Monthly May Current Affairs 2025

First National Mediation Conference

- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the first National Mediation
 Conference in New Delhi. Chief Justice of India Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Union
 Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal will also address the conference.
- The event is being organised by Office of the **Attorney General of India** in association with the Ministry of Law and Justice.



- Attorney General R Venkataramani said that the conference will bring together a
 large number of mediation and arbitration institutions so that they can discuss
 and share best practices with regard to the mediation process.
- Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice Ajay Arora said that the
 purpose behind organising this event is to motivate the litigants to follow the
 mediation process for resolving the cases to bring down the pendency of cases
 in the courts.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

 Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated and presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 to badminton champions Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in New Delhi.



- Lauding the efforts of players, Dr Mandaviya said that this award is a testament
 to dedication and exceptional performances on the court. He added that both
 players have brought honour to the country by winning medals in international
 competitions through extraordinary skills and sheer hard work.
- The ace badminton pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who
 reached the No. 1 rank in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings in
 2023 and clinched the Asian Games gold medal in Hangzhou, were shortlisted
 for the Khel Ratna award in 2023.

India Angola

 India Has Announced A Defence Credit Line Of 200 Million Dollars (In Indian Rupees) To Support The Modernisation Of Angola's Armed Forces. The Announcement Came Following Delegation-level Talks Between Prime Minister Narendra Modi And The President Of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, In New Delhi.



- Mr Ravi Added That India And Angola Also Exchanged Several Agreements In Diverse Fields, Including Agriculture, Traditional Medicine, And Culture. Minister Of State For External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh Said That India-angola Bilateral Relations Are Underpinned By A Vibrant Energy Partnership With Bilateral Trade Reaching 4.2 Billion Dollars In 2023-24.
- The Mos Said Angola Has Strengthened Its Presence On The Global Stage With The Diversification Of Its Economy, Modernisation Of Infrastructure, And Improving Ease Of Doing Business.



State Visit of President H.H. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço to India

MoUs/ Agreements

MoU on cooperation in the field of Ayurveda and other Traditional Systems of Medicine

MoU on cooperation in the field of Agriculture

Cooperation programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Angola in the domain of Culture

Angola also signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
Framework Agreement and became the
123rd member of the ISA.

The Government of India has approved the Angolan request of LOC of US\$ 200 million for defence procurement

 He Highlighted That Angola Is Now The 123rd Member Of The International Solar Alliance And India Has Approved A Line Of Credit Of 200 Million Dollars For Further Strengthening Defence And Security Cooperation.

International Solar Alliance: Journey

- Launched at the COP-21 in Paris on 30 November 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi & French President Francois Hollande
- ISA Framework Agreement opened for signature at the COP-22 in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016
- ISA became a legal entity on 6 November, 2017 after 15 countries ratified the treaty
- As of 8th March 2018, 60 countries have signed the framework agreement & 30 have ratified it

First WAVES 2025 Summit Concludes

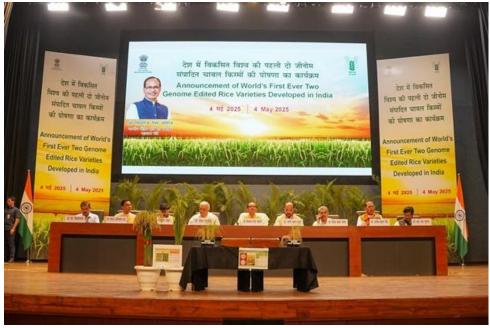
India's first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025
concluded today at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. WAVES Bazaar
saw business deals worth over one thousand three hundred crore rupees with
creators and filmmakers from across the country.



- During the summit, the WAVES declaration was adopted by representatives of 77 countries at the Global Media Dialogue. Seven Global firms, including Google, Meta and Microsoft today signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Creative Technology during WAVES Summit in Mumbai.
- The **IICT will be set up in Mumbai with a funding of 400 crore rupees**. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vaishnaw said, in the coming days the IICT will set the same template as IIT and IIM.
- Earlier, the Minister had said that the Indian Institute of Creative Technology is set to become a national hub for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr L Murugan and Information and Broadcasting secretary Sanjay Jaju were also present on the occasion.

1st Country To Develop Genome-edited Rice Varieties

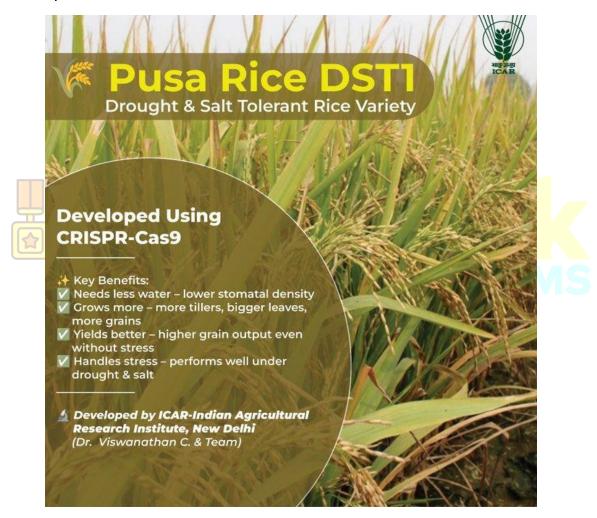
- India has become the first country in the world to develop genome-edited rice varieties. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the first two genome-edited rice varieties developed by ICAR institutions.
- Addressing the event in New Delhi, the Minister congratulated agriculture scientists who were involved in this project and said that the country has faith in the capability of the country's agricultural scientists.



He said that this research will prove to be a milestone in Prime Minister
 Narendra Modi's resolution of Viksit Bharat. Mr Chouhan said that to fulfil the

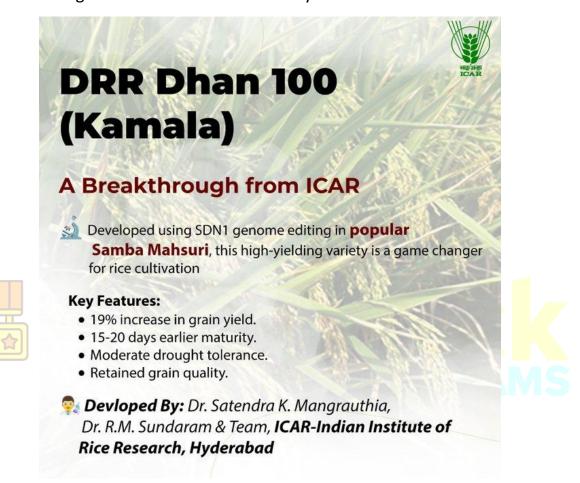
nutritional demands of the increasing population, the country needs to increase its production. He added that these two varieties are not only beneficial to farmers but also to the public.

- These varieties have been developed for Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.
- The first rice variety named DRR Dhan 100 Kamala has been derived from Samba Mahsuri, which matures 15 to 20 days earlier and yields 25 per cent more production.



