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Current Affairs Monthly Digest

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Articles

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Sections

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Edition

What is inside this digest:

Current Affairs by Category	Essay Writing (600 words)
International Relations	Organizations in News
Indian History	Arts & Culture Geography

SECTION A: CURRENT AFFAIRS

APPOINTMENTS

Mukesh Singh Appointed Manipur Police Chief Amidst Ethnic Tensions

- Mukesh Singh is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1996 batch.
- He previously served as the Director General of Police (DGP) for the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The appointment comes at a time when Manipur is facing significant challenges due to ethnic tensions and law and order issues.
- The new DGP's primary responsibility will be to restore peace and enhance security in the state.
- Manipur is a northeastern state of India, known for its diverse ethnic groups and strategic location.

Memory Trick: Remember 'M' for Mukesh Singh and 'M' for Manipur. He's the new top cop for the state starting with M.

Dave Cousins Appointed India's Compound Archery Chief Coach for LA Olympics

- Dave Cousins, a former world champion, has been named India's chief coach for compound archery.
- This is Cousins' first international coaching assignment, having previously coached in the USA.
- His appointment is aimed at strengthening India's compound archery team for the Los Angeles Olympics.
- Cousins is 49 years old and hails from the USA.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Cousins' for 'Coach' and 'Compound' archery. Dave Cousins is the new coach for India's compound archery team.

Deepak Jacob Appointed MD & CEO of Guidance Tamil Nadu

- Deepak Jacob is the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guidance Tamil Nadu.
- Guidance Tamil Nadu is the investment promotion agency for the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- The agency's primary role is to attract and facilitate investments in the state.
- It works to promote industrial development and create jobs in Tamil Nadu.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Deepak' (light) 'guides' 'Tamil Nadu' towards 'investment' success. Deepak Jacob for Guidance Tamil Nadu.

Centre Appoints Joint Secretaries and Directors to National Testing Agency (NTA)

- The appointments include two Joint Secretaries and two Joint Directors.
- These officials will help manage the NTA's operations and administrative functions.
- The NTA conducts major entrance examinations for higher education institutions in India.
- Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for a recent test conducted by the NTA.
- The appointments are part of efforts to streamline the NTA's functioning and improve exam delivery.

Memory Trick: NTA = National Testing Agency. Think 'N' for National, 'T' for Testing, 'A' for Agency. They 'A'ppoint new 'A'dministrators to 'A'ssist with 'A'll the exams.

Jerome Powell Named Interim US Federal Reserve Chief Amid Leadership Transition

- Jerome Powell was named the interim chief of the US Federal Reserve.
- The appointment is a temporary measure during a leadership transition period.
- The move aligns with previous practices for leadership changes at the Federal Reserve.
- Kevin Warsh is expected to become the permanent US Fed chief.
- US President Donald Trump must sign Kevin Warsh's official commission for him to take office.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Powell' for 'Power' at the Fed, even if it's 'interim' power during a transition.

R. Mukundan Appointed President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25

- R. Mukundan is the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the year 2024-25.
- He currently serves as the Managing Director and CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited.
- Sanjiv Puri, Chairman & MD of ITC Limited, has been appointed as the President-Designate of CII.
- Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is the Vice President of CII.
- CII works with government and industry to shape policy and promote India's competitiveness.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Mukundan leads CII' Mukundan is the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry.

Arun Shrivastava Appointed MD and CEO of Syndicate Bank

- Arun Shrivastava assumed the role of MD and CEO of Syndicate Bank.
- This appointment is a key leadership change in a public sector bank.
- The MD & CEO is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the bank.
- Public sector banks play a vital role in India's financial system and economic development.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Arun' (like the sun) 'Shrivastava' (like 'shree' for prosperity) leading 'Syndicate Bank' (a group working together).

Frederic Soyeze Appointed as New Chief Coach for Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team

- Frederic Soyeze has been appointed as the chief coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team.
- He replaces Sreejesh, whose contract ended after 17 months.
- Under Sreejesh, the team won a bronze medal at the FIH Junior World Cup last year.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Soyez' (sounds like 'so-yay') is the new 'coach' for junior hockey, bringing a 'so-yay' of hope for future wins.

CBI Director Praveen Sood's Tenure Extended by One Year by Indian Government

- Praveen Sood's tenure as CBI Director was extended by one year.
- The extension ensures continuity in the CBI's anti-corruption operations.
- The CBI Director's term can be extended for up to five years in total.
- The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, governs the CBI's functioning.
- The Director is appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Memory Trick: Remember CBI Director's appointment committee as 'PCL': Prime Minister, Chief Justice, Leader of Opposition.

Sarah Taylor Appointed England Men's Test Fielding Coach for New Zealand Series

- Sarah Taylor is a former England international cricketer, known for her wicketkeeping and batting skills.
- She will serve as the fielding coach for the England Men's Test team during their series against New Zealand.
- This appointment makes her the first woman to hold a coaching position with the senior England men's cricket team.
- Taylor has previously worked in coaching roles, including with Sussex men's team and as head coach of the Northern Superchargers women's team.
- The appointment reflects a broader effort to diversify coaching staff in elite sports.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Sarah Taylor' as 'ST' for 'Sports Trailblazer' she's setting a new path as the first female coach for the England men's team.

Akash Ambani Appointed Managing Director of Jio Platforms Ahead of Potential IPO

- Akash Ambani's appointment as MD of Jio Platforms was announced recently.
- Jio Platforms is a digital services and technology company, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited.
- The appointment is significant given Jio Platforms' potential plans for an Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- Jio Platforms has attracted significant investments from global tech giants in recent years.
- The company offers various digital services including telecom, broadband, and cloud solutions.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Akash' (sky) is taking a 'high' position as MD of 'Jio' (live/digital) Platforms, especially with an 'IPO' (going public) on the horizon.

Tata Chemicals MD R. Mukundan Appointed CII President for 2026-27 Term

- R. Mukundan is the current Managing Director and CEO of Tata Chemicals Limited.
- He will serve as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the financial year 2026-27.
- CII is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India.
- The appointment highlights the role of experienced industry leaders in shaping national economic policy and business environment.
- CII engages with government and civil society to address key economic and social issues.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CII' for 'Confederation of Indian Industry' and 'Mukundan' as the new 'MD' (Managing Director) of CII, just like he's MD of Tata Chemicals.

AWARDS & HONOURS

President Confers Padma Awards 2026: India's Highest Civilian Honours

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Awards for 2026.
- A total of 106 Padma Awards were presented in 2026.
- The awards include 6 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan, and 91 Padma Shri.
- Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day (January 26).
- The awards recognise distinguished service in various fields like art, science, and social work.

Memory Trick: Remember 'VBS' for the order: Vibhushan (highest Padma), Bhushan, Shri (lowest Padma). V for Very important, B for Big, S for Small.

Harmanpreet Kaur Receives Padma Shri from President Murmu

- Harmanpreet Kaur received the Padma Shri award.
- The award was presented by President Droupadi Murmu.
- Padma Shri is India's fourth-highest civilian award.
- Harmanpreet Kaur is the captain of the Indian women's cricket team.
- She led India to the 2017 Women's Cricket World Cup final.

Memory Trick: Remember 'H' for Harmanpreet and 'H' for Highest (fourth highest) civilian award, Padma Shri.

Padma Awards 2026 Announced: 131 Winners Including Dharmendra, Rohit Sharma

- A total of 131 Padma Awards were announced for the year 2026.
- The awards include 6 Padma Vibhushan, 15 Padma Bhushan, and 110 Padma Shri.
- Veteran actor Dharmendra was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2026.
- Cricketer Rohit Sharma received the Padma Shri award in 2026.
- The Padma Awards are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.

Memory Trick: Remember 'V-B-S' for the order: Vibhushan (highest), Bhushan, Shri (lowest). V for Very important, B for Big, S for Small.

Padma Awards 2026: President Murmu Honours 132 Achievers

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Padma Awards for 2026.
- A total of 132 individuals received Padma Awards in 2026.
- The awards included 5 Padma Vibhushan recipients.
- There were 17 Padma Bhushan awardees in 2026.
- 110 individuals were honored with the Padma Shri award.

Memory Trick: Remember the order of Padma Awards as 'V-B-S' (Vibhushan, Bhushan, Shri) like 'Very Big Success' to recall their decreasing prestige.

Harmanpreet Kaur Awarded Padma Shri for Cricket Achievements

- Harmanpreet Kaur received the Padma Shri award in 2023.
- The Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India.
- She is the captain of the Indian women's national cricket team.
- The Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day, January 26.
- Padma Awards are conferred by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Memory Trick: Remember 'H.K. Padma Shri' Harmanpreet Kaur got the Padma Shri. 'H' for Harmanpreet, 'K' for Kaur, 'P' for Padma, 'S' for Shri.

Harmanpreet Kaur Awarded Padma Shri: Indian Women's Cricket Captain Honoured

- Harmanpreet Kaur received the Padma Shri award in 2023.
- She is the current captain of the Indian women's cricket team.
- Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India.
- The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954.
- Harmanpreet Kaur made her international debut in 2009.

Memory Trick: Remember 'H' for Harmanpreet and 'H' for Honour (Padma Shri). She 'Hit' her way to the 'Highest' civilian honour for sports.

Padma Awards 2024: Uday Kotak, Dharmendra Among Recipients

- Padma Awards are India's second-highest civilian honours, after the Bharat Ratna.
- The awards are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day, January 26.
- There are three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- Recipients for 2024 include Uday Kotak (Trade & Industry) and Dharmendra (Art).
- The President of India confers these awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Memory Trick: Remember 'VBS' for the order: Vibhushan (highest), Bhushan (middle), Shri (lowest). V for Very important, B for Big, S for Small.

Dr Shrikant Shinde Receives Sansad Ratna Award for Second Time

- Dr Shrikant Shinde, Shiv Sena MP, received the Sansad Ratna Award for the second time.
- He represents the Kalyan constituency in Maharashtra in the 17th Lok Sabha.
- The Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted in 2010.
- The awards were suggested by former President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- MPs are evaluated on parameters like debates, private member bills, and attendance.

Memory Trick: Remember 'SR' for Sansad Ratna, like 'Super Representative' for MPs who perform well.

Violinist N Rajam to Receive Padma Vibhushan: India's Second Highest Civilian Honour

- N Rajam will receive the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award.
- She is a renowned Hindustani classical violinist, born in 1938.
- N Rajam is known for her unique 'Gayaki Ang' style of violin playing.
- The Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
- She previously received the Padma Bhushan in 2004 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1990.

Memory Trick: Remember 'N Rajam' for 'N'ice 'R'ecognition in 'A'rts, receiving 'J'ust 'A'n 'M'ajor award (Padma Vibhushan).

Padma Shri Awardees Express Gratitude Ahead of Ceremony

- Padma Awards are among the highest civilian honours in India.
- The awards are conferred by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day, January 26.
- There are three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya is a recipient of the Padma Shri.

Memory Trick: Remember 'V-B-S' for the order: Vibhushan (Very big), Bhushan (Big), Shri (Smallest of the three Padma awards).

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 Announced: Medha Kulkarni and Smita Uday Wagh Honoured

- The Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 were announced to honour performing Members of Parliament.
- Medha Kulkarni from Pune was among the awardees for her parliamentary contributions.
- Smita Uday Wagh from Jalgaon also received a Sansad Ratna Award in 2026.
- The awards are a private initiative, inspired by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
- MPs are evaluated based on criteria like participation in debates and private member bills.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Sansad Ratna' as 'Parliament's Gem' recognizing the shining stars (MPs) of the Indian Parliament.

International Booker Prize Completes 10 Years: Impact on Translated Literature

- The International Booker Prize is awarded annually for a single work of fiction translated into English.
- The prize money of 50,000 is split equally between the author and the translator.
- It was established in 2005 as a biennial award and became an annual prize in its current format in 2016.
- The prize aims to promote the finest global fiction and increase the readership of translated works.
- It is distinct from the Booker Prize, which is awarded for an original novel written in English.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Inter-Booker' for 'International Booker Prize' it's about books from 'Inter-national' places, translated into English.

