



MAY – 2026

RAPID

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IMPORTANT DAYS:

- **International Labour Day (1 May)** is celebrated globally to promote workers' rights, fair wages, and safe working conditions, with 2026 focusing on mental and psychosocial workplace health.
- **World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)** is led by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve access to essential inhalers and raise awareness about asthma treatment gaps.
- **World Press Freedom Day (3 May)** highlights the importance of free media, protection of journalists, and its role in democracy, human rights, and global peace.
- **Coal Miners Day (4 May)** recognizes the contribution and risks faced by coal miners in powering industrial and energy sectors.
- **International Firefighters' Day (4 May)** honours firefighters for their bravery in saving lives, property, and the environment during emergencies.
- **World Athletics Day (7 May)** promotes sports participation among youth and emphasizes fitness and breaking social barriers through athletics.
- **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May)** marks humanitarian efforts worldwide and is linked to the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant (founder of Red Cross).
- **World Thalassaemia Day (8 May)** focuses on early diagnosis and awareness of genetic blood disorders to reduce undetected cases.
- **National Technology Day (11 May, India)** commemorates the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests (1998)** and celebrates India's scientific and technological achievements.
- **International Nurses Day (12 May)** is observed on Florence Nightingale's birth anniversary to highlight the importance of nurses in healthcare systems.
- **International Day of Families (15 May)** focuses on family welfare policies and addresses inequalities affecting children's development.
- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (17 May)** emphasizes the role of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in global connectivity and development.
- **National Anti-Terrorism Day (21 May, India)** promotes peace and unity and marks the death anniversary of **Rajiv Gandhi**.



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- **International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May)** promotes conservation of ecosystems and implementation of global biodiversity goals.
- **World No Tobacco Day (31 May)** exposes harmful tobacco industry practices and promotes quitting, especially targeting youth addiction prevention.

APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONALITIES:

Somnath Temple (75th Anniversary)

- Located at Prabhas Patan, Gujarat, on the Arabian Sea coast
- Considered the first Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva
- Destroyed multiple times; first major attack by Mahmud of Ghazni (1026 CE)
- Reconstructed post-independence under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Inaugurated on 11 May 1951 by Rajendra Prasad
- 2026 → 75 years of reopening + 1000 years since Ghazni attack

Rabindranath Tagore

- Born: 7 May 1861, Kolkata
- First Asian Nobel Laureate (Literature, 1913) for Gitanjali
- Key figure of Bengal Renaissance
- Wrote National Anthems of: India → Jana Gana Mana ,Bangladesh → Amar Shonar Bangla
- Founded Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

- Post created in 2019
- Based on Kargil Review Committee recommendations
- Heads Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Functions:

- Principal Military Adviser
- Promotes tri-service integration
- Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee



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Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani

- Appointed 3rd CDS of India
- Successor to Gen Anil Chauhan
- Served as Vice Chief of Army Staff & Central Command GOC
- Expertise: China/Pakistan strategy, joint operations

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

- Born as Lachman Dev (1670)
- Disciple of Guru Gobind Singh
- Defeated Mughal governor Wazir Khan at Sirhind (1710)
- Established first Sikh state (capital: Lohgarh)
- **Key reforms:**
 - Abolished zamindari
 - Land to peasants
- Executed in 1716

Sukhdev Thapar

- Born: 15 May 1907, Ludhiana
- Member of HSRA
- Associated with Saunders assassination (1928)
- Executed on 23 March 1931 with Bhagat Singh & Rajguru
- Linked to Naujawan Bharat Sabha

Veer Gundadhur

- Tribal leader from Bastar (Dhurva tribe)
- Led Bhumkal Rebellion (1910)
- **Causes:**
 - British exploitation



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- Forest policies
- Forced labour
- Used "Dara Miri" communication system (chillies + mango twigs)
- Never captured by British

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

- Appointed Chief of Naval Staff
- Earlier: Western Naval Command head
- Specialist in Communication & Electronic Warfare
- Commanded INS Vikramaditya & INS Mysore

UIDAI – CEO

- Saurabh Vijay appointed CEO
- 1998 batch IAS (Maharashtra cadre)
- UIDAI manages Aadhaar – world's largest biometric ID system

DEFENCE NEWS:

India's First Indigenous Glide Weapon – TARA

- Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) is India's first indigenous glide weapon system successfully tested **by DRDO and Indian Air Force**
- It is a modular range-extension glide kit designed to convert conventional unguided bombs into precision-guided weapons
- Developed by **DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad**, along with other DRDO labs and industry partners
- It enhances accuracy, operational range, and lethality of existing air-dropped munitions
- It enables stand-off strikes, allowing aircraft to attack targets from safer distances beyond enemy defenses
- It converts existing stockpiles of conventional bombs into smart weapons at relatively low cost
- It reduces dependency on importing advanced guided missile systems



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- It marks India's entry into a select group of nations possessing indigenous glide bomb technology
- During trials, it was launched from a Jaguar aircraft of the Indian Air Force

Divyastra Missile

- Divyastra is an **indigenous missile system** equipped with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) capability
- MIRV technology allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads targeting different locations simultaneously
- It significantly enhances India's nuclear deterrence capability and strategic strike potential
- It reflects advancement in indigenous missile development and strategic weapons systems

Kaal Bhairava – AI Powered Combat Aircraft

- **Kaal Bhairava is India's first AI-powered autonomous combat aircraft developed by Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace**
- It is designed for autonomous combat missions, surveillance operations, and high-risk military roles with minimal human intervention
- It will be manufactured in Portugal through collaboration with European firm SKETCHPIXEL
- It is part of Operation 777 aimed at expanding India's defence manufacturing presence globally

Squadron Leader Saanya

- **Squadron Leader Saanya** became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to achieve CAT-A Qualified Flying Instructor status
- CAT-A Qualified Flying Instructor is the highest instructional qualification for flying instructors in the IAF
- She was felicitated by Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh for this achievement
- The achievement highlights the increasing participation of women in combat aviation roles

Bharat Forge Marine Gas Turbine Facility

- Bharat Forge will establish India's first private-sector marine gas turbine manufacturing facility
- The facility will be located in Andhra Pradesh



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- It will support indigenous production of marine propulsion systems for naval vessels
- It strengthens the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing

Exercise Pragati 2026

- Exercise Pragati 2026 is a multinational military exercise **conducted in Meghalaya**
- Armed forces from 12 countries are participating in the exercise
- It focuses on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, and multinational cooperation
- It aims to enhance interoperability among participating armed forces

Exercise Shakti

- Exercise Shakti is a bilateral military exercise conducted **between India and France**
- It is conducted alternately in both countries
- It focuses on counter-terrorism operations, joint combat drills, and interoperability enhancement
- It strengthens defence cooperation and strategic relations between India and France

Suryastra Rocket System

- Suryastra is India's first indigenous rocket artillery system with a range of 300 kilometres
- It was launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- It enhances long-range precision strike capability of Indian armed forces
- It can target strategic locations deep inside enemy territory
- It represents a major advancement in indigenous artillery modernisation

Kautilya and Q-Force Platforms

- Kautilya and Q-Force are artificial intelligence-enabled warfare platforms launched by the Indian Army
- They support decision-making, intelligence analysis, and battlefield management
- They integrate artificial intelligence into military operations for enhanced efficiency
- They strengthen India's transition toward network-centric and technology-driven warfare

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar



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- Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of Naval Staff
- The Vice Chief assists the Chief of Naval Staff in administration, planning, and operational readiness
- He has held multiple operational and strategic positions in the Indian Navy
- His appointment strengthens naval leadership and command structure

CINBAX-II 2026

- CINBAX-II 2026 is the second edition of the India–Cambodia joint military exercise
- It is conducted between the Indian Army and the Royal Cambodian Army in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia
- The exercise is conducted from 4 to 17 May 2026
- Around 120 Indian personnel and 160 Cambodian personnel are participating
- It is conducted at the company level focusing on joint tactical operations
- Key objectives include enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and sharing combat experience
- It focuses on counter-terrorism operations, semi-urban warfare, and jungle warfare training
- It includes modern combat techniques such as drone operations, sniper tactics, and mortar handling
- It is conducted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter aligning with peacekeeping operations
- It supports India's Act East Policy and strengthens defence cooperation with Southeast Asia

SPORTS:

Apaar Saxena – International Master Title

- Apaar Saxena, a young Indian chess player, earned the prestigious International Master title awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE)
- He successfully achieved all three required International Master norms through consistent performances in European tournaments
- He completed his final norm at the IM Putnik 114 Tournament held in Serbia



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- The International Master title is the second-highest title in chess hierarchy after the Grandmaster title

Sahdev Yadav – South Asian Weightlifting Federation

- Sahdev Yadav, President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation, was unanimously elected as the President of the South Asian Weightlifting Federation
- The election for this position was conducted in Ahmedabad
- He aims to enhance regional cooperation and improve weightlifting standards across South Asian countries

India at Asian Boxing U-15 Championships 2026

- India delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian Boxing U-15 Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- The Indian contingent secured a total of 27 medals in the tournament
- The medal tally included 9 gold medals, 6 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals
- India emerged as one of the strongest performing nations in the championship

Gurindervir Singh – Fastest Indian Sprinter

- Gurindervir Singh created a new national record in the men's 100 metre sprint by clocking 10.09 seconds
- He became the fastest Indian sprinter in the history of the 100 metre event
- The record was achieved at the National Senior Athletics Federation Cup 2026 held in Ranchi
- He became the first Indian athlete to run the 100 metre race in under 10.10 seconds

IPL 2026 Final – Royal Challengers Bengaluru

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat Titans by five wickets in the Indian Premier League 2026 Final
- The final match was played at the Narendra Modi Stadium
- Virat Kohli scored 75 runs and was awarded the Player of the Match
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru successfully defended their title by winning back-to-back IPL championships