- The second variety, named Pusa DST Rice 1, is salinity and alkalinity tolerant and yields 30 per cent higher production under saline conditions. Cultivation of these varieties in about 5 million hectares of the recommended area will produce 4.5 million tons of additional paddy.
- Agriculture Minister termed the launch of these varieties as historic and said that these two varieties will reduce the cost of production and increase the

- yield. He said that these will be more effective in fulfilling the nutritional demands of the increasing population of the country.
- ICAR said that these varieties mark a major step in climate-resilient and highyield agriculture. It added that these varieties will play a leading role in heralding the second green revolution in the country.



Lakkundi Group Of Monuments

 Ancient group of temples and monuments in Lakkundi and surrounding areas in Karnataka, built during the Kalyana Chalukya period (10th–12th century CE), are being finalised for inclusion in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. The State government has partnered with INTACH to prepare and refine the proposal, aiming to secure international recognition for these architectural marvels.



• The Karnataka government, with assistance from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), is in the final stages of submitting a proposal to list the Lakkundi group of monuments and associated temples from the Western Chalukyan period on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. The monuments fulfil key UNESCO criteria for architectural and cultural significance.



- Located in **Gadag district, Karnataka**. Temples built between 10th–12th centuries CE during the Kalyana Chalukya (Western Chalukya) reign.
- UNESCO Tentative Listing Criteria Met
- Cultural Exchange: Illustrates architectural interchange between Nagara,
 Dravida, and Bhumija styles forming the Vesara style.

- **Historical Significance**: Represents a significant stage in temple architecture and technological advancement through features like stepwells.
- Lakkundi Monuments: Kasi Visvesvara, Manikesvara, Nanneswara, Brahma Jinalaya (1007 CE), Musukina Bavi.



- Surrounding Temples
- Doddabasappa temple, Japada Bavi (Dambal)
- Trikuteshwara temple (Gadag)
- Mahadeva temple (Itagi)
- Sri Mallikarjuna temple (Kuruvatti)
- Someshwara temple (Lakshmeshwara)
- Tarakeshwara temple (Hangal)
- Architectural Importance: Showcases Vesara hybrid style.
- Stepwells integral to temple complexes, some larger than the temples themselves.
- Process & Future Steps
- Proposal being reviewed by experts from INTACH and Department of Archaeology.
- Upon acceptance to tentative list, a full nomination dossier will be submitted after 1 year.
- Other Karnataka sites on tentative list: Badami, Aihole, Srirangapatana, Hire Benkal, and Deccan Sultanate Monuments.

Anarghya Panchawatkar

 Anarghya Abhishek Panchawatkar of Gurugram has clinched the gold medal at the 11th Budokan International Karate Championship held in Dubai.
 Representing India under the banner of the Sports Shitokai Karate Federation, Anarghya delivered a stellar performance in the kumite category, securing the top podium position.



The tournament saw participation from over 900 athletes representing 17 countries, competing across various age groups. Anarghya's success did not stop at kumite, as he also earned a bronze medal in kata, underscoring his well-rounded expertise and command over both forms of karate.

Digital Access As A Fundamental Right In India

- The **Supreme Court of India recognised digital access as a fundamental right** under **Article 21 of the Constitution.** This landmark judgement mandates that the state must provide an inclusive digital ecosystem.
- The Supreme Court ruled that digital access is integral to the right to life and liberty. The judgement arose from petitions by acid attack survivors and visually impaired individuals. They faced barriers in completing digital Know Your Customer (KYC) processes. The court identified these barriers as hindrances to accessing essential services and welfare schemes.



The court emphasised the need for an inclusive digital ecosystem. It stated that
access to services such as healthcare, education, and governance is increasingly
digital. Therefore, the state must ensure that all citizens, regardless of their
abilities or backgrounds, can participate equally in these digital platforms. The
government is constitutionally obligated to build an inclusive digital ecosystem,
ensuring access for:

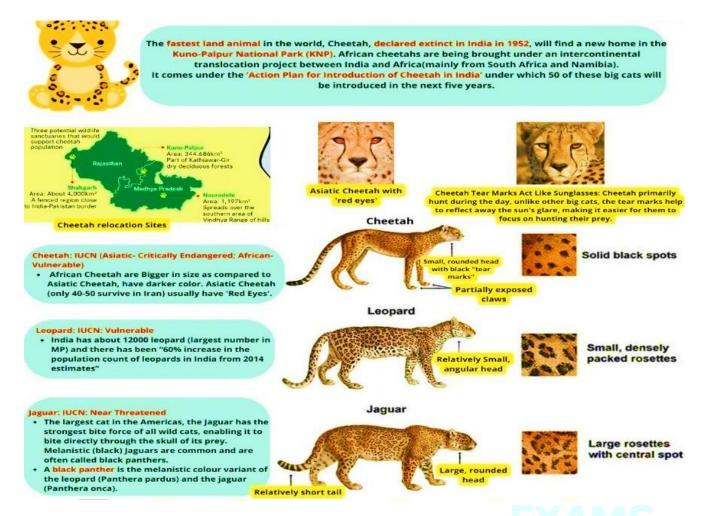


- The marginalised and underprivileged
- Persons with disabilities (PwDs)
- Vulnerable groups
- Historically-excluded communities

- Changes to KYC Processes
- The court directed the government to reform KYC processes to accommodate individuals with disabilities. It mandated that KYC procedures should no longer require visual tasks that are impossible for certain individuals. This includes allowing alternative methods for identity verification, such as video-based KYC processes.
- The ruling reinforced the state's obligation under various articles of the Constitution.
- Article 21 Right to life with dignity
- Article 14 Right to equality
- Article 15 Protection against discrimination
- Article 38 State's duty to promote welfare and reduce inequality
- Recommendations for Government Action
- The Supreme Court issued twenty directives to the government. These
 directives aim to enhance KYC processes and digital accessibility. The court
 instructed regulatory authorities to adhere to accessibility standards and ensure
 that all digital platforms are designed to be inclusive.

Cheetah Corridor Project

- A Cheetah Corridor is being set up as part of India's wildlife conservation efforts. The initiative is designed to facilitate the movement of cheetahs across regions, thereby expanding their natural habitat.
- The Cheetah Corridor will cover 17,000 square kilometres. It will stretch across 27 districts in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. This planned corridor includes 13 districts in Rajasthan, 2 in Uttar Pradesh, and 12 in Madhya Pradesh, aiming to create a continuous path for cheetahs to move freely.



- It will interlink several protected areas, including Shahabad Conservation
 Reserve, Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Mukundra Wildlife Sanctuary, Gandhi
 Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhav National Park and Ranthambhore Tiger
 Reserve. The primary goal of the corridor is to improve genetic diversity among cheetah populations.
- By connecting isolated wildlife reserves, the project aims to reduce habitat
 fragmentation. This will enable cheetahs to roam freely, find mates, and thrive
 in their natural environment. Cheetah is a conservation effort launched by the
 Indian government to bring cheetahs back to the country's wild landscapes after
 their extinction in 1952.