CULTURE

Ankit Kawade's 'The Ambedkar Nietzsche Provocations' Explores Philosophical Connections

- The book is titled 'The Ambedkar Nietzsche Provocations' and is written by Ankit Kawade.
- It is Ankit Kawade's debut work, marking his entry into philosophical commentary.
- The central theme is how B.R. Ambedkar utilized or reinterpreted Nietzsche's ideas.
- The book specifically focuses on Ambedkar's use of Nietzsche's concepts to critique hierarchical social structures.
- This analysis provides insights into Ambedkar's intellectual framework for challenging inequality.

Memory Trick: Think of 'Ambedkar-Nietzsche' as 'AN' - A New perspective on challenging ANcient hierarchies.

PM Modi Gifts Traditional Indian Items to Global Leaders During Diplomatic Tour

- PM Modi gifted a Muga silk stole to the Prime Minister of Italy.
- A Ladakhi stole was presented to the Prime Minister of Sweden.
- Kesar mangoes were given to the President of UAE.
- These gifts were part of PM Modi's five-nation diplomatic tour.
- Such exchanges aim to promote India's cultural heritage and strengthen bilateral ties.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Muga-Assam, Kesar-Gujarat, Ladakhi-Pashmina'. Each gift links to a specific Indian region or material, highlighting India's diverse heritage.

DMK Urges Centre to Return Anaimangalam Copper Plates to Tamil Nadu

- The Anaimangalam copper plates are historical artifacts of cultural significance to Tamil Nadu.
- They are currently located in the Government Museum, Chennai.
- DMK has requested the Central Government to transfer ownership of these plates to the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Former Minister Thangam Thennarasu emphasized the need for the plates to be returned to their 'motherland'.
- The issue underscores debates around the ownership and display of historical artifacts.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Anaimangalam' sounds like 'Ancient Mangalam', linking it to ancient artifacts. DMK wants them 'back home' to Tamil Nadu.

Salar Jung Museum Celebrates 75th Anniversary in Hyderabad

- The Salar Jung Museum is celebrating its 75th anniversary (diamond jubilee) in 2024.
- The celebration aligns with International Museum Day, observed annually on May 18.
- The museum houses approximately 48,000 artefacts.
- Its collection is spread across 40 galleries.
- The artefacts represent Mughal, European, and Far Eastern traditions.

Memory Trick: Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad is 75, like a 'Diamond Jubilee' for a 'Hyderabadi' treasure. Remember 'Salar' for '75'.

1,200-Year-Old Caedmon's Hymn Manuscript Discovered in Rome

- The rediscovered manuscript is approximately 1,200 years old.
- It contains Caedmon's Hymn, recognized as the first known poem written in English.
- Caedmon's Hymn is a nine-line poem written in Old English.
- Caedmon was a Northumbrian cowherd who reportedly composed the hymn after a divine dream.
- The manuscript was found in Rome after being lost for decades.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Caedmon's Hymn' as the 'First English Poem' (FEP). Caedmon was a 'Cowherd' (C) who sang a 'Hymn' (H). FEP-CH.

Netherlands Returns 1,000-Year-Old Chola-Era Copper Plates to India

- The returned artifacts are 1,000-year-old copper plates from the Chola dynasty period.
- The repatriation was a result of sustained diplomatic efforts by the Indian government.
- These plates are valuable historical documents, providing insights into the Chola administration and culture.
- The return emphasizes international cooperation in the restitution of cultural property.
- This event contributes to the preservation of India's rich cultural heritage.

Memory Trick: Remember 'N' for Netherlands and 'N' for 'New' (as in new return of old artifacts). Chola sounds like 'Cola', a very old drink, linking it to ancient artifacts.

Bhojshala's Saraswati Idol: British Museum Houses Ancient Indian Artefact

- The Saraswati idol is believed to have been originally located in the Bhojshala complex during King Bhoj's rule.
- Bhojshala is a historical site in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, India.
- The site is significant due to its dual identity as both a mosque and a temple.
- The idol is currently housed in the British Museum in London, UK.
- King Bhoj was a powerful ruler of the Paramara dynasty in the 11th century.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bhojshala' and 'British Museum' both start with 'B'. The idol 'B'elongs to 'B'hojshala but is in the 'B'ritish Museum.

Netherlands Returns 1,000-Year-Old Chola Artefacts to India

- The returned artefacts consist of 21 large plates and 3 small plates, totaling 24 items.
- These plates are approximately 1,000 years old, dating back to the Chola dynasty period.
- The repatriation was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This event is part of India's broader initiative to reclaim its stolen cultural heritage from various countries.
- The return of these artefacts strengthens cultural diplomacy and bilateral relations between India and the Netherlands.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Chola Plates from Netherlands' as 'C-P-N': Cultural Preservation by Netherlands. The 'N' also stands for 'Nine' (as in 900-1000 years old).

Kochi Naval Base to Feature Mural on India's Maritime History

- The mural project is a joint effort by the Better Kochi Response Group, Regional Sports Centre, and the Indian Navy.
- The artwork will be displayed on the walls of the Kochi Naval Base in Kerala.
- It aims to depict India's maritime history, covering its sea links from ancient periods to the modern era.
- The initiative highlights India's historical and cultural connection with the sea and its naval heritage.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Kochi' for 'Coastal' history. The 'Naval' base is getting a 'Mural' about 'Maritime' past.

32 Crore Approved for Bhupen Hazarika Museum in Guwahati

- 32 crore has been approved for the Bhupen Hazarika Museum.
- The museum will be built inside the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra in Guwahati.
- The project aims to preserve and showcase the life and works of Bhupen Hazarika.
- It will serve as a cultural landmark promoting Assamese heritage.
- Bhupen Hazarika was a renowned Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician, filmmaker, and writer from Assam.

Memory Trick: Remember 'BH' for Bhupen Hazarika and 'BH' for Bharat Ratna, and 'G' for Guwahati where his museum will be built.

Pandit Laxman Krishnarao: 94-Year-Old Classical Vocalist Emphasizes Daily Riyaaz

- Pandit Laxman Krishnarao is a renowned classical vocalist, known for his dedication to music.
- At 94 years old, he continues to perform 'riyaaz' (daily practice) regularly.
- Riyaaz is a core discipline in Indian classical music, vital for skill development and vocal control.
- It involves rigorous practice of scales, ragas, and vocal exercises to achieve perfection.
- His commitment highlights the lifelong learning aspect inherent in classical music traditions.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Riyaaz' as 'Rhythm In Your Art Always Zestful' emphasizing daily practice for vibrant music.

Traditional Beadwork from Kutch and Barmer to be Showcased at London Crafts Week

- Traditional beadwork from Kutch (Gujarat) and Barmer (Rajasthan) will be exhibited.
- The exhibition is named "Unbound by Beads: Migration, Memory & Material."
- It will be showcased at the prestigious London Crafts Week.
- The brand 'Moi' is exploring and presenting these traditional crafts.
- A new collection called 'Serai' will also be launched alongside the exhibition.

Memory Trick: Remember Kutch and Barmer for 'Beads' at 'London'. K-B-L for 'Knotting Beautiful Legacy' of Indian crafts.

DEFENCE

DRDO Transforms STAR Drone into Supersonic Missile

- DRDO transformed the STAR drone into a supersonic missile.
- The new missile will support the BrahMos in saturation strike roles.
- STAR stands for Supersonic Target Aerial Radar.
- The transformation provides an affordable supersonic missile option.
- Saturation strikes aim to overwhelm enemy air defences.

Memory Trick: Remember 'STAR' drone became a 'STAR' missile, shining bright in India's defence, supporting 'BrahMos' like a 'B'rother.

India Develops Advanced Missile Guidance System for Accuracy

- India developed a new guidance system for enhanced missile accuracy.
- The system was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- This technology aims to improve target precision and reduce collateral damage.
- The development supports India's 'Make in India' and self-reliance initiatives.
- The new guidance system will be integrated into various Indian missile platforms.

Memory Trick: Remember 'DRDO's GPS' for 'Guidance Precision System' it helps missiles hit targets with 'Spot-on' accuracy.

Gen Raja Subramani Appointed CDS, Swaminathan Takes Navy Command

- General Raja Subramani is the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He succeeded General Anil Chauhan as the CDS.
- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan is the new Chief of Naval Staff.
- He succeeded Admiral R. Hari Kumar as the Chief of Naval Staff.
- The CDS is the principal military advisor to the Minister of Defence.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RS' for Raja Subramani (CDS) and 'KS' for Krishna Swaminathan (Navy Chief) RS-KS for top defence roles.

General NS Raja Subramani Appointed New Chief of Defence Staff

- General NS Raja Subramani is the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- He succeeded General Anil Chauhan in this top military role.
- The CDS is the principal military advisor to the Minister of Defence.
- The CDS also heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).
- The CDS post was created in 2019 to integrate the three armed services.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Raja' (King) for Raja Subramani, as he is now the 'King' of India's defence staff.

India's Military Theaterisation Plan to Begin in 2-3 Years

- India's military theaterisation plan is expected to begin implementation in 2-3 years.
- The announcement was made by the current Army Chief, General Manoj Pande.
- The plan aims to create unified theatre commands for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Preparations for 'Operation Sindoor 2.0' are part of this restructuring effort.
- The goal is to enhance synergy and operational efficiency across the armed forces.

Memory Trick: Remember 'T-Plan' for Theaterisation Plan, aiming for 'T-ogetherness' of the three services in 'T-wo to T-hree' years.

Exercise PRAGATI 2026: Multinational Military Drill Held in India

- Exercise PRAGATI 2026 was a multinational military exercise.
- India hosted Exercise PRAGATI 2026.
- The exercise focused on enhancing interoperability among participating forces.
- Counter-terrorism operations were a key training area in PRAGATI 2026.
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) scenarios were practiced.

Memory Trick: PRAGATI sounds like 'Progress'. Multinational exercises like PRAGATI help nations progress together in defence cooperation.

India Conducts Maiden Intercontinental Missile Test Off Odisha Coast

- India conducted its maiden intercontinental missile test.
- The test took place off the coast of Odisha.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the missile.
- This test signifies India's entry into a select group of nations with ICBM technology.
- The missile is designed to enhance India's strategic deterrence capabilities.

Memory Trick: Remember 'ICBM - India's Coastal Big Missile' to link the test location (Odisha coast) with the type of missile (ICBM).

India Welcomes Third CDS: Powers and Responsibilities

- India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was General Bipin Rawat, appointed on December 31, 2019.
- The CDS is the principal military advisor to the Defence Minister on all tri-service matters.
- The CDS also serves as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
- The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is headed by the CDS as its Secretary.
- The CDS is responsible for promoting jointness in procurement, training, and operations of the three services.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CDS' as 'Chief Drives Synergy' the CDS drives synergy among the three services (Army, Navy, Air Force) for national defence.

Centre Approves 70,000 Crore Submarine Deal for Indian Navy

- The deal is valued at 70,000 crore for six advanced submarines.
- The project is officially known as Project 75 (India) or P-75I.
- The submarines will feature Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) system.
- This acquisition aims to enhance the Indian Navy's underwater capabilities.
- The deal promotes the 'Make in India' initiative in defence manufacturing.

Memory Trick: Remember '70K for 6 subs' 70,000 crore for six submarines, enhancing 'P-75I' (Power for India).

India's Two-Decade Military Modernization Plan Unveiled

- India's military modernization plan spans two decades, from 2024 to 2044.
- The plan focuses on achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- Key technologies include Artificial Intelligence, drones, and advanced missile systems.
- The initiative aims to reduce defence import dependency by over 50% in the long term.
- It aligns with the government's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' policies.

Memory Trick: Remember '20-20 Vision for Defence': A 20-year plan (2024-2044) for a modern, self-reliant Indian military.

DRDO Successfully Tests TARA Weapon and Agni-5 MIRV Missile

- DRDO successfully tested the Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology.
- The Agni-5 MIRV test was codenamed 'Divyastra'.
- The test was conducted from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- India is now among a select few nations possessing MIRV capability.
- The TARA weapon system also underwent successful trials by DRDO.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Agni-5 MIRV Divyastra' as 'A-5 M-D': Agni-5, Multiple warheads, Divyastra test. It's a 'Divine Weapon' (Divyastra) with 'Multiple' targets.

NASM-SR Missile: India's Indigenous Maritime Strike Capability

- NASM-SR stands for Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range.
- It is an indigenously developed missile system by India.
- The missile is designed to be launched from naval helicopters.
- NASM-SR enhances the Indian Navy's maritime strike capability.
- It aligns with India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' defence initiatives.

