring global food security, advancing sustainable agriculture, and promoting rural development.

AGRICOLA MEDAL:

- The **Agricola Medal** is the highest honour conferred by the Director-General of the FAO.

- It is awarded to distinguished world leaders and individuals for exceptional and long-term contributions to global food security, sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction and improved nutrition.

Interconnected concept:

FAO:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations leading international efforts to defeat hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Established: 16 October 1945** in Quebec City, Canada. This date is celebrated annually as **World Food Day**.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Membership: 195 members (194 countries + EU). India is a founding member.

6. Govt imposes curbs on silver imports.

The Government of India officially shifted the import policy of key silver categories **from "Free" to "Restricted"**.

- Under the new directive issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), inbound shipments of silver bars, unwrought silver, semi-manufactured silver forms, and silver powder now require a mandatory government license or prior approval.

Silver:

- Silver is a soft and lustrous metal that is classified as a noble metal. Its white colour, malleability and resistance to atmospheric oxidation have enhanced its value as a highly

desired precious metal which is used in many industrial applications.

- In India, there are no native silver deposits except the small and unique **Bharak deposit in Rajasthan**. It occurs generally with lead, zinc, copper (especially their sulphide ore) and gold ores and is extracted as a by-product from electrolysis or chemical methods.



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Section-V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – covers issues at global level impacting India & its relations with other countries.

1. UAE's decision to exit OPEC and OPEC+: Implications for global oil markets.

United Arab Emirates announced that it will exit the **OPEC and OPEC+ oil group** effective May 1 in a major setback to oil exporting groups and its leader Saudi Arabia amid the war in West Asia.



- UAE was the **third largest producer in the OPEC cartel**, just behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq. UAE had joined OPEC in 1967 through its emirate of Abu Dhabi, and later when the UAE became its own country in 1971.

OPEC and OPEC+:

- OPEC (**Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries**) is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 12 major oil-exporting nations.
- OPEC+ is a broader alliance formed in 2016 that includes the original OPEC members plus 10 additional non-OPEC oil-producing countries, most notably Russia.

Aspect	OPEC	OPEC+
Established	September 1960 in Baghdad	December 2016 in Algeria/Vienna
Headquarters	Vienna, Austria	Vienna, Austria (OPEC Secretariat)
Member Count	12 countries	22 countries (12 OPEC + 10 non-OPEC)

Primary Goal	Stabilise oil markets and ensure fair prices for producers	Broaden market influence and coordinate production with non-OPEC allies
Market Share	~38% of global production (2022)	~59% of global production (2022)

2. Nepal objects to the Mansarovar Yatra route through Lipulekh.

The Balen Shah-led government in Kathmandu has objected to India and China planning to conduct the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh pass**. India said that such claims are “neither justified nor based on historical facts and evidence”, and it remains open to “constructive interaction with Nepal”.



Lipulekh pass:

Lipulekh pass is a high-altitude pass (~5,334 m / 17,500 ft) in the Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.

- Geographical Position:** Located at the **tri-junction** of India, Nepal, and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- Himalayan Range:** Situated in the **Kumaon Himalayas**.

- **River Association:** Linked to the **Kali River** (also known as Sharda/Mahakali), which originates near this region and forms the boundary between India and Nepal.
- **Connectivity:** Connects the **Kumaon region** of India with the trading town of **Taklakot** (Purang) in Tibet.

Dispute:

Nepal claims the **Lipulekh-Kalapani-Limpiyadhura region** based on the **Treaty of Sugauli (1816)**, which established the Kali River as the western boundary. The conflict arises from differing interpretations of the river's actual source.

Treaty of Sugauli: The Treaty of Sugauli was a peace agreement signed on 2 December 1815 that officially ended the **Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816)**.

- It was signed between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal after a series of territorial disputes and British military advances toward the Kathmandu Valley.

3. UAE to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

India and the United Arab Emirates signed a landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) allowing the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to store up to **30 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) system**.



The agreement also evaluates a cross-border layer allowing India to store crude at the **Fujairah oil hub** on the eastern coast of the UAE.

Strategic Significance for India:

- **Bypassing Sensitive Chokepoints:** Routing oil directly from Fujairah to India's east coast allows supply chains to circumvent the Strait of Hormuz, a highly volatile maritime chokepoint heavily impacted by West Asia conflicts.
- **Mitigating Supply Shocks:** India imports roughly 85% to 88% of its crude oil requirements. This massive volume addition expands its current standalone 9.5-day strategic buffer toward international safety benchmarks.

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves:

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) span three major underground rock cavern facilities located strategically near coastal ports to secure national energy requirements. The system has a total operational storage capacity of **5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)**.

- The three locations are: **Vishakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur**.

Proposed Expansion (Phase 2)

To bolster energy resilience, the Government of India is developing additional facilities on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

- **Chandikhol:** Located in Odisha, this facility will hold 4MMT. It is well-positioned near the Paradip Port and expanding petrochemical hubs.
- **Padur:** An additional cavern is slated to be built at the existing Karnataka site

India and the UAE are also currently part of several plurilateral platforms such as BRICS, I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE- USA) and UFI (UAE-France-India) Trilateral, etc.

4. Iran urges India to continue investments in the Chabahar Port project despite US sanctions.

Iran has urged India to continue investing in the strategically important **Chabahar Port** despite mounting pressure from US sanctions.



Chabahar Port:

Chabahar Port is a strategically vital deep-water seaport located in the Sistan-Baluchistan Province of southeastern Iran, along the coast of the Gulf of Oman.

The port consists of two distinct terminals:

- **Shahid Kalantari Port:** Developed primarily during the 1980s.
- **Shahid Beheshti Port:** The specific terminal being developed and equipped with Indian assistance.

Strategic Significance for India:

- **Bypassing Pakistan:** Pakistan historically denies India overland transit rights across its territory. Chabahar establish a secure, politically sustainable trade corridor directly into landlocked Afghanistan and the resource-rich Central Asian Republics.
- **Integration with the INSTC:** The port serves as the maritime anchor for the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**. This 7,200-km multimodal transport network integrates sea, rail, and road links connecting India to Iran, the Caspian Sea, Russia, and Northern Europe, cutting traditional maritime transit times by up to 40%.
- **Geopolitical Counterbalance:** Developing Chabahar provides a strategic maritime check against China's "String of Pearls" strategy and its deep naval and economic footprint at the nearby **Gwadar Port in the Arabian Sea**.

5. India and Ethiopia sign accession protocol for Ethiopia's WTO membership.

India and Ethiopia signed a landmark bilateral market access protocol in Geneva, Switzerland, marking a major milestone toward concluding Ethiopia's long-running accession into the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.

World Trade Organization:

World Trade Organization (WTO) is the sole global intergovernmental body regulating rules of international trade between nations.



- **Precursor:** The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established in 1948. It only governed trade in goods.
- **Origin:** The Marrakesh Agreement (April 1994) concluded the Uruguay Round of negotiations (1986–1994). This led to the official formation of the WTO on 1 January 1995.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Membership:** 166 member nations (with Timor-Leste and Comoros joining as the newest members). Together, they represent 98% of global trade and GDP.
- **Scope:** Unlike GATT, the WTO's jurisdiction extends beyond goods to regulate Services (GATS) and Intellectual Property (TRIPS)



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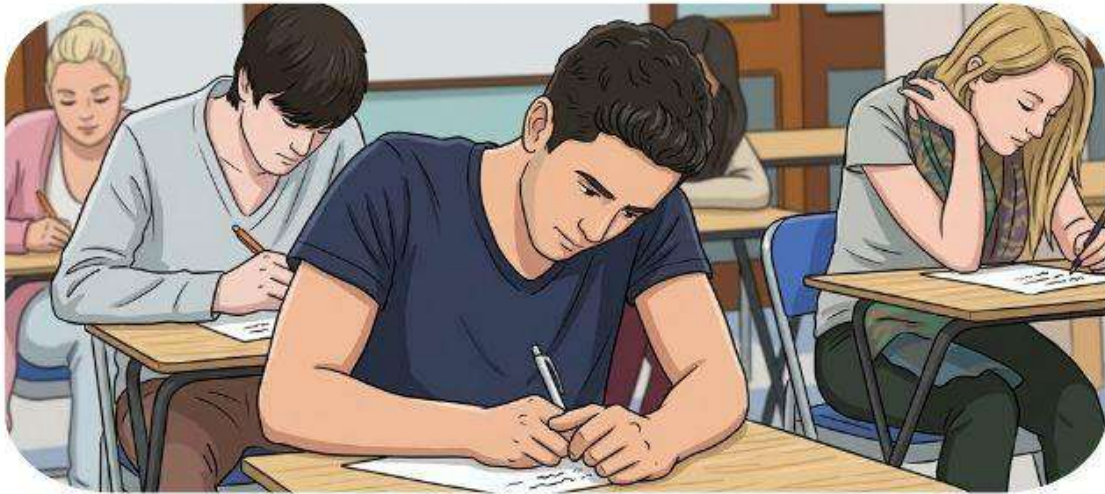
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Section-VI: ECONOMY - covers issues of Indian Economy & Development.

1. NLC India Renewables Limited receives approval for public listing.

The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has officially given its approval for the listing of NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL), the green energy arm of NLC India.



- The company is preparing for a ₹4,000 crore **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**, which is expected to hit the market in the financial year 2026-27.

Interconnected concepts:

1. DIPAM

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) is a specialized department under the Ministry of Finance.

- Establishment:** Originally set up as the Department of Disinvestment in 1999. It was renamed DIPAM on April 14, 2016.
- Mission:** To manage Central Government investments in equity, oversee strategic disinvestment, and optimize the value of public assets for long-term fiscal health.
- Nodal Agency:** It serves as the primary body for identifying and executing the sale of Central Government equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

Key Functions:

i. Disinvestment Management:

- Strategic Disinvestment:** Selling a substantial portion of government shareholding (often 50% or more) along with management control.

- Minority Stake Sales:** Reducing government equity through methods like Offers for Sale (OFS) or Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) while retaining majority control.
- Asset Monetization:** Facilitating the monetization of non-core assets (e.g., land and buildings) of CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure, specifically for assets valued at ₹100 crore and above.
- National Investment Fund (NIF):** Managing the proceeds from disinvestment to fund social sector projects and capital investments in CPSEs.

Initial Public Offering:

An **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** is the process through which a privately-held company (or a government-owned entity) offers its shares to the public for the first time.

Following an IPO, the company becomes publicly listed on a stock exchange like the NSE or BSE, allowing its shares to be traded freely in the secondary market.

- Primary vs. Secondary Market:** IPOs involve issuing new securities in the **primary market**, while subsequent trading happens in the **secondary market**.
- Regulator: SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India) regulates IPOs to protect investors.

2. Rohit Jain appointed as RBI Deputy Governor.

The government has appointed **Rohit Jain** as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a three-year term.



Interconnected concept:**RBI & its composition -**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central bank and a statutory body established on **April 1, 1935**, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

- Headquartered in **Mumbai**, it acts as the apex regulatory body for the nation's financial system and is wholly owned by the Government of India since its nationalisation in 1949.

Historical Background -

- Hilton Young Commission (1926):** Also known as the **Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance**, it recommended the creation of a central bank.
- Influence of Dr. Ambedkar:** The conceptual framework for the RBI was heavily influenced by B.R. Ambedkar's book, "**The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution**".
- Nationalisation:** Originally a private shareholders' bank, it was nationalised on **January 1, 1949**, under the Transfer of Public Ownership Act, 1948.

Organizational Structure:

- Central Board of Directors:** The highest decision-making body, consisting of **21 members** appointed by the Government for a 4-year term.
 - Official Directors:** 1 Governor and up to 4 Deputy Governors.
 - Non-Official Directors:** 10 directors from various fields, 2 government officials, and 4 representatives from local boards.

- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** Established in 2016 to ensure transparency in deciding interest rates. It has 6 members (3 from RBI, 3 appointed by the government) and is chaired by the Governor

3. 100% FDI in the insurance sector permitted through the automatic route.

- Ministry of Finance notified key amendments to the **Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019**, allowing **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance companies** under the automatic route.



- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Exception:** Foreign investment in the state-run LIC remains capped at **20%** under a separate framework to maintain government control.

Interconnected concepts:

i. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India primarily operates through two entry routes: the **Automatic Route** and the **Government Route**.

- Under the Automatic Route, investors do not require prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or the Central Government.
- The Government Route requires mandatory prior clearance from relevant ministries.

ii. FEMA

- Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**, is the primary law regulating foreign exchange in India.
- It focuses on "management" rather than "control," replacing the stricter FERA regime to facilitate external trade and maintain the orderly development of the foreign exchange market.

4. Fugitive Economic Offenders Act: ED declares 21 individuals as FEOs.

Enforcement Directorate (ED) has officially declared 21 individuals as **Fugitive Economic Offenders (FEOs)** under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

Interconnected concepts:

i. Fugitive Economic Offender:

A **Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)** is an individual against whom an arrest warrant has been issued in India for a **"scheduled offence"** involving **at least ₹100 crore**, and who has either left the country to avoid prosecution or refuses to return.

ii. Enforcement Directorate:

The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** is tasked with investigating economic crimes and enforcing financial laws.

Functioning under the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, it primarily targets **money laundering** and **foreign exchange violations** to safeguard the nation's financial integrity

5. Sugarcane Fair and Remunerative Price increased for the 2026-27 season.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs increased the **Fair and Remunerative Price of sugar cane** for the sugar season 2026-27 by ₹10 a quintal from the last crop year. The new price will be ₹365 a quintal for a basic sugar recovery rate of 10.25%.



Fair and Remunerative Price:

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is the **minimum price that sugar mills are legally required to pay to sugarcane farmers for their produce.**

- It is a statutory mechanism that ensures farmers receive a guaranteed price, regardless of whether a mill makes a profit or loss.

- Legal Mandate:** Governed by the **Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**, based on CACP recommendations.
- Approval Authority:** Determined by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.
- Quality Linkage:** Linked to the **sugar recovery rate**, providing premiums for higher efficiency.