- The initiative involves relocating cheetahs from Africa and introducing them
 into well-suited habitats in India, such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
 The primary objectives of Project Cheetah are to restore ecological balance,
 support biodiversity, and boost both conservation initiatives and wildlife
 tourism in the country.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) endorse the project. Their assessments indicate that the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscape is ideal for cheetah habitation. This scientific backing reinforces the project's credibility.

Sahajog Initiative

- Odisha government has launched Sahajog, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing access to government welfare schemes for the urban poor. Officially inaugurated on May 1, 2025, it seeks to bridge the gap between urban poverty and available state assistance.
- The programme is designed to ensure last-mile delivery of services to eligible beneficiaries in urban communities. Sahajog aims to identify and connect eligible urban poor families with various welfare schemes. It focuses on increasing awareness and facilitating the delivery of essential services directly to the beneficiaries.



- The initiative is a response to the pressing needs of economically weaker sections in urban areas. The programme will operate in a campaign mode from May 1 to June 20, 2025. It will cover 44 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across eight districts, benefiting approximately 15 lakh residents.
- The districts selected include Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Bhadrak. Sahajog will facilitate access to 14 key welfare schemes.
- These include the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), ration cards under the National Food Security Act, pipe water supply, Ayushman Cards, and the Subhadra Yojana. The initiative is structured to provide comprehensive support to the urban poor.
- Community volunteers and frontline workers will play important role in the
 execution of Sahajog. They will receive performance-based incentives to
 encourage active participation. This grassroots involvement is essential for
 reaching the most vulnerable populations effectively.

Committee To Appoint CBI Director

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Committee for the
appointment of the CBI Director at the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi.
The meeting was attended by the Chief Justice of India, Justice Sanjiv Khanna,
and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.



During the meeting, the appointment of the next CBI Director was discussed.
The meeting comes ahead of the end of the two-year term of incumbent CBI
Director Praveen Sood on the 25th of this month. The appointment of the CBI
Director is done by the Central Government on the recommendation of a three-member appointment committee, which is headed by the Prime Minister and comprises the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

World Bank Land Conference 2025

India is poised to play a crucial role at the 2025 World Bank Land Conference, set to take place from May 5th to 8th at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. A high-level Indian delegation, led by Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), will present India's transformative SVAMITVA Scheme, alongside the Gram Manchitra platform.

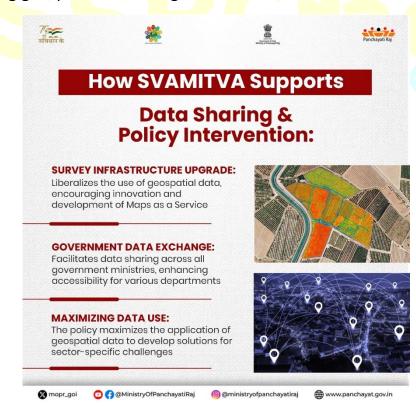




Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh and 9 others

- These initiatives, which harness **advanced geospatial technologies** and drones, aim to revolutionize rural land governance and contribute to climate action and sustainable development.
- India's leadership at this global forum underscores its commitment to digital
 land reforms and climate-responsive governance. 2025 World Bank Land
 Conference is drawing attention for its focus on securing land tenure and
 fostering climate action through effective land governance. As a part of this,
 India's SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform are gaining global
 recognition for their innovative approach to land mapping and rural
 empowerment.
- Aim of India's Participation at the World Bank Land Conference 2025
- To showcase the success and potential of the SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform as models of digital land governance.
- To highlight India's efforts in empowering rural populations, particularly women, through secure land tenure and digital mapping technologies.

 To contribute to global discussions on scaling land governance reforms and integrating geospatial technologies for climate action.



 SVAMITVA Scheme Overview: To provide legal ownership of rural properties through drone mapping and high-resolution geospatial data. Impact Over 24.4

million households across 1.6 lakh villages have received property cards, unlocking a land value of approximately \$1.162 trillion. SVAMITVA exemplifies inclusive, tech-driven governance by improving land rights, tax administration, and infrastructure planning.

- Gram Manchitra Platform: A tool that utilizes SVAMITVA's geospatial data to support village-level planning, including land use, disaster preparedness, and solar energy site selection. It serves as a catalyst for rural development by ensuring that local governance is informed by accurate, up-to-date geospatial information.
- India's participation at **the World Bank conference emphasizes** its growing role in global land governance discussions.
- The country is committed to promoting South-South cooperation, where developing nations can share knowledge and best practices for land administration and sustainable development.



Padma Shri K.V. Rabia

Won Padma Shri K.V. Rabia, An Inspirational Literacy Activist From Kerala,
 Passed Away At The Age Of 59 While Undergoing Treatment. Despite Battling
 Severe Health Conditions Such As Polio, Cancer, And Spinal Injury, Rabia
 Dedicated Her Life To Social Service And Women's Education.



- Her Commitment To Empowering Marginalized Communities Through Literacy Earned Her Several Accolades, Including The Prestigious Padma Shri In 2022.
- Padma Shri (2022) For Contributions To Social Service.
- National Youth Award (1993).
- Kannaki Stree Shakti Puraskar (1999).
- Seethi Sahib Memorial Award (2010).
- Vanitha Ratnam Award (2014) State Recognition.

Global Space Exploration Summit (GLEX) 2025

 GLEX 2025's theme is "Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance," emphasising innovation, inclusivity, and international cooperation in space science.



- GLEX 2025 is jointly organised by:
- International Astronautical Federation (IAF) the world's leading space advocacy body.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the primary host.
- Astronautical Society of India (ASI) as the co-host.



- The conference represents a milestone in India's expanding global space leadership, highlighting its transition from a regional space power to a key international player. Founded in 1951, the IAF has over 500 members from 78 countries, including major space agencies, private firms, research institutes, and universities.
- Its motto "Connecting @Il Space People" and vision "A space-faring world cooperating for the benefit of humanity" guide its efforts to promote global space cooperation.
- The GLEX series, organised by IAF, serves as a platform to share programmatic, technical, and policy insights and facilitate collaborative space missions across nations.

Govt Extends Tenure Of CBI Director For One Year

• Government has extended the tenure **of CBI Director Praveen Sood** for one year beyond 24th of this month. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Praveen Sood for a period of one year. Mr Sood is an IPS officer of Karnataka Cadre and was to retire on 25th of this month.



'Depot Darpan' Portal

 Ministry of Consumer Affairs will launch the "Depot Darpan" portal and mobile app enable real-time monitoring of food storage depots, aiming to improve quality, safety, and transparency in warehousing. Depot Darpan will use geotagged data, automated ratings, and supervisory validation to assess infrastructure and operational efficiency, with each depot receiving a star rating based on performance.



The platform integrates smart technologies such as CCTV, IoT sensors (for CO₂, humidity, fire hazards, etc.), and AI tools like ANPR, FRS, and automated bag counting to enhance security and operational control. Around 2,278 warehouses—managed by FCI, CWC, and other agencies—will be covered under the initiative, empowering officials with mobile-based monitoring and automated performance insights.