Memory Trick: Remember NASM-SR as 'Navy's Anti-Ship Missile - Self-Reliant'. The 'SR' can stand for Short Range and Self-Reliant.

ECONOMY

IMD Lowers 2026 Monsoon Outlook to 90% of Normal Amid El Niño Threat

- IMD lowered 2026 monsoon outlook to 90% of Long Period Average (LPA).
- This forecast indicates a potential for a drier monsoon season.
- The primary reason for the downgrade is the looming threat of an El Niño event.
- A similar dry monsoon occurred in 2015, impacting agriculture.
- Reduced rainfall can lead to increased heatwaves and higher food prices.

Memory Trick: Remember 'EL NINO = LESS RAIN IN INDIA'. The 'N' in Niño can remind you of 'No Rain' for India.

India Lowers Fuel Export Levies on Petrol, Diesel, ATF

- New export duty on petrol is 1.5 per litre, effective June 1.
- Export duty on diesel has been set at 13.5 per litre.
- Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) export duty is now 9.5 per litre.
- The changes are effective from June 1.
- This move aims to benefit domestic oil refiners.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Fuel Export Levies Reduced' as FELR. The government FELT the need to reduce duties for refiners.

RBI Annual Report 2024-25: India's Growth and Inflation Outlook

- The RBI Annual Report covers the period from July 1 to June 30 of the financial year.
- The report projects India's GDP growth for the current fiscal year to remain robust.
- Inflation, particularly food inflation, is identified as a key challenge in the RBI report.
- The report notes an improvement in the asset quality of Indian banks.
- Government capital expenditure is highlighted as a major driver of economic growth.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RBI's G.I.A.N.T. Report' Growth, Inflation, Annual, New Trends. It helps recall the main focus areas of the RBI's annual publication.

CSR Funds for Non-Profits via Social Stock Exchange

- Companies can invest up to 10% of CSR funds in non-profits.
- Funding is done through 'zero coupon zero principal' instruments.
- Investments are made via a Social Stock Exchange (SSE).
- The Social Stock Exchange is regulated by SEBI.
- This policy aims to increase funding for the social sector.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CSR 10% ZCZP SSE' CSR funds, 10 percent limit, Zero Coupon Zero Principal, Social Stock Exchange.

RBI Annual Report 2025-26: Inflation Risks and GDP Outlook

- The RBI Annual Report for 2025-26 was recently released.
- The report highlighted risks from a potential surge in international crude oil prices.
- It provided the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth outlook for fiscal year 2026-27.
- The RBI discussed measures to maintain financial stability and manage liquidity.
- Progress in digital payments and financial inclusion initiatives was noted.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RBI's Annual Report' as 'R-risk, B-alance, I-nflation' to recall its focus on economic risks, financial balance, and inflation outlook.

RBI to Estimate Natural Real Rate, Potential GDP Growth by FY27

- RBI will estimate natural real rate of interest and potential GDP growth.
- The estimation process is targeted for completion by fiscal year 2026-27.
- These metrics are crucial for RBI's monetary policy formulation.
- Natural real rate helps determine the neutral interest rate in the economy.
- Potential GDP indicates the economy's maximum sustainable output.

Memory Trick: Remember 'NRP' for Natural Real Rate and Potential GDP both are 'RBI's 'P'riority for 'N'eutral 'R'ates and 'P'otential growth.

RBI Projects India's Economy to Grow 6.9% in 2026-27

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its annual report.
- India's economy is projected to grow at 6.9% in fiscal year 2026-27.
- The projection indicates a strong pace for the Indian economy.
- RBI's annual report provides an overview of economic performance and policy outlook.
- Economic forecasts by RBI are crucial for government planning.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RBI 69' for the 6.9% growth forecast. 'R' for Reserve, 'B' for Bank, 'I' for India, and '69' for the percentage.

RBI Projects 6.9% GDP Growth for India in FY2026-27

- RBI projects India's GDP growth at 6.9% for fiscal year 2026-27.
- The projection indicates the Indian economy's resilience despite geopolitical headwinds.
- RBI is India's central bank, responsible for monetary policy and economic stability.
- GDP is the total monetary or market value of all finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.
- Geopolitical headwinds refer to global political and economic challenges impacting growth.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RBI 6.9' for the growth rate. RBI is 'Resilient Bharat's Indicator' showing 6.9% growth.

RBI Projects India's FY27 Growth at 6.9% Amid Global Risks

- RBI projects India's economic growth at 6.9% for FY27.
- The projection considers risks from the West Asia conflict.
- FY27 refers to the fiscal year 2026-27.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central bank.
- Domestic demand and government spending are key growth drivers.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RBI 6.9 for FY27' RBI's growth forecast is almost 7% for the fiscal year starting in '26.

RBI Warns West Asia Conflict Threatens India's Growth Outlook

- RBI cautioned about West Asia conflict's impact on India's growth outlook.
- Prolonged escalation could rekindle inflationary pressures.
- Surging crude oil prices are a primary concern for the RBI.
- Volatile commodity markets are another risk identified by the RBI.
- Disruptions in shipping routes could lead to higher costs.

Memory Trick: Remember 'WAR' (West Asia Risks) leads to 'OIL' (Oil prices rise) and 'INFLATION' (Inflationary pressures).

RBI Considers Polymer Banknotes: A Decade-Old Plan Revived

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is reportedly reviving a decade-old plan for polymer banknotes.
- A pilot project for plastic currency notes is expected to be launched soon.
- Polymer banknotes are typically made from biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP).
- Australia was the first country to introduce polymer banknotes in 1988.
- Countries like Canada, the UK, and New Zealand also use polymer currency.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Plastic Lasts Longer' for polymer notes' durability, and 'RBI's Old Plan' for the decade-old consideration.

India Delays Q4 GDP Data Release to June 7 Annually

- India's Q4 GDP data release date shifted from May 31 to June 7 annually.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) made this decision.
- For the current year, the Q4 GDP data will be released on June 5.
- June 7 is the new fixed date for the Q4 GDP data release.
- Q4 GDP data covers the January-March quarter of the financial year.

Memory Trick: Remember 'MoSPI' for 'May 31 Shift to June 7' for GDP data. MoSPI moves the date from 'May' to 'June'.

GEOGRAPHY

Rusty-spotted Cat Found in UP's National Chambal Sanctuary

- The Rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*) is among the world's smallest cats.
- It was first documented in Uttar Pradesh's National Chambal Sanctuary.
- The finding marks the species' first confirmed record from southern Uttar Pradesh.
- Researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) made this discovery.
- The National Chambal Sanctuary is located in Uttar Pradesh.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Chambal' for 'Cat' (Rusty-spotted Cat) and 'Chambal' for 'Chambal Sanctuary' both start with 'Ch'.

India's Night-time Temperatures Rising: Impact on Heatwaves and Climate Change

- India's average night-time temperatures are rising by about 0.21 degrees Celsius per decade.
- Increased night-time temperatures prevent the body from recovering from daytime heat, worsening heat stress.
- This trend contributes to making heatwaves more deadly, particularly for vulnerable groups.
- The phenomenon is a direct consequence of global climate change and warming trends.
- It necessitates stronger climate action, including adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Night-time Nudge': India's night temperatures are nudging up by 0.21 C each decade, making heatwaves more dangerous as bodies can't cool down.

Karnataka Plans Cauvery Water Supply to Bengaluru Industrial Areas

- Karnataka plans to supply 2.5 tmcft of Cauvery water to Bengaluru's industrial areas.
- The water will be sourced from Kollegal, a town in Karnataka.
- The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal allocated 4 tmcft of water for industrial use.
- Currently, only 1.37 tmcft of the allocated industrial water is being utilized.
- The initiative aims to meet the water demands of industries in Bengaluru.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Cauvery' as 'K-A-V-E-R-Y' and the states involved: Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry. Think of 'K-K-T-P' for the regions.

Sikkim Implements Odd-Even Vehicle Rule to Conserve Fuel and Reduce Pollution

- The odd-even rule applies to private vehicles based on their registration numbers and the calendar date.
- Vehicles with odd registration numbers are allowed on odd dates, while those with even numbers are allowed on even dates.
- The primary goals of this initiative are to conserve fuel and reduce air pollution in the state.
- All public transport services, including taxis and buses, will operate without restrictions on all days, including Saturdays and Sundays.
- This policy is a step towards promoting environmental sustainability and managing urban traffic in Sikkim.

Memory Trick: Think 'Sikkim Saves' Sikkim is implementing the Odd-Even rule to Save fuel and reduce pollution.

Rajasthan Seeks Permanent Membership in Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)

- Rajasthan is currently an advisory member, not a permanent member, of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).
- The state seeks permanent membership to safeguard its share of water from the Bhakra and Beas river projects.
- Permanent membership would allow Rajasthan to participate directly in decisions on water storage and distribution.
- The request highlights the importance of expeditious decisions on dam reservoir levels after studies.
- BBMB manages the Bhakra and Beas projects, which are vital for water supply to several northern Indian states.

Memory Trick: Remember BBMB manages Bhakra and Beas, two 'B' rivers. Rajasthan wants a 'B'igger say in 'B'BMB.

IMD Predicts Early Southwest Monsoon Onset in Kerala on May 26

- The Southwest Monsoon is expected to set in over Kerala on May 26, 202X.
- The usual onset date for the Southwest Monsoon in Kerala is around June 1.
- The monsoon's arrival in Kerala marks its beginning in India and its subsequent advance across the country.
- Monsoon rainfall is crucial for India's agricultural sector, impacting crop production and water resources.

Memory Trick: Remember 'K-M-J': Kerala Monsoon June 1 (usual onset). Early means before June 1.

Rare Brown Bear Family Sighted in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur District

- The sighting occurred in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- A mother brown bear and two cubs were spotted at an altitude of 2,500 meters.
- Himalayan brown bears are classified as an endangered species.
- The species is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Their habitat includes high-altitude alpine forests and meadows.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Kinnaur Bears' for the location of the brown bear sighting. 'Bear' rhymes with 'Care' for conservation.

Two Cheetahs Released into Kuno National Park: Madhya Pradesh Declared 'Cheetah State'

- Two cheetahs, Agni (male) and Vayu (female), were released into the wild at Kuno National Park.
- This release increases the number of free-ranging cheetahs in Kuno National Park to 10.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav declared the state as a 'Cheetah State'.
- The reintroduction is part of Project Cheetah, which aims to establish a self-sustaining cheetah population in India.
- Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952.

Memory Trick: Kuno sounds like 'Coon-o', remember 'Coon-o' for Cheetahs. M.P. is now the 'Cheetah State'.

Seychelles Repurposes PS Topaz as Artificial Reef and Diving Site

- PS Topaz, a former patrol ship of Seychelles, has been decommissioned.
- The vessel will be sunk to create an artificial reef and a new diving attraction.
- This project aims to enhance marine biodiversity by providing new habitats for marine life.
- It is also expected to boost tourism in Seychelles by offering a unique diving experience.
- The initiative reflects Seychelles' focus on marine conservation and sustainable development goals.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Seychelles Sinks Ship for Sea Life'. PS Topaz becomes a 'top' diving spot.

Madhya Pradesh Expands Conservation Efforts Beyond Tigers to Other Wildlife Species

- Madhya Pradesh is known as India's 'Tiger State' due to having the highest number of tigers.
- The state is now expanding its conservation efforts to include animals like cheetahs, wild buffaloes, crocodiles, and turtles.
- This initiative aims to protect a wider range of biodiversity beyond just tigers.
- The expanded focus contributes to strengthening India's overall wildlife conservation map.

Memory Trick: MP (Madhya Pradesh) is the 'Most Protected' state for tigers and now other animals like Cheetahs and Crocodiles.

Study Reveals Tourism Increases Stress Hormones in Tigers: Impact on Breeding Success

- A multi-reserve study by Hyderabad-based CCMB found that tigers near tourism areas show higher stress levels.
- Tigers in the core zones of reserves reacted more strongly to human disturbance than those in buffer areas.
- Researchers warn that uncontrolled tourism could negatively affect tiger breeding success and cub development.
- The study emphasizes the need for science-based regulations for tourism in tiger habitats.
- This research highlights the importance of balancing wildlife conservation with tourism activities.