6. Labour reforms: Four labour codes become fully operational.

- Indian government has fully operationalized **four new labor codes** by notifying the final rules in the official gazette. The codes, which came into effect on **November 21, 2025**, consolidate 29 central labor laws into a unified structure, enhancing worker security and simplifying compliance for businesses nationwide



The four Labour Codes are:

i. Code on Wages (2019)

- Core Goal:** Standardizes minimum wages and timely payment for all workers.
- Key Shift:** Replaces four laws, ensuring a **National Floor Wage** and prohibiting gender-based pay discrimination.

ii. Industrial Relations Code (2020)

- Core Goal:** Balances trade union rights with employer flexibility for hiring and firing.
- Key Shift:** Simplifies dispute resolution and establishes a **National Reskilling Fund** for workers who lose their jobs.

iii. Code on Social Security (2020)

- Core Goal:** Extends welfare benefits like pensions and insurance to the entire workforce.

- **Key Shift:** Consolidates nine laws and brings **gig, platform, and unorganized workers** into the social safety net for the first time.

iv. Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code (2020)

- **Core Goal:** Ensures a safe environment and regulated working hours across industries.
- **Key Shift:** Mandates **appointment letters**, annual health check-ups, and permits women to work night shifts with safety safeguards.

7. FPI equity ownership declines to a 14-year low in FY26.

Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) ownership of Indian equities hit a 14-year low of 16.13% in March 2026.



Foreign Portfolio Investment:

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) involves the **purchase of financial assets like stocks, bonds, and mutual funds by foreign entities** or individuals without seeking management control.

- **Nature:** Passive, indirect investment focused on capital appreciation rather than strategic management.
- **Liquidity:** High; investors can quickly enter or exit the market, leading to its nickname, "**hot money**".
- **Volatility:** Highly sensitive to global economic factors such as U.S. Federal Reserve interest rates and geopolitical conflicts.

In India, FPIs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the **SEBI (FPI) Regulations, 2019**.

8. SEBI proposes 'GARUDA' framework for faster AIF approvals.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed the **GARUDA** mechanism, to fast-track the launch of **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** schemes.



GARUDA also known as "Green Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement"

- The framework aims to reduce regulatory hurdles and speed up capital deployment.

Interconnected concept: SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the principal regulator of the Indian securities market, operating under the Ministry of Finance.

- **Establishment:** Initially formed in **1988** as a non-statutory body via an executive resolution.
- **Statutory Status:** It became an autonomous statutory body on **January 30, 1992**, following the enactment of the SEBI Act, 1992.
- **Headquarters:** Located in **Mumbai**, with regional offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Ahmedabad

SEBI's main functions are categorized into three areas:

- **Protective Functions:** Protecting investor interests by prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices (like insider trading), and creating awareness.
- **Regulatory Functions:** Framing rules and codes of conduct to regulate stock exchanges, intermediaries (brokers, underwriters), and company takeovers.
- **Developmental Functions:** Promoting the development of the securities market by enhancing efficiency, providing training to intermediaries, and allowing flexible approaches

9. MGNREGA set for discontinuation from July 1.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) will be officially repealed and replaced by the "**Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025**" (VB-G RAM G) on July 1, 2026.



VB-G RAM G Act:

- The **VB-G RAM G Act** (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025) enacted to replace the nearly two-decade-old **MGNREGA** (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005) starting **July 1, 2026**.

Key Features of the VB-G RAM G Act:

- **Increased Work Guarantee:** Rural households are now guaranteed **125 days of wage employment per financial year**, up from the previous 100 days under MGNREGA.
- **Seasonal Management:** Includes an aggregated **60-day "no-work" period** to ensure that labour remains available for critical agricultural activities during peak farming seasons.
- **Four Priority Verticals:** Focuses works on water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and climate resilience.
- **Technological Governance:** Mandates biometric attendance, GPS-tagged worksites, and AI-based fraud detection to eliminate "ghost assets" and leakages.

10. Import duty on gold and silver doubled by the Centre.

The Centre has doubled the effective tax paid on the import of gold and silver to a total of 18.4% from the previous 9.2%. the decision was taken against the backdrop of the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's **current account deficit (CAD)**.



Interconnected concept:

Current Account Deficit -

A current account deficit (CAD) occurs when a country's total spending on foreign goods, services, and transfers is greater than the revenue it receives from its own exports and income from abroad.

- It is a key component of a nation's Balance of Payments (BoP), indicating that the **country is a net borrower from the rest of the world**

CAD=Imports-Exports

If imports are greater than exports → CAD increases.

- India usually imports **large amounts of crude oil and gold**, which heavily affect CAD.

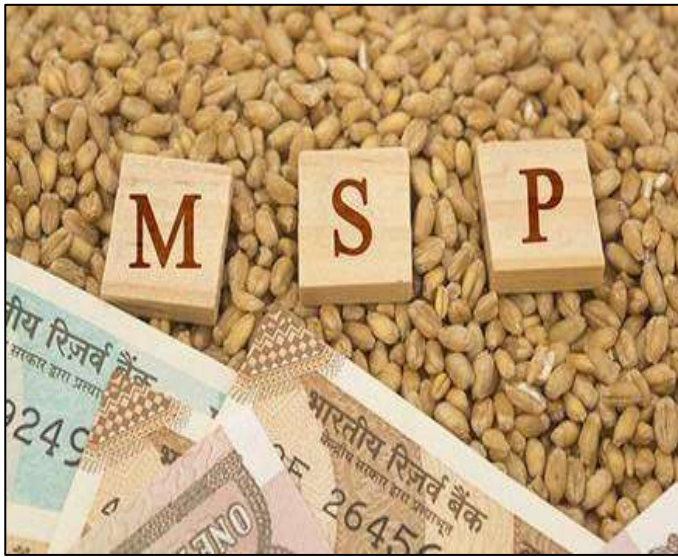
Gold & CAD relation:

- **High Demand:** India is one of the world's largest consumers of gold.
- **No Domestic Production:** India imports almost all of the gold it consumes.
- **Outflow of Dollars:** India must pay for foreign gold using US dollars (\$).
- **Trade Gap Widens:** Massive gold buying heavily increases India's total import bill.

11. MSP for kharif crops increased ahead of the sowing season.

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** announced the **minimum support price**

(MSP) for kharif crops for the 2026-27 season, with the MSP for paddy increased by ₹72 per quintal to ₹2,441 for the common variety.



Interconnected concepts:

1. Minimum Support Prices:

Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a market intervention mechanism used by the Government of India to **safeguard agricultural producers against steep drops in farm prices.**

Announcing it at the **beginning of the sowing season** serves as an insurance policy and guarantees floor price, protecting farmers from distress sales during bumper harvests.

- **CACP Recommendation:** The **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** calculate input costs and recommends the MSP.
- **CCEA Approval:** The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by the Prime Minister, gives final executive approval.
- **Nodal Agency:** The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and designated state agencies execute physical procurement when market prices fall below the MSP floor.
- **Legal Status:** MSP is a policy directive; it **lacks statutory backing**, meaning farmers cannot legally demand it as a right.
- **Crops covered:** The government officially mandates MSP for **22 crops** across two primary seasons Kharif and Rabi.



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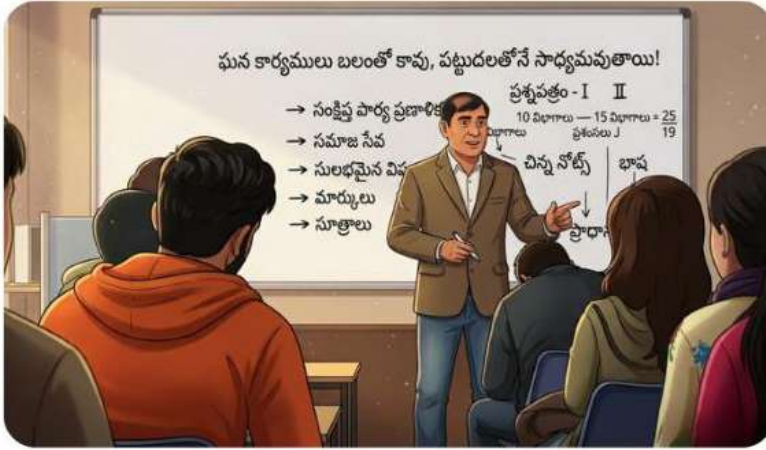


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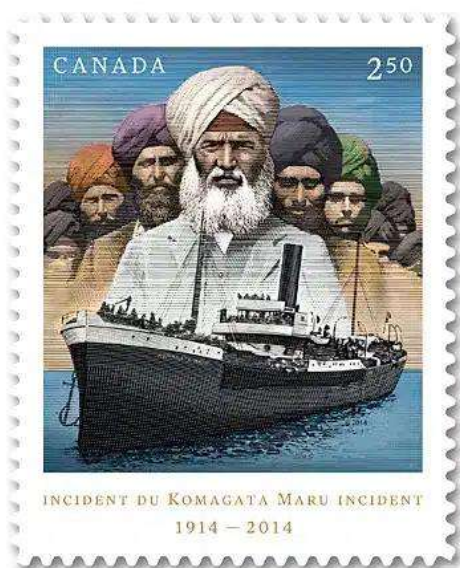
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Office, Gandhinagar Road, Ashok Nagar Cross Road, Hyderabad - 500 020.**

Section-VII: HISTORY & CULTURE – covers events of historical significance, art forms & other relevant aspects.

1. Komagata Maru incident of 1914: A landmark episode in India's freedom struggle.

Recently popstar Diljit Dosanjh spoke about the 1914 Komagata Maru incident, where 376 Indian passengers were denied entry into Canada owing to racist immigration rules.



What is the Komagata Maru incident of 1914?

- In 1914, the **Japanese steamship Komagata Maru**, chartered by **Baba Gurdit Singh**, carried 376 Indian migrants (mostly Sikhs) from Hong Kong to Canada. On reaching Vancouver on May 23, authorities denied them entry, leading to a two-month standoff with severe shortages of food and water.
- When the ship arrived at **Budge Budge (near Kolkata)** on September 27, British officials suspected the passengers of political agitation. A clash with police followed, in which 20 passengers were killed.

2. Sacred relics of Lord Buddha arrive in Leh for public exposition.

The sacred **Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha** arrived in Leh marking a historic spiritual event as they are exhibited outside their permanent home in India for the first time.



Buddha:

Gautama Buddha (c. 563–483 BCE), born **Siddhartha Gautama** in Lumbini (Nepal) to the Sakya clan, is the founder of Buddhism.

- **Mahabhinishkramana (Renunciation):** Left home at age 29.
- **Bodhi (Enlightenment):** Attained at age 35 under a pipal tree at Bodhi Gaya (Bihar) on the banks of River Niranjana.
- **Dhammachakkapavattana (First Sermon):** At Sarnath (UP) to his first five disciples.
- **Mahaparinirvana (Death):** 483 BCE at Kushinagar (UP) at age 80.

Sects in Buddhism: Divided into

- Hinayana (Theravada - original teachings) and
- Mahayana (believes in idol worship and Bodhisattvas).

Four Councils:

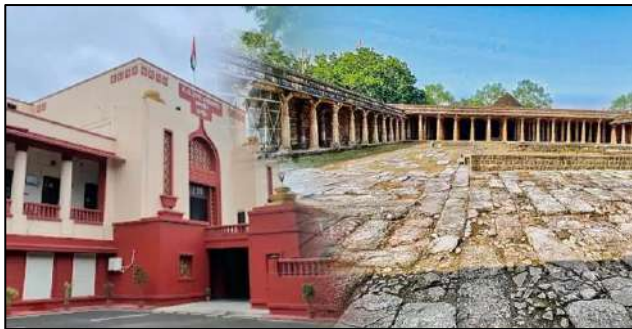
- **1st:** Rajgriha (under Ajatshatru) - Compiled Sutta & Vinaya Pitaka.
- **2nd:** Vaishali (under Kalasoka) - Split into Theravada & Mahasanghika.
- **3rd:** Pataliputra (under Ashoka) - Compiling Abhidhamma Pitaka.
- **4th:** Kashmir (under Kanishka) - Final split into Mahayana and Hinayana.

Important symbols related to Buddhism:

- **Birth Symbol:** Lotus and Bull.
- **Renunciation Symbol:** Horse.
- **Enlightenment Symbol:** Bodhi tree.
- **First Sermon Symbol:** Wheel (Dharmachakra).
- **Death Symbol:** Stupa

3. Bhojshala complex declared a temple by the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

- Madhya Pradesh High Court declared that the long-disputed site of Bhojshala complex and Kamal Maula Mosque in Dhar is a temple of **goddess Vagdevi** (Saraswati), therefore allowing the Hindu community to worship at the site, while dismissing the Muslim community's claim.



Bhojshala complex:

The Bhojshala complex, located in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, is a centuries-old monument of national importance currently under the administration of the Archaeological Survey of India.

- Origins:** Originally constructed as a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati (Vagdevi) by **King Bhoja of the Paramara dynasty**.
- Education Center:** The site functioned as a renowned university for Sanskrit, astronomy, yoga, Ayurveda, and philosophy.
- Medieval Period:** First attacked by Alauddin Khilji in and later converted/encroached upon to establish the Kamal Maula Mosque under Mehmudshah Khilji II in 1514.

4. India commemorates the 169th anniversary of the Revolt of 1857.

India commemorated the 169th anniversary of the Revolt of 1857, widely recognized as the **First War of Indian Independence**.



About revolt:

- The historical uprising officially broke out on **10 May 1857** in the garrison town of Meerut, before turning into a widespread mass movement across northern and central India against the rule of the British East India Company.