10 Years Of Jan Suraksha Schemes

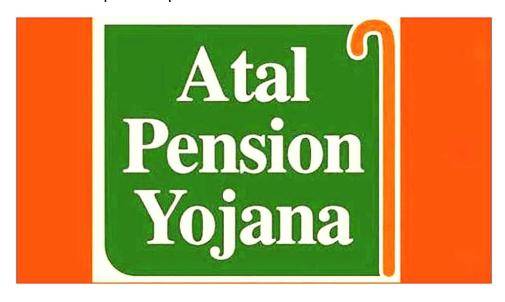
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** (PMJJBY): PMJJBY provides life insurance cover for death due to any cause, **offering a sum of Rs. 2 lakh** to the beneficiary's family in the event of the policyholder's death.
- Eligibility: Available for individual bank/Post office account holders aged 18-50 years.



- Premium: The premium is Rs. 436 per annum, or about Rs. 1.19 per day, to be deducted through auto-debit from the policyholder's bank or post office account.
- Achievements
- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has recorded 23.63 crore enrollments, with a total of Rs. 18,397.92 crore paid out for 9,19,896 claims.
- 10.66 crore women have enrolled in PMJJBY, and 7.08 crore enrollments were from PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): PMSBY aims to provide accidental death and disability cover. In case of accidental death or permanent disability, the scheme provides a sum of Rs. 2 lakh for death and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
- Eligibility: All bank/Post office account holders aged 18-70 years.
- Premium: The premium for the scheme is extremely low only Rs. 20 per annum or less than Rs. 2 per month. It is deducted via auto-debit.



- Achievements
- As of April 23, 2025, the scheme has enrolled 51.06 crore individuals, with Rs. 3,121.02 crore paid for 1,57,155 claims.
- 23.87 crore women and 17.12 crore PMJDY account holders are enrolled under this scheme.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY): APY aims to provide a pension to individuals, especially from the unorganised sector, who do not have access to formal pension schemes. Upon reaching 60 years of age, subscribers receive a guaranteed monthly pension ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000, depending on the contributions made during their working years.
- Eligibility: Open to bank account holders aged 18-40 years, non-tax payers, and without a formal pension plan.



- Premium and Contribution: The contributions vary based on the pension amount chosen (Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000). The scheme is designed to offer flexibility in contributions, with options to pay on a monthly, quarterly, or halfyearly basis.
- Achievements
- By April 23, 2025, more than 7.66 crore individuals have enrolled in APY.
- **Around 47% of these subscribers are women**, demonstrating significant female participation.

Uttar Pradesh Partners With World Bank

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in the presence of World Bank
President Ajay Banga, launched two transformative initiatives — UP AGREES
and Al Pragya — aimed at revolutionizing agriculture and promoting digital skill
development across the state. These World Bank-supported schemes target the
twin goals of enhancing rural productivity and preparing the youth for a digital
future, contributing to UP's vision of becoming a \$1 trillion economy.



- UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Accelerated Growth through Resilient, Equitable and Sustainable Agriculture)
- Focus: Agricultural innovation in 28 districts across Bundelkhand and Purvanchal
- Goals: Promote technology-driven farming, Improve agricultural productivity,
 Empower farmers with climate-resilient practices



- Al Pragya : Train 10 lakh youth in Al and digital technologies
- Focus Areas: Government services, education, healthcare, and agriculture
- Goal: Build a robust AI talent base across UP
- Implementation Regions
- The projects will cover districts including,
- Basti, Maharajganj, Ballia, Ghazipur, Varanasi, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kushinagar, Siddharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Banda, Chitrakoot, etc.

NALSA Executive Chairperson

- President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Supreme Court Judge, Justice Surya Kant,
 As The Chairman Of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- This appointment adheres to the convention of appointing the second seniormost judge of the Supreme Court to the crucial position of NALSA Executive Chairman.
- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act of 1987. This organization plays a pivotal role in providing free legal services to the weaker sections of society and aims to organize Lok Adalats for the amicable settlement of disputes.

SSBCrack EXAMS



History of legal aid movement in India

| Year | Initiative |
|------|---|
| 1960 | Guidelines for legal aid schemes introduced in India |
| 1976 | Article 39A incorporated through 42nd Amendment of Constitution |
| 1980 | Formation of The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) under Justice Bhagwati |
| 1987 | Enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act , providing a statutory framework for legal aid programs in India |
| 1995 | Establishment of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) , the apex body for legal aid coordination in India |
| 1998 | Introduction of Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats , offering an alternative dispute resolution mechanism |
| 2000 | Implementation of various legal aid initiatives, including legal literacy programs and counselling centres |
| | 1960 1976 1980 1987 1995 1998 |



Key Programmes of NALSA



🕍 Legal Aid and assistance

To eligible categories before courts/Tribunals, and assistance through Front Offices and Legal Services Clinics.



Outreach Programmes

To make people aware about their rights and entitlements and assist them in actualization of the same under welfare laws and schemes of the central and state government.



Lok Adalat and Mediation

To promote Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism to resolve pending and pre-litigation cases



Victim Compensation Schemes

To facilitate rehabilitation of Victims of crime by determination and disbursement of compensation under Victim Compensation Schemes



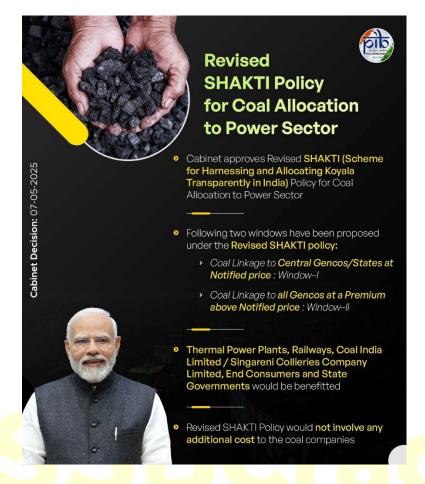
New SHAKTI Policy

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Revised SHAKTI Policy (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) on May 7, 2025. The revised framework simplifies the coal linkage process for thermal power producers, introduces flexibility in supply mechanisms, and aims to enhance the ease of doing business in the sector. SHAKTI Policy was launched in 2017 to introduce transparency in coal allocation.





- Originally, only Central/State sector plants were allocated coal through nomination. Amendments were made in 2019 and 2023, culminating in this latest 2025 revision.
- Government of India approved the Revised SHAKTI Policy to streamline coal allocation, enhance energy security, and boost private sector participation. With a simplified two-window system replacing the earlier eight-paragraph format, the move marks a paradigm shift towards transparency, efficiency, and greater autonomy in the coal supply chain.
- Key Features of the Revised SHAKTI Policy (2025)
- Window-I: Coal Linkage at Notified Price
- Applicable to Central Sector TPPs (Thermal Power Projects) including Joint Ventures and subsidiaries.
- Coal linkage to be earmarked to State Governments or authorized agencies based on recommendations by the Ministry of Power.
- Utilization allowed in,



- State Gencos.
- IPPs selected via Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB).
- Existing IPPs with PPA under Section 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- Window-II: Coal Linkage at Premium Price
- Open to all domestic coal-based and imported coal-based power plants.
- Coal can be secured via auction for,
- Short-term (up to 12 months).
- Long-term (up to 25 years).
- No Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) required.
- Freedom to sell electricity in power markets.