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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

Pathfinder – India's First Orbital Data Centre Satellite

- Pathfinder is India's first orbital data centre satellite being developed through collaboration between Pixxel and Sarvam AI
- It is a 200-kilogram-class satellite expected to be launched by the fourth quarter of 2026
- The satellite is designed to process data directly in space instead of sending all raw data back to Earth
- It will carry data-centre-grade GPUs, artificial intelligence models, and hyperspectral imaging systems
- It enables in-orbit artificial intelligence processing, including real-time data analysis, AI training, and inference
- It reduces latency and dependence on bandwidth by minimizing data transmission to ground stations
- Hyperspectral imaging will support agriculture monitoring, disaster management, infrastructure planning, and climate analysis
- It aims to establish sovereign artificial intelligence infrastructure using India-built models on India-built space systems
- It reduces dependence on foreign cloud computing infrastructure and enhances technological self-reliance
- It contributes to faster decision-making in areas such as military surveillance, weather forecasting, and environmental monitoring
- It explores orbital data centres as an alternative to energy-intensive terrestrial data centres
- Major challenges include high cost, radiation protection, heat dissipation, cybersecurity risks, and orbital debris management

Tardigrades

- Tardigrades are microscopic organisms commonly known as "water bears"
- They are known for their ability to survive extreme conditions including radiation, vacuum, and extreme temperatures
- They enter a dormant state called cryptobiosis during adverse environmental conditions



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- They are widely studied in astrobiology and space research for their survival mechanisms

Eutrophication

- Eutrophication is the process in which excess nutrients enrich a water body, especially nitrogen and phosphorus
- It leads to excessive growth of algae known as algal blooms
- It causes depletion of dissolved oxygen in water, leading to loss of aquatic biodiversity
- It is commonly caused by agricultural runoff, sewage discharge, and industrial waste
- It results in formation of "dead zones" in lakes and coastal ecosystems

CLEAR Technology (Precision Medicine)

- CLEAR stands for Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter, a protein imaging technology developed by Indian scientists
- It enables visualization of multiple proteins within a single biological sample using a single fluorescent marker
- It overcomes limitations of conventional imaging techniques that cannot map multiple proteins simultaneously
- It works by repeatedly imaging and erasing fluorescent signals without damaging the sample
- It helps in identifying biomarkers and understanding disease mechanisms such as cancer and neurological disorders
- It supports development of targeted therapies, early diagnosis, and personalized medicine approaches

Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

- Cell Broadcast System is a technology used to send real-time emergency alerts to all mobile devices within a specific geographic area
- It follows a one-to-many communication model unlike traditional SMS systems
- Messages are transmitted through cell towers to all devices connected within that region
- It does not require individual phone numbers or prior subscription
- It provides geo-targeted alerts ensuring only affected populations receive the message



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- Alerts are delivered instantly with distinct sound and vibration even when phones are in silent mode
- In India, it is being implemented under the SACHET framework for disaster warning systems
- It is used for natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and earthquakes, and for man-made emergencies
- It enhances disaster preparedness and reduces loss of life through early warning mechanisms
- Limitations include network compatibility issues, initial coverage gaps, and need for inter-agency coordination

Modern Orbital Conflict

- Modern orbital conflict refers to strategic competition in space involving disruption of satellite systems without physical destruction
- It focuses on non-kinetic methods such as signal jamming, GPS spoofing, and cyberattacks on satellite infrastructure
- It enables states to disable critical infrastructure without engaging in direct warfare
- Civilian satellite systems such as communication and navigation can be weaponized in such conflicts
- Attribution of attacks is difficult, creating a gap in accountability and deterrence
- It blurs the distinction between civilian and military use of space infrastructure
- Non-physical disruption of satellites may still be treated as use of force under international law
- Major risks include Kessler Syndrome due to space debris, economic disruption due to loss of GPS systems, and strategic instability
- Existing legal frameworks such as the Outer Space Treaty lack provisions for cyber and non-kinetic warfare
- Suggested measures include global norms against ASAT weapons, improved space situational awareness, and secure satellite design

MISCELLANEOUS

Korowai Tribe

- Indigenous tribe inhabiting southeastern Papua region of Indonesia.



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- Known for treehouse settlements built at heights of 20–50 metres.
- Traditionally depended on hunting, gathering, and sago cultivation.
- Remained largely isolated from the outside world until the late 20th century.
- Speak Korowai language belonging to the Trans–New Guinea language family.

Brain Death Certification

- Brain death refers to irreversible cessation of all brain functions including brain stem activity.
- Recognized under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994.
- Certification is essential for cadaver organ donation.
- Requires examination by a board of medical experts.
- Recently came under judicial scrutiny regarding standardisation and transparency in certification procedures.

Super El Niño

- Strong phase of El Niño associated with abnormal warming of central and eastern Pacific Ocean waters.
- Can intensify heatwaves, droughts, floods, and extreme weather events globally.
- Impacts Indian monsoon circulation and agricultural productivity.
- Occurs due to weakening of trade winds and altered ocean-atmosphere interactions.
- Forms part of the ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) climate system.

Dalai Lama

- Spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism.
- Belongs to Gelug school of Buddhism.
- Resides in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
- Regarded as an important factor in India–China relations.
- Traditionally believed to be reincarnation of Avalokiteshvara (Chenrezig).

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Rules, 2026

- Notified by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).



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- Operational framework for the PROG Act, 2025.
- Came into force from 1 May 2026.
- Seeks regulation, transparency, and consumer protection in online gaming.
- Includes compliance obligations for gaming platforms and intermediaries.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- Regional political and economic organisation established in 1981.
- Members: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar.
- Headquarters located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Promotes economic integration, security cooperation, and regional stability.
- Important for India due to energy security and diaspora connections.

UAE Exit from OPEC and OPEC+

- UAE announced withdrawal from OPEC and OPEC+ effective from May 2026.
- Linked to long-term energy diversification strategy.
- May affect global oil supply coordination and pricing mechanisms.
- Highlights evolving geopolitics of global energy markets.
- OPEC was established in 1960 to coordinate petroleum policies among member countries.

OPEC

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
- Founded in 1960 at Baghdad Conference.
- Founding members: Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- Headquarters located in Vienna, Austria.
- Influences global crude oil production and prices.

NEET-UG Examination Cancellation

- NEET-UG 2026 was cancelled following allegations of paper leaks and malpractice.
- Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA).



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- Considered India's largest medical entrance examination.
- Raised concerns regarding examination integrity and public trust.
- Triggered discussions on biometric authentication, AI monitoring, and digital security measures.

National Testing Agency (NTA)

- Established in 2017.
- Conducts national-level entrance examinations.
- Functions under Ministry of Education.
- Exams include NEET, CUET, JEE Main, and UGC-NET.
- Aims to standardise and improve assessment processes.

Reproductive Rights and Supreme Court

- Supreme Court recently emphasized reproductive autonomy as a fundamental right.
- Related to provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.
- Linked with bodily autonomy, dignity, and privacy under Article 21.
- Highlights evolving jurisprudence on women's health rights.
- Also intersects with PCPNDT Act and Surrogacy Act frameworks.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act

- Originally enacted in 1971 and amended in 2021.
- Regulates conditions for legal abortion in India.
- Extended upper gestation limits for specific categories of women.
- Seeks safe and legal access to abortion services.
- Operates alongside constitutional protections for reproductive choice.

Research Ecosystem in India

- Research Ease Survey highlighted funding constraints and procedural delays.
- Researchers face challenges in approvals, infrastructure, and industry collaboration.
- NITI Aayog involved in improving research ecosystem.



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- Focus areas include innovation, technology development, and academic-industry partnerships.
- Important for achieving knowledge-driven economic growth.

NITI Aayog

- Established on 1 January 2015 replacing Planning Commission.
- Functions as government's premier public policy think tank.
- Promotes cooperative and competitive federalism.
- Chaired by Prime Minister of India.
- Headquarters located in New Delhi.

Hainan Free Trade Port

- Strategic economic initiative launched by China in Hainan Province.
- Designed to become a major global free trade and investment hub.
- Focuses on trade liberalisation, tax incentives, and international investment.
- Considered important in China's regional economic strategy.
- Supports integration with Indo-Pacific trade networks.

National Health Accounts (NHA)

- Provides estimates of healthcare expenditure in India.
- Tracks government, private, and out-of-pocket health spending.
- Useful for policy planning and Universal Health Coverage goals.
- Prepared under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare framework.
- Helps assess efficiency of health financing systems.

Article 142 of the Constitution

- Empowers Supreme Court to pass orders necessary for "complete justice."
- Applicable in matters before the Court.
- Unique constitutional power not available to lower courts.
- Frequently invoked in exceptional circumstances.



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- Plays major role in judicial activism and constitutional governance.

Public Health as a State Subject

- Public health and sanitation fall under State List of Seventh Schedule.
- State governments possess primary responsibility for disease control and healthcare delivery.
- Centre supports through national health programmes and funding mechanisms.
- Important in epidemic management and disease notification systems.
- Reflects federal distribution of powers under the Constitution.

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation)

- Climate phenomenon involving ocean-atmosphere interactions in the Pacific Ocean.
- Three phases: El Niño, La Niña, and Neutral.
- Influences monsoon, cyclone formation, rainfall, and temperature patterns globally.
- Monitored using sea surface temperature anomalies.
- Critical for climate forecasting and agricultural planning.

Bodh Gaya

- Located in Bihar.
- Site where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
- Mahabodhi Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- One of the four major Buddhist pilgrimage centres.
- Central to India's Buddhist diplomacy initiatives.

THOTA, 1994

- Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act enacted in 1994.
- Regulates organ donation and transplantation in India.
- Recognises brain death for organ donation purposes.
- Seeks prevention of commercial organ trade.
- Provides legal framework for deceased donor transplantation.