Feature	Details
Immediate Trigger	The introduction of greased cartridges for the new Enfield rifle , rumoured to use cow and pig fat, which offended both Hindu and Muslim religious sentiments.
The Spark	Mangal Pandey of the 34 th Bengal Native Infantry open-fired on his British officers at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857. He was executed on 8 April.
Symbolic Leader	Bahadur Shah Zafar , the elderly, last Mughal Emperor, who was proclaimed Shah-en-shah-i-Hindustan by the rebel sepoys.
Major Hubs & Leaders	Rani Lakshmibai (Jhansi), Nana Sahib & Tatya Tope (Kanpur), Begum Hazrat Mahal (Lucknow), and Kunwar Singh (Bihar).
Structural Outcome	The revolt led to the collapse of East India Company rule. Power shifted directly to the British Crown via the Government of India Act 1858

5. Netherlands returns 11th Century Chola copper plates to India during Prime Minister Modi's visit.

During his official visit to the Netherlands, Prime minister Narendra Modi presented with the historic **11th Century Anaimangalam Chola Copper Plates** to India.



- Known in the Netherlands as the **Leiden Plates**, they are among the most significant surviving records of the **Chola dynasty** and among the most important artefacts of Tamil heritage held anywhere outside India.
- The Anaimangalam copper plates comprise a set of 21 large plates and three smaller ones, weighing approximately 30 kg, are bound together by a bronze ring bearing the royal seal of the Chola dynasty. These were issued to commemorate grants made by the renowned Chola ruler **Rajaraja I** (985-1014 CE) to a Buddhist vihara (monastery) at the Chola port town of Nagappattinam in Tamil Nadu.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Rajaraja I:

Rajaraja I (985–1014 CE) was the **greatest ruler of the imperial Chola dynasty**. He transformed a regional Tamil kingdom into a vast Indian maritime empire. He annexed northern Sri Lanka (naming the province Mummudi-sola-mandalam) and conquered the Maldives, establishing massive overseas trade dominance.

- He was a devout Shaivite and constructed Rajarajesvaram temple in Thanjavur.
- He issued high-quality gold and silver **Kahavanu coins** featuring motifs like the tiger, fish, and bow, reflecting strong overseas trade links with Southeast Asia.



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Section-VIII: SOCIAL ISSUES - covers issues relevant to social aspects like unemployment, poverty etc. & schemes thereby.

1. Women and Men in India 2025: Key trends in gender and socio-economic indicators.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 27th edition of its publication titled "**Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data**".

Key facts from the report:

Indicator	Value/Report Highlights
Sex ratio at birth	904 in 2017-19 to 917 in 2021-23.
Infant mortality rate	For both female and male infants has recorded a pronounced and sustained decline between 2008 and 2023.
Gross Enrolment Ratio at Higher Education	Improved from 28.5 to 30.2 for females and 28.3 to 28.9 for males between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
Female LFPR	Increased from 37.5 percent to 45.9 percent during the period 2022 to 2025.

2. JANANI platform launched to improve maternal and child healthcare delivery.

In a significant step towards strengthening maternal and child healthcare services in the country, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched **JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)**.



JANANI:

JANANI is a **service-oriented digital platform** designed to comprehensively monitor and maintain digital health records of women during their reproductive age.

- The platform aims to ensure **seamless tracking of maternal and child health services**, covering antenatal care, delivery preparedness, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care, home-based newborn and young child care, and family planning



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Section-IX: REGIONAL ISSUES OF ANDHRA PRADESH - covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Andhra Pradesh develops a Space City in Thottambedu mandal of Tirupati district.

AP government developing **Space City in Thottambedu** in 2,600-acre industrial cluster as India's first dedicated space-focused hub.

- **Location:** Located in Routhusuramala village within the Thottambedu mandal (Tirupati district).
- **Aim:** The project aims to attract global and domestic private investments in satellite manufacturing, propulsion systems, and deep-tech innovation.
- **Key Private Partner:** **Astrobase Space** is establishing India's first private 200-ton thrust cryogenic engine test facility and advanced propulsion systems within this cluster.
- **Targeted Industries:** Satellite assembly, testing and calibration labs, R&D centres, launch vehicle developers, and space-tech startups focusing on AI and analytics.

2. Foundation stone laid for Google's \$15 billion data centre in Visakhapatnam.

Andhra Pradesh chief minister laid the foundation stone for Google's massive \$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore) **AI data centre hub at Tarluveda**.



AP CM LAID STONE FOR GOOGLE'S \$15 BILLION DATA CENTRE IN VIZAG

Andhra Pradesh chief minister laid the foundation stone for Google's massive \$15 billion (₹1.35 lakh crore) AI data centre hub at Tarluveda.

CAPACITY & SCALE	LAND AREA	LOCATIONS
- Initial Capacity: 1 Gigawatt (GW) - Future Expansion: Up to 5 GW	Total Area: ~601.4 Acres	- Tarluveda - Adavivaram - Rambilli

SIGNIFICANCE

- Major boost to AI & Data Infrastructure
- Attracts Global Tech Investments
- Strengthens Digital Economy of AP

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- **Capacity & Scale:** The facility is planned with an initial **1-gigawatt (GW)** capacity, which is expected to reach 5 GW eventually. It will span roughly **601.4 acres** across three locations: Tarluveda, Adavivaram, and Rambilli.
- The project, managed by **Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech in partnership with Adani Infra**.
- **Infrastructure Highlights:**
 - It will serve as Google's **first dedicated AI hub in India**.
 - The hub will include an **international subsea-cable landing station** to provide high-capacity digital links to global markets.
 - The project aims for **100% renewable energy** usage, supported by green power integration and new transmission lines.
- **Timeline:** Construction is slated for completion by **July 2028**, with an official inauguration planned for September 28, 2028.

3. ₹500 crore announced for the development of Andhra University.

During the closing ceremony of **Andhra University's centenary celebrations on April 27, 2026**, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced a financial grant of **₹500 crore** for the institution.



Andhra University:

- Andhra University was established in **1926** in Visakhapatnam by the Madras Act of 1926, emerging from the efforts of the Telugu elite to create a dedicated university for the northern Circars and Ceded districts.

- **Establishment & Act:** Founded in 1926 under the Andhra University Act, 1925 (Madras Act II of 1926).
- **Founder Vice-Chancellor:** Sir C.R. Reddy played a crucial role in its establishment.
- **Second Vice-Chancellor:** Former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, was the second Vice-Chancellor, contributing to its early development.
- **Purpose:** The university was established to serve the linguistic region of Andhra, focusing on postgraduate teaching and research.
- **Location:** While established in 1926, it was officially relocated from Vijayawada to its permanent home in Visakhapatnam (Peda Waltair) in 1930.

4. Guntur Municipal Corporation wins UNIDO's Gender Equality Mobilisation Award.

The Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) has secured the 4th Gender Equality Mobilization (GEM) Award, presented by the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** at the International Day of Women in Industry 2026 celebrations in Vienna.



GMC was recognized for successfully integrating **women's empowerment with sustainable urban waste management** through the following efforts:

- **Women-Led Waste Collection:** The corporation deployed more than **200 women** as electric auto drivers for door-to-door garbage collection.
- **Formalising Employment:** The initiative identified women previously working in the informal waste-picking sector and provided them with structured training and formal jobs,

enhancing their social status and livelihood security.

- **Sustainable Cities Project:** This programme is part of the **Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (SCIAP)**, which is supported by UNIDO and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Interconnected concepts:

i. UNIDO

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized UN agency established in 1966, **headquartered in Vienna**, dedicated to promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

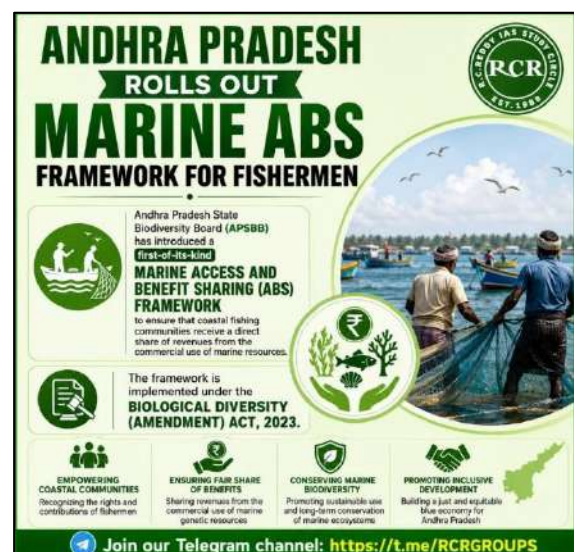
ii. Global Environment Facility:

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is the world's largest multilateral trust fund dedicated to helping developing countries tackle pressing environmental challenges.

- Established in October 1991 on the eve of the **Rio Earth Summit**, it functions as an international partnership of 186 member countries, international institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

5. Andhra Pradesh rolls out a Marine ABS framework for fishermen.

Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) has introduced a first-of-its-kind **Marine Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** framework to ensure that coastal fishing communities receive a direct share of revenues from the commercial use of marine resources.



- The framework is implemented under the **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023**, which mandates that benefits from natural resources must reach local communities.

Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023:

- The **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023**, which came into force on **1 April 2024**, significantly updates India's 2002 framework to streamline access to biological resources while aligning with international obligations like the **Nagoya Protocol**. It aims to foster a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030 by reducing regulatory red tape for domestic industries.

Interconnected concept:

Nagoya Protocol:

Nagoya Protocol is a landmark international agreement aimed at the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources**.

- Adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, it serves as a supplementary agreement to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and officially entered into force on 12 October 2014.

Note:

- Andhra Pradesh accounted for 38% of India's marine exports in 2025-26.
- About 8 lakh coastal people and 20 lakh inland fishermen in the State depend on fisheries for their livelihood.

6. APCNF named a global finalist for the Food Planet Prize 2026.



Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme has been named a global finalist for the prestigious **Food Planet Prize 2026**.

- APCNF is the **first Indian initiative to reach the finalist stage since the prize was launched in 2020**. From over 1,000 global nominations, including six entries from India, it emerged as the country's sole finalist.

Interconnected concepts:

1. Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF):

- APCNF is a transformative initiative by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to transition all 6 million of the state's farmers to agroecology-based natural farming.
- Launched in 2016 and implemented by **Rythhu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS)**.
- It is now the world's largest agroecology programme, covering over **1.8 million farmers and 9 lakh hectares as of 2026**.
- APCNF won the **2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity** and is a global finalist for the 2026 Food Planet Prize.

2. Food Planet Prize:

Food Planet Prize is the **world's largest environmental award**, granting \$1.5 million USD to a single annual winner dedicated to transforming global food systems.

- Established in 2019 by the **Curt Bergfors Foundation**, the prize rewards innovative, scalable initiatives that aim to secure a resilient biosphere while feeding a growing global population.

7. Cabinet subcommittee clears measures to expedite Ramayapatnam Port works.

The Andhra Pradesh **Cabinet Sub-Committee on Ramayapatnam Greenfield Port** has approved key measures to accelerate construction and improve connectivity.



Ramayapatnam Greenfield Port:

The **Ramayapatnam Greenfield Port** is a major deep-sea port project in Andhra Pradesh, located in the **Prakasam district** near Cheruvu, designed to handle 138 million tonnes of cargo annually.

- As of early 2026, the first phase of construction is 80% complete, with operations expected to start around mid-2026, significantly strengthening Andhra Pradesh's maritime infrastructure.
- Development Type:** Developed as a "landlord" port by the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) in a joint venture by Navayuga Engineering Company and Auro Infra Private Limited.

8. Andhra Pradesh to launch a Population Management Policy from August 15, 2026.

Government of Andhra Pradesh is launching a new **Population Management Policy** effective from **August 15, 2026**.

This policy marks a strategic shift from "population control" to "population management" or "population balance," aimed at countering a declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.5 and an increasingly aging population. **The core objective is to raise the TFR to the replacement level of 2.1.**

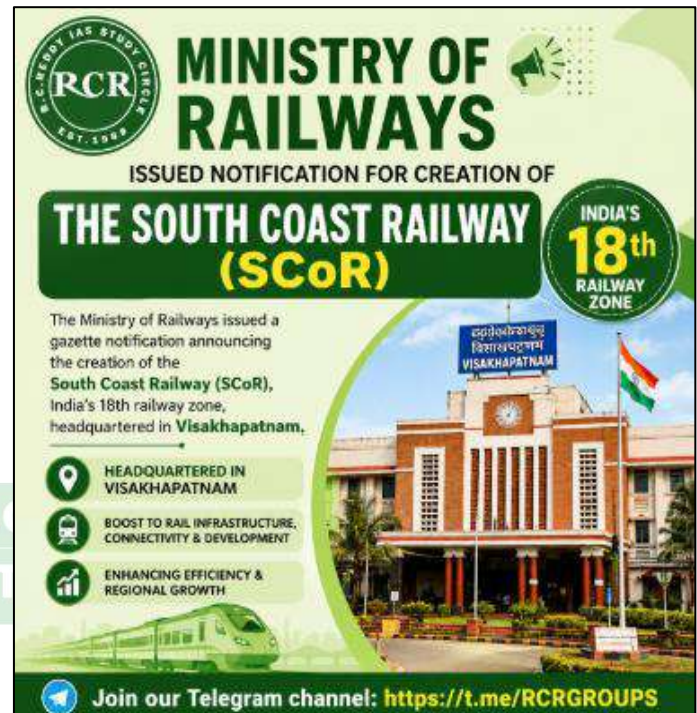
Key Features & Incentives (Effective Aug 15):

- Financial Incentives:** The government is proposing a cash incentive of **₹25,000** for families for the birth of a second or third child.
- Third Child Support:** For a third child, the policy proposes a monthly support of **₹1,000 for five years** to ensure nutrition.
- Free Education:** Free education up to the age of 18 in government institutions is proposed for the second and third child.
- Free IVF Treatment:** The state plans to offer free IVF services for qualified needy couples through public-private partnerships, aiming to help 50,000 couples annually.
- Parental Leaves:** Enhanced parental leave, including 12 months for women and 2 months for men (especially for a third child) is planned.
- "Pillale Sampada" Drive:** Starting with the new policy, the government will conduct "Pillale

Sampada" (Children are Wealth) Gram Sabhas on the fourth Saturday of every month.

