

# Daily Current Affairs

## 23 May 2026

### World Turtle Day 2026

- On May 23rd, every year world observes the World Turtle Day, and it brings the global attention to the planet's one of the oldest and most threatened creatures turtles and tortoises. These ancient reptiles have survived for more than 200 million years and even outlined the dinosaurs.
- These ancient reptiles have survived for more than 200 million years and even outlined the dinosaurs. In current time, these species face serious threats due to habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and illegal wildlife trade.
- World Turtle Day was founded in the year 2000.
- It was started by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR).
- ATR is a nonprofit organization which is dedicated to protecting turtles and tortoises worldwide.



### Chandrayaan-3 Wins Prestigious 2026 AIAA Goddard Award

- India's historic Chandrayaan-3 mission has earned the major international honor after receiving the 2026 AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award in Washington DC.

- It celebrates the one of the most defining achievements in the space exploration and India becoming the first country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft near the Moon's south pole.
- India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission has been awarded the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).
- The award was presented in Washington DC on May 21.
- India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra has accepted the honour on behalf of ISRO.
- On 23rd August 2026 Chandrayaan-3 has created the history.
- India became the first country in the world to achieve a soft landing near to the Moon's south pole.
- This region had never been explored at the lunar surface before.
- That part of the mission was significant worldwide.
- **Why the Moon's South Pole Matters**
- The south pole of lunar has attracted global scientific interest for years.
- Scientists believe that this region may contain the,
  - Water ice
  - Valuable minerals
  - Chemically useful resources
  - Conditions suitable for future exploration bases



## New Delhi Hosts 68<sup>th</sup> APO Governing Body Meeting

- India hosts the 68th Session of the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** Governing Body from the 20th to 22nd May 2026. This high-level international gathering held at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi and it bring together the policymakers, productivity experts and delegates from across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The summit is not just ceremonial. It serves as the highest-level governance meeting of the APO where the critical organizational and strategic decisions are taken.
- **APO Vision 2030 Review**
- The member countries will assess progress under the APO Vision 2030 framework which will focus on boosting productivity-led economic transformation.
- **Budget Planning for 2027–28**
- Delegates will deliberate on the APO’s preliminary budget for the upcoming biennium. Also, the financial planning remains central to implementing regional productivity program.
- **Secretary-General Election Procedures**
- Focus on institutional governance reforms, which include the review of election procedures for the Secretary-General, are also on the agenda.
- **Leadership Elections**
- The meeting will elect the next APO Chair and Vice Chairs for 2026-27.



## India Delays First Big Cat Alliance Summit

- India's most ambitious inaugural International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit which was originally planned for 1 June 2026 in New Delhi has been postponed after the rescheduling of the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit.
- This decision was taken to ensure the wider participation and specially from African countries that plays the major role in global big cat conservation.
- The Government of India has officially postponed the inaugural edition of the International Big Cat Alliance Summit.
- The summit was scheduled to take place in the New Delhi on June 1, 2026.
- It was strategically planned alongside with the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit, as the African nations are central part of the global big cat conservation.
- The Ministry of External Affairs has explained that this decision followed consultations with the,
  - Chairperson of the African Union
  - African Union Commission
- The goal is to ensure the,
  - Broad international participation
  - Better representation from big cat range countries
  - Stronger multilateral wildlife cooperation
- Africa remains as one of the world's most important regions for the big cat populations.
  - Countries across the continent are home to the,
    - Lions
    - Leopards
    - Cheetahs

- Saudi Arabia became the newest member of the International Big Cat Alliance on 22 May 2026. The alliance now has 26 member countries and five observer nations.
- The International Big Cat Alliance was launched in 2023 and approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- The IBCA covers seven big cat species, including the tiger, lion, and leopard.



## Department of Space Approves Space Facilities in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

- The Department of Space approved Common Technical Facilities in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu on 22 May 2026. The facilities are linked to India's private-sector space manufacturing ecosystem and are being developed with the involvement of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre.
- Common Technical Facilities are shared engineering hubs that provide testing, validation, and integration infrastructure for space hardware. They are designed for use by startups and large industries that need access to high-end rocket and satellite testing equipment.
- A Space Manufacturing Park will come up at Khoraj near Ahmedabad in Gujarat. The park will focus on spacecraft and complex payload systems, including structural assembly and electronic validation. Payload systems are the instruments or equipment carried by a launch vehicle or spacecraft for a specific mission.

- IN-SPACE stands for Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre.
- Common Technical Facilities are shared infrastructure used for capital-intensive testing and validation work.
- The central government sanctioned ₹100 crore for the specialised facility in Thoothukudi.
- State governments will provide land, buildings, and civic infrastructure for the two facilities.
- IN-SPACE will procure, install, and initially operate the technical systems before transferring ownership to the states. The model combines state-backed infrastructure with central technical support for space manufacturing activities.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **World Turtle Day is observed every year on which date?**
  - A. 20 May
  - B. 21 May
  - C. 22 May
  - D. 23 May

**Answer:** D. 23 May

2. **World Turtle Day was founded in the year \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. 1995

- B. 2000
- C. 2005
- D. 2010

**Answer:** B. 2000

**3. Which organization started World Turtle Day?**

- A. World Wildlife Fund
- B. Greenpeace
- C. American Tortoise Rescue
- D. UNEP

**Answer:** C. American Tortoise Rescue

**4. Chandrayaan-3 received the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from which organization?**

- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C. ESA
- D. AIAA

**Answer:** D. AIAA

**5. India became the first country to achieve a soft landing near which region of the Moon?**

- A. Moon's equator
- B. Moon's north pole
- C. Moon's south pole
- D. Dark side of the Moon

**Answer:** C. Moon's south pole

**6. Who accepted the 2026 AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award on behalf of ISRO?**

- A. S. Somanath
- B. Rajnath Singh
- C. Vinay Kwatra
- D. Narendra Modi

**Answer:** C. Vinay Kwatra

**7. The 68th Session of the APO Governing Body Meeting was held in which city?**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Hyderabad
- D. New Delhi

**Answer:** D. New Delhi

**8. The International Big Cat Alliance was launched in which year?**

- A. 2021
- B. 2022
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

**Answer:** C. 2023

**9. Which country became the newest member of the International Big Cat Alliance on 22 May 2026?**

- A. Egypt
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Kenya
- D. Brazil

**Answer:** B. Saudi Arabia

**10. The Space Manufacturing Park approved by the Department of Space will be developed near which city?**

- A. Chennai
- B. Surat
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Pune

**Answer:** C. Ahmedabad