

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP): Chittorgarh
2.	Launch of the Ahmedabad Chapter of the Rajasthan Foundation
3.	Three Turtle Species in the Ghaggar River
4.	News in Shorts 1. Rajasthan's First 'Water-Positive' Airport: Jaipur 2. North India's First M.D. (Nutrition) Gold Medalist 3. Arshan Khan: The Title of 'Champion of Champions' 4. The State's First Park Library: 'Vidya Kunj' 5. Girls' College Built by 'Shri Rajeshwar Bhagwan Anjani Mata Kanya Gurukul Sansthan'
5.	80th Round Survey on Household Social Consumption related to Health
6.	Report Titled "Women and Men in India 2025"
7.	Mission Mausam and Doppler Weather Radar
8.	Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)
9.	Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0
10.	WTO's Peace Clause
11.	Vikram VT 21
12.	Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)
13.	Towards Effective Urban Governance: A Framework for Million-Plus Cities
14.	e-Prāpti Portal

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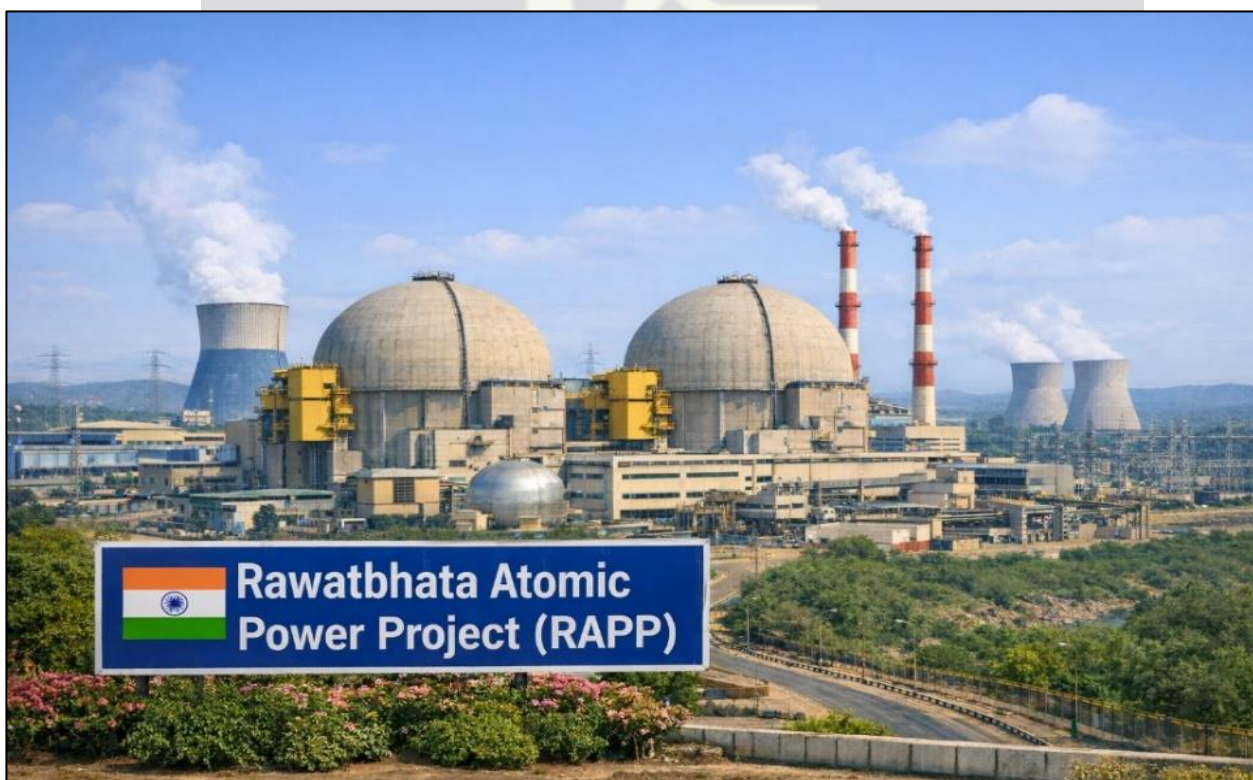


Rawatbhata Atomic Power Project (RAPP): Chittorgarh



Why in News?