Arunachal Pradesh Drills 1st Geothermal Production Well

Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) has successfully
drilled the first geothermal production well in Dirang, West Kameng district of
Arunachal Pradesh. This historic development marks a breakthrough in tapping
high-altitude geothermal potential and promises to bring eco-friendly heating
and agricultural processing technologies to the region.



- The geothermal drilling in Dirang is the first of its kind in Northeast India, establishing a major precedent for renewable energy use in remote and mountainous areas. The well, drilled after two years of scientific research, could soon make Dirang India's first geothermal-powered city, revolutionizing clean energy access in high-altitude terrains.
- International Partners: Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), Oslo, Geotropy ehf (Iceland), Guwahati Boring Service (GBS), Background and Scientific Details
- Based on two years of geochemical and structural surveys in western Arunachal.
- **Dirang was identified as a medium-to-high enthalpy** geothermal zone with estimated reservoir temperature of 115°C.
- Geological features include quartzite overlying schist near the Main Central Thrust (MCT) — favorable for geothermal activity.



- Potential Applications
- Eco-friendly fruit, nut, and meat drying
- Space heating for high-altitude homes and institutions
- Controlled-atmosphere storage systems for agriculture
- Geothermal-powered city infrastructure in future

Fiscal Health Index 2025

• Fiscal Health Index 2025, released by NITI Aayog, show how well Indian states are managing their money. It checks how states earn income, spend on development and handle debt. The report helps us know which states are using their resources wisely. Know the names of top-10 best performing states in the Fiscal Health Index 2025.



- Odisha is the top state in the Fiscal Health Index 2025. It scored the highest due
 to its excellent debt management, smart spending and good revenue collection.
 Chhattisgarh ranks second, showing strong performance in balancing its income
 and expenses, with a good debt profile.
- **Goa takes the third spot**, mainly because of its high revenue collection. These states have managed their finances well, which helps them invest more in public services and development.
- **Fiscal Health Index is a report by NITI Aayog** that checks how well Indian states manage their finances. It studies 18 major states based on their income, spending, population and role in the economy. The FHI gives a fair comparison of states using common measures, helping them understand their performance and make better financial decisions for the future.

| Rank | State | FHI Score | Quality of Expenditure | Revenue Mobilization | Fiscal Prudence | Debt Index |
|------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Odisha | 67.8 | 52 | 69.9 | 54 | 99 |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 55.2 | 55.1 | 56.5 | 56 | 79.6 |
| 3. | Goa | 53.6 | 45.5 | 87.1 | 59.4 | 51 |
| 4. | Jharkhand | 51.6 | 47.3 | 45.7 | 62.4 | 66.9 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 50.5 | 40 | 48.7 | 52.7 | 69 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 50.3 | 37.1 | 59.1 | 41.8 | 76.4 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | 45.9 | 45.8 | 34.6 | 44.7 | 59.9 |
| 8. | Telangana | 43.6 | 36.9 | 75.2 | 40.8 | 53.3 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | 42.2 | 59.7 | 27.6 | 35.6 | 61 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 40.8 | 47.4 | 43.9 | 43.9 | 62.2 |

Bhutan Becomes To Integrate Crypto Payments In Tourism

- Royal Government of Bhutan has taken a major step toward digital innovation in tourism by launching a cryptocurrency-based payment system through a strategic partnership with Binance Pay and DK Bank.
- This move makes Bhutan the first sovereign country to officially integrate crypto payments into its national tourism policy, offering global travellers a seamless, cashless experience while enhancing financial inclusion within the kingdom.



• This initiative is currently making headlines as it marks a historic first in sovereign adoption of crypto payments for public tourism services. By allowing

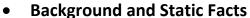
international visitors to **pay using over 100 cryptocurrencies**, Bhutan is setting a global precedent in the blockchain and travel sectors while also enhancing accessibility for rural vendors.

- Enables Binance users to pay for,: Flight tickets, Hotel bookings, Visa and Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), Monument entry, Local shopping
- Payments accepted via QR codes (static & dynamic), eliminating the need for card terminals.

Aim and Objectives

- Promote cashless travel for global tourists.
- Encourage financial inclusion, especially in rural Bhutan.
- Reduce foreign exchange friction and transaction costs.
- Position Bhutan as a technological leader in sustainable and smart tourism.





- Fiat currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN).
- Crypto auto-conversion: All crypto payments convert instantly to BTN to ensure stable payouts.
- Bhutan is already known for its crypto mining industry, holding 12,062 BTC worth approximately \$1.17 billion.
- Over 100 businesses, including rural ones, have integrated with Binance Pay.

• Significance of the Initiative

- Pioneers the use of cryptocurrencies in tourism at a national scale.
- Makes tourism in Bhutan more accessible, efficient, and tech-driven.
- Promotes Bhutan's vision of innovation, inclusion, and economic diversification.
- Taps into the \$3 trillion global crypto market.

- Binance CEO Richard Teng emphasized that the move sets a model for using technology to connect cultures.
- Damcho Rinzin, Director of Bhutan's Department of Tourism, called it a symbol of the country's commitment to digital convenience and innovation.

Bhuwan Ribhu

• In a historic recognition of India's fight for child justice, renowned lawyer and child rights activist Bhuwan Ribhu has become the first Indian lawyer to receive the Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association. Awarded during the World Law Congress 2025 held in the Dominican Republic, the accolade acknowledges Ribhu's two-decade-long commitment to eradicating child exploitation through legal reforms, court interventions, and advocacy. His leadership has transformed child protection from a welfare issue into a matter of criminal justice.





- Bhuwan Ribhu was awarded the World Jurist Association's Medal of Honour on May 5, 2025, marking the first time an Indian lawyer has been bestowed with this global recognition. The award celebrates his lifelong legal work addressing child labour, trafficking, child marriage, and sexual abuse, and recognises his pivotal role in reforming India's child protection laws.
- **Bhuwan Ribhu is a lawyer and human rights advocate** who has worked for over 20 years to protect children from systemic exploitation.
- He founded Just Rights for Children (JRC)—a global legal intervention network with **250+ partner organisations in India, Nepal, Kenya**, and the USA.
- Ribhu has led over 60 Public Interest Litigations (PILs) on child rights in Indian courts.

- Major Legal Achievements
- Instrumental in the Supreme Court's adoption of the UN Protocol definition of trafficking.
- Ensured trafficking was classified as a criminal offence under Indian law.
- Championed mandatory FIRs for missing children.
- Successfully pushed for a ban on child labour in hazardous occupations.

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.









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 |

'Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan'

• Ministry of Culture has launched a powerful and binding initiative, Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan (One Nation, One Heartbeat), to honour the bravehearts of the nation. The slogan Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan is being widely adopted across digital platforms, amplifying the spirit of unity, patriotic fervour and reverence for the Tiranga.



