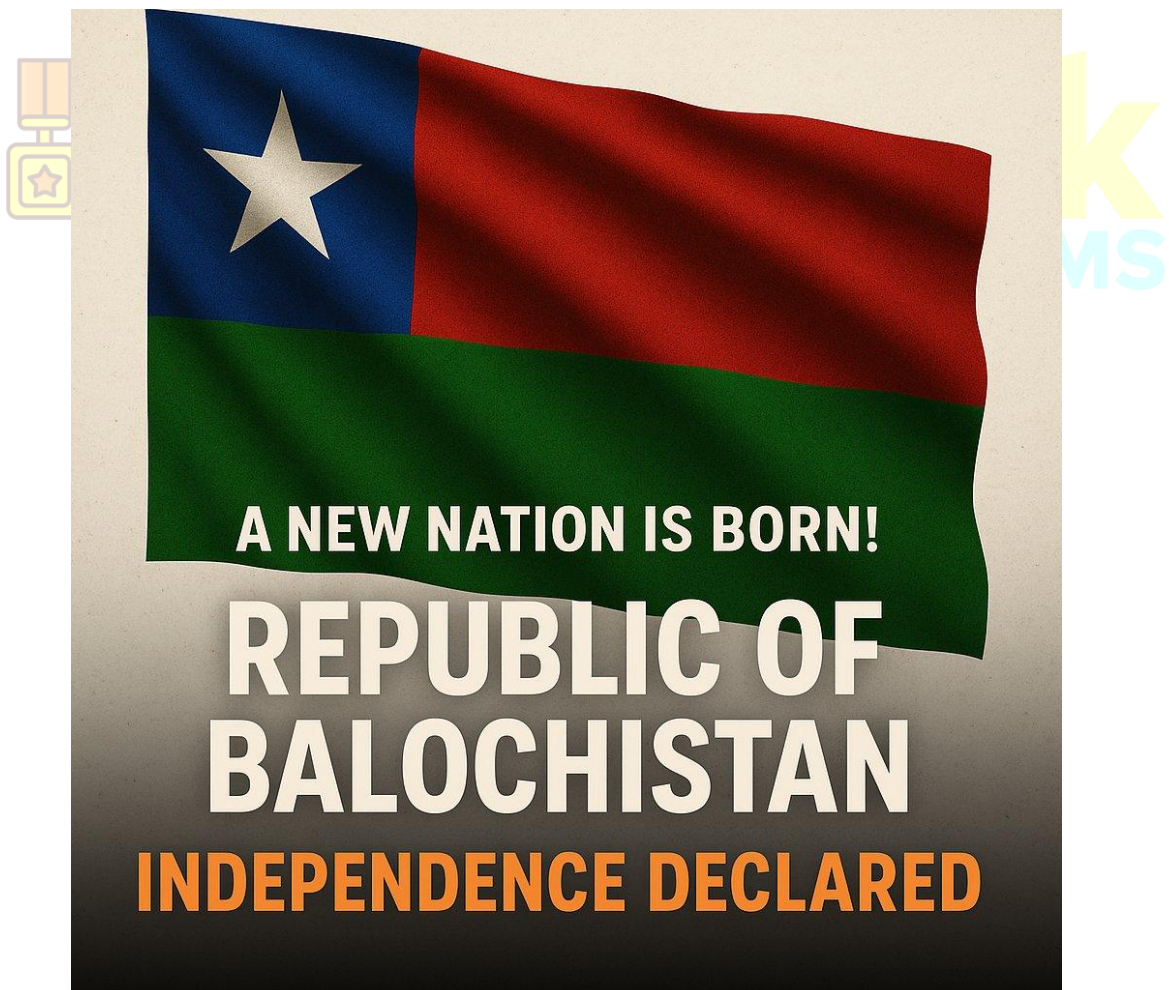


# Daily Current Affairs

## 15 May 2025

### Balochs Declare Independence From Pakistan

- **Baloch nationalist leaders have declared independence** from Pakistan, citing decades of violence, enforced disappearances, and human rights violations in the region. Social media was flooded with images of **Balochistan's proposed national flag and maps of an independent** Baloch state, as '**Republic of Balochistan**' trended widely across platforms. Prominent Baloch activist and writer Mir Yar Baloch said that people across Pakistan-occupied Balochistan have taken to the streets, voicing their demand for independence with mass protests and declaring that "**Balochistan is not Pakistan.**"