- Recently, India's sole supplier of nuclear fuel bundles the 'Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC)' handed over the first consignment of 140 uranium fuel bundles to the Rawatbhata Atomic Power Plant.



Key Points:

- With this, RAPP has received official approval to manufacture 500 tonnes of nuclear fuel annually.
- The 'Nuclear Fuel Complex' is a major industrial unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
- Establishment:** In 1971.
- Headquarters:** Hyderabad (Telangana)

--2--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **Sole Supplier:** NFC is the only institution in India that supplies nuclear fuel bundles and reactor core components for all of the country's nuclear power reactors.

Other Important Points:

- Currently, a total of 7 nuclear units are operational at RAPP, while the eighth unit is under construction.
- Located at Rawatbhata in Chittorgarh, the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) is the state's only nuclear power plant; it houses 7 operational Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) units with a total installed capacity of 1780 Megawatts (MW).
- **Inception:** December 1973 (Collaboration: Canada)
- **Operator:** Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)

Unit	Production
First Unit	100 MW (currently closed)
Second Unit	200 MW
Third Unit	220 MW
Fourth Unit	220 MW
Fifth Unit	220 MW
Sixth Unit	220 MW
Seventh Unit	700 MW
Eighth Unit	Under construction
Total Production	1780 MW

Total Capacity - 1780 Megawatts (MW)

- **PHWR:** A Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) is a type of nuclear power reactor that utilizes heavy water (deuterium oxide/D₂O) as both a coolant and a neutron moderator, and uses natural uranium as fuel.

--3--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **Nodal Agency for the generation, maintenance, and monitoring of nuclear power in India:** Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)
Facts for Prelims:
- **Rajasthan's second nuclear power plant:** Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (MBRAPP)
- **Reactors:** Under this project, 4 nuclear reactors with a capacity of 700 MW each (700x4) will be installed.
- **Electricity generation at this plant is expected to commence from the year 2033.**
- **Type:** Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)
- **Company:** Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI)
- **This will be the 9th nuclear reactor to be installed in the country.**

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Launch of the Ahmedabad Chapter of the Rajasthan Foundation

Why in News?

- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma formally inaugurated the Ahmedabad Chapter of the Rajasthan Foundation in Ahmedabad.



Key Points:

- Objective:** The primary objective of this chapter is to connect expatriate Rajasthanis with their roots and to enable them to participate in the state's developmental journey, particularly in the fields of agriculture and investment.

--:5:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- The Ahmedabad Chapter was launched on April 30, 2026, during the roadshow/investor meet for the ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet-2026,’ held in Ahmedabad.

Rajasthan Foundation:

- The objective of the Rajasthan Foundation is to engage with expatriate Rajasthanis both within India and abroad and to encourage their participation in the development of the state.
- It provides a platform for expatriate Rajasthanis to contribute to the socio-economic development of the state.
- The Chief Minister of Rajasthan serves as its ex-officio Chairperson.
- **Formation:** Established on March 30, 2001, under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- The Rajasthan Foundation has established branches in 12 cities, including Chennai, Coimbatore, Kolkata, Surat, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, and Indore within India; and London (UK), New York (USA), and Kathmandu (Nepal) abroad.
- Additionally, approval has been granted for the opening of Rajasthan Foundation chapters in Dubai (UAE), Munich (Germany), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Tokyo (Japan), Singapore, Melbourne (Australia), Nairobi (Kenya), Kampala (Uganda), and Doha (Qatar).

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Three Turtle Species in the Ghaggar River

Why in News?

- Recently, the presence of three different species of turtles was recorded within the ecosystem of the Ghaggar River in Suratgarh (Sri Ganganagar).



Key Points:

- The 3 Species:** Black Softshell Turtle, Spotted Pond Turtle, and Indian Flapshell Turtle.
- According to environmental experts, these species are thriving rapidly in the natural lakes of the Ghaggar River and in the marshy areas of the Johads (ponds) situated amidst the sandy dunes.