The campaign has already begun to resonate strongly with citizens across India.
 Over the past 48 hours, all 43 institutions under its aegis of the Ministry of Culture have shown cohesive and enthusiastic participation. The Ministry said, prominent cultural institutions and heritage sites have been illuminated in the colours of the Indian flag. Under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India, more than 60 heritage monuments across the country have been lit with the tricolour.



58th **Jnanpith Award**

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya at a function in New Delhi. Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and the renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar have been selected for this prestigious award for 2023.



- These **eminent personalities have been honoured** with this award for their outstanding contribution in the field of literature.
- Speaking on the occasion, the president congratulated Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Gulzar for the Jnanpith Award. However, Gulzar could not attend the award ceremony as he is not well. President Murmu said that literature unites and awakens society. The president said, from the social awakening of the 19th century to the country's freedom struggle in the 20th century, poets and writers have played a great role in connecting people. She said the song 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, has been awakening the children of Mother India for almost 150 years and will always do so.



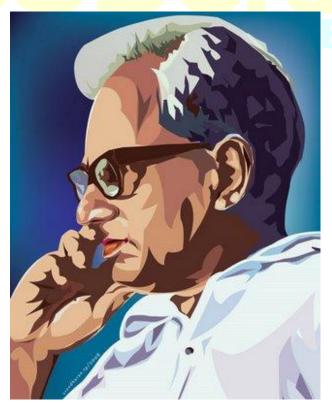


- Speaking about Jagadguru Rambhadracharya, the president said that he has set an inspiring example of excellence. She expressed confidence that by taking inspiration from his glorious life, future generations will continue to move ahead on the right path in literary creation, society-building, and nation-building.
- The President praised the Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust for awarding outstanding litterateurs of various Indian languages since 1965.

SSBCrack SYAMS



- She stated that in the process of awarding outstanding literary figures in Indian languages, the selectors of the Bharatiya Jnanpith Award have selected the best literary figures and have preserved and promoted the dignity of this award.
- The first recipient of the award was the Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup who received the award in 1965 for his collection of poems, Odakkuzhal (The Bamboo Flute), published in 1950.



• In 1976, Bengali novelist **Ashapoorna Devi** became the **first woman** to win the award and was honoured for the 1965 novel **Prothom Protishruti** (**The First Promise**), the first in a trilogy. The most recent recipient of the award is the Hindi author **Vinod Kumar Shukla**, awarded for the year of **2024**.



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.



• 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.

Govt Appoints Legal Team

- Government has appointed a team of lawyers led by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the trial in the 26/11 terror attack case, where Tahawwur Hussain Rana is an accused.
- Home Ministry said in a notification that the team of special public prosecutors includes Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, and advocate Narender Mann. The appointment has been made exercising the powers conferred under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

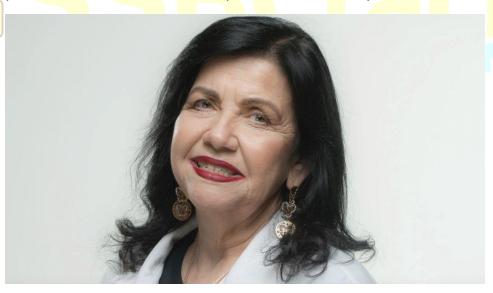


Brazilian Scientist Mariangela Hungria

Mariangela Hungria's recognition with the World Food Prize comes at a time
when global agriculture faces the dual challenges of meeting rising food
demands while reducing harmful environmental impacts. Her innovative
approach to reducing chemical fertilizer use by harnessing soil bacteria has
gained renewed attention as countries seek sustainable farming solutions amid
climate change and ecological degradation.



- Aim and Objectives
- To reduce dependency on chemical nitrogen fertilizers in agriculture.
- To promote biological nitrogen fixation as a natural, eco-friendly alternative.
- To increase crop yields sustainably, especially in soybean farming.
- To improve soil health and reduce pollution caused by chemical fertilizers.



- Background
- The World Food Prize, founded by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug in 1987, honors individuals contributing significantly to global food security.
- Mariangela Hungria has researched biological seed and soil treatments for over 40 years.

• Her focus is on utilizing soil bacteria to naturally fix nitrogen and enhance plant growth.

Yala Glacier Declared 'Dead'

- Yala Glacier in Nepal, once a crucial site for glaciological training and cryosphere research in the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH), has now been officially declared "dead" marking a significant and symbolic loss in the global climate crisis. On May 12, 2025, scientists, local communities, and monks gathered in Langtang, Nepal, to hold a poignant memorial for the glacier, which has retreated dramatically over recent decades.
- This event highlights the severe impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers, with profound consequences for water security and ecological stability across South Asia.





- Nepal's Yala Glacier in Langtang has officially been declared "dead," making it
 the first glacier in Asia to receive a memorial plaque. The declaration took place
 on May 12, 2025, during a poignant ceremony attended by glaciologists and
 locals from the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region. This marks a symbolic and
 scientific moment in the escalating climate crisis, highlighting the rapid pace of
 glacial retreat due to global warming.
- The Yala Glacier, located in Langtang, Nepal, has lost 66% of its mass and retreated 784 meters since the 1970s.
- A plaque was installed with messages by authors Andri Snaer Magnason and Manjushree Thapa in English, Nepali, and Tibetan. The glacier funeral was

attended by over 50 people, including monks, scientists, and locals from Nepal, India, China, and Bhutan.



- Yala Glacier is the third glacier globally to be memorialized in this way, after
 OK Glacier (Iceland) and Ayoloco Glacier (Mexico).
- Yala Glacier has served as a training site for over 100 glaciologists and provided in-situ data for research.
- It is one of 38 glaciers with detailed measurement records and one of only 7 glaciers in the entire HKH arc with decadal monitoring.
- ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) coordinated the ceremony, emphasizing the region-wide impacts of deglaciation.
- Earth's mountain glaciers have lost ~9 trillion tonnes of ice since 1975.
- CO₂ levels recorded at 426 ppm in May 2025, correlating with rising global temperatures. 2025 marks the third consecutive year of below-normal snow cover in the HKH region. Snow persistence in the Ganga basin is 24.1% below normal, the lowest in 23 years, threatening water availability.

GeM Celebrates 8 Years

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has emerged as one of the world's largest and most efficient public e-procurement platforms, setting new benchmarks in accessibility and affordability.
- The Chief Executive Officer of GeM, Mihir Kumar, said this while addressing a
 press conference in New Delhi on the occasion of the 8th incorporation Day of
 GeM yesterday. Mr. Kumar added that Gems has onboarded over 10 lakh Micro,

Small, and Medium Enterprises, 1.3 lakh artisans and weavers, 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs and 31 thousand startups.



- He said, in just 8 years, the GeM has emerged as a transformative force in public procurement, scaling unprecedented heights in both volume and value and has evolved into a robust digital ecosystem. The CEO further asserted that the platform currently boasts over 1.64 lakh primary buyers and 4.2 lakh active sellers and offers more than 10 thousand product categories and more than 330 services. He informed that 97 per cent of all transactions on GeM are now free of any transaction charges. GeM has been adopted across all 36 States and Union Territories.
- Government e-Marketplace, shortly known as GeM, is a digital platform that enables buying and selling of goods and services.