9. South Coast Railway zone formally notified by the Ministry of Railways.

The Ministry of Railways issued a gazette notification announcing the creation of the South Coast Railway (SCoR), **India's 18th railway zone, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.**



The zone will be fully operational on **June 1, 2026**, realizing a demand that Andhra Pradesh has been pressing for more than four decades and a statutory commitment made to the State under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014**.

Key facts:

The new zone is formed by reorganizing parts of the South-Central Railway (SCR) and the East Coast Railway (ECoR)

- Included Divisions:** The SCoR will comprise the existing Vijayawada, Guntur, and Guntakal divisions (transferred from SCR) and a newly formed Visakhapatnam Division.
- Waltair Division Bifurcation:** The existing Waltair Division of ECoR is being split. The portion including Visakhapatnam is renamed the **Visakhapatnam Division under SCoR**, while the remaining portion becomes the

new Rayagada Division under ECoR
(headquartered in Bhubaneswar).

10. Royal Enfield to establish a ₹2,200-crore manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh.

The **Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board** approved the project of Royal Enfield in Tirupati.

- Royal Enfield will invest ₹2,200 crore in Andhra Pradesh for a new manufacturing facility, marking the motorcycle maker's first major expansion outside Tamil Nadu since its inception in 1901.
- The company said it will build the facility in two phases in **Satyavedu mandal in Tirupati district**, near the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border, to add nearly 900,000 units to its manufacturing capacity and strengthen India's position as an international motorcycle-making hub.

Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), chaired by Chief Minister is the state's highest body for **approving major industrial and infrastructure projects**

11. Kalyana Laxmi scheme launched for DWCRA women in Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh to launch **Kalyana Laxmi Scheme** for DWCRA Women. This initiative aims to support DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) women **by providing low-interest loans for their daughters' marriage expenses.**



Key Features of the Scheme:

- **Loan Amount:** Eligible members can receive a loan ranging from **₹10,000 to ₹1,00,000** depending on their requirements.
- **Interest Rate:** The loans are provided at a nominal **4% annual interest** (Pavala Vaddi).

- **Repayment Terms:** Beneficiaries can repay the amount in up to **48 monthly installments.**
- **Implementation:** The scheme is jointly managed by the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and **Stree Nidhi**
- **Budget:** The government has earmarked ₹250 crores for the 2026-27 financial year to cover 25,000 beneficiaries

12. 'Mee Intiki - Mee Doctor' launched to provide doorstep healthcare services.

AP governor launched **'Mee Intiki - Mee Doctor' project** aimed at providing primary healthcare services at the doorstep during the **World Red Cross Day** and also the **World Thalassemia Day** programme.



- The project is aimed at extending **medical aid to five lakh poor families at the doorsteps** in inaccessible areas in seven districts over a period of three years.
- The medical teams will focus on providing healthcare to pregnant women, children aged 0-6 years, and to bedridden persons who are unable to visit nearby health centres

Interconnected concepts:

1. **World Red Cross Day:** World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is celebrated annually on **May 8th** to honor the birth anniversary of **Henry Dunant**, founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Nobel Peace Prize recipient.
2. **World Thalassemia Day** World Thalassemia Day is observed annually on May 8 to raise global awareness about thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder, and to honor patients and caregivers.

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes the body to produce **insufficient or abnormal hemoglobin**, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. It results in anemia, leading to fatigue and weakness.

13. Product Perfection Clusters launched to build globally competitive brands.

As part of its efforts to transform the products made in Andhra Pradesh into recognised global brands, the government has initiated steps to develop **Product Perfection Clusters (PPCs)** in the **Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati economic regions.**

- **Objective:** The idea behind the PPCs is to **elevate local manufacturing to international standards** by providing necessary support to industries, especially MSMEs, conforming to quality control standards, creating advanced logistics networks, doing international benchmarking and integrating it into the production cycles.
- **Government role:** The government will act as a facilitator and infrastructure provider, and enforce quality standards, which are key to entering overseas markets
- **Products identified:** The products that have been identified include those from the agriculture and horticulture sectors, which make substantial contributions to the GSDP.

14. Andhra Pradesh seeks Central support for key water resource projects.

AP CM sought the intervention of the Central government on multiple inter-State water disputes and irrigation projects. The key issues raised are:

- To halt Karnataka's proposed increase in the height of the **Almatti Dam**.
- To secure Odisha's cooperation for the **Neradi Barrage project**
- To expedite approvals for the **Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project** aimed at diverting surplus Godavari floodwaters to drought-prone regions of the State.



Interconnected concepts:

- Almatti Dam:** The **Almatti Dam**, also known as the **Lal Bahadur Shastri Dam**, is a major hydroelectric and irrigation project located on the **Krishna River** in North Karnataka.
 - **Height Dispute:** Karnataka is pushing to increase the dam's height from **519.6 metres to 524.26 metres** to expand storage capacity from 123 TMC to nearly 300 TMC. AP CM recently met with Union officials (to oppose this increase, citing concerns about downstream water availability).
- Neradi Barrage project**
 - Neradi Barrage project is a long-standing interstate project on the **Vamsadhara River** designed to irrigate over 2.5 lakh acres in Srikakulam district and 30,000 acres in Odisha.
- Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project:**
 - Polavaram-Banakacherla Link Project (PBLP) initiative designed to divert 200 TMC of surplus **floodwater from the Godavari River to the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.**
 - The Project initiative designed to **divert 200 TMC of surplus floodwaters** from the Godavari River to the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

15. 160th birth anniversary of Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao commemorated.



A new pan-Indian feature film titled **Viswadata** is set to revisit the extraordinary legacy of '**Desoddharaka**' **Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Pantulu** on the occasion of his 160th birth anniversary.

Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao:

- **Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao** was a towering Indian journalist, nationalist politician, pioneering entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

He played a pivotal role in shaping the modern socio-political and cultural identity of the Telugu people. For his immense public service and generosity, he was revered by the masses with the titles **Desoddhaarak** (**Uplifter of the Masses**) and **Viswadata**

Contributions to Journalism:

- **Andhra Patrika:** He founded this monumental Telugu weekly in **1908** (launched in Bombay). He later moved it to Madras in **1914** and converted it into a **daily newspaper** to vigorously campaign for the freedom struggle.
- **Bharati:** He launched this high-standard Telugu monthly literary journal in January **1924**, focusing on art, literature, and history.
- **Andhra Grandha Mala:** A publishing house he established in **1926** that reproduced ancient Telugu classics and published modern literary works

Role in the Freedom & Separate Andhra Movements

- **Political Leadership:** He served as the President of the **Andhra State Congress Committee** for four terms between 1924 and 1934.
- **Salt Satyagraha:** He actively participated in Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience movement in the 1930s, leading to a six-month imprisonment. While jailed, he wrote an exposition on the *Bhagavad-Gita*.
- **Sri Bagh Pact (16 November 1937):** This crucial historic agreement was signed at his Madras residence, **Sri Bagh**.

16. 'Andhralo Chinnarula Chaduvulu' project launched to strengthen Anganwadi education.



— ANDHRA PRADESH LAUNCHED —

'ANDHRALO CHINNARULA CHADUVULU'

A major step towards strengthening early childhood education in Anganwadi centres across the state.

TO BE IMPLEMENTED ACROSS 55,746 ANGANWADI CENTRES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

KEY BENEFITS

- Aimed at strengthening early childhood education in Anganwadi centres across the state.
- Originally introduced as a pilot initiative in Kuppam.
- Following positive outcomes, it is now being scaled statewide.
- To be implemented across 55,746 Anganwadi centres in Andhra Pradesh.
- Improves learning outcomes
- Enhances cognitive and social development
- Strengthens foundational skills
- Builds a strong foundation for future learning

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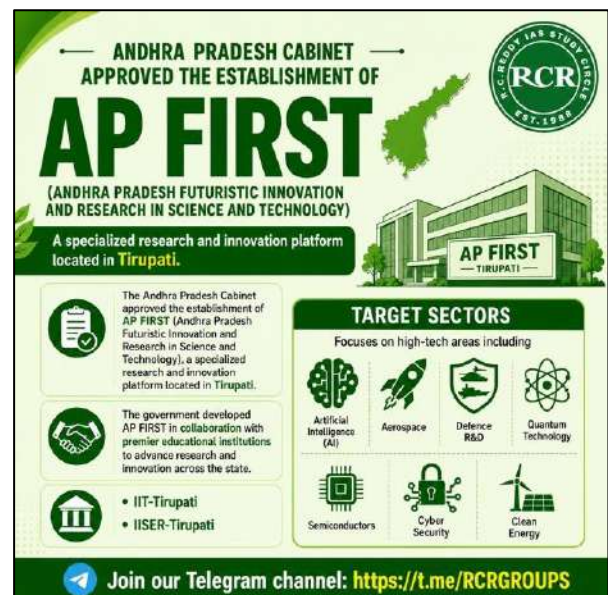
- Andhra Pradesh launched the '**Andhralo Chinnarula Chaduvulu**' project aimed at strengthening early childhood education in Anganwadi centres across the state.

Core Project Features

- **Play-Based Learning:** The primary objective is to implement play-based and activity-driven curriculum models. This aligns with studies indicating 85% of human brain development happens before six years of age.
- **Anganwadi Training:** The scheme focuses heavily on intensive Early Childhood Education (ECE) training modules for Anganwadi workers. It also sets up fortnightly peer-led review meetings to monitor progress.
- **Expansion Scale:** The project was originally introduced as a pilot initiative in Kuppam. Following positive outcomes, it is now being scaled statewide across Andhra Pradesh's 55,746 Anganwadi centres.

17. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves the establishment of AP FIRST.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the establishment of **AP FIRST (Andhra Pradesh Futuristic Innovation and Research in Science and Technology)**, a specialized research and innovation platform located in Tirupati.



— ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET —
APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

AP FIRST

(ANDHRA PRADESH FUTURISTIC INNOVATION AND RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

A specialized research and innovation platform located in **Tirupati**.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the establishment of AP FIRST (Andhra Pradesh Futuristic Innovation and Research in Science and Technology), a specialized research and innovation platform located in Tirupati.

The government developed AP FIRST in collaboration with premier educational institutions to advance research and innovation across the state.

• IIT-Tirupati
 • IISER-Tirupati

TARGET SECTORS

Focuses on high-tech areas including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Aerospace
- Defence R&D
- Quantum Technology
- Semiconductors
- Cyber Security
- Clean Energy

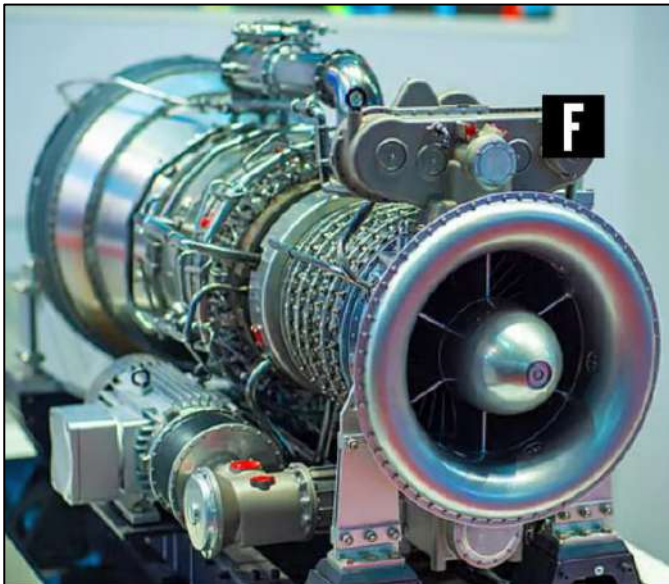
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The government will develop **AP FIRST** in collaboration with premier educational institutions to advance research and innovation across the state- IIT-Tirupati, IISER-Tirupati.

- **Target Sectors:** Focuses on high-tech areas including Artificial Intelligence (AI), aerospace, defence R&D, quantum technology, semiconductors, cyber security, and clean energy.
- **Core Objective:** Bridging the industry-academia gap to groom next-generation youth and build a sustainable tech ecosystem.

18. India's first private-sector marine gas turbine complex to be established in Visakhapatnam.

- **Bharat Forge Limited** has signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to establish **India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine (MGT)** repair, overhaul, and development complex in **Visakhapatnam**.



Bharat Forge to build India's first private marine gas turbine hub in Visakhapatnam

Located within the Andhra Pradesh Defence Manufacturing Corridor near key naval installations, the 80-acre facility aims to support the Indian Navy's **frontline warship propulsion systems**, reducing dependence on foreign supply chains.

19. Andhra Pradesh to establish India's first autonomous maritime shipyard.

Andhra Pradesh government has approved a proposal for establishment of **India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard and systems development centre at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour** in Bogole mandal of Nellore district.



The proposed facility, to be set up by **Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited**

- It is a major milestone for India's maritime and defence manufacturing ecosystem and it positions Andhra Pradesh as a key destination for next-generation maritime and autonomous systems development.



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Section-X: REGIONAL ISSUES OF TELANGANA- covers important issues of state from exam point of view.

1. Governor clears MLC nominations of Mohammad Azharuddin and M. Kodandaram.

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla approved the pending nominations of Minister for Minority Welfare Mohammad Azharuddin and academic M. Kodandaram to the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota.



NOMINATION MEMBERS IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Governor's quota refers to the constitutional power of a State Governor to nominate **one-sixth** of the total members of the State Legislative Council (MLC).