Black Softshell Turtle:

- Scientific Name:** Nilssonina nigricans.
- Habitat:** Assam (tributaries of the Brahmaputra River) and Bangladesh.

--7:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **IUCN Status:** Declared 'Extinct in the Wild' in 2002, but currently listed as 'Critically Endangered'.

Spotted Pond Turtle:

- **Scientific Name:** *Geoclemys hamiltonii*.
- **Habitat:** In the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra river basins.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered.

Indian Flapshell Turtle:

- **Scientific Name:** *Lissemys punctata*.
- **Habitat:** Across various regions of South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable.

Facts for Prelims:

- 'Rajasthan's first Turtle Conservation Centre' is set to be established along the banks of the Chambal River in Dholpur district.
- Currently, species such as *Batagur kachuga*, *Batagur dhongoka*, *Kachuga tentoria*, *Hardella thurjii*, *Chitra indica*, *Nilssonia*, *Lissemys punctata*, and *Lissemys andersonii* are found in the Chambal River. Among these, the *Batagur kachuga*, *Kachuga tentoria*, and *Nilssonia* species of turtles are facing extinction.

--8:--



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✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Rajasthan's First 'Water-Positive' Airport: Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The global consulting firm 'Bureau Veritas' recently granted Jaipur International Airport the certification of being a 'Water-Positive' airport.■ Located in Sanganer, Jaipur International Airport has become Rajasthan's first 'Water-Positive' airport. Furthermore, Jaipur Airport is the second airport in North India to achieve this distinction.■ A 'Water-Positive' airport is defined as an airport that replenishes more water back into the groundwater through rainwater harvesting than it consumes in its daily operations.
2.	<p>North India's First M.D. (Nutrition) Gold Medalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jaipur resident Dr. Alka Yadav has become North India's first Gold Medalist in M.D. (Nutrition & Dietetics).■ Prior to this, she had also won a Gold Medal in the 2015 batch of BNYS (Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences).
3.	<p>Arshan Khan: The Title of 'Champion of Champions'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Jodhpur resident Arshan Khan won the title of 'Champion of Champions' at the 37th Mr. Saraighat National Bodybuilding Competition 2026, held in Guwahati.■ Organizer: Indian Body Builders Federation.

4.

The State's First Park Library: 'Vidya Kunj'

- Recently, the state's first high-tech park library, 'Vidya Kunj', was inaugurated in Alwar.

5.

Girls' College Built by 'Shri Rajeshwar Bhagwan Anjani Mata Kanya Gurukul Sansthan'

- Recently, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma inaugurated the Girls' College constructed by the 'Shri Rajeshwar Bhagwan Anjani Mata Kanya Gurukul Sansthan'.
- The 'Shri Rajeshwar Bhagwan Anjani Mata Kanya Mahavidyalaya' is a prominent educational institution located in Naya Chenda (Rohat) in the Pali district.

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80th Round Survey on Household Social Consumption related to Health



Why in News?

- According to a survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services in India have improved.



Key Points:

- The 80th round survey regarding 'Household Social Consumption on Health' was recently released.

Key Findings of the Survey

- **Reduced 'Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE)'**: In more than half of the cases involving hospitalization in government (public) hospitals, patients now have to spend only approximately ₹1,100 from their own pockets.
- **Improved Maternity Care Facilities**: The rate of institutional deliveries has risen to 95.6% in rural areas and 97.8% in urban areas.
- **Shift in Disease Patterns**: A decline has been recorded in the total number of cases of infectious diseases, while cases of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are on the rise.
- **Enhanced Access to Healthcare Services**: The average cost of treatment at government health centers is zero.
- **Increasing Utilization of Government Healthcare Services**: The NSO survey also indicates that while approximately 28% of the rural population visited government health centers for Out-Patient Department (OPD) treatment in 2014, this rate rose to 35% in 2025.
- **Expansion in Insurance Coverage**: The percentage of the population covered under government health insurance schemes in the country has increased from 12.9% to 45.5% in rural areas, and from 8.9% to 31.8% in urban areas.