- It is the Public Procurement Portal for procurement of goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs) and affiliated.
- The portal was launched in August 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorised and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance by adding a new Rule No. 149 in the General Financial Rules, 2017.
- The sole purpose of **GeM** is to enhance efficiency; transparency and speed in public procurement.

'Sagar Mein Samman'

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the 'Sagar Mein Samman'
(SMS) policy in Mumbai to promote a gender-equitable maritime workforce,
aiming to enhance women's participation in all maritime roles—from seafaring
to leadership positions.



- The SMS initiative aligns with the Government's DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) objectives and covers areas like training, governance, safety, skill development, and leadership to create a more inclusive maritime environment.
- From 2014 to 2024, the number of registered women seafarers surged by 739% (from 1,699 to 14,255), and those receiving financial aid rose from 45 to 732 annually, showing significant growth driven by government support.
- The event marked the International Day for Women in Maritime and included the **felicitation of 10 outstanding women from the** Indian maritime sector, showcasing India's progress and commitment to gender inclusion in the industry.

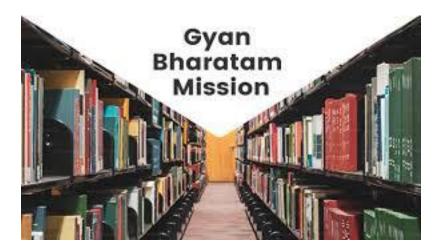
• The policy sets an **ambitious target of 12% female representation** in technical maritime roles by 2030, reflecting India's resolve to empower women and reshape the maritime sector with sustainability and transformation at its core.

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the revamped National
 Manuscripts Mission (NMM) on June 9, 2025, under the new title 'Gyan
 Bharatam Mission', aiming to preserve India's vast manuscript heritage. With a
 significant budget increase from ₹3.5 crore to ₹60 crore, this initiative will
 survey, document, digitize, and conserve over one crore manuscripts lying in
 academic institutions, libraries, museums, and private collections.
- Gyan Bharatam Mission is a comprehensive national initiative under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, dedicated to the systematic survey, documentation, conservation, and digitisation of India's vast manuscript heritage.



 The mission builds upon and revamps the earlier National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), which was established in 2003 and functions under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).



- Objective of Gyan Bharatam Mission
- To survey, document, conserve, and digitize over one crore (10 million) manuscripts housed in academic institutions, museums, libraries, and private collections across India.
- To create a **National Digital Repository of Indian Knowledge** Systems, making ancient wisdom accessible to researchers, students, and the public worldwide.

Madku Island

- Madku Island is located in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district. It lies on the banks
 of the Shivnath River, which is the longest tributary of the Mahanadi River. The
 island is known for its natural beauty, ancient temples and historical
 importance. It is a peaceful place surrounded by water and greenery.
- People say Madku Island is where two great gods, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva, met. Because of this, the island is also called Harihara-Kshetra and Kedar Dweep. These names connect to the two religions Shaivism (worship of Shiva) and Vaishnavism (worship of Vishnu).
- The island is linked to **Sage Mandukya**. He is famous for writing the Mandukya Upanishad, a sacred text. The name "Madku" comes from **"Mandukya."**



- In 2011, experts found many old things on Madku Island. They discovered the remains of temples, sculptures and old writings from the 11th century. These belong to the Kalachuri period.
- The writings found were in Brahmi and Shankhalipi scripts, which are very old types of writing.
- There are 20 temples rebuilt on the island. Inside, statues of gods like Shivling, Nandi, Ganesh, Radha-Krishna and Vishnu can be seen. Near the island, tools from the Stone Age were found. This shows that people lived here a very long time ago.



- The temples are **made from sandstone.** Many parts of the old temples and idols are still visible today. Experts also found sculptures of kings, donors and teachers (acharyas) with folded hands, showing respect.
- One important temple has a **Shivling and Ganesh idol from the 9th century**. This place is believed to be where Sage Mandukya did his meditation.
- Since 1909, the island holds a special fair every year called the Masihi Mela. This is a Christian fair, but it also celebrates how Hindu and Christian cultures live together peacefully on the island.
- An American missionary named George E. Miller visited this fair and wrote a novel called Prem Masih of Damoh, which tells stories about life on Madku Island.

Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, Anna Sahayata Apps

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi launched the Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata apps in New Delhi. The apps are aligned with the government's aim of advancing the country's food security through digital innovation.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Joshi said the apps, as a tool of e-governance, will help in modernising the agricultural infrastructure and Public Distribution System of the country.



- He also said that they will foster increased efficiency, service quality, infrastructure and operational efficiency. Mr Joshi added that the apps will also facilitate transparency and accountability through the latest technology. He also reiterated the government's commitment to provide every benefit to the individual standing at the end of the line.
- The **Depot Darpan mobile app will allow supervisory officials** to track warehouse performance anytime, anywhere, supporting better decision making.

It is integrated with smart warehousing technologies, CCTV Surveillance and IoT sensors.

 On the other hand, the Anna Sahyata app is a first-of-its-kind voice and message grievance platform which will allow citizens to register complaints in their local languages with real-time tracking and feedback.



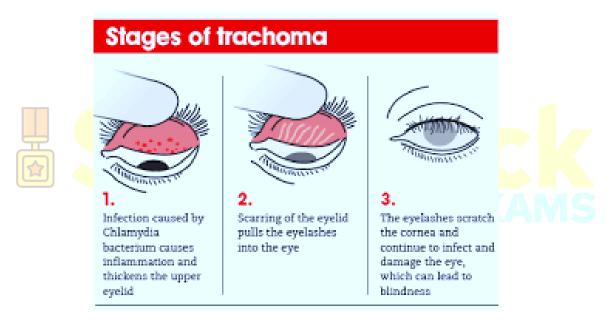
• Further, Anna Mitra will act as real real-time command centre for ration distribution for FDS dealers, Food Inspectors, District Officials, among others. It will also provide information on monthly sales, inspection reports and government updates.

WHO Certification For Elimination Of Trachoma

- India has been awarded the **Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma** as a Public Health Problem by the **World Health Organisation** (WHO) at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- This recognition is a testament to India's sustained efforts in disease elimination, preventive healthcare, and commitment to ensuring health for all.
 On October 8th last year, the WHO declared that the Government of India had eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem. India also became the third country in the Southeast Asia region to reach this public health milestone.



• Trachoma is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis. It is a leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide, especially in areas with poor sanitation.



- It spreads through contact with eye or nasal discharge of infected individuals, or through flies.
- 78th World Health Assembly: Held from May 19 to 27, 2025 in Geneva,
 Switzerland. Theme: "One World for Health".



• The government has taken various steps under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) to eliminate Trachoma. Since 2019, the National Programme has developed a continuous surveillance setup for trachoma cases by collecting case reports from all the districts in the country via sa pecific WHO shared format. The National Trachomatous Trichiasis survey was done in 200 endemic districts of the country during 2021-24, which was a mandate set by WHO.