*Memory Trick: Remember: CCMB's Tiger Stress Study **C**onservation **C**alls for **M**anaged **B**ehavior near tigers.*

Sir David Attenborough Celebrates 100th Birthday: A Century of Nature Communication

- Sir David Attenborough was born on May 8, 1926, making his 100th birthday in 2026.
- He is an English broadcaster, natural historian, and author, famous for writing and presenting the BBC Natural History Unit's 'Life' series.
- His career spans over seven decades, during which he has produced numerous groundbreaking nature documentaries.
- Attenborough's work has been crucial in raising global awareness about environmental conservation, biodiversity, and climate change.
- He is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in science communication and environmental education.

Memory Trick: Remember Attenborough as 'A-TEN-borough' for his century (100 years) of life and his 'ten' (many) iconic nature series.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Govt to Aid 1.5 Lakh Farmers with 8,550 Cr for Farm Machinery

- The government aims to support 150,000 small farmers.
- A total of 8,550 crore has been allocated for farm equipment access.
- The initiative promotes farm mechanisation to reduce stubble burning.
- Custom hiring centres will be established to provide machinery.
- The program seeks to enhance agricultural productivity and resource efficiency.

Memory Trick: Remember '8.5K for 1.5L' 8,550 crore for 1.5 lakh farmers to fight stubble burning.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Yojana and Pulses Mission Launched by PM Modi

- PM Modi will launch the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Yojana.
- The Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission will also be launched.
- Both initiatives aim to boost agricultural production in India.
- PM Dhan-Dhaanya Yojana focuses on food grain production and distribution.
- Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission seeks to reduce pulse imports.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Dhan-Dhaanya' for grains (Dhan = wealth, Dhaanya = grains) and 'Pulses Mission' for self-reliance in dals. Both start with 'PM' for Prime Minister's initiatives.

Institutional Deliveries in India Rise to 90.6% by 2023-24

- Institutional deliveries in India increased from 88.6% in 2019-2020.
- The percentage of institutional deliveries reached 90.6% by 2023-24.
- This represents a 2 percentage point increase over four years.
- The data was released through a recent survey.
- Institutional delivery helps reduce maternal mortality rate (MMR).

Memory Trick: Remember '90.6' as 'Nine-Oh-Six' for 2023-24, like a safe delivery score. The '9' for 'newborns' and '0.6' for 'on track'.

PM Surya Ghar Scheme: 40 Lakh Households Solarised Across India

- PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has solarised 40 lakh households.
- The scheme provides free electricity through rooftop solar panels.
- It offers a subsidy for the installation of solar panels.
- The scheme aims to reduce electricity bills for households.
- It contributes to India's renewable energy targets.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Surya Ghar' as 'Sun Home' bringing the sun's power to 40 lakh homes for 'Muft Bijli' (free electricity).

PM Surya Ghar Scheme Expands Rooftop Solar in India

- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to provide free electricity to 1 crore (10 million) households.
- Households can receive a 60% subsidy for rooftop solar systems up to 2 kW capacity.
- A 40% subsidy is available for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity.
- The scheme promotes energy independence and reduces electricity bills for beneficiaries.
- It is a key initiative in India's renewable energy expansion strategy.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Surya Ghar' as 'Sun Home' bringing solar power to every home for 'Muft Bijli' (free electricity).

FAC Clears Forest Land Diversion for Infra Projects

- The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) approved diversion of over 3,000 hectares of forest land.
- The land diversion is for various infrastructure projects across multiple Indian states.
- FAC operates under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, governs forest land diversion in India.
- The approvals aim to balance infrastructure development with environmental conservation.

Memory Trick: FAC approves 'Forest' land for 'Future' projects, ensuring 'Conservation' is also a 'Factor'.

Annapurna Yojana Launched: Rs 3,000 Monthly Aid from June 1, 2026

- Annapurna Yojana provides Rs 3,000 as monthly financial assistance.
- The scheme will commence from June 1, 2026.
- It targets elderly, destitute, and income-less individuals.
- The scheme aims to enhance food security and financial stability.
- Implementation will be carried out through state governments.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Annapurna' (Goddess of Food) for 'Anna' (food) and 'Purna' (full), linking it to food security and financial aid for the needy.

Annapurna Yojana: Providing Food Security to Senior Citizens

- Annapurna Yojana was launched in the year 2000-2001.
- Beneficiaries receive 10 kg of food grains (wheat or rice) free of cost monthly.
- The scheme targets indigent senior citizens aged 65 years or above.
- Beneficiaries must be eligible for NOAPS but not receiving it.
- The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry for the scheme.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Annapurna' (Goddess of Food) provides 'Anna' (food) to 'Purna' (complete/old) citizens, specifically 10 kg for 65+.

India Semiconductor Mission: New Portal Launched for Investors

- The online portal was launched under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- The India Semiconductor Mission was approved in December 2021.
- The mission has an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore.
- The portal aims to boost investor confidence in India's semiconductor sector.
- It serves as a single point of contact for stakeholders.

Memory Trick: ISM portal: 'I' for Investors, 'S' for Semiconductor, 'M' for Mission. It's a single window for semiconductor investments.

PM Modi Launches PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

- PM Modi launched the 'PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' and 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'.
- The 'PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' aims to boost overall agricultural productivity and farmer income.
- The 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' focuses on achieving self-sufficiency in pulse production.
- These initiatives are designed to reduce India's reliance on imported pulses.
- The schemes will support farmers with modern techniques and high-yielding crop varieties.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Dhan Dhaanya' (wealth of grains) for overall agriculture, and 'Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' for self-reliance in dals.

MeitY Launches Investor Portal for India Semiconductor Mission

- The new investor portal was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The portal operates under the umbrella of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- Its primary goal is to attract and facilitate investments in India's semiconductor sector.
- The portal acts as a single point of contact for potential investors.
- It provides information on government policies, incentives, and application processes.

Memory Trick: Think 'MeitY's ISM Portal' as a 'SIM card' for investors it connects them directly to India's semiconductor opportunities.

Govt Launches Digital Portal for Semiconductor Investors

- The digital portal supports investors in India's semiconductor sector.
- It is part of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) initiative.
- The portal offers a single window for information and approvals.
- The government aims to make India a global semiconductor hub.
- The initiative seeks to reduce India's reliance on semiconductor imports.

Memory Trick: Think 'Semi-Portal' for 'Semiconductor Portal' it's a 'single window' to 'SIMplify' (ISM) investing in India's chip future.

IMPORTANT DAYS

UN Declares Dec 4 as International Day Against Coercive Measures

- The UN General Assembly declared December 4 as the International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures.
- The resolution was adopted during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.
- Unilateral coercive measures are often used as political and economic tools against states.
- The declaration aims to raise global awareness about the negative impact of these measures.
- The resolution emphasizes that these measures violate international law and the UN Charter.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Coercive' sounds like 'Course' and 'December 4' is like 'Dec-FOUR-th' so, 'Don't force a course on Dec 4'.

ICAR-CIFRI Marks Biodiversity Day 2026 with River Ranching

- ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, observed International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, 2026.
- A river ranching drive was conducted in the Lower Ganga region.
- The initiative was part of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) program.
- River ranching aims to enhance fish biodiversity and ecological health.
- ICAR-CIFRI is the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CIFRI' for 'Fish' (C-I-F-R-I sounds like 'fish-ry') and 'Ganga' for 'Ranching' to link the institute with river ranching in the Ganga.

ICAR-CIFRI River Ranching in Lower Ganga on Biodiversity Day 2026

- ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, organized the river ranching drive.
- The event took place on May 22, 2026, marking International Day for Biological Diversity.
- The river ranching was conducted in the Lower Ganga region.
- The initiative falls under the Namami Gange Programme (NMCG).
- Fish fingerlings were released to enhance aquatic biodiversity.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CIFRI' for 'Fish' and 'Ganga' for 'River Ranching' on 'Biodiversity Day' (May 22). CIFRI fishes in Ganga on Bio Day.

Mathura Forest Division Launches Mega Green Drive on International Day of Biodiversity 2026

- The Mega Green Drive was launched by the Mathura Forest Division on International Day of Biodiversity 2026.
- Key partners in this initiative included the Border Security Force (BSF) and ICAR-CIRG.
- The primary goal of the drive is to enhance biodiversity and promote environmental conservation through tree plantation.
- This collaboration underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder involvement in ecological projects.
- The event aimed to raise awareness about the significance of biodiversity among local communities and participating organizations.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bio-May 22': Biodiversity Day is in May, and 22 is a common number for environmental days (like Earth Day on April 22).

International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 Observed in Nagaland

- International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on May 22.
- The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2026 focuses on 'Building a shared future for all life'.
- The day commemorates the adoption of the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on May 22, 1992.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity in December 2000.
- Biodiversity loss is a major global concern, impacting climate change, food security, and human health.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bio-Diversity on May 22'. Bio sounds like 'buy-o', and 22 is a double number, easy to recall for this important environmental day.

International Day for Women in Maritime 2024: Union Minister Sonowal Highlights Role of Women Seafarers

- The International Day for Women in Maritime is observed annually on May 18.
- The day was established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2021.
- Its primary goal is to increase the visibility of women in the maritime industry.
- The theme for 2024 was 'Mobilizing networks for gender equality'.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal holds the portfolio for Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Maritime May 18'. Both 'Maritime' and 'May' start with 'M', and '18' can be linked to 'eighteen' for women's empowerment.

World Day for Cultural Diversity: History, Significance, and Celebrations

- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is celebrated every year on May 21st.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2002.
- It aims to promote cultural diversity, dialogue, and development globally.
- The observance followed the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted in November 2001.
- The day emphasizes culture's role in sustainable development and achieving peace.

Memory Trick: Remember 'May 21st' for 'Cultural Diversity' think '21' as in 'two-one' representing 'two cultures becoming one' through dialogue.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development: Celebrated Annually on May 21

- World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed on May 21 each year.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2002.
- UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001.
- The day promotes cultural diversity as a source of innovation and sustainable development.
- It encourages intercultural dialogue for peace and development goals.

Memory Trick: Remember 'May 21' for 'Cultural Diversity' by thinking '21 cultures meet for dialogue'.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: Observing Global Efforts Against Poverty

- The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed every year on October 17.
- The United Nations General Assembly officially designated October 17 as this day in 1992.
- The first observance of the day took place in Paris, France, in 1987, at the Trocad ro, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.
- The day promotes awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries.
- It highlights the importance of listening to and recognizing the struggles of people living in poverty.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Poverty 17': The number 17 sounds like 'seventeen', and it's the date (October 17) for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

International Day for Biological Diversity: Significance and Theme

- The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every year on May 22nd.
- The day promotes understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- It marks the adoption of the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on May 22, 1992.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 22 as the International Day for Biological Diversity in December 2000.
- Each year, a specific theme is chosen to focus global efforts and discussions.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bio-22': Biodiversity Day is on May 22nd. 'Bio' for biological, '22' for the date.

World Bee Day 2026 Celebrated by TNAU with 'Bee Together' Theme

- World Bee Day is celebrated annually on May 20.
- The theme for World Bee Day 2026 was 'Bee together, for people and the planet'.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators, especially bees, for sustainable development.
- Pollinators contribute significantly to global food production and biodiversity.
- The event at TNAU focused on educating the public about bee conservation and challenges.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bee 20' for May 20th. Bees are tiny, so they need to 'Bee Together' to make a big impact on the planet.

MOL Hosts Online Event for Seafarers on IMO International Day for Women in Maritime

- The event was organized by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL), a major Japanese shipping company.
- It commemorated the IMO International Day for Women in Maritime, observed annually.
- The discussions focused on practical experiences of women seafarers and creating supportive work environments.
- The initiative aims to promote gender diversity and inclusion within the global maritime sector.

Memory Trick: IMO for 'I'm Onboard' - helping women get onboard in maritime. MOL sounds like 'More Onboard Ladies'.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Lipulekh Pass Dispute: India and Nepal's 210-Year-Old Border Issue

- Lipulekh Pass is located at the tri-junction of India, Nepal, and China.
- The border dispute between India and Nepal over Lipulekh is approximately 210 years old.
- The pass is used for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a pilgrimage to Tibet.
- India inaugurated an 80-km road to Lipulekh Pass in 2020, leading to renewed protests from Nepal.
- Nepal claims the Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh region based on the Sugauli Treaty of 1816.