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OPEC+

- Expanded grouping of OPEC members and major oil-producing allies.
- Includes countries such as Russia.
- Coordinates oil production policies beyond traditional OPEC membership.
- Influences global energy markets and supply stability.
- Emerged as a major energy governance mechanism after 2016.

Medical Ethics and Organ Donation

- Brain death certification plays a crucial role in ethical organ transplantation.
- Requires informed consent and strict medical protocols.
- Helps address shortage of donor organs.
- Linked with public awareness and trust in healthcare systems.
- Important topic in health governance and bioethics.

Treehouse Culture of Korowai

- Elevated structures historically used for protection from insects, flooding, and rival groups.
- Some treehouses exceed 30 metres in height.
- Considered among the most distinctive indigenous architectural traditions globally.
- Reflect adaptation to rainforest ecosystems.
- Demonstrates human-environment interaction in isolated societies.

Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

- Emergency alert technology used to send warning messages to mobile users within a specific geographic area.
- Operates through cell towers without requiring individual phone numbers.
- Useful during disasters, extreme weather events, tsunamis, earthquakes, and security emergencies.
- Messages can reach millions simultaneously without network congestion.
- Widely adopted for public warning systems across multiple countries.



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Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)

- Declared under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.
- Targets economic offenders who evade Indian legal processes by remaining abroad.
- Applicable in cases involving economic offences above ₹100 crore.
- Enforcement Directorate (ED) is the implementing agency.
- Allows confiscation of properties linked to offenders.

Exercise CINBAX-II

- Second edition of India–Cambodia bilateral military exercise.
- Conducted to enhance interoperability and defence cooperation.
- Focuses on counter-terrorism operations and joint tactical drills.
- Strengthens India's defence engagement with Southeast Asia.
- Supports India's Act East Policy.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- Federation of seven emirates located in West Asia.
- Capital: Abu Dhabi.
- Major cities include Dubai, Sharjah, and Fujairah.
- Bordered by Saudi Arabia and Oman.
- Important strategic partner of India in energy, trade, and diaspora relations.

Fujairah

- One of the seven emirates of UAE.
- Located along the Gulf of Oman.
- Important global oil storage and shipping hub.
- Strategic because it lies outside the Strait of Hormuz.
- Plays a major role in regional maritime trade.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)



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- Launched to develop a comprehensive semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem.
- Approved additional semiconductor manufacturing units in 2026.
- Includes India's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED facility at Dholera, Gujarat.
- Supports domestic chip production and technological self-reliance.
- Functions under the broader Semicon India Programme.

Gallium Nitride (GaN)

- Advanced semiconductor material used in high-power and high-frequency applications.
- Essential for Mini-LED and Micro-LED display technologies.
- More efficient than conventional silicon in certain electronic applications.
- Used in defence electronics, telecommunications, EVs, and radar systems.
- Supports next-generation semiconductor manufacturing.

Dholera Special Investment Region

- Located in Gujarat under the Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
- Planned as a smart industrial city.
- Emerging as a major semiconductor manufacturing hub.
- Hosts advanced electronics and high-tech manufacturing projects.
- One of India's largest greenfield industrial developments.

North Tech Symposium

- Platform promoting defence innovation and emerging military technologies.
- Focuses on AI, robotics, autonomous systems, cyber warfare, and advanced electronics.
- Supports collaboration among industry, startups, academia, and armed forces.
- Linked to India's defence modernisation efforts.
- Encourages indigenous defence technology development.

Emerging Defence Technologies

- Include Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Cyber Warfare, Autonomous Systems, and Space Technologies.



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- Increasingly shape modern warfare and national security strategies.
- Important for network-centric and multi-domain military operations.
- Central to India's defence indigenisation initiatives.
- Supported under Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence sector.

Mission for Cotton Productivity

- Approved by the Union Cabinet to improve cotton yield and quality.
- Implemented jointly by Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles.
- Covers 140 districts across 14 cotton-producing states.
- Outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore from 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- Targets significant increase in cotton productivity and production.

Cotton

- Major cash crop and important raw material for textile industry.
- Requires warm climate and moderate rainfall.
- India is among the world's largest cotton producers.
- Black soil is considered ideal for cotton cultivation.
- Major producers include Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Punjab.

NISAR Mission

- Joint Earth observation mission of NASA and ISRO.
- Full form: NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar.
- Uses dual-frequency radar imaging for Earth monitoring.
- Helps study land deformation, glaciers, forests, groundwater, and disasters.
- One of the most advanced radar satellites developed collaboratively.

Land Subsidence

- Gradual sinking of land surface.
- Commonly caused by excessive groundwater extraction.



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- Can damage infrastructure and increase flood vulnerability.
- Frequently observed in rapidly urbanising regions.
- NISAR observations highlighted severe subsidence in Mexico City.

Care Economy (Purple Economy)

- Includes paid and unpaid caregiving activities.
- Covers care for children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.
- Significant share of care work is performed by women.
- Estimated contribution of unpaid care work is around 15–17% of India's GDP.
- Increasingly recognised as a critical component of economic and social infrastructure.

Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM)

- Independent body advising Prime Minister on economic issues.
- Provides policy recommendations and analytical reports.
- Examines macroeconomic trends and development challenges.
- Plays a role in long-term economic planning.
- Contributes to evidence-based policymaking.

Remittances

- Money transferred by migrants to their home country.
- India remained the world's largest recipient of remittances in 2024.
- Inflows exceeded \$137 billion according to UN estimates.
- Important source of foreign exchange earnings.
- Contribute to household consumption, education, and investment.

Strait of Hormuz

- Narrow strategic waterway connecting Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman.
- One of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints.
- Bordered by Iran and Oman.



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- Significant portion of global crude oil trade passes through it.
- Geopolitical tensions in the region affect global energy markets.

Project Freedom

- US initiative announced to assist ships stranded near the Strait of Hormuz.
- Intended to ensure maritime navigation amid regional conflict.
- Reflects strategic importance of global shipping routes.
- Highlights security concerns in West Asian waters.
- Linked to broader US–Iran tensions.

Jamaica

- Island country located in the Caribbean Sea.
- Capital: Kingston.
- Member of CARICOM and Commonwealth.
- India shares historical ties through Indian diaspora communities.
- Cooperation includes development, education, and cultural exchanges.

Parliamentary Committees

- Assist Parliament in detailed examination of bills, policies, and government functioning.
- Improve legislative scrutiny and accountability.
- Can be Standing Committees or Ad Hoc Committees.
- Members are drawn from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Important instruments of parliamentary oversight.

Russia–Ukraine Limited Ceasefire

- Temporary ceasefire linked to Victory Day commemorations.
- Announced separately by Russia and Ukraine.
- Intended to reduce hostilities for a limited period.
- Reflects continued diplomatic and military complexities in the conflict.



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- War has major implications for global food, energy, and security systems.

Victory Day

- Celebrated by Russia on 9 May.
- Marks Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.
- One of Russia's most significant national commemorations.
- Features military parades and remembrance events.
- Holds strong political and historical symbolism.

Philippines

- Southeast Asian archipelagic country in the western Pacific Ocean.
- Capital: Manila.
- Major island groups: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
- Located along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Frequently experiences earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons.

Mayon Volcano

- Active stratovolcano located in Luzon, Philippines.
- Famous for its near-perfect conical shape.
- One of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines.
- Part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- Frequent eruptions necessitate evacuation measures.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Critical Minerals Financing Facility

- Initiative aimed at strengthening critical mineral supply chains in Asia-Pacific.
- Supports clean energy technologies and advanced manufacturing.
- Addresses strategic dependence on limited mineral suppliers.
- Important for EVs, batteries, semiconductors, and renewable energy sectors.
- Enhances resource security in emerging economies.



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Critical Minerals

- Minerals essential for economic security and strategic industries.
- Include lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements.
- Vital for batteries, semiconductors, solar panels, and defence systems.
- Increasingly central to global geopolitical competition.
- India has launched Critical Mineral Mission to strengthen supply security.

MSME Apprenticeship Roadmap

- Proposed framework to expand apprenticeship opportunities in MSMEs.
- Focuses on skill development and employability.
- Encourages industry participation through incentives and policy reforms.
- Supports workforce readiness for manufacturing and services sectors.
- Complements Skill India and vocational education initiatives.

MSME

- Full form: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Major contributor to employment, exports, and GDP.
- Governed under MSMED Act, 2006.
- Important pillar of India's manufacturing ecosystem.
- Supported through credit, technology, and market-access schemes.

Shia Identity

- Shia Islam is one of the two major branches of Islam.
- Emerged from succession dispute after Prophet Muhammad's death.
- Major populations found in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, and parts of South Asia.
- Concepts of martyrdom and resistance hold major theological significance.
- Regional conflicts often influence Shia political and religious narratives.

Iran



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- West Asian country with Tehran as capital.
- Dominated by Shia Muslim population.
- Shares borders with Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan.
- Controls northern coastline of the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz region.
- Holds major geopolitical importance due to energy reserves and strategic location.

Appointment Procedure of Election Commission of India

- Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body established under Article 324.
- Consists of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- Appointment process recently gained attention following debates on selection committee structure.
- Responsible for conducting free and fair elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and offices of President and Vice-President.
- Tenure of CEC and ECs is six years or until age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- Constitutional body under Article 324 of the Constitution.
- Established on 25 January 1950.
- Headquarters located in New Delhi.
- CEC enjoys protection similar to a Supreme Court judge regarding removal.
- Plays a central role in ensuring electoral democracy.

NCRB Report on Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India

- Published annually by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Provides comprehensive data on accidental deaths, suicides, and related socio-economic factors.
- Useful for policymaking in public health, road safety, and mental health sectors.
- Highlights trends across states, age groups, occupations, and causes of fatalities.
- Serves as an important database for governance and social-sector interventions.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)



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- Established in 1986 under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Functions as India's central crime data repository.
- Compiles Crime in India, Prison Statistics India, and Accidental Deaths & Suicides reports.
- Supports crime analysis, criminal tracking, and policy formulation.
- Headquarters located in New Delhi.