-:11:-

Geography and Geology

Report Titled "Women and Men in India 2025"

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released a report titled "Women and Men in India 2025."



Key Points:

- This report analyzes trends regarding the participation of women and men in India across various sectors, including population, education, healthcare, employment, and decision-making processes.

Key Highlights of the Report

Population:

- **Sex Ratio at Birth:** This improved from 904 in 2017–19 to 917 in 2021–23.
- Arunachal Pradesh records the highest sex ratio (1085), while Jharkhand records the lowest (899).

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **Population Growth:** The average annual exponential growth of India's population exhibits an inverted U-shaped trend, reaching its peak during 1971–81 and subsequently declining steadily.

Healthcare:

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** This declined from 254 in 2004–06 to 88 in 2021–23, marking a significant reduction.
- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** Between 2019 and 2023, the Total Fertility Rate declined to 1.5 in urban areas and 2.1 in rural areas.

Education:

- **Literacy Rate:** There is a gap of 14.4 percentage points between male and female literacy rates in India (Male: 84.7%; Female: 70.3%).
- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** At all levels of school education, the GER for females exceeds that of males.

Participation in the Economy:

- **Worker-Population Ratio (Aged 15 years and above):** In 2025, this stood at 76.6% for men and 38.8% for women.
- **Female Labour Force Participation Rate:** In rural areas, it rose from 37.5% to 45.9%.

Participation in Decision-Making:

- **Voter Turnout:** In the 2019 and 2024 general elections, female voter turnout exceeded that of men.
- **Representation of Women in Parliament:** In 2025, 13.65% of MPs and 9.86% of Ministers were women.

--:13:--

Mission Mausam and Doppler Weather Radar

Why in News?

- Under 'Mission Mausam', India has expanded its Doppler Weather Radar network, achieving an increase of over 250%.



Key Points:

- Doppler Weather Radars utilize the Doppler effect to measure the velocity of raindrops and weather systems.
- **Doppler Effect:** This refers to the change in the observed frequency or wavelength of a wave, caused by the relative motion between the source and the observer.

Mission Mausam

- **Launch:** In 2024.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Implementing Agencies:** India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- **Budget:** ₹2,000 crore over two years.

Objectives:

- To make India 'Weather Ready' (prepared to handle bad weather events) and 'Climate Smart'.
- To enhance weather and climate forecasting services by ensuring timely and accurate Observations, modeling, and forecasting information for various sectors, including agriculture, disaster management, and rural development.

-:14:-

Economic Developments

Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)

Why in News?

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has operationalized PaRRVA to enhance transparency and investor protection.



Key Points:

PaRRVA

- This is a new verification mechanism designed to validate past performance claims made by regulated market intermediaries.
- **It will function through a two-tier structure:** 1. A SEBI-registered Credit Rating Agency, which will act as PaRRVA; and 2. A recognized Stock Exchange, which will serve as the PaRRVA Data Center (PDC).
- CARE Ratings Ltd. has been recognized as PaRRVA, while the National Stock Exchange of India will function as the PaRRVA Data Center (PDC).

--:15:--

Indian Governance and State System

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released the Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0. For the year 2023-24, the 'Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0' serves as a 'report card' based on the performance of over 2.5 lakh Panchayats across the country.



Key Points:

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)

- **Initiated by:** Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **Introduction:** This is the world's first national framework of its kind that measures the progress of rural local bodies using objective and verifiable indicators.
- **Indicators:** This index is based on the framework for the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It consolidates the 17 global SDGs and categorizes them into 9 thematic areas relevant to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **Performance Categories:** Based on the PAI score and thematic scores, Gram Panchayats are classified into the following categories:
 - **Achiever:** 90+
 - **Front Runner:** score 75 to <90
 - **Performer:** score 60 to <75
 - **Aspirant:** score 40 to <60
 - **Beginner:** score <40
- **Significance and Key Features:** This index assists Gram Panchayats in understanding their local needs, formulating targeted plans, and monitoring the progress of their work over time.