Unlike other MLCs who are elected by local bodies, graduates, or teachers, these members are directly appointed by the Governor on the advice of the State Cabinet.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS
This power is granted under **Article 171(5)** of the Constitution of India.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION
Nominees must possess "special knowledge or practical experience" in specific fields:

- LITERATURE
- SCIENCE
- ART
- COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT
- SOCIAL SERVICE

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Nomination members in legislative council:

The Governor's quota refers to the constitutional power of a **State Governor to nominate one-sixth of the total members of the State Legislative Council (MLC).**

- Unlike other MLCs who are elected by local bodies, graduates, or teachers, these members are directly **appointed by the Governor on the advice of the State Cabinet.**
- **Constitutional Basis:** This power is granted under **Article 171(5)** of the Constitution of India.
- **Criteria for Nomination:** Nominees must possess "special knowledge or practical experience" in specific fields:
 - **Literature**
 - **Science**

- **Art**
- **Cooperative Movement**
- **Social Service**

2. Telangana Chief Minister flags off Skyroot's Vikram-I orbital rocket.

Skyroot Aerospace's orbital rocket Vikram-I, capable of launching satellites, was flagged off from the space tech startup's facility in Hyderabad by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, to Sriharikota, from where it is likely to be launched to space, in June.



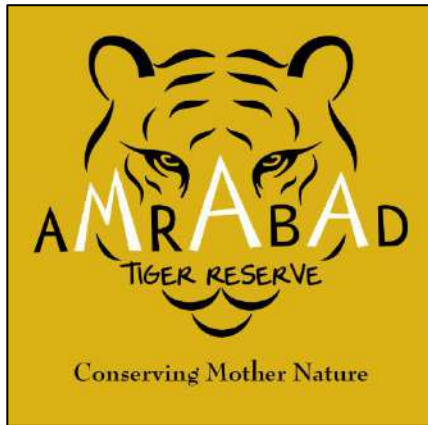
Vikram-1:

The **Vikram-1** rocket, developed by Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace**, is set to be **India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle** to carry satellites into space.

- **Payload Capacity:** Capable of carrying up to **350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and 260 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- **Propulsion:**
 - **Stages 1-3:** Powered by solid-fuel motors (Kalam series), including the Kalam-1200 booster.
 - **Stage 4:** A liquid-fuelled "Orbit Adjustment Module" (OAM) featuring a cluster of four **3D-printed Raman engines** for precision manoeuvring.

3. AI-based surveillance system to be deployed in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

Telangana Government has decided to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based forest and wildlife surveillance system on pilot basis for enhanced surveillance in **Amrabad tiger reserve** to improve monitoring efficiency of the Forest Department officials.



Amrabad tiger reserve:

Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) is one of India's largest tiger reserves, covering approximately 2,611.4 square kilometres across the **Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts** of Telangana.

- Located in the rugged Nallamala Hills, it is the largest tiger habitat in the state and serves as a vital catchment area for the Krishna River, feeding the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs.

4. Telangana proposes the Tummidihatti barrage amid objections from Maharashtra.

Telangana government proposed a **150-metre-high barrage at Tummidihatti** as a "middle path" to resolve long-standing disputes with Maharashtra.



- Maharashtra previously agreed to **148 metres** but objected to the original **152-metre** proposal due to extreme submergence concerns in its territory.
- Telangana experts found 148 metres not feasible due to high costs and low water level.

Project Benefits:

- A 150-metre barrage would allow Telangana to utilise at least **100 TMCft of water** from the Pranahita river. It is designed to facilitate water flow via **gravity** to the Sripada Yellampalli Reservoir, significantly reducing pumping costs.

Interconnected concepts:

i. Tummidihetti Barrage:

- Tummidihetti Barrage is a proposed barrage across Pranahita River, a tributary of Godavari River at Tummidihetti village, Koutala mandal, Adilabad district of Telangana State.

ii. Pranahita River:

- The Pranahita River is the **largest tributary of the Godavari River**, accounting for roughly 34% of its total drainage basin. While the river itself is relatively short at 113 kilometers, it carries the combined flow of three major rivers- the **Wardha, Wainganga, and Penganga**- making its sub-basin the seventh-largest in India.
 - **Formation:** The river begins at the confluence of the **Wardha and Wainganga** rivers near Tummidihetti in the Kouthala Mandal of Telangana.
 - **Course:** It flows southward, serving as a natural boundary between the **Gadchiroli district** of Maharashtra and the **Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, and Jayashankar Bhupalapally** districts of Telangana.
 - **Mouth:** It empties into the Godavari River at Kaleshwaram, a prominent pilgrimage site in Telangana

5. Yenkaithala grasslands considered for declaration as a conservation reserve.

The wilderness of **Yenkaithala grasslands in Vikarabad district** is being actively considered for declaration as conservation reserve, keeping in view the rich biodiversity the area is home to.



The Telangana State Board for Wildlife, during its meeting discussed the proposal for such declaration

Yenkathala grasslands:

The **Yenkathala Grasslands** are a vital biodiversity hotspot located in the **Vikarabad district of Telangana**, approximately 60 kilometres from Hyderabad.

- Known as a premier destination for birdwatching, these grasslands are currently being considered for designation as a Biodiversity Heritage Site or a Conservation Reserve to protect their unique ecosystem.

6. Mahua Flower Festival celebrated in Adilabad.

The **Mahua flower festival**, locally known as **Ippa Puvvu Panduga**, was recently celebrated in the **Adilabad district** of Telangana.



- The event, held at **Jamidi village** in the Narnoor mandal, is an annual celebration that highlights the cultural and economic significance of the Mahua tree to tribal communities.

Mahua flower festival:

The **Mahua flower festival**, widely celebrated as **Ippa Puvvu Panduga** in Telangana and other parts of Central India, marks the beginning of the Mahua harvest season, typically falling between March and April.

- This vibrant celebration honours the **Mahua tree** (*Madhuca longifolia*), which is considered sacred by indigenous forest communities such as the **Gonds and Koyas** for its immense cultural, spiritual, and economic value.

7. Guidelines issued for Phase-I of the Musi River rejuvenation project.

The Telangana government, through a Cabinet sub-committee chaired by Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, issued detailed guidelines for **Phase-I** of the **Musi River Rejuvenation Project**.



- As per guidelines, Initial work will begin on a 5-km stretch within a 21-km corridor from Himayat Sagar to Bapu Ghat and Osman Sagar to Bapu Ghat. These areas were chosen because they are currently uninhabited.

Musi River Rejuvenation Project:

Musi River Rejuvenation Project (or Musi Riverfront Development Project) is an initiative by the Telangana government to transform the 55-kilometer corridor of the Musi River in Hyderabad from a neglected sewage channel into a vibrant urban hub. Managed by the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL).

- The project is planned in **five phases** covering the entire 55 km stretch.
- **Phase-I:** Covers roughly 21 km (stretching from Osmansagar and Himayatsagar to Bapu Ghat) with an estimated cost of ₹7,055 crore, partially funded by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

8. Prime Minister inaugurates India's first PM MITRA Park in Warangal.

- Prime Minister inaugurated the **PM MITRA Park at Warangal**, Telangana, marking a major milestone in India's industrial and textile growth journey.



- Developed at a cost of ₹1,695.54 crore, it is the **country's first functional PM MITRA Park**.
- **Integrated Ecosystem:** The park operationalizes the government's "5F" vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- **Scale and Scope:** Spanning 1,327 acres, the facility is expected to attract over ₹6,000 crore in investments, with 62% of the space already allotted to various industries.
- **Employment Generation:** The project is projected to create more than 24,400 jobs, with a specific focus on increasing opportunities for women in the textile sector.

PM MITRA:

- **Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA)** scheme is a major initiative by the Ministry of Textiles to strengthen India's textile sector by creating world-class infrastructure and achieving economies of scale.
- **Locations:** Seven sites selected under the scheme in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

9. Devadula project targeted for completion by December 2027.

Irrigation Minister has asked the authorities to end delays in the execution of major irrigation projects, and set deadline for completion of the ₹18,400-crore **J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme** (JCRDLIS).



J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme:

- J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme designed to supply water to the drought-prone, upland regions of Telangana.
- The scheme primarily lifts water from the **Godavari River at Devadula village** in the Mulugu district to provide crucial agricultural irrigation and drinking water.
- **Target Beneficiary Area:** Aimed at irrigating approximately 5.57 to 6.21 lakh acres of land.
- **Districts Covered:** The water network spans 10 crucial districts including Hanumakonda, Warangal, Jangaon, Yadadri Bhongir, Suryapet, Siddipet, Mahabubabad, Mulugu, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, and Karimnagar.

10. Mahua flower project launched to promote a heritage-based industry.

The Telangana government is planning a comprehensive **Mahua (Ippa) flower project** to transform a traditional forest resource into a sustainable livelihood source for tribal communities.

Key Highlights:

Mahua-based processing units to be set up in forest regions with abundant Mahua flowers.

- Proposed allocation: Nearly ₹200 crore.
- Beneficiaries: Around 2.5 lakh tribal families.
- Government considering Excise policy changes to permit Mahua spirit and liquor production.

Proposed Initiatives:

- Heritage spirit licences for tribal-owned distilleries.
- Efforts to secure a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Establishment of quality and grading standards.
- Pilot production of branded "**Telangana Ippa Spirit**" within 18 months after policy approval.

11. Rebuilt mandapam inaugurated at the Thousand Pillar Temple after 18 years.

Union Minister inaugurated the rebuilt Kalyana Mandapam, funded by the Union government and initiated in 2006, at the **Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamkonda**.



Thousand Pillar Temple:

- **Founder:** Built in 1163 AD by King Rudra Deva of the Kakatiya Dynasty.
- **Deities:** It is a Trikutalaya (triple shrine), housing three distinct sanctums dedicated to Lord Shiva (Rudreshwara), Lord Vishnu, and Lord Surya (the Sun God).
- **Architectural Style:** Exhibits a fine blend of the Vesara/Chalukya style of architecture with signature Kakatiyan craftsmanship.
- **Destruction:** The temple's dance pavilion (Kalyana Mandapam) was severely damaged and desecrated during the 1323 AD Deccan invasion by **Ulugh Khan** (later Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq of the Tughlaq Dynasty).

12. Three Telangana districts receive ₹1,420 crore in Central assistance for development projects.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) first National Apex Committee (NAC) for the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** has, in principle, approved **three projects across 26 urban local bodies in Telangana**.

The three projects are:

- ₹4,674.6 crore **underground sewerage network project in Warangal** has been cleared including Central assistance of ₹1,168.65 crore

and a loan of ₹2,337.30 crore from **German development bank KfW**.

- The second major project, with a total outlay of ₹840 crore, will be implemented in **Karimnagar**. It covers solid waste management, riverfront development, stormwater drains, roads and junction improvements, footpaths, and a skywalk with the Centre's contribution being ₹210 crore and 50% HUDCO loan.
- The third project involves the establishment of an **AI-based Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in Khammam** at a cost of ₹166.44 crore. The centre will provide digital governance support to municipal bodies in the Khammam - Warangal - Karimnagar cluster.

Interconnected concept:

Urban Challenge fund

Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) designed to revolutionize how **urban infrastructure is financed** in India.

- Total Central Outlay: ₹1,00,000 crore.
- Investment Multiplier: Aims to catalyse ₹4,00,000 crore in total investment over five years.
- Timeline: FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31.
- Shift in Strategy: Moves from unconditional grants to market-linked, reform-driven, and outcome-oriented financing.

13. Telangana seeks ₹5,000 crore in special assistance under the SASCI scheme.

- TG Government has requested the Central Government to sanction special financial assistance of ₹5,000 crore under the **Scheme for Special Assistance to State for Capital Investments**.



- The State requested the amount over and above the allocation of ₹4,208 crore made to the State

under SASCI as interest free loan of 50-year tenure. Government plans to utilise the amounts towards major investments planned for developmental works including reforms in the education sector.

Scheme for Special Assistance to State for Capital Investments:

Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) initiative that provides **50-year interest-free loans to states for capital projects.**

- Launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to boost economic growth, it has been continually expanded, with recent budget allocations surpassing Rs. 2 lakh crore.

14. Forty-eight Gram Panchayats identified under the Atmanirbhar Panchayat programme.

48 Gram Panchayats in Telangan state are identified under **"Atmanirbhar Panchayat"** program of Union Ministry of Panchayat Raj.

- These 48 villages were pinpointed for generating over ₹50 lakh in annual revenue, primarily through real-estate layouts, commercial rentals, and weekly markets. The government is using these high-performing units as models to train other villages on becoming self-reliant.

Atmanirbhar Panchayat program:

The Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme is an initiative launched by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj **to empower Gram Panchayats (village-level local bodies)** to become **financially self-reliant and economically independent.**

- **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Awards:** To incentivize growth, the government has instituted the Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA), which honours the top-ranking Gram Panchayats across the country for their outstanding financial management and OSR augmentation



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Section-XI: ONE LINERS - covers important events that does not require subject specialization.

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is observed annually on April 26 to raise awareness about how patents, copyright, trademarks, and designs support innovation and creativity.
- **Orange Economy, or creative economy**, is an economic model centered on creating value through creativity, culture, and intellectual property (IP), including sectors like film, gaming, design, and music.
- Apple has named **John Ternus** as its new chief executive to take over from Tim Cook, who is stepping down after 15 years of leading the technology major.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched **Mission SAKSHAM** (Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman), as a nationwide capacity-building initiative for the **Urban Co-operative Banking (UCB)** sector.
- **Sahyog Portal** is an online platform launched by India's **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, managed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to streamline the process of issuing content takedown notices to internet intermediaries.
- Russia has successfully test-launched the **Soyuz-5 rocket**, marking a significant advancement in its space programme.
- CINBAX (**Cambodia-India Bilateral Army Exercise**) is a joint military exercise between India and Cambodia aimed at enhancing defense cooperation and interoperability in counter-terrorism operations.
- The Government of India has appointed **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** as the next Chief of the Naval Staff, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.
- The **Yıldırımhan** is Turkey's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), officially unveiled at the **SAHA 2026** Defense and Aerospace Exhibition in Istanbul.
- **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam** president and actor C. Joseph Vijay was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- BJP leader **Himanta Biswa Sarma** take oath as **Chief Minister of Assam** for a second successive term.
- **Suvendu Adhikari** from BJP party sworn in as Chief Minister of **West Bengal**.
- **N. Rangasamy** was sworn in as the **Chief Minister of Puducherry** for the fifth time.
- **"Su Sahay"** is an Artificial Intelligence-powered chatbot launched by the Supreme Court of India to improve access to justice and court-related services.
- **Mr. Satheesan** sworn in as 13th Chief minister of Kerala.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in Oslo**. The award is the **highest civilian honour of Norway** and the highest grade within the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with **Sweden's highest honour** for a foreign Head of Government, the **Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross**. It marks the 31st international honour bestowed upon Prime Minister Modi. He is also the first Asian leader to receive this specific distinction.