Memory Trick: Remember 'LIP' for Lipulekh, India, and Pass a key point in the India-Nepal border dispute.

AUKUS Pact: US, UK, Australia to Develop Underwater Drones

- The US, UK, and Australia are developing underwater drone technology under the AUKUS pact.
- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact formed in September 2021.
- The technology aims to protect undersea cables and boost naval defence.
- Underwater drones are also known as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs).
- This initiative is part of the AUKUS Pillar II, focusing on advanced capabilities.

Memory Trick: Remember AUKUS as 'A'ustralia, 'UK' (United Kingdom), 'US' (United States) the three nations collaborating on undersea defence.

UN Sexual Violence Blacklist: Israel, Russia Added in New Report

- Israel and Russia were added to the UN's 'blacklist' for conflict-related sexual violence in 2023.
- The UN report documented nearly 10,000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence globally last year.
- The report is an annual publication by the UN Secretary-General.
- Other entities on the list include groups from Myanmar, Syria, and Sudan.
- The 'blacklist' aims to hold perpetrators accountable for human rights violations.

Memory Trick: Remember 'ISR' (Israel, Syria, Russia) for some key countries often mentioned in UN reports on conflict zones.

Ajit Doval Meets Patrushev: Arctic Trade, Defence Collaboration

- Ajit Doval is India's current National Security Advisor (NSA).
- Nikolai Patrushev is the Secretary of Russia's Security Council.
- The meeting focused on the Arctic trade corridor and defence collaboration.
- India and Russia have a long-standing strategic partnership.
- The Arctic region is becoming crucial for new global trade routes.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Doval-Patrushev' for 'Defence and Arctic Trade' both start with 'D' and 'A' sounds, linking the key topics of their meeting.

India-South Korea Hold 6th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue

- The dialogue held was the 6th edition of the Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.
- The meeting took place in Seoul, the capital city of South Korea.
- India's delegation was led by Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs.
- South Korea's delegation was led by Kim Hong-kyun, First Vice Foreign Minister.
- The dialogue reviewed the 'Special Strategic Partnership' between the two nations.

Memory Trick: Remember 'SK-6' for South Korea's 6th dialogue. 'SK' also sounds like 'Seek' - they seek stronger ties.

Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing to Visit India: Trade & Border Security

- Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing will visit India starting May 30.
- This is his first visit to India after forming a new government in Myanmar.
- Key discussion points include bilateral trade and border security.
- India shares a 1,643 km land border with Myanmar.
- Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, a key regional bloc.

Memory Trick: Remember 'M-I-N' for Myanmar-India-Neighbour. Min Aung Hlaing's visit strengthens ties between these two neighbours.

India-China Border Talks: WMCC Reviews LAC Situation in Beijing

- The 29th meeting of the WMCC on India-China Border Affairs was held in Beijing.
- Both India and China expressed satisfaction over peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The Indian delegation was led by the Joint Secretary (East Asia) from the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Chinese delegation was led by the Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department.
- The discussions aimed for complete disengagement at all friction points along the LAC.

Memory Trick: Remember 'WMCC' as 'We Meet to Control Conflicts' on the border, helping India and China manage their LAC issues.

UN80 Initiative: UN Chief Outlines Progress in Global Reform Effort

- The initiative is named UN80, referring to the UN's 80th anniversary.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres outlined the progress.
- The UN80 Initiative aims for reform and restructuring of the United Nations.
- Its goal is to make the UN more effective and agile.
- The initiative is described as entering a 'critical new phase'.

Memory Trick: Remember 'UN80' as the UN looking forward to its 80th birthday (in 2025) by making itself 'F.A.S.T.' (Future-ready, Agile, Strong, Transformed).

Global Temperatures Near Record Levels: UN Weather Agency Warns

- Global temperatures are predicted to stay at or near record levels for the next five years.
- The warning comes from a new report by the UN weather agency.
- The report was released on a Thursday, indicating a recent assessment.
- Climate change is accelerating across both land and sea, as per the report.
- This period of dangerous heat signifies ongoing environmental challenges.

Memory Trick: Remember 'WMO' for 'World's Melting Outlook' to link the UN weather agency with global temperature warnings.

India Sends Medical Aid to Congo for Ebola Outbreak Response

- India sent emergency medical supplies to Congo for Ebola outbreak response.
- This aid is part of India's expanded health partnership with African countries.
- India provides medicines, vaccines, and medical assistance to African nations.
- Such support was also extended during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The assistance aims to strengthen public health emergency responses.

Memory Trick: Remember 'I-C-E' for India-Congo-Ebola. India helps Congo fight Ebola, showing its 'ICE' (International Cooperation Efforts).

Quad Foreign Ministers Meet on May 26, 2026: Focus on Indo-Pacific

- The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting occurred on May 26, 2026.
- The meeting involved India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.
- Discussions primarily focused on the Indo-Pacific region.
- Key areas of cooperation included maritime security and counter-terrorism.
- The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed India's participation.

Memory Trick: Remember the Quad members as 'AJII' - Australia, Japan, India, USA. They are 'AJII' (easy) to remember for Indo-Pacific security.

India-US Critical Minerals Framework: Securing Rare Earth Supply

- India and the US launched a new framework for critical minerals and rare earths.
- The framework aims to secure mining, processing, and scrapping of these minerals.
- China blocked exports of rare earth magnets in April 2025, causing global supply chain disruption.
- Critical minerals are vital for advanced technologies, defence, and green energy.
- The initiative strengthens the strategic partnership between India and the US.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CRITICAL' for 'China's Rare Earth Impact Triggered India-US Collaboration To Insure Trade And Linkages'.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bengaluru Mumbai Express Flagged Off; Vande Bharat Sleeper Service Soon

- The Bengaluru Mumbai Express is a new train service connecting Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- Vande Bharat sleeper services are expected to be launched in the near future.
- Around 1,750 km of new railway lines have been constructed in Karnataka since 2014.
- The initiative aims to enhance rail connectivity and modernize the Indian railway network.

Memory Trick: Think 'B-M Express' for Bengaluru-Mumbai, and 'Vande Sleeper' for the upcoming Vande Bharat service, connecting major cities with modern trains.

CBSE Class 12 Result 2026: Trivandrum Region Achieves Highest Pass Percentage

- Trivandrum region secured the highest pass percentage in the CBSE Class 12 results 2026.
- Prayagraj region recorded the lowest pass percentage among all CBSE regions.
- The CBSE Class 12 results are a key determinant for students seeking admission to undergraduate courses.
- The overall pass percentage for CBSE Class 12 in 2026 was 87.98%.
- Girls outperformed boys by 0.60 percentage points in the 2026 Class 12 exams.

Memory Trick: Remember 'T' for Trivandrum (Top) and 'P' for Prayagraj (Poor performance) in CBSE results.

Telangana Panel Highlights Workplace Sexism and Microaggressions Against Women

- Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional expressions of prejudice that can be verbal, nonverbal, or environmental.
- Tokenism refers to making only a perfunctory or symbolic effort to be inclusive of minority groups.
- Gender stereotypes are oversimplified and often inaccurate beliefs about the characteristics, roles, and behaviors of men and women.
- These issues collectively contribute to emotionally unsafe environments for women in professional and personal settings.
- The 'Stand With Her' discussion aimed to bring attention to these challenges and advocate for change.

Memory Trick: Remember: Microaggressions are 'micro' (small) but 'aggressive' (harmful) everyday actions that chip away at well-being.

Publishers Sue Meta and Mark Zuckerberg Over Copyright Infringement Allegations

- Five major publishing houses and author Scott Turow have filed a lawsuit against Meta Platforms Inc. and its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg.
- The lawsuit alleges that Meta engaged in copyright infringement by using copyrighted material without proper authorization.
- Publishers claim that Mark Zuckerberg personally approved the unauthorized use of their content.
- This case highlights growing concerns about intellectual property rights in the digital age, especially concerning large technology platforms.
- The outcome of such lawsuits could influence how AI models are trained using existing copyrighted works.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Meta's Copyright Challenge': 'M' for Meta, 'C' for Copyright. They're facing a 'C'hallenge over 'C'opyright infringement.

POLITY

Lok Adalats Cannot Grant Divorce: Allahabad High Court Ruling

- Allahabad High Court issued the ruling on April 30.
- The court stated Lok Adalats cannot grant divorce.
- Power to dissolve marriage rests exclusively with family courts.
- Lok Adalats' authority is limited to facilitating settlements.
- Lok Adalats cannot render judicial decisions.

Memory Trick: Remember 'LOK' for 'Legal Opinion for Compromise' Lok Adalats help compromise, not decide divorces.

EC Notifies Rajya Sabha Polls for 2 Jharkhand Seats

- Election Commission of India notified polls for 2 Rajya Sabha seats from Jharkhand.
- The terms of Samir Oraon (BJP) and Dhiraj Prasad Sahu (INC) expire on May 3, 2024.
- Last date for filing nominations is March 14, 2024.
- Polling, if required, will be held on March 26, 2024.
- Counting of votes will take place on March 26, 2024, at 5 PM.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RS' for Rajya Sabha, 'R' for Retirement (one-third every two years), and 'S' for Six-year term.

Delhi High Court Upholds TRAI Ad Cap: 12 Minutes Per Hour

- Delhi High Court upheld TRAI's regulation on television advertisements.
- The regulation caps advertisements at 12 minutes per hour.
- Broadcasters challenged TRAI's authority on this matter.
- The court stated broadcasters lack an 'unfettered right to exploit spectrum'.
- TRAI was established in 1997 as a statutory body.

Memory Trick: Remember 'TRAI's 12-minute rule' for TV ads, upheld by 'Delhi HC' to ensure 'Fair Viewing' for all.

The Delimitation Bill, 2026: Key Provisions and Impact

- Introduced in Lok Sabha on April 16, 2026; became infructuous on April 17, 2026
- Introduced by the Ministry of Law and Justice
- Aims to facilitate delimitation based on the first census after 2026 (reference date March 1, 2027)
- Addresses the implementation of the 106th Constitutional Amendment (women's reservation)
- Predecessor laws/amendments: 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), 84th Constitutional Amendment (2001), 106th Constitutional Amendment (2023)

Memory Trick: Remember 'D-2026' for Delimitation in 2026, linking to the 84th Amendment's freeze extension and the 106th Amendment's women's reservation trigger.

Supreme Court Mandates Uniform Trauma Care Policy Across India

- The Supreme Court mandated a uniform trauma care policy for all states and UTs.
- The policy includes a common national helpline number for emergency services.
- It provides legal protections for 'Good Samaritans' who assist accident victims.
- The directive aims to standardize emergency medical response across India.
- This initiative seeks to improve coordination among healthcare providers and agencies.

Memory Trick: Remember 'SC-UTC' for Supreme Court Uniform Trauma Care. SC-UTC ensures 'Safe Care for Unfortunate Trauma Cases'.

Infrastructure and Environment Bills: Key Provisions and Impact

- The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025 - Passed
- The Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 - Draft
- The Indian Ports Bill, 2025 - Passed
- The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 - Passed
- The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 - Passed

Memory Trick: Think 'P-E-N-S-C': Ports, Electricity, Nuclear, Shipping, Coastal. These are the key infrastructure and environment areas covered by recent bills.

Constitutional Amendments: Key Provisions and Impact

- The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Women's Reservation Bill) - Passed
- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023 - Passed
- The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 (Removal of Ministers upon Detention) - In Committee
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Delimitation Bills of 2026) - Introduced-Negated
- Article 368 of the Constitution of India governs the power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and the procedure thereof.

Memory Trick: C-A-B: Changes Are Big. Constitutional Amendments require a Big majority.

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Key Provisions and Impact

- Status: Passed (Year 2026)
- Amends: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014
- Constitutional article invoked: Article 3 (related to state reorganisation)

Memory Trick: AP Reorg 2026: Amends the 2014 Act, passed to fix post-bifurcation issues, linked to Article 3.

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026: Decriminalizing Minor Offences

- Passed by Parliament in 2026
- Introduced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (typically, though specific details not in source)
- Converts imprisonment for minor offences into monetary penalties
- Amends over 42 central laws, including the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026
- Aims to reduce judicial burden and promote ease of doing business

Memory Trick: Jan Vishwas = 'Public Trust'. Trust means less jail, more fines for small mistakes. Think 'JV' for 'Jail Vanishes'.