Rusty-Spotted Cat

- Among the smallest wild cat species in the world.
- Native to India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- Recently reported from Aravalli landscape near Delhi, highlighting habitat fragmentation concerns.
- Weighs roughly 1–2 kg and prefers forests, scrublands, and grasslands.
- Listed as Near Threatened by IUCN.

Aravalli Range

- One of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world.
- Extends from Gujarat through Rajasthan to Haryana and Delhi.
- Acts as a natural barrier against desert expansion.
- Important biodiversity hotspot and groundwater recharge zone.
- Environmental degradation and urbanisation threaten its ecological stability.

Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project

- Proposed hydroelectric project on Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Generated concerns regarding biodiversity and habitat conservation.
- White-Bellied Heron habitats fall within affected ecological zones.
- Part of larger hydropower development initiatives in Northeast India.
- Raises debates between energy security and environmental protection.

ANEEL Fuel

- Advanced nuclear fuel technology undergoing high-burnup irradiation testing.



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- Intended to improve efficiency and fuel utilisation in nuclear reactors.
- High-burnup fuel allows longer reactor operation before replacement.
- Important for reducing nuclear fuel consumption and waste generation.
- Supports next-generation nuclear energy development.

High-Burnup Irradiation Test

- Evaluates performance of nuclear fuel under prolonged reactor conditions.
- Measures structural stability, efficiency, and safety.
- Helps improve reactor economics and operational reliability.
- Important for advanced reactor technologies.
- Supports long-term nuclear energy sustainability.

Nilgiri Wildfires

- Wildfires in Nilgiri region highlighted ecological vulnerability of Western Ghats.
- Often intensified by dry weather, invasive species, and human activities.
- Cause biodiversity loss, habitat destruction, and air pollution.
- Affect endemic flora and fauna of the region.
- Climate change is increasing wildfire frequency and intensity globally.

Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

- First biosphere reserve established in India (1986).
- Located across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.
- Part of UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Includes Mudumalai, Wayanad, Bandipur, and Silent Valley protected areas.
- Rich in endemic and endangered species.

Komagata Maru Incident

- Occurred in 1914 involving Indian migrants aboard Komagata Maru ship.
- Ship was denied entry into Canada due to discriminatory immigration laws.



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- Passengers were forced to return to India.
- Upon arrival near Kolkata, confrontation with British authorities occurred at Budge Budge.
- Became a symbol of colonial discrimination and Indian resistance.

Ghadar Movement

- Revolutionary movement founded by Indian expatriates in 1913.
- Sought to overthrow British rule through armed struggle.
- Headquarters established in San Francisco, USA.
- Komagata Maru incident strengthened anti-colonial sentiments among revolutionaries.
- Played an important role in early revolutionary nationalism.

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

- Major ocean circulation system in Atlantic Ocean.
- Transfers warm water northward and cold water southward.
- Plays a crucial role in regulating global climate.
- Scientists warn that weakening or collapse may disrupt rainfall and temperature patterns.
- Strongly linked with climate change and polar ice melt.

AMOC and Climate Impact

- Collapse could alter monsoon systems and agricultural productivity.
- May increase extreme weather events globally.
- Could significantly cool parts of Europe despite global warming.
- Influences carbon absorption and ocean ecosystems.
- Considered one of the major climate tipping points.

U.S. Court Ruling on Trump Tariffs

- Federal court ruled against certain tariff measures imposed under presidential authority.
- Questioned scope of executive powers in trade policy.
- Decision may influence future tariff frameworks and trade negotiations.



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- Holds implications for global trade partners including India.
- Highlights constitutional checks on executive economic actions.

Tariffs

- Taxes imposed on imported goods.
- Used to protect domestic industries or address trade imbalances.
- Can increase consumer prices and trigger retaliatory trade measures.
- Important instrument of international trade policy.
- Frequently used in strategic economic competition.

Operation Sindoor

- Marked a shift in India's counter-terrorism and security posture.
- Associated with establishment of a stronger response framework against cross-border terrorism.
- Highlighted importance of diplomatic outreach and strategic communication.
- Became a reference point in India–Pakistan security discussions.
- Reflected evolving regional security doctrines.

Strait of Hormuz

- Connects Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea.
- One of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints.
- Large share of global crude oil exports passes through it.
- Bordered by Iran and Oman.
- Strategic importance makes it a frequent geopolitical flashpoint.

Global Forest Goals (GFG)

- Framework adopted under United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests.
- Aims to reverse forest loss and promote sustainable forest management.
- Supports biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation.
- Encourages restoration of degraded forest landscapes.



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- Linked with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

- Independent, non-governmental international body that develops global standards across industries and sectors.
- Established in 1947 with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Comprises national standards bodies from more than 160 countries.
- Promotes quality, safety, efficiency, and interoperability of products and services.
- ISO standards are voluntary but widely adopted in global trade and manufacturing.

ISO Standards

- Provide internationally accepted frameworks for quality management, environmental management, information security, and industrial processes.
- ISO 9001 relates to Quality Management Systems.
- ISO 14001 relates to Environmental Management Systems.
- ISO 27001 focuses on Information Security Management.
- Facilitate international trade by reducing technical barriers.

Brain Death Certification

- Refers to irreversible cessation of all functions of the brain, including brain stem activity.
- Recognised under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994.
- Essential for cadaver organ donation and transplantation procedures.
- Certification requires examination by a panel of medical experts.
- Important issue in medical ethics, organ donation, and healthcare governance.

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994

- Provides legal framework for organ donation and transplantation in India.
- Recognises brain death as legal death for transplantation purposes.
- Seeks to prevent commercial trade in human organs.
- Regulates retrieval, storage, and transplantation procedures.



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- Amended periodically to improve organ donation mechanisms.

National Testing Agency (NTA)

- Established in 2017 under Ministry of Education.
- Conducts major national-level entrance examinations.
- Responsible for NEET, CUET, JEE Main, and UGC-NET.
- Created to improve transparency and standardisation in examinations.
- Functions as a specialised testing agency for higher education admissions.

Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

- Examination system conducted through digital platforms instead of paper-based mode.
- Reduces risks associated with physical question paper transportation.
- Enables stronger encryption and monitoring mechanisms.
- Challenges include infrastructure gaps and normalisation issues across shifts.
- Increasingly adopted in large-scale competitive examinations.

Gold Import Bill

- India is among the world's largest consumers and importers of gold.
- High gold imports increase pressure on foreign exchange reserves.
- Can widen Current Account Deficit and affect macroeconomic stability.
- Gold imports rise significantly during periods of global uncertainty.
- Domestic gold production remains extremely limited compared to demand.

Current Account Deficit (CAD)

- Occurs when a country's imports of goods, services, and transfers exceed exports.
- Indicates net outflow of foreign exchange.
- Persistent high CAD can weaken currency value.
- Oil and gold imports are major contributors to India's CAD.
- Important indicator of external sector stability.



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Gold Doré

- Semi-pure alloy of gold and silver requiring further refining.
- Imported by refineries for value addition and processing.
- Considered important for developing domestic refining capacity.
- Trade policies influence competitiveness between doré and finished bullion imports.
- Plays a role in precious metal supply chains.

Indian Vulture

- Also known as Long-billed Vulture.
- Scientific name: Gyps indicus.
- Native to India, Pakistan, and Nepal.
- Classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN.
- Population declined drastically due to veterinary use of diclofenac.

Diclofenac Crisis

- Veterinary anti-inflammatory drug responsible for massive vulture population decline.
- Vultures consuming carcasses of treated livestock suffered kidney failure.
- Led to catastrophic collapse of vulture populations across South Asia.
- Veterinary use was subsequently restricted.
- Considered one of the most significant wildlife conservation crises in India.

Melghat Tiger Reserve

- Located in Amravati district of Maharashtra.
- First tiger reserve established in Maharashtra.
- Situated in Satpura ranges, also called Gavilgarh Hills.
- Part of Project Tiger network.
- Tapti River and its tributaries flow through the reserve.

Project Tiger



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- Launched in 1973 for conservation of Bengal Tigers.
- Centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Focuses on habitat protection, anti-poaching measures, and ecosystem conservation.
- India hosts the largest tiger population globally.
- Implemented through tiger reserves across the country.

International Standards and Global Trade

- Standardisation improves product quality and market access.
- Reduces technical barriers in international commerce.
- Supports industrial competitiveness and consumer safety.
- Important for manufacturing, exports, and technology sectors.
- ISO standards form the backbone of global quality assurance systems.

Examination Governance Reforms

- Growing focus on biometric authentication and AI-based monitoring.
- Digital encryption and secure question delivery systems increasingly emphasised.
- Intended to strengthen examination integrity.
- Large-scale exams face logistical and security vulnerabilities.
- Exam reforms are becoming a major governance issue in India.

Organ Donation in India

- Brain death certification forms the foundation of deceased organ donation.
- Organ shortage remains a major healthcare challenge.
- Awareness and trust are crucial for improving donation rates.
- Regulated under THOTA framework.
- Supports life-saving transplantation procedures.

Gold and Indian Economy

- Gold is culturally significant and widely used for savings and investment.



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- India imports most of its gold requirement.
- Rising global gold prices increase import expenditure.
- Influences inflation, external sector stability, and foreign exchange reserves.
- Frequently linked with monetary and trade policy discussions.

Screw Pine (Kewda)

- Scientific name: Pandanus odorifer.
- Belongs to the family Pandanaceae.
- Small branched tree/shrub commonly found in tropical coastal regions.
- Abundantly distributed along Odisha's Ganjam coast between Rushikulya and Bahuda rivers.
- Known for distinctive prop roots and long spiny leaves.
- Male flowers are used for extraction of Kewda oil and perfume.
- Leaves are used in making mats, baskets, and handicrafts.
- Acts as a natural bioshield against coastal erosion and stabilizes sand dunes.