Key Outcomes of Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0:
- **State-level Performance:** The top-performing states are Tripura, Kerala, and Odisha.
- **Overall Performance:** No Gram Panchayat achieved the highest "Achiever" (A+) category.
- The largest number of Panchayats fell into the "Performer" (B Grade) category.

-:17:-



INTERNATIONAL



WTO's Peace Clause



Why in News?

- India has invoked the World Trade Organization (WTO) Peace Clause for the seventh time to provide rice subsidies amounting to \$7.6 billion.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



Key Points:

The Peace Clause

- It was agreed upon as an interim arrangement during the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Bali (2013).
- It allows developing countries to provide subsidies under public stockholding programs for food security purposes.
- Even if the subsidies exceed the prescribed limits, this provision protects such programs from legal challenges within the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism.

Types of Agricultural Subsidies (WTO Classification):

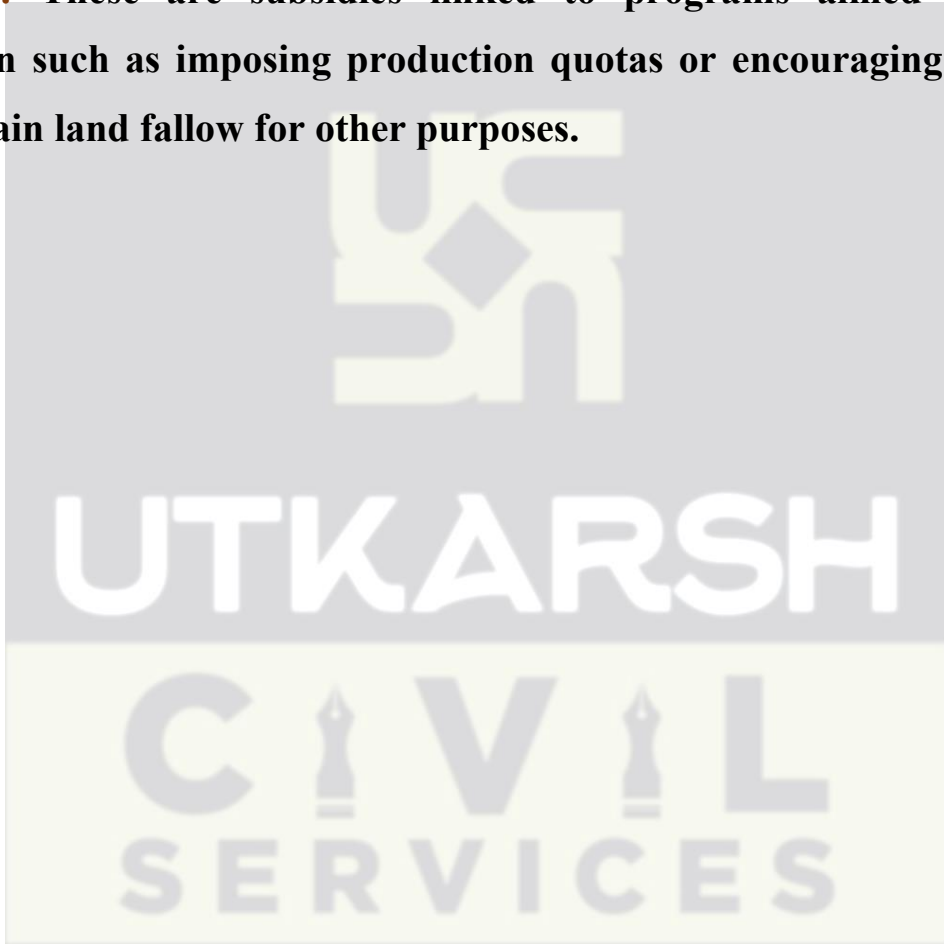
- **Green Box:** Subsidies that do not distort trade such as those for research, infrastructure, environmental protection, and food security services; there is no upper limit on such subsidies.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- **Amber Box:** Subsidies that distort trade such as MSP (Minimum Support Price), price support, and input subsidies (fertilizers, electricity).
- These must remain within 5% of the total value of production, and within 10% in the case of developing countries.
- **Blue Box:** These are subsidies linked to programs aimed at limiting production such as imposing production quotas or encouraging farmers to leave certain land fallow for other purposes.



🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

Vikram VT 21



Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched two advanced armored platforms under its Vikram VT 21 project one wheeled and the other tracked.



Key Points:

Vikram VT 21

- It features advanced armor protection capable of shielding against certain types of bullets, blasts, and shrapnel, while also offering enhanced mobility, integrated weaponry, and surveillance systems.
- It provides STANAG Level 4 and 5 protection standards established by NATO. This signifies that it is capable of offering protection against heavy gunfire, blasts, and artillery fragments. Additionally, it incorporates modular blast and ballistic protection.
- It is amphibious (capable of operating on both land and water).

-:20:-

Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range (NASM-SR)

Why in News?

- The DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the first salvo launch of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range.



Key Points:

Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Short Range

- **Developer:** Developed by the DRDO for the Indian Navy.
- **Propulsion System:** It utilizes a solid propulsion booster and a long-burn sustainer.



INDEXES AND REPORTS



Towards Effective Urban Governance: A Framework for Million-Plus Cities



Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released a report titled 'Towards Effective Urban Governance: A Framework for Million-Plus Cities'.



Key Points:

- In India, one-third of the country's urban population resides in 47 cities with a population exceeding one million. These cities contribute 60% to India's GDP.
- However, these cities face severe challenges related to infrastructure deficits; issues in service delivery; housing shortages; transportation (mobility); environmental sustainability; and social inclusion.

Challenges in Urban Governance in Million-Plus Cities

- **Limited Devolution of Functions or Powers:** According to the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 18 functions were to be devolved to urban local bodies; however, only 4 of these functions have been fully devolved.
- **Fragmented Institutional Framework and Ineffective Leadership:** There has been no clear demarcation of roles between elected representatives and the municipal administration.
- Mayors are not regarded as the actual heads of urban governance.

Low Revenue and Limited Devolution of Funds:

- Urban local bodies possess limited own-revenue sources.
- They are heavily dependent on tied grants.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 01 May 2026



- There are delays in the constitution of State Finance Commissions, and their recommendations are only partially implemented.
- **Shortcomings in Public Service Delivery:** The role of urban local governments remains minimal or negligible in key services such as public transportation, urban planning, water, and sanitation.
- **Capacity Deficits:** Other issues include the lack of timely recruitment of staff, heavy reliance on deputation, frequent transfers of officials, and limited investment in training.

Recommendations Made in the Report

- **Leadership:** A system comprising a directly elected Mayor with a fixed tenure, along with an empowered Mayoral Council, should be established.
- **Integrated Service Delivery:** Services such as water, sanitation, and transportation need to be brought under the purview of urban local governance to ensure better coordination.
- **Enhancing Municipal Financial Resources:** This requires augmenting own-source revenues, ensuring timely financial transfers through robust State Finance Commissions, and enabling access to market-based financial instruments such as municipal bonds.
- **Institutional Restructuring:** The roles of quasi-governmental agencies should be clarified and better coordination ensured by bringing them under the purview of the city administration.
- **Legal and Policy Reforms:** State governments should amend municipal laws, and the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs should promote reforms by updating the Model Municipal Law.

--:23:--

E-PRAAPTI Portal

Why in News?

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched a new portal named 'E-PRAAPTI', aimed at resolving long-pending issues regarding unclaimed EPF deposits.



Key Points:

E-PRAAPTI Portal

- This is a dedicated digital platform that facilitates the identification, tracking, Unique Account Number (UAN) linking, and activation of old EPF accounts.
- It will enable users to securely access their old EPF accounts even those not linked to a UAN using Aadhaar-based authentication, and will assist them in updating details, linking their UAN, and activating their accounts.
- Its objective is to minimize paperwork and manual intervention while enhancing transparency and efficiency in the management of dormant EPF accounts.