- India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered human-elephant conflict research centre is set to be established within the **Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand**.
- The **International Booker Prize 2026** was awarded to **Taiwan Travelogue**. The novel was originally written in Mandarin Chinese by Taiwanese author **Yáng Shuāng-zǐ** and translated into English by **Lin King**. The prestigious literary award honors the best work of translated fiction and comes with a £50,000 prize divided equally between the author and the translator.
- **Exercise PRAGATI 2026** is a premier multilateral military drill hosted by the Indian Army at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. The acronym stands for **Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region**.
- One of the world's most common women's health conditions, previously known as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), will now be called **Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)**.
- **National Florence Nightingale Awards** was instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a mark of recognition for the

meritorious services rendered by **nursing personnel** to society.

- **INNOVIT India** is a bilateral innovation hub launched jointly by **India and Italy** to strengthen cooperation between their startup, research, and university ecosystems.
- **Kimberley Process (KP)** is a joint government, industry, and civil society initiative established in 2003 to prevent "conflict diamonds" from entering the mainstream supply chain.
- Indian Army officer **Major Abhilasha Barak** received the **United Nations Military Gender Advocate** of the Year Award for 2025.



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Section-XII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on Current affairs.

1. Practice Questions-I

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of May 2026)

1. The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report for FY 2023-24 was released by which of the following ministries on National Panchayati Raj Day?

- a) Ministry of Rural Development
- b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- d) Ministry of Finance

2. The Union Cabinet recently approved an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court. What is the revised total strength (including the Chief Justice of India)?

- a) 31
- b) 34
- c) 38
- d) 41

3. Consider the following statements about the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):

- 1. It is established under the ANRF Act, 2023.
- 2. It functions under the Department of Biotechnology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. The Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, also called Chandrayaan-5 in India, is a joint mission between ISRO and which of the following space agencies?

- a) NASA (USA)
- b) ESA (European Union)
- c) JAXA (Japan)
- d) CNSA (China)

5. Consider the following statements about the Agni-5 missile equipped with MIRV technology:

- 1. MIRV stands for Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle.
- 2. Agni-5 is classified as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. National Technology Day is observed annually in India on which date, marking the anniversary of the successful Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti)?

- a) May 5
- b) May 11
- c) May 15
- d) May 21

7. Which country recently became a partner in India's Shukrayaan-1 (Venus Orbiter Mission), contributing the Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA) instrument?

- a) France
- b) Japan
- c) Sweden
- d) Germany

8. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- 1. India became a full member of SCO in 2017.
- 2. The SCO Secretariat is headquartered in Moscow, Russia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. India's first indigenously developed air-launched anti-ship missile, NASM-SR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range), has an operational range of:

- a) 25 km
- b) 55 km
- c) 80 km
- d) 120 km

10. The foundation stone for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Aircraft Integration and Flight Testing Complex was recently laid at:

- Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh
- Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh
- Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh
- Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

11. India's S-400 Triumf air defence missile system has been officially designated by the Indian Air Force with which name?

- Aakash Raksha
- Sudarshan Chakra
- Trishul Shield
- Brahma Kavach

12. Consider the following statements about the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile:

- It is a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.
- Its name is derived from the Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

13. The Government of India proposed to recognise E100 (100% ethanol) as an approved automotive fuel by amending which of the following?

- Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR)
- National Biofuel Policy, 2018
- Energy Conservation Act, 2001

14. Consider the following statements about the SACHET Integrated Alert System:

- SACHET is launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in collaboration with NDMA.
- It uses Cell Broadcast (CB) technology to deliver geo-targeted emergency alerts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

15. The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), dedicated to the global conservation of seven major big cat species, is headquartered in:

- Geneva, Switzerland
- New Delhi, India
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Bangkok, Thailand

16. India added a record 44 GW of solar capacity in 2025, pushing its total installed solar capacity to:

- 100 GW
- 125 GW
- 150 GW
- 175 GW

17. The Union Cabinet recently approved a ₹37,500 crore incentive scheme titled the 'Scheme for Promotion of New Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects'. This scheme aims to gasify how many million tonnes (MT) of coal and lignite?

- 25 MT
- 50 MT
- 75 MT
- 100 MT

18. Consider the following statements about UAE and OPEC:

- UAE announced its exit from OPEC and OPEC+ effective May 1, 2026.
- UAE was the second largest oil producer in OPEC after Saudi Arabia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

19. Consider the following statements about Chabahar Port:

- It is located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Iran.
- India is developing the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

20. India and UAE signed an MoU allowing ADNOC to store crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). How many barrels of crude oil will ADNOC store in India's SPR?

- 10 million barrels
- 20 million barrels

- c) 30 million barrels
- d) 50 million barrels

21. Consider the following statements about GalaxEye's Mission Drishti satellite:

1. It is described as the world's first OptoSAR satellite, combining SAR and Electro-Optical sensors on a single platform.
2. It was launched aboard a Falcon 9 rocket by SpaceX from Vandenberg, California.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd.) was recently appointed as India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Who was his immediate predecessor in the role?

- a) General Bipin Rawat
- b) General Anil Chauhan
- c) Admiral R Hari Kumar
- d) Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari

23. The Vande Mataram, India's National Song, was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. It was first publicly rendered at which session of the Indian National Congress?

- a) 1885 Bombay session
- b) 1896 Calcutta session
- c) 1905 Benaras session
- d) 1907 Surat session

24. Consider the following statements about DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management):

1. DIPAM was originally established as the Department of Disinvestment in 1999.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

25. Rohit Jain was recently appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. For what duration was he appointed?

- a) Two years
- b) Three years
- c) Four years
- d) Five years

Answers & Explanations for Questions (1-25)

1. Ans: (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report for FY 2023-24 on April 24, 2026, coinciding with **National Panchayati Raj Day, which is observed every year to commemorate the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.**

Key facts:

- PAI 2.0 evaluates Gram Panchayats on 150 indicators covering nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Gram Panchayats are classified into five performance bands: Achiever (90-100), Front Runner (75-90), Performer (60-75), Aspirant (40-60), and Beginner (below 40).
- State Rankings: Tripura ranked first, followed by Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

2. Ans: (c) 38

- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the number of Supreme Court judges from 34 (which included the Chief Justice of India) to a total of 38.

Key facts:

- The increase aims to address the mounting backlog of nearly 92,000 pending cases and ensure faster justice delivery.
- The power to increase the number of Supreme Court judges lies with the Parliament of India under Article 124(1) of the Constitution.
- Article 124(1) states: 'The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such number of other judges as Parliament may by law prescribe.'

3. Ans: (a) 1 only

- Statement 1 is correct: ANRF is a statutory body established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: ANRF functions under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), not the Department of Biotechnology.

Additional facts:

- ANRF replaced the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), which was established in 2008.
- It serves as the apex body for providing strategic direction to scientific research and innovation in India.
- Governing Board: Chaired by the Prime Minister (Ex-officio President), with Union Ministers of Science and Technology and Education as Vice-Presidents.
- Executive Council: Chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

4. Ans: (c) JAXA (Japan)

- The Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, called Chandrayaan-5 in India, is a joint venture between ISRO (India) and JAXA, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Key facts:

- ISRO's role: Developing the Lunar Lander (approx. 6,000 kg).
- JAXA's role: Building the Lunar Rover (approx. 350 kg) and providing the H3 launch vehicle.
- Target: Explore the Moon's south polar region to find and analyze water ice.
- Targeted launch: Between 2027 and 2029.
- India's ISRO team recently visited Japan's Tanegashima Space Centre to inspect launch facilities.

5. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

- Statement 1: MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) technology allows a single missile to carry and deploy multiple warheads to different targets simultaneously, significantly enhancing strategic deterrence.
- Statement 2: With a range of 5,000-8,000 km, Agni-5 qualifies as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), the only such missile in India's arsenal.

Agni Missile Range Classification:

- Agni-I: 700-1,200 km (SRBM)
- Agni-II: 2,000-3,500 km (MRBM)
- Agni-III: 3,000-5,000 km (IRBM)
- Agni-IV: 3,500-4,000 km (IRBM)
- Agni-V: 5,000-8,000 km (ICBM)
- Agni-P (Prime): 1,000-2,000 km (Next-Gen MRBM)

6. Ans: (b) May 11

National Technology Day is observed on May 11 every year. This date was officially designated in 1999 by then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Key events commemorated on May 11, 1998:

- Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II): India successfully conducted three underground nuclear tests at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan, establishing India as a nuclear-capable nation and the sixth member of the 'Nuclear Club'.
- Hansa-3 Flight: India's first indigenously developed two-seater aircraft completed its maiden flight in Bangalore.
- Trishul Missile Test: DRDO successfully test-fired the Trishul surface-to-air missile.

7. Ans: (c) Sweden

- Sweden formally joined India's Shukrayaan-1 mission. Sweden's Swedish Institute of Space Physics will develop the Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA), which will fly aboard India's Venus orbiter.

About Shukrayaan-1 (Venus Orbiter Mission - VOM):

- India's first planned interplanetary mission to the planet Venus.
- Launch Vehicle: LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3).
- Target Orbit: Elliptical orbit with 500 km periapsis and 60,000 km apoapsis.
- Timeline: Launch window is March 2028, reaching Venus by July 2028 (approx. 112 days).

8. Ans: (a) 1 only

- Statement 1 is correct: India and Pakistan both became full members of the SCO in 2017.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The SCO Secretariat is headquartered in Beijing, China, not Moscow.

About the SCO:

- Established: June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, China.
- It is the world's largest regional organization by geographic scope (80% of Eurasia) and population (40% of world).
- Current 10 member states: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (Founding-2001), India, Pakistan (2017), Iran (2023), Belarus (2024).
- Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS): Headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- SCO Defence Ministers recently met in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

9. Ans: (b) 55 km

The NASM-SR has an operational range of 55 km.

Key features of NASM-SR:

- Developer: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Type: Air-launched anti-ship cruise missile (India's first indigenous one).
- Maximum Speed: Mach 0.8.
- Guidance System: Uses an indigenous Imaging Infra-Red (IIR) seeker for terminal guidance, which is immune to jamming.
- India successfully carried out the maiden salvo launch of NASM-SR from a naval aircraft, validating critical strike capabilities.

10. Ans: (b) Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

- The foundation stone for the AMCA defence hub was laid at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh.

Key facts:

- The facility is being constructed across nearly 650 acres.
- Project Value: ₹15,803 crore for the overall AMCA ecosystem.
- It will serve as the national hub for integration, testing, validation, and flight certification of India's upcoming indigenous stealth fighter jets.
- Expected to create 7,500 high-skilled direct jobs in the Rayalaseema region.
- **Other defence hubs in AP:**
 - BDL missile plant: Donakonda, Prakasam district.
 - Kalyani Strategic Systems: Madakasira, Anantapur district.

11. Ans: (b) Sudarshan Chakra

The Indian Air Force has officially designated the S-400 Triumf as 'Sudarshan Chakra'.

Key facts about S-400:

- It is a mobile, long-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) system designed and developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau.
- India signed a \$5.43 billion contract in October 2018 to procure five squadrons.
- As of May 2026, four squadrons have been delivered. The fourth has been deployed along the western frontier in Rajasthan.
- The fifth and final squadron is expected by November 2026.
- India's procurement of S-400 led to concerns about potential US CAATSA (Countering

America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) sanctions.

12. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct.

Key facts about BrahMos:

- It is considered the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile, reaching speeds between Mach 2.8 and 3.0.
- The name BrahMos is derived from two rivers: Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia).
- Ranges: Originally limited to 290 km, newer versions have extended ranges of 450 km, 500 km, and 800+ km.
- Export milestone: In 2024, Philippines became the first international customer for the shore-based variant.
- India-Vietnam: As of May 2026, India is in advanced talks with Vietnam for potential BrahMos sales, as confirmed during Vietnam President to Lam's state visit to India.

13. Ans: (b) Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a draft notification amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), specifically Rule 115, sub-rule (18), to recognise E100 as an approved automotive fuel.

About E100:

- E100 is a high-octane automotive fuel consisting of approximately 93-95% ethanol, with small amounts of petrol and co-solvents for safety and technical reasons.
- Composition: 93% anhydrous ethanol + 3% hydrous ethanol + 2% gasoline + 2% additives.
- The amendment allows vehicles certified for up to 85% ethanol blends to now be approved for 100% ethanol, enabling pure ethanol-powered vehicles.
- Homologation: The official certification process ensuring vehicle compliance with government technical, safety, and environmental regulations.

14. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct.

About SACHET:

- SACHET stands for 'alert' in Hindi and serves as an Integrated Alert System for disaster and emergency notifications.
- Jointly launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

- **Technology:** Uses Cell Broadcast (CB) technology, which is different from standard SMS-alerts are sent simultaneously to all mobile devices in a specific geographic area.
- **No internet required:** Messages reach users through cell towers directly, even in areas with no data connectivity or during network congestion.
- **Geo-targeting:** Alerts are sent only to phones in affected zones to prevent mass panic in safe areas.

15. Ans: (b) New Delhi, India

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Key facts:

- IBCA is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.
- The seven major big cat species covered: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- India is set to host the inaugural IBCA Summit from June 1-3, expected to adopt the 'Delhi Declaration'-the first-ever global declaration on big cat conservation.
- The Delhi Declaration will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats.
- India is home to the largest population of wild tigers and recently successfully reintroduced cheetahs under Project Cheetah.

16. Ans: (c) 150 GW

India's total installed solar capacity reached 150 GW after adding a record 44 GW in 2025.