- In a social media post, Mr. Mir urged the international community and the United Nations to recognise the “**Democratic Republic of Balochistan**” as a sovereign state. Akashvani Correspondent reports that the Baloch independence movement has deep historical roots, tracing back to 1947, when the **princely state of Kalat briefly declared independence** following the partition of British India.



- **In 1948, it was forcibly annexed by Pakistan**, a move that Baloch nationalists have never accepted. Activists, including Mir Yar Baloch, argue that the region’s vast natural resources, particularly gas and minerals, have been exploited by Islamabad, while the local population remains marginalised. Today, Balochistan remains Pakistan’s poorest and least developed province. Historical Roots of the Conflict
- **When Pakistan was created in 1947, the princely state of Kalat** (which formed the core of modern Balochistan) was technically independent. Its ruler, the Khan of Kalat, initially refused to join Pakistan. **However, in 1948, under military**

**pressure, Kalat** was annexed by Pakistan. This event is widely seen by Baloch nationalists as the beginning of forced integration and subjugation.

- **Ever since, there have been multiple uprisings** — in 1948, 1958, 1962, 1973, and the ongoing insurgency since 2004 — driven by Baloch demands for self-rule and control over their natural resources. Economic Exploitation.



- **Balochistan is rich in natural gas, coal, copper, gold, and other minerals**, yet it remains Pakistan's poorest province. The people of Balochistan argue that these resources are extracted for the benefit of the rest of Pakistan, particularly Punjab, while Baloch communities remain underdeveloped and impoverished.



- For example:



- **The Sui gas field, discovered in 1952**, has supplied much of Pakistan with energy, but large parts of Balochistan still lack basic access to gas and electricity.
- **Projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** and the development of Gwadar Port have brought massive investments but little benefit to the local population, who often face displacement without adequate compensation.

## Who Is Kashish Chaudhary?

- **A 25-year-old Pakistani Hindu woman has made history** by becoming the **first female from the minority community** in Balochistan to be appointed as an Assistant Commissioner in the restive province.
- **Kashish Chaudhary earned the role after clearing the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam.** made history by becoming the first woman from the Pakistani Hindu minority in Balochistan to be appointed as an Assistant Commissioner in the province.



## Cabinet Approves Semiconductor Unit In UP

- The government has **approved a semiconductor unit to be set up near Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh.** Briefing media in New Delhi Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, the unit to be set up under the **India Semiconductor Mission** with the joint venture of **HCL and Foxconn.**



- He said, the plant is **designed for 20 thousand wafers per month** and the design output capacity is **36 million units per month**. He added that the new semiconductor unit in Jewar will attract investment of three thousand 700 crore rupees.
- **Union Cabinet has approved a ₹3,706 crore joint venture (JV)** between HCL and Foxconn to establish a semiconductor assembly and packaging plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh. This marks the **sixth semiconductor project under India's ₹76,000 crore Semiconductor Mission**, and the first of its kind in UP. Scheduled to begin production in 2027, the facility is expected to create 2,000 jobs and contribute to meeting nearly 40% of India's local chip demand.