India Charts New Sea Route For North- East

 Union Cabinet approved a Rs 22,864 crore project for a 166.8-km highway from Mawlyngkhung (Meghalaya) to Panchgram (Assam). This road will become a crucial land segment of a new multi-modal sea route connecting the North-East to Kolkata through Myanmar, thus bypassing the dependence on Bangladesh for maritime access.



- This project is seen as a strategic response to recent diplomatic tensions and regional assertions made by Bangladeshi leadership.
- Strategic Importance
- Bypasses Bangladesh for sea access to Kolkata and Vizag.
- Connects to the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project via Zorinpui in Mizoram.
- Reduces dependency on the vulnerable Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck).
- Serves as an eastern link for the Act East Policy, strengthening trade and defense logistics.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Who Appointed As Head Of Revamped National Security Advisory Board
- A. Ashwini Vaishnaw
- B. Alok Joshi
- C. Ajit Doval
- D. Rakesh Asthana

ANSWER: B

- 2. What Is Total Capital Cost Of 166.80 Km Greenfield Highway Project
- A. ₹10,000 Crore
- B. ₹15,000 Crore
- C. ₹22,864 Crore
- D. ₹30,000 Crore

ANSWER: C

- 3. What Cabinet Committee On Political Affairs Approved In Upcoming Census
- A. Population reduction strategy
- B. Language enumeration
- C. Caste enumeration
- D. Employment survey

ANSWER: C

- 4. Which country has Nvidia traditionally relied on for manufacturing
- A. South Korea
- B. Taiwan
- C. Japan
- D. China

ANSWER: B

- 5. Which Indian ruler's sword was recently brought back to India from London
- A. Shivaji Maharaj
- B. Raghuji Bhosale I
- C. Bajirao I
- D. Mahadaji Shinde

ANSWER: B

6. How Much Maharashtra Government Pay To Acquire Raghuji Bhosale's Sword

- A. Rs 57.15 lakh
- B. Rs 35 lakh
- C. Rs 50 lakh
- D. Rs 47.15 lakh

ANSWER: D

7. When was the International Solar Alliance (ISA) established

- A. 30 January 2016
- B. 30 November 2015
- C. 5 May 2019
- D. 15 August 2015

ANSWER: B

8. When is "World Portuguese Language Day" celebrated

- A. March 10
- B. May 5
- C. June 15
- D. October 12

ANSWER: B

9. What achievement did FC Goa recently secure

- A. First place in ISL 2025
- B. Entry to FIFA Club World Cup
- C. Their second Super Cup title
- D. Qualification for Europa League

ANSWER: C

10. Which country recently became 123rd member of the International Solar Alliance

- A. Nigeria
- B. Angola
- C. Kenya
- D. Ethiopia

ANSWER: B

11. K.V. Rabia, who passed away in May 2025, was a notable figure in which field

- A. Environmental conservation
- B. Literacy movement
- C. Space research
- D. Political activism

ANSWER: B

12. What significant step was taken under the Namami Gange Mission

- A. Construction of new dams
- B. Release of dolphins into the Ganga
- C. Reintroduction of the Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle
- D. Ban on industrial fishing in Ganga

ANSWER: C

13. What Makes The Geothermal Drilling In Dirang Significant

- A. It is India's first geothermal drilling project.
- B. It is the first such project in Northeast India.
- C. It is Asia's largest geothermal project.
- D. It was completed within six months.

ANSWER: B

14. What potential milestone could Dirang achieve due to the geothermal drilling

- A. First solar-powered city in India
- B. Highest energy-producing city in the Northeast
- C. First geothermal-powered city in India
- D. First hydroelectric city in the Himalayan region

ANSWER: C

15. When did the Government of India begin rolling out chip-based e-passports

- A. January 26, 2024
- B. March 31, 2024
- C. April 1, 2024
- D. May 1, 2024

ANSWER: C

16. What is a major benefit of the chip-based e-passports

- A. Free travel insurance
- B. Increased pages in passport
- C. Tamper-proof and secure documentation
- D. Automatic visa approval

ANSWER: C

17. What is the objective of the Revised SHAKTI Policy

- A. Promote solar energy
- B. Replace oil imports
- C. Streamline coal allocation and enhance energy security
- D. Increase hydroelectric capacity

ANSWER: C

18. Which state topped the Fiscal Health Index 2025 released by NITI Aayog

- A. Goa
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: A

19. What was the primary reason for Odisha securing the top position in the Fiscal Health Index 2025

- A. High population growth
- B. Excellent debt management and good revenue collection
- C. High industrial output
- D. Central government funding

ANSWER: B

20. Who secured the bronze medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on May 11, 2025

- A. Lim Sihyeon
- B. Kang Chae Young
- C. Deepika Kumari
- D. Atanu Das

ANSWER: C

21. Which country's archer did Deepika Kumari defeat to win the bronze medal

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. South Korea
- D. Thailand

ANSWER: C

22. What stage of negotiation has the India-EU Free Trade Agreement entered recently

- A. Initial Talks
- B. Review Phase
- C. Two-stage Approach
- D. Finalization

ANSWER: C

23. How many Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)/Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

has India signed so far

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 13
- D. 15

ANSWER: C

24. What was the code name for the nuclear tests conducted in May 1998

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Shakti
- C. Operation Agni
- D. Mission Vikas

ANSWER: B

25. Under which department does the Technology Development Board function

- A. Ministry of Electronics and IT
- B. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
- C. Department of Science and Technology
- D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: C

26. What is the theme of National Technology Day 2025

- A. Innovation for a New India
- B. Science for Sustainability
- C. YANTRA Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration
- D. Digital Bharat: Accelerating Progress

ANSWER: C

27. Which newspaper won the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025

- A. The Times of India
- B. La Prensa
- C. El Nuevo Diario
- D. Nicaragua Today

ANSWER: B

28. What is the main reason La Prensa received the UNESCO award

- A. Launching a new digital edition
- B. Supporting environmental journalism
- C. Upholding freedom of expression in Nicaragua
- D. Winning a global journalism competition

ANSWER: C

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. Where was the first Semicon India 2022 Conference held

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

ANSWER: C

33. 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



- A. Norway
- B. Denmark
- C. Germany
- D. Sweden

ANSWER: B

35. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Is Developed By Which Country

- A. United States
- B. France
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

ANSWER: A

36. Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Bihar
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: C

37. Which Country Developed A High-resolution Ocean Simulation System Called LICOMK++ To Better Study Ocean & Climate Patterns

- A. Australia
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Russia

ANSWER: B

38. When was the Jnanpith Award instituted

- A. 1955
- B. 1961
- C. 1975
- D. 1980

ANSWER: B

39. Who was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award

- A. Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Ji
- B. Ashapoorna Devi
- C. G. Sankara Kurup
- D. Gulzar

ANSWER: C

40. Which novel earned Ashapoorna Devi the Jnanpith Award in 1976

- A. Odakkuzhal
- B. Prothom Protishruti
- C. Godaan
- D. The Bamboo Flute

ANSWER: B