Kewda Oil

- Aromatic oil extracted from male flowers of Screw Pine.
- Widely used in perfumery, cosmetics, food flavouring, and Ayurvedic medicines.
- Ganjam district of Odisha is India's major production centre.
- Considered one of India's traditional aromatic products.

National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG)

- Instituted by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- Recognises excellence in digital governance and public service delivery.
- Encourages innovation, transparency, and citizen-centric administration.
- Promotes adoption of best e-governance practices across government departments.
- One of India's highest recognitions in the field of digital governance.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)



MAY ONELINERS

- Functions under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Nodal agency for administrative reforms in India.
- Oversees grievance redressal mechanisms and governance innovations.
- Publishes National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA).
- Promotes good governance and digital transformation initiatives.

Virupaksha Temple

- Located at Hampi in Karnataka on the southern bank of Tungabhadra River.
- Dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Lord Shiva.
- One of the oldest continuously functioning temples in India since the 7th century CE.
- Expanded significantly during the Vijayanagara Empire under Krishnadevaraya and Deva Raya II.
- Part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Group of Monuments at Hampi."
- Built in Dravidian architectural style with massive gopurams and pillared halls.
- Famous for exhibiting the pinhole camera effect inside the temple complex.

Hampi

- Located in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka.
- Capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986.
- Situated on the banks of the Tungabhadra River.
- Known for temple architecture, bazaars, and monumental ruins.

Crotalaria phulei

- Newly discovered flowering plant species from Khairi-Umred forest near Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Belongs to Fabaceae (Legume) family.
- Named after Savitribai Phule, India's first woman teacher and social reformer.
- Bears bright yellow flowers and distinctive mottled seeds.
- Closely related to Crotalaria juncea (Sunhemp).



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- Assigned preliminary IUCN status of Data Deficient (DD).

Fabaceae Family

- Commonly known as Legume family.
- One of the largest flowering plant families.
- Includes pea, gram, soybean, and lentil species.
- Important for biological nitrogen fixation through root nodules.
- Plays a major role in sustainable agriculture.

South Africa

- Southernmost country of Africa.
- Capitals: Pretoria (Executive), Cape Town (Legislative), Bloemfontein (Judicial).
- Surrounded by Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean.
- Lesotho is an enclave completely surrounded by South Africa.
- Member of BRICS, G20, Commonwealth, and African Union.
- Major rivers include Orange and Limpopo.
- Highest peak: Mafadi in the Drakensberg Mountains.

Drakensberg Mountains

- Highest mountain range in Southern Africa.
- Forms part of the Great Escarpment.
- Extends across South Africa and Lesotho.
- Contains Mafadi, the highest peak of South Africa.

Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative (JSJB)

- Launched in 2024 under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Promotes rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, and groundwater conservation.
- Based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- Encourages participation of local communities, industries, NGOs, and government agencies.



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- Supports climate resilience through sustainable water management.
- Implemented under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan

- National water conservation campaign launched in 2019.
- Focuses on rainwater harvesting and water resource management.
- Encourages community participation in water conservation.
- Operates through district-level interventions across India.

Viksit Vibrant Village Programme (VVVP)

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Announced in Union Budget 2022–23.
- Focuses on development of villages located near northern international borders.
- Covers Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.
- Promotes infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, renewable energy, and livelihood generation.
- Aims to reduce migration from border villages and strengthen border security.
- Targets villages located within 0–10 km of international borders.

World Environment Day

- Observed annually on 5 June.
- Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972.
- First celebrated in 1973.
- Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Promotes environmental awareness and sustainable development.
- Major focus areas include plastic pollution, biodiversity conservation, and climate action.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Established in 1972 after Stockholm Conference.
- Headquarters located in Nairobi, Kenya.



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- Principal UN agency dealing with environmental issues.
- Coordinates global environmental policies and initiatives.

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- Framework for management of plastic waste in India.
- Introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- Strengthened through nationwide restrictions on identified single-use plastics.
- Supports circular economy and sustainable waste management.

Navachar Mantra Initiative

- Innovation-focused initiative promoting creative solutions in governance and development.
- Encourages technology-driven problem solving.
- Supports entrepreneurship, startups, and public sector innovation.
- Focuses on scaling best practices and innovative ideas.

Hellfire Missile

- Full name: AGM-114 Hellfire Missile.
- Air-to-ground, precision-guided tactical missile developed by the United States.
- Originally designed as an anti-tank weapon.
- Used extensively on helicopters, drones, and military aircraft.
- Features cylindrical body with dome-shaped nose section.
- Available in laser-guided and radar-guided variants.
- Widely deployed in modern precision strike operations.

Project Garud

- Initiative aimed at strengthening India's civil aviation and aerospace ecosystem.
- Focuses on innovation, skill development, and indigenous aviation capabilities.
- Encourages collaboration among industry, academia, startups, and government agencies.
- Supports long-term growth of aerospace manufacturing and aviation infrastructure.



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- Aligns with India's vision of becoming a global aviation hub.

Lanjia Saora Tribe

- Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) found mainly in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Belongs to the larger Saora tribal community.
- Practices shifting cultivation and subsistence agriculture.
- Known for rich indigenous traditions, wall paintings, and animistic beliefs.
- Speaks Saora language belonging to the Austroasiatic family.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- Most vulnerable section among Scheduled Tribes.
- Identified based on pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, declining population, and economic backwardness.
- India has 75 notified PVTGs.
- Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs in the country.
- Special schemes are implemented for their socio-economic development.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port

- Formerly known as Kolkata Port Trust.
- India's only major riverine port.
- Located on the Hooghly River in West Bengal.
- Renamed in 2020 after Syama Prasad Mookerjee.
- Consists of Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock Complex.

Hooghly River

- Major distributary of the Ganga River.
- Flows through West Bengal before entering the Bay of Bengal.
- Important waterway for inland navigation and port activities.
- Kolkata and Haldia ports are located along its course.
- Subject to heavy siltation due to river morphology.



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Uranium-233

- Fissile isotope produced from Thorium-232 through nuclear reactions.
- Key component of India's three-stage nuclear power programme.
- Can sustain nuclear chain reactions similar to Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239.
- Important for utilization of India's vast thorium reserves.
- Considered crucial for long-term energy security.

India's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

- Conceptualized by Homi Jehangir Bhabha.
- Stage 1 uses Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) with natural uranium.
- Stage 2 uses Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) with plutonium fuel.
- Stage 3 uses thorium-based reactors producing Uranium-233.
- Designed to maximize utilization of India's thorium resources.

Black Rain

- Phenomenon involving rainfall contaminated with soot, ash, and particulate matter.
- Most famously reported after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
- Contains radioactive particles and combustion residues.
- Can pose severe environmental and health risks.
- Often associated with major fires, volcanic eruptions, and nuclear events.

Hiroshima

- Japanese city located on Honshu Island.
- First city subjected to atomic bombing during World War II on 6 August 1945.
- Bomb used was "Little Boy," a uranium-based nuclear weapon.
- Became a global symbol of nuclear disarmament.
- Peace Memorial Park commemorates victims of the bombing.

Nagasaki



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- Japanese port city located on Kyushu Island.
- Second city hit by an atomic bomb on 9 August 1945.
- Bomb used was "Fat Man," a plutonium-based nuclear weapon.
- Significant centre of peace and anti-nuclear advocacy.
- Atomic bombing contributed to Japan's surrender in World War II.

National Critical Mineral Mission

- Initiative to secure India's access to strategic and critical minerals.
- Focuses on exploration, mining, processing, and recycling of critical minerals.
- Supports clean energy transition and advanced manufacturing.
- Critical for semiconductors, EV batteries, defence equipment, and renewable energy technologies.
- Reduces dependence on imports and vulnerable supply chains.

Critical Minerals

- Minerals essential for economic security and strategic sectors.
- Include lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earth elements, and copper.
- Required for batteries, electronics, aerospace, and defence industries.
- Demand expected to increase significantly due to green energy transition.
- Increasingly central to global geopolitical competition.

Deep Ocean Mission

- Flagship mission launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Aims to explore and harness deep-sea resources.
- Includes development of manned submersible vehicle "Matsya 6000."
- Focuses on deep-sea biodiversity, ocean climate studies, and mineral exploration.
- Supports India's Blue Economy objectives.

Matsya 6000

- India's indigenous manned deep-ocean submersible.



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- Designed to carry three persons to depths of 6,000 metres.
- Developed under Deep Ocean Mission.
- Will facilitate exploration of polymetallic nodules and deep-sea ecosystems.
- Represents a major technological milestone in marine research.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

- Observed annually on 8 May.
- Marks birth anniversary of Henry Dunant.
- Celebrates humanitarian work of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Promotes principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and voluntary service.
- Theme changes annually to address global humanitarian concerns.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- Established in 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Independent humanitarian organization.
- Works to protect victims of armed conflicts and violence.
- Guardian of the Geneva Conventions.
- Operates in conflict zones worldwide.

Mount Etna

- Active stratovolcano located in Sicily, Italy.
- Highest active volcano in Europe.
- Situated near the convergent boundary of African and Eurasian tectonic plates.
- Frequently erupts but is closely monitored.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Strait of Gibraltar

- Narrow waterway connecting Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.
- Separates Europe from Africa.



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- Lies between Spain and Morocco.
- Important global maritime trade route.
- Strategic chokepoint in international shipping.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- Specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Established through the Chicago Convention of 1944.
- Headquarters located in Montreal, Canada.
- Develops standards and regulations for international civil aviation.
- India is a member state of ICAO.

Chicago Convention, 1944

- Foundation treaty governing international civil aviation.
- Signed in Chicago, United States.
- Established ICAO.
- Defines principles of airspace sovereignty and air navigation.
- Forms the basis of modern international aviation law.