Key facts:

- India now ranks behind only China and the EU in annual solar growth, surpassing the United States.
- **Key government schemes driving this surge:**
 - **PM-Surya Ghar:** Muft Bijli Yojana (2024): Subsidizing rooftop solar for 1 crore households.
 - **PM-KUSUM** (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan): Focused on solar-powered agriculture pumps and barren land solar plants.
 - **PLI Scheme for High Efficiency Solar PV Modules:** Incentivizing domestic solar module manufacturing.

17. Ans: (c) 75 MT

The scheme aims to gasify approximately 75 million tonnes (MT) of coal and lignite.

Key facts:

- **National Goal:** Accelerate progress toward the 100 MT gasification target by 2030.
- **Investment mobilization:** Projected to draw ₹2.5 lakh crore to ₹3 lakh crore in investments.
- **Job Creation:** Expected to generate around 50,000 direct and indirect jobs in coal-bearing regions.
- **Government Revenue:** Expected to generate ₹6,300 crore annually for central and state governments.
- **Coal Gasification:** A thermo-chemical process converting solid coal into synthesis gas (syngas)-primarily hydrogen (H₂) and carbon monoxide (CO)-through partial oxidation at high temperatures and pressures.

18. Ans: (a) 1 only

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UAE officially announced its exit from OPEC and OPEC+ effective May 1, 2026.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** UAE was the third largest producer in OPEC, behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq (not second).

Key facts:

- UAE joined OPEC in 1967 through its emirate of Abu Dhabi; when UAE became a country in 1971, it retained its OPEC membership.
- **OPEC** (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 12 major oil-exporting nations, founded in September 1960 in Baghdad.
- **OPEC+:** A broader alliance formed in December 2016 that includes OPEC members plus 10 additional non-OPEC producers (notably Russia), covering approximately 59% of global oil production.

19. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct.

Key facts about Chabahar Port:

- It is a deep-water seaport located in Sistan-Baluchistan Province, southeastern Iran, along the Gulf of Oman.
- **Two terminals:** Shahid Kalantari Port (developed in 1980s) and Shahid Beheshti Port (developed with Indian assistance).

- Strategic significance for India:
 - Bypassing Pakistan: Establishes a trade corridor to landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asia without crossing Pakistan.
 - INSTC anchor: Serves as the maritime hub for the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)-a 7,200-km multimodal network connecting India to Iran, Russia, and Northern Europe.
 - Geopolitical counterbalance to China's Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

20. Ans: (c) 30 million barrels

India and UAE signed an MoU allowing Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) system.

Key facts about India's SPR:

- Total operational storage capacity: 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) across three locations.
- Three current SPR locations: Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangaluru (Karnataka), and Padur (Karnataka).
- India imports approximately 85-88% of its crude oil requirements.
- Phase 2 expansion: Chandikhol (Odisha) - 4 MMT, and additional capacity at Padur.
- Strategic benefit: Routing oil from UAE's Fujairah hub bypasses the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint.

21. Ans: (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct.

Key facts about Mission Drishti:

- Developed by Bengaluru-based space startup GalaxEye.
- World's first satellite to combine Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Electro-Optical (EO) sensors on a single platform (OptoSAR technology).
- This combination enables high-resolution imaging in all weather conditions-including through cloud cover and in complete darkness.
- Mission Drishti was launched aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California

22. Ans: (b) General Anil Chauhan

General Anil Chauhan was NS Raja Subramani's immediate predecessor as Chief of Defence Staff.

Key facts:

- NS Raja Subramani was appointed as India's third CDS on May 9, 2026.
- General Anil Chauhan was the second CDS who completed his tenure on May 30, 2026.
- General Bipin Rawat was India's first CDS (2020-2021), who passed away in a helicopter crash.
- About the CDS:
 - The CDS is the highest-ranking uniformed officer on active duty in the Indian military.
 - Acts as single-point military advisor to the Government of India.
 - Serves until the maximum age of 65 years.
 - Eligible candidates: Serving or retired 3-star or 4-star officer under the age of 62.

23. Ans: (b) 1896 Calcutta session

Vande Mataram was first publicly rendered by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress (INC) in Calcutta.

Key facts:

- Composer: Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (Chatterjee) in 1875.
- Language: Composed in a mix of Sanskrit and Bengali.
- Literary source: Included in Bankim's novel Anandamath (1882), set against the backdrop of the Sanyasi Rebellion.
- Role in Freedom Struggle: Became the 'mantra of awakening' during the Swadeshi Movement (1905).
- Constitutional status: On January 24, 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad announced in the Constituent Assembly that Vande Mataram would be honored equally with the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana).
- Recent: The Union Cabinet approved amendments to make insult to Vande Mataram a punishable offence under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

24. Ans: (a) 1 only

- Statement 1 is correct: DIPAM was originally set up as the Department of Disinvestment in 1999 and was renamed DIPAM on April 14, 2016.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: DIPAM functions under the Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Key functions of DIPAM:

- Strategic Disinvestment: Selling a substantial portion of government shareholding (often 50%+) along with management control.

- **Minority Stake Sales:** Reducing government equity through OFS (Offers for Sale) or IPOs.
- **Asset Monetization:** Monetizing non-core assets of CPSEs valued at ₹100 crore and above.
- **National Investment Fund (NIF):** Managing disinvestment proceeds to fund social sector projects.
- **Recent news:** DIPAM approved the listing of NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL) via a ₹4,000 crore IPO in FY 2026-27.

25. Ans: (b) Three years

Rohit Jain was appointed as Deputy Governor of the RBI for a three-year term.

Key facts about the RBI:

- **Established:** April 1, 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- **Headquartered** in Mumbai; wholly owned by the Government of India since nationalization on January 1, 1949.
- **Historical background:** The conceptual framework for the RBI was influenced by B.R. Ambedkar's book 'The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution'. The Hilton Young

Commission (1926) recommended the creation of a central bank.

- **Organizational structure:** 1 Governor + up to 4 Deputy Governors (Official Directors).
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** Established in 2016 with 6 members (3 from RBI + 3 appointed by the government), chaired by the Governor.



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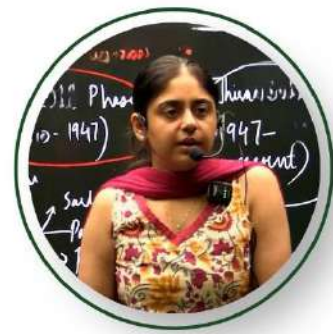
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Section-XIII: Practice Questions-(MCQs) based on static concepts linked to this months' current affairs.

2. Practice Questions-II

(Based directly on the current affairs for the month of May 2026)

26. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions, added which schedule to the Constitution listing 29 subjects for Panchayats?

- a) Tenth Schedule
- b) Eleventh Schedule
- c) Twelfth Schedule
- d) Thirteenth Schedule

27. Under which Article of the Constitution does the power to determine the number of Supreme Court judges lie with the Parliament?

- a) Article 123
- b) Article 124(1)
- c) Article 124(4)
- d) Article 129

28. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 was amended in 1990 to include which religious community under Scheduled Caste status?

- a) Sikhs
- b) Buddhists
- c) Jains
- d) Christians

29. Under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which of the following correctly describes the composition of the Selection Committee that recommends the CEC?

- a) Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India
- b) Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM
- c) President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India
- d) Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India

30. The CBI derives its powers from which Act?

- a) Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- b) Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946
- c) Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003
- d) National Investigation Agency Act, 2008

31. Who among the following is eligible to file an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005?

- a) Only Indian citizens
- b) Any person, including foreign nationals
- c) Only those above 18 years of age
- d) Only persons who have suffered direct harm

32. Which country became the first to successfully land a spacecraft near the Moon's South Pole?

- a) United States
- b) China
- c) India
- d) Russia

33. Which of the following is a key principle of India's Nuclear Doctrine?

- a) First Use Capability
- b) Massive Retaliation against any provocation
- c) Credible Minimum Deterrence with No First Use (NFU)
- d) Pre-emptive strike capability against adversaries

34. India's first nuclear test, code-named 'Smiling Buddha', was conducted in which year at Pokhran?

- a) 1962
- b) 1968
- c) 1974
- d) 1983

35. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is headquartered in:

- a) Beijing, China
- b) Moscow, Russia
- c) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- d) Astana, Kazakhstan

36. The Philippines became the first international customer for the BrahMos missile. In which year did the Philippines sign the deal for the shore-based variant?

- a) 2022
- b) 2023
- c) 2024
- d) 2025

37. India's National Policy on Biofuels (2018) originally set a target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol by which year?

- a) 2022
- b) 2025
- c) 2030
- d) 2035

38. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is headed by which of the following?

- a) Union Home Minister
- b) Chief of Defence Staff
- c) Prime Minister of India
- d) Cabinet Secretary

39. Project Tiger, India's flagship wildlife conservation program, was launched in which year?

- a) 1970
- b) 1973
- c) 1980
- d) 1985

40. India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to achieving what non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity by 2030?

- a) 300 GW
- b) 400 GW
- c) 500 GW
- d) 600 GW

41. Which of the following correctly describes 'syngas' produced during coal gasification?

- a) Pure carbon dioxide gas
- b) A mixture of hydrogen (H₂) and carbon monoxide (CO)
- c) Pure methane gas
- d) A mixture of nitrogen and oxygen

42. OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) was founded in which year and which city?

- a) 1960, Baghdad

- b) 1965, Vienna
- c) 1973, Riyadh
- d) 1980, Geneva

43. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multimodal transport network connecting India to which region via Iran?

- a) Southeast Asia via Myanmar
- b) Russia and Northern Europe via the Caspian Sea
- c) China via Central Asia
- d) Africa via the Arabian Sea

44. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI was established through an amendment to which Act in 2016?

- a) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- c) Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999
- d) Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992

45. The Treaty of Sugauli (1816), which Nepal invokes for its claims over the Lipulekh-Kalapani region, was signed after which conflict?

- a) First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842)
- b) Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816)
- c) Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1818)
- d) Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846)

46. In the context of capital markets, what does IPO stand for, and on which market does it primarily operate?

- a) International Purchase Order; secondary market
- b) Initial Public Offering; primary market
- c) Institutional Portfolio Order; tertiary market
- d) Indexed Price Offering; bond market

47. Article 51A of the Indian Constitution, which deals with Fundamental Duties, was inserted by which Constitutional Amendment?

- a) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976
- b) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978
- c) 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985
- d) 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

48. The Pragyan Rover on Chandrayaan-3 operated for approximately how long before going into hibernation?

- a) 1 Earth day
- b) 14 Earth days (1 Lunar day)
- c) 30 Earth days
- d) 90 Earth days

49. The IUCN Red List classifies 'Critically Endangered (CR)' species based on which primary criterion?

- a) Population decline of 10% over the last 10 years
- b) Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
- c) Species found only in one country
- d) Commercially exploited for trade

50. India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are managed by which organisation?

- a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
- b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
- c) Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)
- d) NITI Aayog

Answers & Explanations for Questions (Q 26-50)

26. Ans: (b) Eleventh Schedule

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 added the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution, listing 29 subjects that Panchayats may be entrusted with.

Key schedules:

- 11th Schedule (73rd Amendment): 29 subjects for Panchayati Raj Institutions (e.g., agriculture, land improvement, minor irrigation, rural electrification, education).
- 12th Schedule (74th Amendment): 18 subjects for Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities).
- Key Article: Article 243-G empowers the Legislature to endow Panchayats with authority over 11th Schedule subjects.
- Article 243-I: Requires the Governor to constitute a Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of Panchayats.
- National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year to mark the enactment of this amendment.

27. Ans: (b) Article 124(1)

- Article 124(1) of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such number of other judges as Parliament may by law prescribe.

Key related Articles:

- Article 124(1): Empowers Parliament to determine the strength of the Supreme Court.
- Article 124(2): Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President after consultation with such judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as the President may deem necessary.
- Article 124(4): Governs the removal of Supreme Court judges on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity through impeachment by Parliament.
- Article 129: Declares the Supreme Court to be a 'Court of Record' with power to punish for contempt.
- Article 123: Deals with the power of the President to promulgate Ordinances (not related to judiciary).

28. Ans: (b) Buddhists

- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 was amended in 1990 to include Buddhists under the Scheduled Caste category.

Amendment history:

- 1950 (Original): SC status restricted to Hindus only.
- 1956 Amendment: Extended SC status to include Sikhs.
- 1990 Amendment: Further extended SC status to include Buddhists.
- Paragraph 3 of the 1950 Order explicitly states that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism can be deemed a member of a Scheduled Caste.
- Distinction from Scheduled Tribes (ST): Unlike SC status, ST status is generally not tied to religion-conversion does not automatically end ST status unless the individual completely renounces tribal customs.
- The K G Balakrishnan Commission (constituted in 2022) is examining whether SC status should be extended to Dalit converts to other religions like Christianity and Islam.

29. Ans: (b) Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by PM

Under the CEC and ECs (Appointment) Act, 2023, the Selection Committee consists of:

- The Prime Minister (Chairperson)
- The Leader of the Opposition (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha
- A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister

Key aspects:

- Under the previous arrangement (following a 2023 Supreme Court order), the Chief Justice of India was part of the selection panel-replaced by a Union Cabinet Minister under the new Act.
- The new Act is currently being challenged in the Supreme Court (as of May 2026).
- Search Committee: A panel headed by the Minister of Law and Justice prepares a shortlist of five names.
- Tenure: CEC and ECs serve for six years or until age 65, whichever is earlier.
- Salary: Equivalent to a Supreme Court Judge.
- Removal: Only through impeachment process similar to removal of a Supreme Court Judge.

30. Ans: (b) Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946

The CBI derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.

Key facts:

- The DSPE Act, 1946, originally established the Special Police Establishment (SPE) to investigate corruption in war-time procurement.
- CBI was constituted in 1963 by a government resolution and derives its powers from the DSPE Act.
- The CBI Director's appointment process was strengthened by the CVC Act, 2003 and the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- Selection Committee for CBI Director: Prime Minister (Chairperson), Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a SC judge nominated by CJI.
- Minimum tenure: 2 years; extendable up to a maximum of 5 years (in 1-year increments).
- CBI Director Praveen Sood recently received another one-year extension based on the ACC (Appointments Committee of the Cabinet) recommendation.