Agriculture and Rural Development Bills: Key Provisions and Impact

- The Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021: Passed
- The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024: Passed
- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2024: Passed
- The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) VB G RAM G Bill, 2025: Passed
- The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill: Status not specified, but listed

Memory Trick: FARM-ST-GRAM: Farm Laws (Repeal), ST (Amendment), Gram (Viksit Bharat Mission) key bills in Agriculture & Rural Development.

Supreme Court Collegium Recommends 5 New Judges, Including Woman Advocate

- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended 5 new judges.
- The recommendations include 4 chief justices of High Courts.
- Senior advocate K.V. Viswanathan is also among the recommended names.
- If approved, the Supreme Court will reach its full strength of 34 judges.
- The Collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CJI + 4' for the Collegium's composition. The 'C' in Collegium stands for 'Chief Justice' and '4' for the senior-most judges.

Centre Reclaims Delhi Gymkhana Club Land Citing Public Interest

- The land was originally leased to the Delhi Gymkhana Club for maintaining a social and sporting club.
- The government's order for re-entry and resumption of land is based on the grounds of 'public interest'.
- This action signifies the government's authority over leased properties, especially when public benefit is cited.
- The Delhi Gymkhana Club is a prominent social and sports club in the capital city.

Memory Trick: Think 'Gymkhana Gone' for 'Government Order' reclaiming 'Gymkhana' land due to 'Public Interest'.

REPORTS & INDEXES

NFHS-6: Hospital Births Rise, Skilled Health Personnel Increase

- NFHS-6 report shows an increase in hospital births across India.
- Deliveries attended by skilled health personnel rose from 89.4% to 91.3%.
- The report also highlights a looming crisis of lifestyle diseases.
- NFHS-6 is the sixth round of the National Family Health Survey.
- The survey provides data on health, family welfare, and other indicators.

Memory Trick: Remember NFHS-6 for 'New Findings on Health Statistics' focusing on the 6th round's key health indicators.

UN WESP Mid-Year Update: India Leads South Asian Economic Growth Amid Global Challenges

- India is projected to be the fastest-growing major economy in South Asia, according to the UN WESP report.
- The report highlights India's strong domestic demand as a key factor supporting its economic resilience.
- Global energy shocks and supply chain issues are major challenges impacting the world economy.
- India's economic performance is crucial for the overall stability and growth of the South Asian region.
- Government policies and investments have contributed to India's sustained growth momentum.

Memory Trick: WESP sounds like 'West', but it's about the 'World's Economy' and 'Situation & Prospects' from the 'UN'. Remember UN-WESP for global economic outlook.

India Ranks 157th in 2026 World Press Freedom Index

- India is ranked 157th out of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index.
- The index is published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international non-profit organization.
- The ranking assesses the level of freedom available to journalists and media organizations.
- A lower rank indicates a more difficult situation for press freedom in a country.

Memory Trick: Remember 'RSF' for Reporters Without Borders, and '157' for India's rank. Think 'R-S-F' sounds like 'Risk-Safety-Freedom' for journalists.

UN Report Highlights Global Housing Solutions for Informal Settlements and Refugees

- The UN report showcases diverse housing solutions from countries like Thailand, Jordan, Brazil, and Germany.
- It highlights the upgrading of informal settlements (favelas) with state support, preventing evictions.
- Refugees and host communities are collaboratively improving neglected spaces, making them greener and safer.
- Rent control policies, such as those in Germany, are noted for their role in stabilizing housing markets.
- The report emphasizes community involvement and government backing as crucial for successful housing initiatives.

Memory Trick: Think 'UN-Habitat' for 'Housing' solutions. The report 'HABITAT's' focus is on making homes better for everyone, from favelas to refugee camps.

WMO Report: Extreme Weather Threatens Latin America and Caribbean

- The WMO report identifies record-breaking temperatures as a major threat in the region.
- Deadly floods and worsening droughts are causing widespread displacement and water scarcity.
- Intensifying hurricanes contribute to the growing risk of humanitarian crises.
- Millions in Latin America and the Caribbean are at risk of hunger and water shortages.
- The report emphasizes the need for urgent climate action and adaptation measures.

Memory Trick: WMO sounds like 'Weather Monitoring Organization'. Remember they monitor weather and climate, and their reports warn about extreme weather like heat, floods, and hurricanes.

WMO Report Highlights Extreme Weather Risks in Latin America and Caribbean

- The WMO report identifies record temperatures, floods, droughts, and hurricanes as major threats.
- Millions in Latin America and the Caribbean face increased risks of hunger and displacement.
- Water shortages are a significant concern due to worsening drought conditions.
- The report underscores the severe impact of climate change on the region's populations.
- Urgent climate action and adaptation strategies are needed to mitigate these risks.

Memory Trick: WMO sounds like 'Weather MOre Often'. Remember WMO for reports on weather and climate, especially when it's about extreme events.

Delhi Achieves 'Exemplary' Status in Logistics Ease Across Different States 2025 Index

- Delhi secured the highest 'Exemplary' category in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 Index.
- The LEADS index assesses the efficiency of logistics ecosystems across Indian states and union territories.
- The Delhi government plans to notify its city logistics plan soon, following this recognition.
- Improved logistics are vital for enhancing trade, reducing costs, and boosting economic development.
- The index encourages states to improve their logistics infrastructure and services.

Memory Trick: LEADS = Logistics Ease Across Different States. Remember 'LEADS the way' for states performing well in logistics.

WHO Global Health Statistics Report 2026: World Off Track for Health Targets

- The World Health Organization (WHO) publishes its Global Health Statistics Report annually.
- The report assesses progress towards ambitious global health goals set in 2015.
- The 2026 report indicates that the world is currently not on track to meet these health targets.
- The report serves as a critical tool for evaluating global health trends and identifying areas for improvement.

Memory Trick: Remember WHO's report as a 'World Health Overview' that checks if we're 'On Track' (or not!) for global health goals.

WHO Report: COVID-19 Caused 22.1 Million Excess Deaths Globally (2020-2023)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported 22.1 million excess deaths globally due to COVID-19 between 2020 and 2023.
- The pandemic reversed a decade of gains in global life expectancy, according to the 'World Health Statistics' report.
- The report highlighted deep vulnerabilities and weaknesses in global health systems exposed by the pandemic.
- Despite the pandemic's impact, progress was recorded in areas like HIV control, sanitation, and other disease management.
- The findings emphasize the critical need for strengthening global health infrastructure and preparedness for future crises.

Memory Trick: Remember 'WHO's 22.1 Million' to link the World Health Organization with the reported excess deaths figure. The '22.1' sounds like 'two-two-one', a quick way to recall the number.

COVID-19 Pandemic Caused 22.1 Million Excess Deaths Globally, Three Times Official Count

- Total estimated excess deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic: 22.1 million.
- Official documented COVID-19 deaths: 7 million.
- Excess deaths in 2021 were highest at 10.4 million.
- Excess deaths declined to 3.3 million in 2023.
- The discrepancy highlights underreporting and indirect impacts of the pandemic.

Memory Trick: Remember '22.1M' (22.1 Million) as the 'True Toll' of the pandemic, much higher than the 'Official 7M'. The '2' in 22.1 can remind you it's 'twice' (actually three times) the official number.

WHO Report 2026: Global Health Progress Stalling and Reversing

- The World Health Statistics 2026 report was published by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The report indicates that the world is falling short on various health targets.
- Progress in global health is described as uneven, slowing, and in some areas, reversing.
- The findings highlight a threat to achieving health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Memory Trick: Remember WHO's report as 'World Health Outlook' (WHO) showing 'Worrisome Health Outcomes' (WHO) for 2026.

CAG Report Highlights Extensive Encroachments on Awadh Monuments in Uttar Pradesh

- The CAG report specifically highlights extensive encroachments on monuments in Uttar Pradesh.
- Heritage conservationists are concerned about the potential loss of Awadh's syncretic legacy due to these encroachments.
- Urgent action is required to protect these historical sites from further damage and degradation.
- Encroachments can lead to the alteration, damage, and destruction of historical structures.
- The report emphasizes the need for improved management and protection of India's cultural heritage sites.

Memory Trick: Remember 'CAG' as the 'Custodian Against Grievances' for government spending and heritage, ensuring monuments like those in 'Awadh' are not lost.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First Pig Liver and Kidneys Transplanted into Human

- The first human received both a pig liver and pig kidneys in a transplant.
- The organs used were from genetically modified pigs.
- The news was published in Nature on May 29, 2026.
- Trials for pig organ transplants are ongoing in China and the United States.
- Xenotransplantation involves transplanting organs between different species.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Xeno' (foreign) + 'Transplant' = 'Foreign Transplant'. Pigs are 'P' for 'Prime' candidates due to similar physiology.

New Lithium Extraction Method: Cheaper & Greener Process Unveiled

- New lithium extraction method published in 'Science' journal.
- The technique aims to be more environmentally friendly than existing methods.
- It also promises to be cheaper, reducing production costs.
- A startup named Rock Zero is working to commercialize this technology.
- Lithium is crucial for lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles and energy storage.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Rock Zero' for 'Zero' environmental impact from 'Rock' (lithium source).

India Semiconductor Mission Launches Single-Window Clearance Portal

- The new portal offers single-window clearance for semiconductor projects in India.
- It is part of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) launched in 2021.
- The portal aims to reduce bureaucratic delays and attract investments.
- India targets becoming a global hub for semiconductor design and manufacturing.
- The initiative supports the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaigns.

Memory Trick: Think 'ISM' for 'India's Speedy Manufacturing' portal for semiconductors.

Antihydrogen Hyperfine Splitting Measured at 4 ppm Precision

- The ground-state hyperfine splitting of antihydrogen was measured at 4 ppm precision.
- This measurement was published in Nature on May 27, 2026.
- The precision is now sensitive to the internal structure of the antiproton.
- The experiment aims to compare antihydrogen properties with those of hydrogen.
- This research tests the fundamental CPT symmetry in physics.

Memory Trick: Remember 'A-HFS 4P' for Antihydrogen Hyperfine Splitting at 4 ppm. It's a 'Precise' step for 'Physics'.

Molecular Nanodiamonds Synthesized from Nanographene: New Method

- Molecular nanodiamonds were synthesized using a bottom-up approach.
- The starting material for this synthesis was nanographene.
- The research was published in the scientific journal Nature on May 26, 2026.
- This method allows for precise control over the nanodiamonds' structure and size.
- Nanodiamonds are carbon-based materials with diamond-like properties at the nanoscale.

Memory Trick: Remember 'ND from NG': Nanodiamonds from Nanographene. The 'bottom-up' approach builds from small (NG) to big (ND).

PM Modi Unveils MANAV Vision for Ethical AI Governance

- PM Modi unveiled the MANAV Vision at the India AI Impact Summit.
- The MANAV Vision focuses on ethical and inclusive AI governance.
- It promotes human-centric AI development and deployment.
- Key principles include transparency, accountability, and data privacy.
- The vision aims to make India a leader in responsible AI solutions.

Memory Trick: MANAV sounds like 'man' or 'human'. Remember MANAV Vision is about 'human-centric' and 'ethical' AI.

Himalayan Pit Viper: 5 Species Discovered, 3 New to Science

- The Himalayan pit viper was previously considered a single species for over 160 years.
- Scientists have now identified it as five separate species.
- Three of these five species were entirely new to science.
- The discovery was made in the Himalayan mountain range.
- This reclassification impacts understanding of biodiversity in Asia.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Himalayan 1-5-3': One species became Five, with Three being new. H for Himalayas.

NASA Psyche Spacecraft Uses Mars for Gravity Assist to Metal Asteroid

- NASA's Psyche spacecraft used Mars for a gravity assist maneuver.
- The flyby increased the spacecraft's speed by about 1,000 mph.
- The Psyche mission targets a metal-rich asteroid named Psyche.
- The asteroid Psyche is believed to be the exposed core of an early planet.
- The spacecraft captured crescent images of Mars during the flyby.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Psyche' sounds like 'psychic' the spacecraft is 'psychic' about finding a metal core, using Mars as a 'sling' to get there faster.

100-Million-Year-Old Insect with Crab Claws Found in Amber

- The insect fossil is approximately 100 million years old.
- It was discovered in amber from Myanmar.
- The insect possesses crab-like claws, known as chelae, on its front legs.
- This is only the fourth known example of such structures evolving in insects.
- The claws evolved independently in this specific insect lineage.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Myanmar's Million-year-old Monster' (MMM) for the location, age, and unusual nature of the crab-clawed insect.