Rare Earth Magnets

- Permanent magnets made using rare earth elements such as neodymium and samarium.
- Possess exceptionally strong magnetic properties.
- Widely used in EVs, wind turbines, robotics, missiles, and electronics.
- China dominates global production and processing.
- Strategic importance has increased due to clean energy transition.

Neodymium

- Rare earth element belonging to lanthanide series.
- Essential component of high-performance permanent magnets.
- Used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, and defence equipment.



MAY ONELINERS

- One of the most commercially important rare earth elements.
- Increasing demand driven by renewable energy technologies.

Ganges Softshell Turtle

- Scientific name: Nilssonina gangetica.
- Freshwater turtle native to the Ganga, Indus, and Mahanadi river systems.
- Listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Classified as Vulnerable by IUCN.
- Omnivorous species feeding on fish, insects, molluscs, and carrion.
- Plays an important ecological role by cleaning river ecosystems.

Softshell Turtles

- Belong to family Trionychidae.
- Distinguished by leathery shells instead of hard scutes.
- Highly adapted to aquatic habitats.
- Possess elongated snouts for underwater breathing.
- Many species face threats from habitat degradation and illegal trade.

International Day of Families

- Observed annually on 15 May.
- Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.
- Highlights the importance of families in social development.
- Focuses on issues such as poverty reduction, education, gender equality, and social inclusion.
- Recognizes families as fundamental units of society.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- Main deliberative body of the United Nations.
- Comprises all UN member states.
- Established in 1945 under the UN Charter.



MAY ONELINERS

- Each member state has one vote.
- Meets annually at UN Headquarters in New York.

National Technology Day

- Celebrated annually on 11 May.
- Commemorates Pokhran-II nuclear tests conducted in 1998.
- Recognizes achievements in science, technology, and innovation.
- Organized by the Technology Development Board (TDB).
- Highlights India's technological self-reliance and innovation ecosystem.

Pokhran-II

- Series of five nuclear tests conducted in Rajasthan in May 1998.
- Operation code name: Operation Shakti.
- Established India as a nuclear weapon state.
- Conducted under leadership of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Led to India's declaration of a nuclear doctrine based on credible minimum deterrence.

Technology Development Board (TDB)

- Established under Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
- Functions under Department of Science and Technology.
- Promotes commercialization of indigenous technologies.
- Provides financial assistance to technology-based enterprises.
- Supports innovation-led industrial development.

Rare Earth Elements (REEs)

- Group of 17 metallic elements including 15 lanthanides, scandium, and yttrium.
- Essential for semiconductors, EVs, wind turbines, missiles, and defence systems.
- China dominates global mining and processing.
- Critical for clean energy transition and advanced manufacturing.



MAY ONELINERS

- India possesses reserves mainly in monazite-bearing coastal sands.

Monazite

- Phosphate mineral rich in rare earth elements and thorium.
- Found in coastal placer deposits.
- Major deposits occur in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.
- Strategic resource for India's nuclear and rare-earth sectors.
- Processed by Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL).

Forest Financing

- Refers to mobilization of resources for sustainable forest management and conservation.
- Important for achieving climate and biodiversity goals.
- Includes public funding, carbon markets, green bonds, and private investments.
- Supports restoration of degraded landscapes.
- Closely linked to climate finance discussions.

United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF)

- Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017.
- Provides a global framework for sustainable forest management.
- Includes six Global Forest Goals (GFGs).
- Aims to reverse forest loss and increase protected forest areas.
- Supports implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Global Forest Goals (GFGs)

- Six goals adopted under the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests.
- Aim to increase forest area and improve forest-based livelihoods.
- Promote sustainable forest management globally.
- Support biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation.
- Encourage international cooperation on forestry issues.



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Current Account Deficit (CAD)

- Occurs when imports exceed exports of goods, services, and transfers.
- Indicates net outflow of foreign exchange.
- High oil prices are a major contributor to India's CAD.
- Persistent CAD can weaken currency stability.
- Important indicator of external sector health.

Green Bonds

- Debt instruments issued to finance environmentally sustainable projects.
- Used for renewable energy, clean transport, water management, and climate projects.
- Promote sustainable finance and climate action.
- Can be issued by governments, corporations, and financial institutions.
- Increasingly important in global climate finance architecture.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Adopted by the United Nations in 2015.
- Consist of 17 global goals and 169 targets.
- Aim to achieve inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development by 2030.
- Cover poverty, health, education, climate action, and biodiversity.
- Integrated framework for global development.

Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL)

- Public sector undertaking under Department of Atomic Energy.
- Engaged in mining and processing of rare earth minerals.
- Extracts monazite, ilmenite, rutile, and zircon.
- Supports India's strategic mineral security.
- Plays a key role in rare earth value chains

Anaimangalam Copper Plates



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- Chola-period copper plate inscriptions issued during the reign of Rajaraja I.
- Record land grants made to a Buddhist monastery at Nagapattinam.
- Written in both Tamil and Grantha scripts.
- Important source for studying Chola administration, trade, and religious patronage.
- Highlight maritime connections between the Chola Empire and Southeast Asia.

Rajaraja I

- One of the greatest rulers of the Chola dynasty.
- Ruled from 985 CE to 1014 CE.
- Expanded Chola influence across South India, Sri Lanka, and maritime Southeast Asia.
- Built the Brihadisvara Temple at Thanjavur.
- Laid foundations for Chola naval supremacy.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

- Highest level of global health alert declared under International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005.
- Declared by the World Health Organization Director-General.
- Issued when an extraordinary public health event poses international risk.
- Facilitates coordinated global response and resource mobilisation.
- Previous examples include COVID-19, Mpox, and Ebola outbreaks.

International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005

- Legally binding framework adopted by WHO member states.
- Aims to prevent and respond to cross-border public health threats.
- Covers surveillance, reporting, and emergency response mechanisms.
- Applicable to all WHO member countries.
- Strengthens global health security architecture.

Zwan-Wolf Effect

- Newly discussed atmospheric or optical phenomenon involving light interactions under specific environmental conditions.



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- Important in advanced studies of optics and electromagnetic radiation.
- Helps scientists understand light propagation and scattering behaviour.
- Relevant to atmospheric physics and observational astronomy.
- Demonstrates complex interactions between light and matter.

Currency Depreciation

- Occurs when the value of a country's currency falls relative to other currencies.
- Makes exports cheaper and imports more expensive.
- Can contribute to imported inflation.
- Often influenced by trade deficits, capital outflows, and geopolitical instability.
- Recent discussions linked depreciation pressures to West Asian geopolitical tensions.

Exchange Rate Regimes

- Fixed exchange rate is pegged to another currency or basket.
- Floating exchange rate is determined by market forces.
- India follows a managed float exchange rate system.
- Reserve Bank of India intervenes to reduce excessive volatility.
- Exchange rate stability is important for trade and investment.

Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

- Connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
- Lies between Yemen and the Horn of Africa.
- Critical for Europe–Asia maritime trade.
- Links the Suez Canal route to the Indian Ocean.
- Strategic chokepoint for global shipping.

Suez Canal

- Artificial sea-level canal located in Egypt.
- Connects the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea.



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- Opened in 1869.
- Eliminates the need to circumnavigate Africa.
- One of the busiest shipping routes globally.

Malacca Strait

- Connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea.
- Lies between Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore.
- One of the busiest maritime passages in the world.
- Critical for Asian energy imports and trade.
- Important from India's Indo-Pacific perspective.

Chola Maritime Power

- Cholas maintained one of the strongest naval forces in medieval Asia.
- Conducted expeditions to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.
- Controlled important Indian Ocean trade routes.
- Promoted cultural and commercial exchanges.
- Contributed to the spread of Indian influence abroad.

Nagapattinam

- Historic port city on the Coromandel Coast of Tamil Nadu.
- Important centre for maritime trade during the Chola period.
- Hosted Buddhist, Hindu, and international trading communities.
- Connected India with Southeast Asian kingdoms.
- Mentioned in several Chola inscriptions and copper plate grants.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1948.
- Headquarters located in Geneva.
- Coordinates international public health efforts.



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- Leads disease surveillance and emergency response.
- Plays a key role in declaration of PHEICs.

Copper Plate Inscriptions

- Important source of ancient and medieval Indian history.
- Usually record royal grants, donations, and administrative orders.
- Help reconstruct political, economic, and social conditions.
- Often written in Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit, or regional languages.
- Extensively used during Pallava, Chola, Rashtrakuta, and Vijayanagara periods.

Meghalayan Age

- Latest and current age of the Holocene Epoch.
- Began around 4,200 years ago following a major global climatic event.
- Approved by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) in 2018.
- Named after a stalagmite record found in the Mawmluh Cave of Meghalaya.
- Characterized by widespread droughts and collapse of several ancient civilizations.
- Holocene Epoch started about 11,700 years ago after the end of the last Ice Age.

Mawmluh Cave

- Located in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya.
- One of India's longest cave systems.
- Famous for its stalagmite records used in paleoclimate studies.
- Geological evidence from the cave defines the beginning of the Meghalayan Age.
- Important site for climate reconstruction research.

Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS)

- Technology that removes carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere.
- Captured CO₂ is either stored underground or utilized industrially.
- Considered a negative-emission technology.



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- Can help achieve net-zero emission targets.
- Faces challenges related to high energy requirements and operational costs.
- Different from conventional Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), which captures emissions at source.

Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)

- Involves capture, transport, utilisation, and storage of carbon dioxide.
- Considered an important technology for decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors.
- Captured carbon can be used in chemicals, fuels, and enhanced oil recovery.
- Supports climate mitigation and industrial transition goals.
- India has proposed large-scale investments in CCUS technologies.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- Specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for shipping regulation.
- Established in 1948 and became operational in 1959.
- Headquarters located in London, United Kingdom.
- Develops standards for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.
- India is a member of the IMO.
- Oversees conventions such as SOLAS and MARPOL.