31. Ans: (a) Only Indian citizens

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 explicitly provides that only citizens of India are entitled to file RTI applications. Foreign nationals are not eligible.

Key features of RTI Act:

- Purpose: Mandates timely responses to citizen requests for government information to promote transparency and combat corruption.
- Public Authority: Any authority or body established by the Constitution, Parliament,

State Legislature, or substantially financed by government.

- Central Information Commission (CIC): The highest appellate authority for RTI matters; a statutory body established under Section 12 of the RTI Act, 2005.
- Composition: 1 Chief Information Commissioner and up to 10 Information Commissioners.
- Appointment: By the President on the recommendation of a committee (PM, Leader of Opposition, a Cabinet Minister nominated by PM).
- Tenure: 3 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier-not eligible for reappointment.
- BCCI judgment: CIC ruled that BCCI is not a 'public authority' under the RTI Act as it is neither directly nor indirectly financed by the government.

32. Ans: (c) India

India became the first country to successfully land a spacecraft near the Moon's South Pole with Chandrayaan-3 on August 23, 2023.

Key facts about Chandrayaan-3:

- Launch Date: July 14, 2023 on LVM3-M4 (GSLV Mk-III).
- Landing Date: August 23, 2023-now celebrated as National Space Day.
- Landing Site: Named Shiv Shakti Point near the lunar South Pole.
- India became the fourth country to successfully soft-land on the Moon (after USA, former USSR, and China).
- Chandrayaan-3 hop experiment recently revealed a two-layer 'cake-like' structure beneath the Moon's surface near the south pole.
- Chandrayaan-3 was honoured with the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)-its highest astronautics honour.

33. Ans: (c) Credible Minimum Deterrence with No First Use (NFU)

India's Nuclear Doctrine, formulated in 1999 and officially adopted in 2003, is based on the twin principles of Credible Minimum Deterrence and No First Use (NFU).

Key elements of India's Nuclear Doctrine:

- No First Use (NFU): India will not be the first to use nuclear weapons.

- **Credible Minimum Deterrence:** India maintains a minimum but effective nuclear arsenal to deter adversaries.
- **Massive Retaliation:** If India suffers a nuclear attack, it will respond with massive retaliation to cause unacceptable damage (this is NOT the same as 'massive retaliation against any provocation').
- **Non-use against non-nuclear states:** India will not use nuclear weapons against countries that do not possess them.
- **Civilian Control:** Nuclear weapons are under strict civilian political control through the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), chaired by the Prime Minister.

34. Ans: (c) 1974

- India's first nuclear test, code-named 'Smiling Buddha' (also called Pokhran-I), was conducted on May 18, 1974, at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.

Key difference between Pokhran-I and Pokhran-II:

- **Pokhran-I (1974):** India described it as a 'Peaceful Nuclear Explosion' (PNE), not a weapons test. India did not formally declare itself a nuclear weapons state.
- **Pokhran-II / Operation Shakti (1998):** Conducted on May 11, 1998. India successfully conducted five tests (three on May 11 and two on May 13). India declared itself a nuclear weapons state and the sixth member of the 'Nuclear Club'.
- **National Technology Day** is observed on May 11-the anniversary of Pokhran-II.
- **Hansa-3** (India's first indigenous aircraft) and **Trishul** missile tests were also conducted on the same day in 1998.

35. Ans: (c) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Key permanent bodies of SCO:

- **Secretariat:** Based in Beijing, China-the primary executive body.
- **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):** Headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan-focuses on countering terrorism, separatism, and extremism (the 'three evils').
- **SCO Business Council and SCO Interbank Consortium:** Handle economic cooperation.

SCO membership (10 member states):

- **Founding Members (2001):** China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- **Later Accessions:** India and Pakistan (2017), Iran (2023), Belarus (2024)
- India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attended the SCO Defence Ministers' meet held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

36. Ans: (c) 2024

In 2024, the Philippines became the first international customer for the shore-based variant of the BrahMos missile.

Key facts about BrahMos:

- **Joint Venture:** DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia).
- **Speed:** Mach 2.8 to 3.0-considered the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missile.
- **Name:** Derived from Brahmaputra (India) and Moskva (Russia).
- **Propulsion:** Two-stage-a solid propellant booster for initial acceleration and a ramjet for sustained flight.
- **Ranges:** Originally 290 km; extended versions-450 km, 500 km, 800+ km.
- **Variants:** Surface-launched (shore-based), ship-launched, submarine-launched, and air-launched.
- India is now in advanced talks with Vietnam for potential BrahMos sales as of May 2026, following talks during the state visit of Vietnamese President to Lam.

37. Ans: (c) 2030

The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 originally set a target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) by 2030. This target was subsequently brought forward to 2025.

India's Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) milestones:

- **E5:** 5% ethanol blend-achieved early.
- **E10:** 10% ethanol blend-surpassed in 2022-23.
- **E20:** 20% ethanol blend-target advanced to 2025.
- **E30:** Recently notified-blend of 30% anhydrous ethanol and 70% petroleum gasoline.
- **E100:** Recently proposed as an approved fuel-approximately 93-95% ethanol.
- **Significance:** Reduces India's dependence on crude oil imports (India imports ~85% of its oil).

requirements), cuts greenhouse gas emissions, and supports domestic sugar and grain farmers.

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) lays down technical specifications for ethanol fuel blends.

38. Ans: (c) Prime Minister of India

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is headed by the Prime Minister of India as its ex-officio Chairperson.

Key facts about NDMA:

- Legal basis: Established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It is the apex body for Disaster Management in India.
- Composition: PM as Chairperson + up to 9 other members.
- State level: State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) are headed by respective Chief Ministers.
- District level: District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) are headed by District Collectors/District Magistrates.
- NDRF (National Disaster Response Force): Under the operational control of NDMA, providing specialized response capabilities.
- SACHET system: Launched by DoT and NDMA for geo-targeted emergency alerts using Cell Broadcast technology.

39. Ans: (b) 1973

Project Tiger was launched in 1973 under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to protect India's declining tiger population.

Key facts about tiger conservation:

- Launch year: 1973, under PM Indira Gandhi.
- First Tiger Reserve: Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand.
- Administrative body: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), established under the Wildlife Protection Act (Amendment) 2006.
- Tiger reserves: India currently has 55 tiger reserves across the country.
- India's tiger population: As per the 2022 census, India has approximately 3,167 tigers-the highest in the world, accounting for over 70% of the world's wild tiger population.
- IBCA: India hosts the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), headquartered in New Delhi, dedicated to conserving seven big cat species.

- The first IBCA Summit is set to be held in June 2026 in New Delhi, expected to adopt the 'Delhi Declaration'.

40. Ans: (c) 500 GW

India's updated NDC (submitted in 2022) commits to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity by 2030.

Key renewable energy targets and achievements:

- Target: 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.
- Total solar capacity: 150 GW (as of 2025, after adding record 44 GW in 2025).
- India now ranks behind only China and EU in annual solar growth.
- PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana: Provides free electricity to 1 crore households by subsidizing rooftop solar.
- PM-KUSUM: Solarizes the agricultural sector-pumps and barren land solar plants.
- India's Climate Commitments: Reduce emission intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels), and achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030.

41. Ans: (b) A mixture of hydrogen (H₂) and carbon monoxide (CO)

Syngas (synthesis gas) produced during coal gasification is primarily a mixture of hydrogen (H₂) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Key facts about coal gasification:

- Process: A thermo-chemical process that converts solid coal into syngas through partial oxidation using controlled amounts of oxygen/air and steam at high temperatures (700-1600°C) and pressures.
- Products: Syngas (H₂ + CO), along with CO₂ and small amounts of methane and other hydrocarbons.
- Applications: Syngas can be used for electricity generation (IGCC-Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle), production of hydrogen fuel, synthetic natural gas (SNG), methanol, ammonia, and liquid fuels (via Fischer-Tropsch process).
- Difference from combustion: Complete combustion burns coal entirely to produce heat and CO₂. Gasification uses partial oxidation to produce a combustible gas mixture.
- India's goal: 100 MT coal gasification by 2030, with ₹37,500 crore incentive scheme approved.

42. Ans: (a) 1960, Baghdad

OPEC was founded in September 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Key facts about OPEC and OPEC+:

- Founded: September 1960 in Baghdad.
- Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.
- Founding members: Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- Current membership: 12 countries.
- Market share: Approximately 38% of global oil production.
- OPEC+: Formed in December 2016 to broaden market influence by including non-OPEC producers (notably Russia). Covers approximately 59% of global production.
- UAE's exit (May 1, 2026): UAE was the third largest OPEC producer behind Saudi Arabia and Iraq. It joined OPEC in 1967 through Abu Dhabi.
- Impact: UAE's exit is a significant blow to OPEC's cohesion and ability to coordinate production cuts, potentially weakening its influence over global oil prices.

43. Ans: (b) Russia and Northern Europe via the Caspian Sea

The INSTC is a 7,200-km multimodal transport corridor connecting India to Russia and Northern Europe via Iran and the Caspian Sea.

Key facts about INSTC:

- Full name: International North-South Transport Corridor.
- Mode: Integrates sea, rail, and road links.
- Route: India → Chabahar Port (Iran) → Tehran → Caspian Sea → Russia → Northern Europe.

44. Ans: (b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was established through an amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, in 2016.

Key facts about the MPC:

- Established in 2016 to ensure transparency and accountability in monetary policy decisions.
- Composition: 6 members total-3 from RBI (Governor as Chairperson, Deputy Governor, and one officer) + 3 external members appointed by the Government.
- Mandate: To set the benchmark interest rate (repo rate) to achieve the inflation target of 4% ($\pm 2\%$) as set by the Government.

- Decision-making: Majority vote; in case of a tie, the Governor has a casting vote.
- Meetings: At least 4 times a year.
- Key functions of RBI: Monetary authority, regulator and supervisor of financial system, manager of foreign exchange, issuer of currency, banker to government and banks.

45. Ans: (b) Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816)

The Treaty of Sugauli was signed on December 2, 1815, formally ratified in 1816, ending the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816).

Key facts about the Treaty of Sugauli:

- The treaty established the Kali River (also called Sharda/Mahakali) as the western boundary between Nepal and British India.
- Nepal claims the Lipulekh-Kalapani-Limpiyadhura region based on their interpretation that the actual source of the Kali River lies further east, which would include these territories within Nepal.
- India's position: The areas historically belong to India, and India-China trade via Lipulekh Pass has historical precedent.

46. Ans: (b) Initial Public Offering; primary market

IPO stands for Initial Public Offering, and it operates primarily in the primary market.

Key facts about IPOs:

- Definition: The process by which a private company (or government-owned entity) offers its shares to the general public for the first time.
- Primary market: IPOs involve issuing new securities directly from the company/entity to the public.
- Secondary market: Post-IPO, the shares are listed and traded on stock exchanges (NSE or BSE in India) in the secondary market.
- Regulator: SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) regulates IPOs to protect investors and ensure fair practices.

47. Ans: (a) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976

Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) were inserted into the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, based on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.

Key facts about Fundamental Duties:

- Originally, 10 Fundamental Duties were added in 1976 (42nd Amendment).
- An 11th duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002-relating to parents' duty to provide education to children aged 6-14 years.
- Article 51A(a): It shall be the duty of every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem.
- Vande Mataram: While Article 51A(a) specifically mentions respect for the National Anthem, the Government treats Vande Mataram (National Song) with equal reverence-it was so declared by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.
- Recent: Union Cabinet approved amendments to make insult to Vande Mataram a punishable offence.

48. Ans: (b) 14 Earth days (1 Lunar Day)

The Chandrayaan-3 mission (Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover) was designed for a mission life of 1 Lunar Day, which is approximately 14 Earth days.

Key facts about Chandrayaan-3:

- Launch: July 14, 2023 aboard LVM3-M4 (formerly GSLV Mk-III).
- Landing: August 23, 2023 at Shiv Shakti Point near the lunar South Pole.
- Instruments on Vikram Lander: RAMBHA (plasma measurements), ChaSTE (thermal conductivity), ILSA (seismic activity), Laser Retroreflector Array.
- Instruments on Pragyan Rover: APXS (Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer for elemental composition) and LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy).
- Hop experiment: After completing primary mission objectives, Vikram Lander performed a 'hop experiment'-using its engines to jump 30-40 cm and land safely, validating technology for future sample return missions.
- The hop experiment revealed a two-layer 'cake-like' structure in the lunar regolith beneath the south pole surface.

49. Ans: (b) Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild

The 'Critically Endangered (CR)' category on the IUCN Red List designates species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

IUCN Red List categories (from most to least threatened):

- Extinct (EX): No known living individuals remain.
- Extinct in the Wild (EW): Survives only in captivity.
- Critically Endangered (CR): Extremely high risk of extinction.
- Endangered (EN): Very high risk of extinction.
- Vulnerable (VU): High risk of extinction.
- Near Threatened (NT): Close to qualifying for a threatened category.
- Least Concern (LC): Widespread and abundant.
- Data Deficient (DD): Inadequate information.
- Not Evaluated (NE): Not yet assessed.

Key facts:

- IUCN was established in 1948 and is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.
- The IUCN Red List was established in 1964.
- The IUCN Council recently admitted 48 new members at its 117th meeting in Gland, Switzerland.

50. Ans: (c) Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) are managed by the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

Key facts:

- ISPRL is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), which functions under the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Current total storage capacity: 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) across three underground rock cavern facilities.
- Three current SPR locations: Visakhapatnam (AP), Mangaluru (Karnataka), and Padur (Karnataka).
- As of March 2026: SPRs are about 64% full, covering roughly 5-9.5 days of India's oil demand.
- Phase 2 expansion: Chandikhol (Odisha) - 4 MMT, and additional cavern at Padur.
- UAE MoU: India and UAE signed an MoU allowing ADNOC to store up to 30 million barrels of crude oil in India's SPR, significantly expanding India's strategic buffer beyond the current 9.5-day supply.



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