NASA's Psyche Spacecraft Captures Mars Images During Gravity-Assist Flyby

- NASA's Psyche spacecraft performed a flyby of Mars.
- The mission's primary target is the metal-rich asteroid Psyche.
- The spacecraft captured images of Mars, including the Huygens crater.
- The flyby provided a gravity boost, saving fuel for the mission.
- The Psyche mission was launched in October 2023.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Psyche' for 'Psychology' of a planet's core the mission studies the core of an asteroid.

NASA Detects Record-Breaking 19-Day Solar Radio Burst from Sun's Helmet Streamer

- A solar radio burst lasted for a record-breaking 19 days, observed by NASA.
- The previous record for such a burst was significantly shorter than 19 days.
- The signal was traced to a 'helmet streamer' on the Sun.
- Multiple spacecraft across the solar system were used for tracking the signal.
- Solar radio bursts are typically expected to last only a few hours or days.

Memory Trick: Remember '19 Days, Helmet Streamer' the record duration and the unique solar structure involved in this NASA discovery.

Tylosaurus rex: New Giant Mosasaur Discovered in Texas Fossils

- The newly identified sea predator is named Tylosaurus rex.
- Fossils of Tylosaurus rex were discovered in Texas, USA.
- This marine reptile measured approximately 43 feet (13.1 meters) in length.
- Tylosaurus rex ruled ancient oceans around 80 million years ago.
- It is considered one of the biggest mosasaurs ever known.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Tylosaurus rex' as the 'T-Rex of the Sea' a giant predator, just like its land-based namesake, but found in Texas.

SPORTS

Esha Singh Wins Gold at ISSF World Cup Munich, Sets World Record

- Esha Singh, 21, won gold in the women's 25m pistol event.
- She achieved this victory at the ISSF World Cup in Munich.
- Esha Singh set a new World Record during her gold medal performance.
- The win secured her a berth in the season-ending World Cup Final.
- The event took place in Munich, Germany.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Esha Shoots Gold in Munich' to link Esha Singh, her sport (shooting), her achievement (gold), and the location (Munich).

Sports Ministry Forms National Sports Tribunal and Board

- The Sports Ministry notified the formation of the National Sports Board (NSB).
- The National Sports Tribunal (NST) was also established to resolve sports disputes.
- Civil courts will not have jurisdiction over matters decided by the NST.
- The NST aims to minimize litigation and provide quick dispute resolution.
- The NSB will focus on policy-making and promoting sports in India.

Memory Trick: Remember 'NST' for 'No Suits in Tribunal' meaning the National Sports Tribunal handles disputes, keeping them out of civil courts.

Barcelona Wins Women's Champions League 2024, Defeating Lyon 4-0

- FC Barcelona Femen won the UEFA Women's Champions League 2024 title.
- Barcelona defeated Olympique Lyonnais F minin with a score of 4-0.
- This marks Barcelona's third Women's Champions League title in four seasons.
- The final match was held in Norway.
- Barcelona completed a historic quadruple of trophies in the 2023-24 season.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Barca Beats Lyon 4-0 in Norway' for the key facts: Barcelona, Lyon, 4-0 score, and Norway as the location.

North Korea's Naegohyang FC Wins Asian Women's Champions League in South Korea

- Naegohyang Women's FC from North Korea won the Asian Women's Champions League.
- They defeated Tokyo Verdy Beleza of Japan with a score of 1-0 in the final match.
- The tournament was hosted in South Korea, making it a rare visit for a North Korean team.
- This achievement marks a significant sporting success for North Korea on an international stage.
- The Asian Women's Champions League is a premier club competition for women's football in Asia.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Naegohyang' (North Korea) won in 'South Korea' - a rare 'home and away' win for sports diplomacy.

13-year-old Yasser Wins Gold at Uzbekistan Boxing Championship, Highlights Khelo India Centres

- Yasser, a 13-year-old boxer, won a gold medal at the Uzbekistan Boxing Championship.
- He hails from Jammu and Kashmir, specifically training at a Khelo India Centre.
- The victory has brought focus to the Khelo India Centres in J&K.;
- Khelo India scheme aims to promote sports at the grassroots level across India.
- This achievement showcases the potential of young Indian athletes on an international stage.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Yasser's Gold in Uzbekistan' as a 'K-I' (Khelo India) success story.

Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti Reach Geneva Open Men's Doubles Final

- Yuki Bhambri (India) and Albano Olivetti (New Zealand) formed the Indo-Kiwi doubles team.
- They were the third-seeded pair in the men's doubles category at the Geneva Open.
- The duo won their semifinal match with a score of 7-5, 6-3.
- The Geneva Open is an ATP 250 series tournament.
- Reaching the final is a notable achievement for the pair in professional tennis.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Bhambri-Olivetti' as 'BO' for 'Big Opportunity' in Geneva, reaching the final.

Kami Rita Sherpa Breaks Own Record with 32nd Mount Everest Summit

- Kami Rita Sherpa, a Nepalese mountaineer, completed his 32nd ascent of Mount Everest.
- This achievement extends his own record for the most successful climbs of the world's highest peak.
- He is widely known as the 'Everest Man' for his numerous summits.
- Sherpa has been involved in Everest expeditions for over three decades, initially as a porter and then as a guide.
- His climbs contribute significantly to the mountaineering history and the Sherpa community's legacy.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Kami Rita' as 'Climbs Record' to link his name with breaking the Everest climbing record.

Ancy Sojan Wins Federation Cup Long Jump, Sets New Meet Record of 6.75m

- Ancy Sojan won the women's Long Jump at the Federation Cup.
- She achieved a new meet record with a jump of 6.75 meters.
- This jump places her third on the all-time India list for women's long jump.
- The Federation Cup is a significant national athletics event in India.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Ancy Sojan' for 'Long Jump' and 'Record'. Ancy sounds like 'fancy', and her jump was 'fancy' enough to set a record!

India to Host 2028 Asian Wushu Championships, Reflecting Sport's Growth

- India will host the 2028 Asian Wushu Championships.
- The decision reflects India's improved performance and results in Wushu in recent years.
- Bhupender Singh Bajwa, an executive committee member of the continental Wushu body, announced the hosting rights.
- Hosting the event is expected to promote Wushu and develop its infrastructure in India.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Wushu 2028 India' - Wushu sounds like 'Woo-shoo', and India will 'woo' the world by hosting in '28.

Sohail Khan Sets Kudo History with Fastest Win and 23rd Consecutive Gold Medal

- Sohail Khan won a Kudo bout in a record-breaking 3.3 seconds.
- This victory secured his 23rd consecutive gold medal in Kudo.
- Khan hails from Madhya Pradesh, India.
- His achievement is considered a historic moment in Kudo sports.
- Kudo is a hybrid martial art combining elements of karate, judo, and boxing.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Kudo Khan' for Sohail Khan's Kudo achievements. 'K' for Kudo, 'Khan' for the athlete, and 'K' also for 'King' of Kudo.

Sweetie Kujur to Lead India at U-18 Women's Asia Cup Hockey Tournament

- Sweetie Kujur will captain the Indian U-18 women's hockey team.
- The team will participate in the U-18 Women's Asia Cup.
- The tournament provides international exposure for young Indian hockey players.
- It is a key event for talent identification and development in women's hockey.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Sweetie' leads the 'Sweet 18' (U-18) Indian hockey team in Asia.

Ashmita Chaliha Enters Malaysia Masters Quarterfinals in Badminton

- Ashmita Chaliha defeated Goh Jin Wei (Malaysia) in the pre-quarterfinals.
- The scoreline was 21-13, 21-16 in favour of Chaliha.
- The match was completed in less than 30 minutes.
- This win secured Chaliha's entry into the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters.
- The Malaysia Masters is a BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament.

Memory Trick: Remember 'Ashmita in Malaysia' for her recent success at the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament.

SECTION B: ENRICHMENT CONTENT

ESSAY WRITING (600 WORDS)

Women Empowerment: Beyond Legislation

Women empowerment, while often framed through the lens of legal frameworks and policy mandates, extends far beyond the statutes enshrined in national constitutions or international conventions. True empowerment necessitates a profound societal transformation, addressing deeply ingrained patriarchal norms, cultural biases, and economic disparities that persist despite legislative progress. The mere existence of laws guaranteeing equal rights for women does not automatically translate into lived equality, as evidenced by persistent gender pay gaps, underrepresentation in leadership roles, and the pervasive issue of gender-based violence across the globe. Therefore, a comprehensive approach to women empowerment must delve into the social, cultural, and economic substrata that continue to impede women's full participation and flourishing.

One crucial aspect beyond legislation lies in challenging and transforming societal attitudes and cultural narratives. Laws can mandate equality, but they cannot inherently change hearts and minds that have been shaped by centuries of patriarchal conditioning. This requires fostering critical thinking about gender roles from an early age through education that promotes gender sensitivity and mutual respect. Media plays a pivotal role here, too, in moving beyond stereotypical portrayals of women and instead showcasing their diverse capabilities, contributions, and leadership. Community-based initiatives, engaging both men and women, are essential for fostering dialogue and breaking down traditional barriers. When cultural norms begin to value women's voices, choices, and autonomy as inherently equal, a significant hurdle to genuine empowerment is overcome, creating a fertile ground where legal provisions can truly take root and flourish. Without this fundamental shift in perception, legislation often remains an aspirational ideal rather than a lived reality.

Furthermore, economic independence and financial literacy are cornerstones of women empowerment that frequently require more than just legal guarantees of equal opportunity. While laws can prohibit discrimination in employment, they do not inherently equip women with the skills, confidence, or access to capital needed to thrive in a competitive economy. Targeted interventions are crucial, such as providing vocational training, promoting entrepreneurship among women, and ensuring access to affordable credit and financial services. Addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, which often falls on women, through policies like affordable childcare and paternity leave, is also vital for enabling their economic participation. When women are economically secure, they gain agency over their lives, can make independent decisions, and are less vulnerable to exploitation. This economic autonomy empowers them to pursue educational opportunities, participate in political processes, and contribute meaningfully to their communities, creating a virtuous cycle of development and progress.

Finally, women's empowerment beyond legislation demands a focus on enhancing their political participation and leadership, not merely through reserved seats, but by cultivating a culture that encourages and supports their active involvement. While quotas can be a valuable initial step, sustained progress requires addressing the systemic barriers that deter women from entering politics, such as lack of networks, financial resources, and the prevalence of sexism in political discourse. Mentorship programs, capacity building workshops, and creating supportive political environments are essential. Empowering women to lead also extends beyond formal political structures to leadership roles in civil society, community organizations, and the private sector. When women occupy decision-making positions, they bring unique perspectives and priorities to the table, ensuring that policies and programs are more inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of society. Their presence in leadership acts as a powerful role model, inspiring future generations of women to aspire to positions of influence and impact.

In conclusion, achieving comprehensive women empowerment necessitates a multi-pronged strategy that moves beyond the foundational, albeit indispensable, role of legislation. It requires a societal shift in attitudes, robust economic interventions to ensure financial independence, and a concerted effort to cultivate political leadership and participation. True empowerment is a dynamic, evolving process that dismantles patriarchal structures at every level cultural, social, and economic. Only by addressing these deeply entrenched systemic issues can societies truly unlock the full potential of half their population, leading to more equitable, prosperous, and just futures for all. The journey is long, but understanding its breadth beyond legal texts is the crucial first step.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India-Africa Partnership for Development

The India-Africa Partnership for Development represents a burgeoning South-South cooperation model, distinct from traditional donor-recipient paradigms. Historically, both regions share experiences of colonialism and post-colonial nation-building, fostering a natural affinity. India's engagement with Africa dates back centuries through trade and cultural exchange, intensified during the anti-apartheid movement. In the modern era, this partnership has been institutionalized through regular India-Africa Forum Summits, beginning in 2008, signaling a strategic shift towards a more comprehensive and structured collaboration. This framework emphasizes mutual respect, shared growth, and a demand-driven approach, aiming to empower African nations to define their own development trajectories, rather than imposing external agendas. This foundation provides a robust platform for future collaborative endeavors.