MARPOL Convention

- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.
- Adopted under the International Maritime Organization.
- Addresses pollution caused by oil, chemicals, sewage, garbage, and air emissions.
- Considered the primary global treaty for marine pollution prevention.
- Contains six technical annexes covering different pollution sources.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- Regional intergovernmental organization established in 1997.
- Comprises countries bordering the Indian Ocean.



MAY ONELINERS

- Headquarters located in Ebene, Mauritius.
- Focuses on maritime safety, trade facilitation, fisheries, disaster management, and Blue Economy.
- India is a founding member.
- Promotes regional cooperation across the Indian Ocean region.

Blue Economy

- Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and livelihood generation.
- Includes fisheries, shipping, tourism, offshore energy, and marine biotechnology.
- Emphasizes environmental sustainability and ocean conservation.
- Important component of India's maritime strategy.
- Supported through initiatives such as SAGAR and Deep Ocean Mission.

National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA)

- Pilot initiative launched by the Department of Land Resources.
- Aims to create accurate geospatial records of urban land parcels.
- Uses drone surveys and GIS technologies.
- Intended to improve urban planning, property ownership records, and tax administration.
- Supports Digital India and modern land governance reforms.

Department of Land Resources (DoLR)

- Functions under Ministry of Rural Development.
- Responsible for land reforms, digitization of land records, and watershed development.
- Implements Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
- Promotes transparent and efficient land administration.
- Plays a key role in land governance reforms.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

- Launched in 2008 as National Land Records Modernization Programme.
- Renamed as DILRMP in 2016.



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- Seeks digitization and integration of land records.
- Aims to reduce land disputes and improve transparency.
- Supports creation of conclusive land titling systems.

Janani Platform

- Digital maternal and child healthcare platform.
- Designed to improve access to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health services.
- Supports tracking of pregnancies and healthcare interventions.
- Strengthens healthcare delivery and monitoring systems.
- Promotes better maternal and infant health outcomes.

Yavarí-Tapiche Corridor

- Biodiversity-rich conservation corridor located in the Peruvian Amazon.
- Home to indigenous communities living in voluntary isolation.
- Supports tropical rainforest conservation and ecosystem protection.
- Contains significant carbon storage reserves.
- Considered one of the most biodiverse regions in the Amazon Basin.

Amazon Rainforest

- Largest tropical rainforest in the world.
- Spreads across nine South American countries.
- Contains about 10% of known global biodiversity.
- Plays a crucial role in global climate regulation and carbon sequestration.
- Brazil contains the largest share of the rainforest.

TARA Weapon

- Full form: Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation Weapon.
- Indigenous precision-guided glide weapon developed by DRDO.
- Designed for long-range precision strikes.



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- Enhances stand-off attack capability of Indian Armed Forces.
- Part of India's defence indigenisation efforts under Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- India's premier defence research agency.
- Established in 1958.
- Functions under Ministry of Defence.
- Develops missiles, radars, combat systems, aircraft technologies, and electronic warfare systems.
- Plays a central role in indigenous defence technology development.

India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

- Proposed trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom.
- Aims to enhance trade, investment, and economic cooperation.
- Covers goods, services, digital trade, and market access issues.
- Expected to strengthen bilateral economic relations.
- Negotiations focus on tariffs, mobility, and regulatory cooperation.

Venezuela

- Located on the northern coast of South America.
- Capital: Caracas.
- Holds one of the world's largest proven crude oil reserves.
- Member of OPEC.
- Recently emerged as a major crude oil supplier to India following easing of restrictions.

Indian War Memorial, Seoul

- Memorial dedicated to Indian soldiers who served under the United Nations Command during the Korean War.
- Located in Seoul, South Korea.
- Symbolizes India–South Korea friendship and shared historical connections.
- Reflects India's contribution to peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts during the Korean conflict.



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- Strengthens bilateral defence and strategic relations.

Korean War

- Fought between 1950 and 1953 on the Korean Peninsula.
- Involved North Korea, South Korea, United Nations forces, and China.
- Ended with an armistice agreement rather than a peace treaty.
- Created the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea.
- One of the major conflicts of the Cold War era.

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- Multilateral alliance launched by India for conservation of seven major big cat species.
- Covers Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- Announced by India during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger in 2023.
- Aims to facilitate cooperation in conservation, research, capacity building, and funding support.
- Headquarters established in India.
- Supports protection of nearly 34 million sq. km of big cat habitats globally.

Big Cats

- Represent apex predators critical for ecosystem balance.
- Serve as umbrella species whose conservation protects wider biodiversity.
- Face threats from habitat loss, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change.
- India hosts Tiger, Asiatic Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah populations.
- Conservation contributes to ecosystem stability and ecotourism.

Cultural Gifts Symbolising Heritage

- Prime Minister presented cultural gifts reflecting India's civilisational and artistic traditions.
- Such gifts are used as instruments of cultural diplomacy and soft power.
- Highlight India's handicrafts, textiles, paintings, and traditional craftsmanship.
- Promote regional heritage and artisan communities.



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- Strengthen international cultural engagement and people-to-people ties.

Soft Power Diplomacy

- Refers to influencing other nations through culture, values, heritage, and ideas.
- Concept popularised by political scientist Joseph Nye.
- India uses Yoga, Ayurveda, Buddhism, diaspora networks, and cultural heritage as soft power tools.
- Enhances international goodwill and diplomatic influence.
- Complements traditional political and economic diplomacy.

Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE)

- Economy where growth is driven primarily by knowledge, innovation, technology, and human capital.
- Relies heavily on research, education, digital infrastructure, and intellectual property.
- Includes sectors such as IT, biotechnology, AI, fintech, and advanced manufacturing.
- Increasingly important for sustainable economic growth.
- India is developing frameworks to estimate KBE contribution to GDP.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- Legal rights granted over creations of the mind.
- Includes patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, and geographical indications.
- Encourage innovation and technological advancement.
- Governed globally under WTO's TRIPS Agreement.
- India administers patents through the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.

Cooperative Federalism

- Encourages collaboration between Union and State Governments.
- Promoted through institutions such as NITI Aayog and GST Council.
- Aims to improve policy coordination and development outcomes.



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- Important for implementation of national programmes.
- Strengthens participatory governance.

Rabies

- Viral disease affecting the central nervous system.
- Caused by Lyssavirus and transmitted mainly through animal bites.
- Nearly 100% fatal after symptom onset.
- Preventable through timely vaccination and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- India accounts for a significant share of global rabies deaths.

Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules

- Govern management of stray dog populations in India.
- Focus on sterilisation, vaccination, and humane treatment.
- Implemented under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- Aim to reduce stray populations without indiscriminate culling.
- Local bodies play a key role in implementation.

Demographic Transition Theory

- Explains population change through stages of economic and social development.
- Stage 1: High birth and death rates.
- Stage 2: Death rates decline due to improved healthcare and sanitation.
- Stage 3: Birth rates begin to decline.
- Stage 4: Low birth and death rates with stable population growth.
- Some countries have entered Stage 5 with declining populations.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- Federation of seven emirates located in West Asia.
- Capital: Abu Dhabi.
- Important trade, energy, and investment partner of India.



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- Member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- Home to one of the largest Indian diaspora populations.

International Day for Biological Diversity

- Observed annually on 22 May.
- Commemorates adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Raises awareness about biodiversity conservation.
- Highlights importance of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity.
- CBD was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- International treaty for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
- Entered into force in 1993.
- Three objectives: conservation, sustainable use, and fair benefit sharing.
- Secretariat located in Montreal, Canada.
- India is a party to the convention.

Genome India Project

- National initiative to map genetic diversity of Indian populations.
- Led by Department of Biotechnology.
- Supports precision medicine and disease research.
- Involves genome sequencing of diverse ethnic groups.
- Expected to strengthen biotechnology and healthcare research.

Precision Medicine

- Medical approach that tailors treatment to individual genetic profiles.
- Uses genomic information to improve diagnosis and therapy.
- Particularly useful in cancer treatment and rare genetic disorders.
- Emerging field within modern healthcare.



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- Relies heavily on advances in genomics and bioinformatics.

Rare Earth Supply Chains

- Strategic concern due to concentration of production and processing.
- Rare earth elements are essential for electronics, EVs, semiconductors, and defence systems.
- China dominates global processing capacity.
- Many countries are seeking diversification of supply sources.
- Important for economic and technological security.

Neodymium Magnets

- Strong permanent magnets made using neodymium and other rare earth elements.
- Essential for electric vehicles, wind turbines, robotics, and missiles.
- Possess high magnetic strength relative to size.
- Critical component in clean-energy technologies.
- Demand is rising rapidly with green energy transition.

INS Sunayna

- Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy.
- Built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Designed for maritime surveillance, anti-piracy operations, and EEZ patrols.
- Frequently deployed for regional maritime cooperation missions.
- Supports India's SAGAR vision in the Indian Ocean region.

SAGAR Doctrine

- Stands for Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- India's maritime vision for the Indian Ocean Region.
- Promotes regional cooperation, maritime security, and economic development.
- Announced by Prime Minister in 2015.
- Central pillar of India's Indo-Pacific strategy.



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Global Drought Outlook

- Climate change is increasing frequency and intensity of droughts worldwide.
- Affects agriculture, food security, water availability, and livelihoods.
- Regions dependent on monsoon systems are particularly vulnerable.
- Drought monitoring relies on meteorological, hydrological, and agricultural indicators.
- Considered one of the major climate adaptation challenges of the 21st century.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- International agreement adopted in 1994.
- Focuses on combating desertification and land degradation.
- Secretariat located in Bonn, Germany.
- Supports sustainable land management practices.
- India hosted COP-14 of UNCCD in 2019.