Cabinet Decision: 14-05-2025

## Semiconductor unit in Uttar Pradesh

Cabinet approves **one more semiconductor unit** under **India Semiconductor Mission**

- Unit is a joint venture of **HCL** and **Foxconn**
- Plant to be set up near **Jewar airport** in **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority**
- Plant to manufacture display driver chips for **mobile phones, laptops, automobiles, PCs, and other devices** that have display

1/2

Cabinet Decision: 14-05-2025

## Semiconductor unit in Uttar Pradesh

Cabinet approves  
**one more  
semiconductor unit**  
under *India  
Semiconductor Mission*

- Plant is designed for **20,000 wafers per month**. The design output capacity is **36 million units per month**
- Unit to attract investment of **Rs 3,700 crore**
- This is **6th unit** after five semiconductor units are in advanced stages of construction

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## JNU Suspends Mou With Turkey's Inonu University

- Jawaharlal Nehru University** in Delhi has suspended a memorandum of understanding with **Turkey's Inonu University**. In a social media post, JNU said that the decision was taken in view of national security considerations. Under the MoU, there were plans for faculty and student exchange programmes, among other initiatives.





## Anti - Maoist Operation

- **Thirty-one Maoists, including 16 female Maoists**, have been killed in an anti-Maoist operation that lasted for about twenty-one days on **Karregutta hill, situated on the Telangana border** in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.
- In a press conference held in Bijapur today, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Chhattisgarh Director General of Police Arun Dev Gautam and Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said that a total of twenty-one encounters took place during this operation, which was **conducted from April 21 to the 11th of this month**.



- During this period, a **total of thirty-five weapons**, including self-loading rifles (SLRs), semi-automatic weapons, and four hundred and fifty IEDs, were recovered. Apart from this, two hundred and fourteen bunkers and Maoist hideouts were destroyed, and about twelve thousand kilograms of ration was also recovered.
- **Of the Maoists killed in this operation**, twenty-eight have been identified. A reward of one crore seventy-two lakh rupees had been declared on them. CRPF DG Gyanendra Pratap Singh said that in order to fulfill the government's resolve **to make the country Naxal-free by March 2026**, the central security forces, in collaboration with the state police, are continuously conducting anti-Maoist operations. Kurraguttalu Hills served as the Unified Headquarters for major Naxal outfits, was not only a training ground but also a center for Naxal strategy planning and weapon manufacturing.

- The **Home Minister said, this largest anti-Naxal operation** was successfully completed by the security forces in just 21 days. Mr Shah said, despite harsh weather and the **challenging hilly terrain, the country's brave CRPF**, Special Task Force, and DRG jawans faced the Naxals with unmatched courage and valor. He said, the government is committed to eradicating Naxalism from its root.



## India Rejects China's Attempt To Rename Places

- India has **categorically rejected China's continued**, unfounded, and absurd attempts to assign new names to locations within the State of Arunachal Pradesh.



Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

**In response to media queries on renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh by China, the Official Spokesperson, Shri Randhir Jaiswal said:**

"We have noticed that China has persisted with its vain and preposterous attempts to name places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Consistent with our principled position, we reject such attempts categorically. Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India."

14 May 2025



- In response to media queries, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, reiterated that such actions are entirely unacceptable and stand in **direct contradiction to India's consistent and principled position**. He emphasised that no amount of creative renaming can alter the clear and indisputable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India.

## **Ajay Kumar Appointed As UPSC Chairman**

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Dr. Ajay Kumar as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission**. According to an Order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Dr. Kumar's tenure will begin on the day he assumes **charge as Chairman of the UPSC**.



- **Dr. Kumar is a retired Indian Administrative Service officer from the 1985 batch of the Kerala cadre.** He previously served as the Defence Secretary from August 2019 to October 2022.

Art	Explanation
315	Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the states
316	Appointment and term of office of members
317	Removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission
318	Power to make regulations as to conditions of service of members and staff of the Commission
319	Prohibition as to the holding of office by members of commission on ceasing to be such members
320	Functions of Public Service Commissions
321	Power to extend functions of Public Service Commissions
322	Expenses of Public Service Commissions
323	Reports of Public Service Commissions

## Ayurveda Day

- **Government has officially designated 23rd September as Ayurveda Day.** The Ayush Ministry stated that the change notified through a Gazette notification marks a significant shift from the earlier practice of observing Ayurveda Day on Dhanteras.