Currently, the India-Africa partnership spans a wide array of sectors, reflecting a multi-faceted approach to development. Education and skill development remain key pillars, with India offering numerous scholarships and training programs to African students and professionals, alongside establishing vocational training centers. Healthcare cooperation is robust, encompassing medical tourism from Africa to India, pharmaceutical supply, and capacity building for African healthcare workers. Infrastructure development, including railway lines, power projects, and digital connectivity, is also a significant area of collaboration, often facilitated through concessional lines of credit. Trade volumes between India and Africa have steadily increased, diversifying beyond traditional commodities to include manufactured goods and services. This multifaceted engagement underscores a commitment to holistic development, touching various aspects of economic and social progress.

India's position in this partnership is characterized by its identity as a fellow developing nation, distinguishing its approach from that of Western powers or China. India emphasizes shared values of democracy, pluralism, and a commitment to multilateralism. Its primary interests lie in fostering stronger economic ties, securing access to natural resources crucial for its own growth, and expanding its geopolitical influence as a rising global power. India also seeks to counter China's growing presence in Africa by offering a more equitable and transparent development model. By supporting African development, India aims to create a stable and prosperous continent that can contribute to a multipolar world order and provide new markets for Indian goods and services, aligning its own developmental aspirations with those of Africa.

The implications of this deepening partnership are profound for both India and Africa. For Africa, it offers an alternative development partner, providing diversified options for investment, technology transfer, and capacity building without the conditionalities often attached to traditional aid. It can foster greater economic diversification and reduce reliance on a single external power. For India, it strengthens its position on the global stage, enhances its energy and resource security, and provides avenues for economic growth. However, challenges remain, including the

need for greater project implementation efficiency, enhanced private sector participation, and addressing concerns about the quality and impact of some projects. The way forward necessitates a continuous refinement of strategies, prioritizing projects with tangible benefits for local communities, and fostering a truly reciprocal relationship built on mutual trust and long-term sustainability.

ORGANIZATIONS IN NEWS

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Founding and Purpose

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) officially commenced operations in January 2016, a culmination of a Chinese initiative first proposed in 2013. Its primary purpose is to address the substantial infrastructure financing gap in Asia. Recognizing the immense capital needed for connectivity, energy, transportation, and urban development projects, AIIB was envisioned as a multilateral development bank (MDB) to complement existing institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. It aims to foster sustainable economic development, create wealth, and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia and beyond, with a strong emphasis on regional cooperation and partnerships.

Structure and Membership

AIIB's governance structure is akin to other MDBs, featuring a Board of Governors, a Board of Directors, and a President. The Board of Governors, comprising one governor and one alternate governor from each member country, is the highest decision-making body. The Board of Directors, resident in Beijing, oversees the bank's general operations and policy. The President, elected by the Governors for a five-year term, leads the management team. Membership is open to all members of the World Bank or Asian Development Bank, as well as sovereign states that are not members of those institutions. Starting with 57 founding members, AIIB has steadily expanded its global reach and now boasts over 100 approved members across various continents.

Key Objectives and Recent Activities

AIIB's key objectives revolve around promoting sustainable infrastructure, fostering regional connectivity, and mobilizing private capital. It prioritizes projects that are environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially acceptable. The bank's strategic priorities include green infrastructure, regional connectivity, technology-enabled infrastructure, and private capital mobilization. Recent activities highlight its commitment to these goals. For instance, AIIB has actively financed renewable energy projects, high-speed rail networks, smart city initiatives, and digital infrastructure across Asia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AIIB also extended significant financing for emergency healthcare and economic resilience programs, demonstrating its adaptability and responsiveness to evolving regional needs while continuing its core mandate of infrastructure development.

India's Role or Relationship

India holds a significant and prominent role within the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, being the second-largest shareholder after China. This substantial stake reflects India's

commitment to regional infrastructure development and its recognition of AIIB's potential. Consequently, India has become the largest borrower from AIIB, utilizing its financing for a diverse range of critical infrastructure projects across the country. These include urban development initiatives, energy projects, transportation networks like metro lines and expressways, and rural infrastructure. AIIB's support has been instrumental in bridging India's vast infrastructure financing gap, contributing to economic growth and improving the quality of life for its citizens. India actively participates in AIIB's governance, policy formulation, and project pipeline discussions, leveraging its position to shape the bank's strategic direction and ensure that its investments align with national development priorities.

HISTORY

Mughal Administration and Cultural Synthesis

Mughal Administration and Cultural Synthesis

Historical Context and Period

The Mughal Empire, spanning from the early 16th to mid-19th century, represented a pivotal era in Indian history. Originating with Babur's victory at Panipat in 1526, it expanded to encompass most of the Indian subcontinent. This period was characterized by a profound synthesis of Persianate culture, Islamic traditions, and indigenous Indian elements. The empire emerged from a fragmented political landscape following the Delhi Sultanate, aiming to establish a centralized and durable administrative structure. Its zenith under Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb witnessed not only vast territorial expansion but also an unprecedented flourishing of art, architecture, and intellectual thought, shaping the subcontinent's identity for centuries to come.

Key Figures and Events

Akbar, the third Mughal emperor, is central to understanding Mughal administration and cultural synthesis. His reign (1556-1605) saw the implementation of innovative administrative reforms like the Mansabdari system, a hierarchical military and civil ranking structure, and the land revenue system (Todar Mal's Bandobast). Crucially, Akbar championed a policy of religious tolerance, best exemplified by Din-i Ilahi and the Ibadat Khana, fostering dialogue among different faiths. Shah Jahan's reign (1628-1658) is synonymous with architectural masterpieces like the Taj Mahal, demonstrating a peak in cultural amalgamation and artistic expression. Aurangzeb's later reign (1658-1707), however, saw a shift towards a more orthodox approach, leading to internal strains and contributing to the empire's eventual decline.

Significance and Legacy

The Mughal Empire's legacy is profound and multifaceted. Administratively, the Mansabdari system and the revenue collection methods profoundly influenced subsequent Indian states and even the British colonial administration. Culturally, the Mughals left an indelible mark on Indian art, architecture, music, and literature. Indo-Persian synthesis is evident in the intricate designs of Mughal gardens, miniature paintings, and the development of Hindustani classical music. Urdu, a new language, emerged as a result of this cultural blending. The Mughals also fostered significant urban development and infrastructural projects, connecting diverse regions and facilitating trade, thereby laying foundations for a more integrated Indian identity.

Contemporary Relevance for UPSC

For UPSC aspirants, understanding Mughal administration and cultural synthesis is crucial. The administrative structures, particularly the Mansabdari and land revenue systems, offer insights into governance and public finance, relevant for polity and economy sections. The emphasis on

cultural synthesis, religious tolerance (Akbar's policies), and the arts provides valuable context for Indian heritage and culture. Analyzing the causes of the empire's rise and fall, including administrative efficiency, religious policies, and economic factors, offers critical lessons in history, political science, and ethics. This historical knowledge helps in comprehending the evolution of Indian society, administration, and cultural identity, aiding in a holistic preparation for the civil services examination.

INDIAN ARTS AND CULTURE

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of India

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of India

History and Origin

India, a land of ancient traditions and diverse cultures, boasts a rich tapestry of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) that has been passed down through generations. This heritage encompasses oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship. The concept of recognizing and preserving such heritage gained global momentum with UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which India ratified in 2007. Prior to this, various traditional arts and practices were sustained through community efforts and royal patronage, forming an integral part of daily life and spiritual identity across the subcontinent.

Key Features and Regional Variations

India's intangible cultural heritage is characterized by its immense diversity and deep roots in local communities. From the serene chants of Vedic heritage in the north to the vibrant performing arts of Kerala in the south, each region offers unique expressions. For instance, Chhau dance, a semi-classical Indian dance with martial, tribal, and folk origins, varies significantly between its three styles originating from Mayurbhanj (Odisha), Seraikela (Jharkhand), and Purulia (West Bengal). Similarly, Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, performed by the Kalbelia community, feature distinctive serpentine movements and traditional instruments. Yoga, originating in ancient India, is a holistic lifestyle encompassing physical, mental, and spiritual practices. These traditions are often intertwined with religious beliefs, social customs, and ecological wisdom, reflecting the harmonious relationship between humans and their environment.

UNESCO Recognition or National Importance

India currently has 15 elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, demonstrating the global significance of its cultural practices. These include the Tradition of Vedic chanting (2008), Ramlila traditional performance of the Ramayana (2008), Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre (2008), Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas (2009), Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala (2010), Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan (2010), Chhau dance (2010), Buddhist chanting of Ladakh (2012), Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur (2013), Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab (2014), Yoga (2016), Novruz (2016 multinational inscription), Kumbh Mela (2017), Durga Puja in Kolkata (2021), and Garba of Gujarat (2023). These inscriptions bring international visibility and prestige, fostering a sense of pride and responsibility among communities.

Current Status, Challenges and Government Initiatives

While India's intangible heritage is rich, it faces several challenges including the impacts of globalization, urbanization, and changing lifestyles, which threaten the transmission of traditional knowledge to younger generations. Many art forms and practices struggle with dwindling patronage and economic viability for practitioners. The government of India, through the Ministry of Culture and various autonomous bodies like the Sangeet Natak Akademi, has initiated several schemes to safeguard this heritage. These include financial assistance for guru-shishya parampara (teacher-disciple tradition), documentation efforts, organization of festivals, and cultural exchange programs. There are also initiatives to integrate ICH into educational curricula and promote cultural tourism, aiming to create sustainable livelihoods for artists and artisans. Continued community involvement and targeted policies are crucial for the long-term preservation and promotion of India's invaluable intangible cultural heritage.

GEOGRAPHY

Deccan Plateau: Geology, Agriculture and Resources

Deccan Plateau: Geology, Agriculture, and Resources

Physical Features and Location

The Deccan Plateau, a vast triangular landmass, dominates much of peninsular India. Bordered by the Western Ghats to the west and the Eastern Ghats to the east, it slopes gently eastward, draining into the Bay of Bengal. Geologically, it is a shield, primarily composed of ancient crystalline rocks like granite and gneiss, overlain by extensive basaltic lava flows known as the Deccan Traps. These volcanic formations, dating back 60-68 million years, created the region's characteristic step-like plateaus and flat-topped hills. The plateau's average elevation ranges from 500 to 1,000 meters, with deep river valleys carved by major rivers like the Godavari, Krishna, and Cauvery. Its location gives it a distinct climate, generally semi-arid, with significant variations across its expanse.

Economic and Ecological Importance

The Deccan Plateau is an economic powerhouse and a region of immense ecological significance. Its fertile black soil, derived from the weathered Deccan Traps, is ideal for cotton cultivation, making India a global leader in its production. Other vital agricultural products include jowar, bajra, groundnuts, and pulses. The plateau is rich in mineral resources, with significant deposits of iron ore, manganese, bauxite, mica, and limestone supporting various industries. The extensive forest cover in parts of the plateau, particularly in the Western Ghats, acts as a crucial carbon sink and harbors a remarkable biodiversity, including numerous endemic species. The numerous rivers originating here also provide vital water resources for irrigation and hydroelectric power generation.

Environmental Concerns and Challenges

Despite its richness, the Deccan Plateau faces numerous environmental challenges. Over-exploitation of groundwater for agriculture and industrial use has led to declining water tables and increased instances of drought. Soil degradation due to intensive farming practices, deforestation, and inappropriate land use is a major concern, leading to reduced agricultural productivity. Pollution from industrial effluents and untreated sewage contaminates rivers and groundwater sources, impacting human health and aquatic ecosystems. The region is also highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change, with erratic rainfall patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events posing threats to agriculture and water security. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to urbanization and infrastructure development further endanger the plateau's unique biodiversity.

Related Current Affairs and Government Initiatives

Recent current affairs highlight the ongoing efforts to address the Deccan Plateau's environmental issues. Initiatives like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan aim to improve water conservation and management through rainwater harvesting and watershed development projects. The Per Drop More Crop scheme promotes micro-irrigation techniques to optimize water usage in agriculture. The government is also focusing on sustainable mining practices and afforestation programs to mitigate environmental damage. There's a growing emphasis on renewable energy projects, particularly solar power, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Furthermore, ongoing research into drought-resistant crops and climate-smart agricultural practices is crucial for ensuring food security in the face of changing climate patterns. These initiatives represent a multi-pronged approach to safeguarding the Deccan Plateau's future.

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