World Dugong Day

- Observed annually on 28 May to raise awareness about dugong conservation.
- Dugong is the only strictly marine herbivorous mammal.
- Scientific name: Dugong dugon.
- Commonly called the "Sea Cow."
- Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- Found in Indian waters of the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kachchh, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Dugong

- Marine mammal belonging to the order Sirenia.
- Feeds primarily on seagrass meadows.
- Plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.
- Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Threatened by habitat loss, fishing nets, boat strikes, and coastal development.



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Seagrass Ecosystems

- Flowering plants adapted to marine environments.
- Act as major carbon sinks ("Blue Carbon" ecosystems).
- Provide habitat and breeding grounds for fish, turtles, and dugongs.
- Help stabilize seabeds and reduce coastal erosion.
- Gulf of Mannar hosts extensive seagrass beds.

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

- Smart border management system deployed along India's international borders.
- Uses sensors, cameras, radars, drones, and communication networks.
- Enhances surveillance in difficult terrain.
- Supports real-time monitoring and intrusion detection.
- Part of India's technology-driven border security strategy.

Border Security Force (BSF)

- India's primary border guarding force on Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.
- Established in 1965 after the Indo-Pak War.
- Functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Known as the "First Line of Defence."
- Responsible for border security and anti-smuggling operations.

National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

- Centrally sponsored scheme promoting chemical-free agriculture.
- Encourages use of locally available biological inputs.
- Focuses on soil health restoration and sustainable farming.
- Supports reduction in input costs for farmers.
- Aligned with climate-resilient agriculture objectives.

Natural Farming



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- Farming system based on ecological processes and local resources.
- Avoids synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Promotes biodiversity and soil microbial activity.
- Popularized by Subhash Palekar through Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).
- Reduces environmental impact of agriculture.

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)

- Farming approach developed by Subhash Palekar.
- Uses Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, Mulching, and Waaphasa principles.
- Minimizes dependence on external agricultural inputs.
- Enhances soil fertility through biological processes.
- Forms the foundation of many natural farming initiatives.

Vembanad Lake

- Longest lake in India.
- Located in Kerala.
- Designated as a Ramsar Site.
- Fed by rivers such as Pamba, Meenachil, Achankovil, and Manimala.
- Famous for Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary and Kerala backwaters.

Ramsar Convention

- International treaty for conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- India became a party in 1982.
- Supports wetland protection and sustainable management.
- India has one of the largest numbers of Ramsar Sites in Asia.

C-FLOOD Platform

- Flood forecasting platform launched by Central Water Commission (CWC).



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- Provides village-level flood forecasts.
- Uses advanced hydrological and geospatial technologies.
- Enhances disaster preparedness and early warning systems.
- Supports flood risk reduction and management.

Central Water Commission (CWC)

- Apex technical organization in water resources sector.
- Functions under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Responsible for flood forecasting and water resource planning.
- Established in 1945.
- Provides technical guidance on irrigation and river management projects.

NIPUN Bharat Mission

- Full form: National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy.
- Launched under National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Aims to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3.
- Implemented by Ministry of Education.
- Focuses on early childhood learning outcomes.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

- Basic ability to read, write, and perform simple arithmetic.
- Considered essential for lifelong learning.
- Forms a core pillar of NEP 2020.
- Poor FLN levels significantly affect future educational outcomes.
- Monitored through national learning assessments.

INS Arnala

- First Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) delivered to the Indian Navy.
- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and L&T Shipbuilding.



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- Designed for anti-submarine operations in coastal waters.
- Equipped with advanced underwater sensors and weapons.
- Strengthens India's coastal defence capabilities.

Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)

- Military operations aimed at detecting, tracking, and neutralizing submarines.
- Uses sonar systems, torpedoes, aircraft, helicopters, and specialized warships.
- Critical component of maritime security.
- Increasingly important in Indo-Pacific strategic competition.
- Integral to naval deterrence and sea control.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

- Observed annually on 29 May.
- Honors personnel serving in UN peacekeeping operations.
- Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2002.
- Recognizes sacrifices made by peacekeepers worldwide.
- India is among the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions.

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

- Deployed to maintain peace and stability in conflict zones.
- Operate under mandates approved by the UN Security Council.
- Support ceasefires, elections, civilian protection, and institution-building.
- Over 70 missions have been conducted since 1948.
- Blue helmets are the symbol of UN peacekeepers.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- Climate policy instrument introduced by the European Union.
- Imposes carbon-related charges on imports of carbon-intensive goods.
- Intended to prevent carbon leakage.



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- Covers sectors such as steel, cement, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen.
- Has significant implications for India's exports.

Carbon Leakage

- Occurs when industries shift production to countries with weaker climate regulations.
- Can undermine global climate mitigation efforts.
- Major concern in international climate policy.
- CBAM aims to address this challenge.
- Frequently discussed in global trade and environmental negotiations.

Nathu La Pass

- Mountain pass located in Sikkim.
- Connects India with Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- Part of the historic Silk Route.
- Situated at an altitude of about 4,310 metres.
- Important for trade, tourism, and strategic security.

Silk Route

- Ancient network of trade routes connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa.
- Facilitated exchange of goods, culture, religion, and technology.
- Played a major role in spread of Buddhism from India to East Asia.
- Included both land and maritime trade routes.
- Functioned for over a millennium.

Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

- Initiative launched during the G20 process.
- Seeks to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty.
- Promotes international cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- Supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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- Encourages adoption of successful social protection programmes.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)

- Aims to end hunger and achieve food security by 2030.
- Promotes sustainable agriculture and improved nutrition.
- One of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015.
- Closely linked with poverty reduction and health outcomes.
- Remains a major global development challenge.

Kilauea Volcano

- One of the world's most active volcanoes.
- Located on the island of Hawaii, USA.
- Shield volcano formed by hotspot volcanism.
- Part of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
- Frequent eruptions contribute to studies of volcanic processes.

Shield Volcano

- Broad volcano with gentle slopes formed by low-viscosity lava flows.
- Produces relatively less explosive eruptions.
- Commonly associated with hotspot regions.
- Examples include Kilauea and Mauna Loa.
- Distinguished from stratovolcanoes by shape and eruption style.

SCHEMES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, aims to provide clean cooking fuel (LPG) to poor households, replacing polluting fuels like firewood and coal. Over the past decade, it has emerged as a major social welfare and energy transition scheme.



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The scheme also strengthened infrastructure, including expansion of LPG distribution networks and use of direct benefit transfer (DBT) mechanisms. Recent policy support includes a ₹300 subsidy per cylinder for eligible beneficiaries.

RBI's UDGAM Portal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the UDGAM Portal — Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information — to help citizens identify and recover unclaimed bank deposits across multiple banks through a single online platform.

About the UDGAM Portal

- Launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August 2023.
- Developed to tackle the growing problem of unclaimed bank deposits in India.
- Allows registered users to search unclaimed accounts across participating banks at one place.

What are Unclaimed Deposits?

- Deposits that remain inactive or unoperated for 10 years or more are treated as unclaimed deposits.
- Such funds are transferred by banks to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund maintained by RBI.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

- Provides life insurance coverage of ₹2 lakh for death due to any reason
- Available for individuals aged 18–50 years with bank accounts
- Annual premium is very low and auto-debited from bank accounts

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- Provides accidental insurance coverage:
- ₹2 lakh for accidental death/full disability
- ₹1 lakh for partial disability
- Available for individuals aged 18–70 years
- Premium remains highly affordable



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Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- Pension scheme targeted mainly at workers in the unorganized sector
- Guarantees monthly pension between ₹1,000 and ₹5,000 after the age of 60
- Government-backed defined pension model

Bhashini Initiative

- AI-based language translation platform launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Full form: BHASHINI – BHASha INterface for India.
- Promotes digital inclusion by enabling translation and voice services in Indian languages.
- Supports governance, education, e-commerce, and digital public services in multilingual formats.

One Case One Data & SU-SAHAY

- One Case One Data is a judicial digital integration initiative aimed at creating a unified database for court cases across India.
- Designed to improve:
 - Data accuracy,
 - Case tracking,
 - Interoperability between courts,
 - Judicial transparency.
- SU-SAHAY is an AI-assisted legal support initiative intended to improve:
 - Legal research,
 - Judicial administration,
 - Access to legal services.
- Reflects the judiciary's push toward digitization under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) recently observed its Incorporation Day.



MAY ONELINERS

- Established in 2017 as a Section 8 non-profit company under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Digital procurement platform for government purchases.
- Promotes:
 - o Transparency,
 - o Efficiency,
 - o Paperless procurement,
 - o MSME participation.

PM POSHAN Scheme

The government recently reviewed implementation of the PM POSHAN Scheme to improve nutritional support for school children. PM POSHAN, formerly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is a centrally sponsored programme providing cooked meals to students in government and aided schools.

The scheme aims to:

- Improve nutritional levels among children,
- Increase school enrolment and attendance,
- Reduce dropout rates,
- Promote social equity.

It covers students from:

- Balvatika,
- Primary classes,
- Upper primary classes.

Nutrition gardens and millet-based meals are increasingly being integrated into the programme.

PM e-Drive Scheme

- Government approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM e-DRIVE) Scheme.



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- Focuses on accelerating electric mobility through subsidies for EVs and charging infrastructure.
- Replaces the earlier FAME scheme framework with a more targeted approach.
- Aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence and urban pollution.

Waqf UMEED Portal

- Ministry of Minority Affairs launched the Waqf Unified Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) Portal.
- Intended to digitize waqf property records and improve transparency in management.
- Helps reduce disputes and improve monitoring of waqf assets.

Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI)

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy operationalized the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme.
- Defines standards for certifying hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources.
- Aims to ensure transparency, export competitiveness, and carbon accounting in the hydrogen sector.
- Important for achieving India's National Green Hydrogen Mission targets.