- Ministry said, **Ayurveda Day has been commemorated annually** to promote Ayurveda as a scientific, evidence-based, and holistic system of medicine that plays a **pivotal role in preventive healthcare and wellness.**



## आयुर्वेद दिवस

- It also noted that in the coming decade, the date of Dhanteras would continue to vary **widely between 15th October and 12th November**, posing logistical challenges for organising national and international observances. The Ministry urged the citizens, health professionals, academic bodies, and international partners to embrace the newly designated date and actively participate in Ayurveda Day celebrations on 23rd September each year.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. When will Ayurveda Day be celebrated each year**

- A. 14<sup>th</sup> November
- B. 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- C. Dhanteras
- D. 5<sup>th</sup> July

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Who has been appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India**

- A. Sanjiv Khanna
- B. D.Y. Chandrachud
- C. Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai
- D. N.V. Ramana

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is a Supreme Court judge appointed**

- A. Article 76
- B. Article 124(2)
- C. Article 148
- D. Article 368

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Who holds authority to assign specific cases to benches in the Supreme Court**

- A. President of India
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Law Minister
- D. Chief Justice of India

**ANSWER: D**

**5. Where was the first Semicon India 2022 Conference held**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Pune

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Who became the first woman from the Pakistani Hindu minority in Balochistan to be appointed Assistant Commissioner**

- A. Meena Kumari
- B. Kashish Chaudhary
- C. Lata Sharma
- D. Poonam Rani

**ANSWER: B**

**7. What is purpose of Next Space Testrig developed at the University of Glasgow**

- A. To simulate Mars missions
- B. To generate solar energy
- C. To test 3D printed space materials
- D. To monitor asteroids

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Which university developed the Next Space Testrig**

- A. Harvard University
- B. Oxford University
- C. James Watt School of Engineering, University of Glasgow
- D. Stanford University

**ANSWER: C**

**9. How much is value of US-Saudi arms deal signed during Donald Trump's visit**

- A. \$142 million
- B. \$100 billion
- C. \$142 billion
- D. \$1 trillion

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Where will the new semiconductor unit by HCL and Foxconn be established?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Pune
- C. Near Jewar airport in YEIDA
- D. Hyderabad

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Which edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week is being observed from 12 to 18 May 2025?**

- A. 5th
- B. 6th
- C. 7th
- D. 8th

**ANSWER: D**

**12. On which date is the International Day of Plant Health observed annually**

- A. May 12
- B. April 22
- C. June 5
- D. March 15

**ANSWER: A**

**13. The Raika Tribe Is Primarily Found In Which State**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Odisha

**ANSWER: A**

**14. PL-15 Also Called Thunderbolt-15, Is A Long-range Beyond-visual-range Air-to-air Missile Developed By Which Country**

- A. Russia
- B. India
- C. China
- D. France

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Which Telescope Was Used To Discover Asteroid 2024 YR4**

- A. Hubble Space Telescope
- B. ATLAS Telescope
- C. James Webb Space Telescope
- D. Chandra X-ray Observatory

**ANSWER: C**



**16. UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) Is A Biennial Global Road Safety Campaign Hosted By Which Organization**

- A. United Nations Development Programme
- B. World Bank
- C. International Road Federation
- D. World Health Organization

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project Dam Is Built On Which River**

- A. Chenab
- B. Satluj
- C. Narmada
- D. Godavari

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Which Indian State Has Recently Expanded Its One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme By Adding 12 New Products**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: C**

**19. On Which Date Is The International Day Of Plant Health Observed Annually**

- A. May 12
- B. April 22
- C. June 5
- D. March 15

**ANSWER: A**

**20. In Which Of Following The Philosophical And Spiritual Thoughts Are Contained**

- A. Vinaya Pitaka
- B. Suddha Pitaka
- C. Abhidhamma Pitaka
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**