

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 06 May 2026



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Gang Canal Centenary Celebrations (1927-2027)



Why in News?

- On May 5, 2026, a significant meeting regarding the Gang Canal centenary celebrations was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.



Key Points:

- It is noteworthy that the construction work for the Gang Canal was initiated on December 5, 1925, by the then Maharaja of Bikaner, Ganga Singh; subsequently, water flowed into the Shivpur Head of the Gang Canal for the first time on October 26, 1927.
- To mark the completion of 100 years since the construction of the Gang Canal, the State Government will organize various programs from October 26, 2026, to October 26, 2027.

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Other Important Points:

- In 1925, the then Maharaja of Bikaner, Ganga Singh, laid the foundation of the Gang Canal, thereby transforming the 'Valley of Death' into the 'Valley of Life.'
- On December 5, 2025 (the date marking the commencement of construction), the formal inauguration of the Gang Canal centenary celebrations was performed by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at Sadhuwali in Sri Ganganagar.

Facts for Prelims:

Gang Canal Centenary Celebrations:

- **Duration:** From December 5, 2025, to October 26, 2027.
- **Laying of the Foundation Stone of Gang Canal:** December 5, 1925 (by the then Maharaja of Bikaner, Ganga Singh, at Ferozepur, Punjab).
- **Completion of Construction:** October 26, 1927.
- **Guests at the Inauguration Ceremony:** Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the Governor-General of India, Lord Irwin.

Main Events of the Centenary Celebrations:

- **Commencement:** From Sadhuwali in Sri Ganganagar on December 5, 2025, as the 'State-Level Centenary Celebration.'
- **Conclusion:** At Shivpur Head in the Sri Ganganagar district on October 26, 2027, as the 'Centenary Saga Festival of Good Governance in Rajasthan.'

National Workshop on 'Facility-Based Newborn Care': Jaipur

📣 Why in News?

- A national training workshop on 'Facility-Based Newborn Care' (FBNC) was organized at J.K. Lon Hospital, Jaipur, on May 4 and 5, 2026.



📌 Key Points:

- **Organizers:** Sawai Man Singh Medical College (Jaipur), in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Health.
- **Objective:** To strengthen SNCUs (Special Newborn Care Units) and newborn care services in order to reduce the mortality rate among newborns (particularly premature infants).
- **Training Theme:** The rational and safe use of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (Newborn Oxygen Therapy).

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Other Important Points:

Facility-Based Newborn Care (FBNC):

- Facility-Based Newborn Care (FBNC) is a flagship initiative under the National Health Mission (NHM), comprising specialized medical care provided to newborns at health facilities.
- Its primary objective is to reduce the mortality rate among sick or premature newborns.

Facts for Prelims:

Facts for Prelims (Rajasthan Economic Review – 2025-26):

Rajasthan Health Indicator Trends:

S. No.	Indicator	NFHS-5 (2019–21)
1	Neonatal Mortality Rate (NNMR) (per 1,000 live births)	20.2
2	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) (per 1,000 live births)	30.3
3	Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) (per 1,000 live births)	37.6
4	Institutional Births (%)	94.9
5	Full Immunization (%)	80.4
6	Prevalence of Anemia among Pregnant Women (Age 15–49 years) (%)	46.3
7	Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (children per woman)	2.0
8	Children under 5 years who are Stunted (%)	31.8
9	Children under 5 years who are Wasted (%)	16.8
10	Children under 5 years who are Underweight (%)	27.6
11	Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) (per 100,000 live births) as per SRS	86 (2021–23)

Visit of the Members of the 'Committee of Presiding Officers' to Rajasthan

Why in News?

- On May 5, 2026, the second meeting of the 'Committee of Presiding Officers'—constituted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha was held in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- Notably, a high-level committee comprising seven Presiding Officers has been constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to review the committee system within the country's legislative bodies.
- Venue of the second meeting:** Constitution Club of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- The first meeting of this committee was held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Composition of the Committee:

- Chairman:** Narendra Singh Tomar (Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly)

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Members:

- Vasudev Devnani (Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly)
- Satish Mahana (Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly)
- Kuldeep Singh Pathania (Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly)
- Surma Padhy (Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly)
- Mingma Norbu Sherpa (Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly)
- **Note:** The Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly did not attend this meeting.
- Following this study, the committee will submit its detailed report to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The primary objective of this deliberation is to make democratic institutions more accountable and empowered, in alignment with public aspirations.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

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'Herbal Garden' and 'Nakshatra Garden' within the Assembly Complex

Why in News?

- Recently, two gardens dedicated to the environment, Ayurveda, and Indian astrology the 'Herbal Garden' and the 'Nakshatra Garden'—were inaugurated within the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly complex.



सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

राजस्थान विधानसभा परिसर में विधानसभा अध्यक्ष ने पांच राज्यों के स्पीकर्स के साथ हर्बल वाटिका एवं नक्षत्र वाटिका का किया उद्घाटन

- पाँच राज्यों के विधानसभा अध्यक्षों ने सभागार एवं डिजिटल म्यूजियम का भी किया अवलोकन

Key Points:

- Inaugurated by:** On May 5, 2026, in the presence of the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of six states, including Rajasthan.

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Feature	Nakshatra Vatika	Herbal Vatika
Concept	Based on the 27 Nakshatras (lunar constellations) of Indian astrology	Focused on Ayurveda and medicinal plants
Number of Plants	27 specific trees associated with the 27 Nakshatras	A total of 38 beds (each of size 8×13 feet) scientifically designed, with 38 types of medicinal species; 20–25 plants planted in each bed
Main Species	Ashwini – Kuchla, Bharani – Amla, Kritika – Gular, Rohini – Jamun, Mrigashira – Khair, Ardra – Shisham, Punarvasu – Bamboo, Pushya – Peepal, Ashlesha – Nagkesar, Magha – Banyan, Purva Phalguni – Palash, Uttara Phalguni – Pakad, Hasta – Jamal, Chitra – Bael, Swati – Arjun, Vishakha – Katai/Shamal, Anuradha – Maulshree, Jyeshtha – Pine/Semal, Mula – Sal, Purvashadha – Ashok, Uttarashadha – Jackfruit, Shravana – Shami/Aak, Dhanishtha – Madar, Shatabhisha – Kadamba, Purva Bhadrapada – Mango, Uttara Bhadrapada – Neem, Revati – Mahua	Cardamom, Mint, Lemongrass, Aloe Vera, Periwinkle, Tulsi (Holy Basil), Citronella, Hadjod, Safed Musli, Insulin plant, Pippali, Sea vine, Brahmi, etc.
Main Objective	To show the connection of nature with planets, zodiac signs, and the trinity (Trimurti)	To highlight the importance of health and Ayurveda and to raise awareness about the conservation of medicinal plants

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Swayamsiddha Ashram Scheme

Why in News?

- The Government of Rajasthan has launched the 'Swayamsiddha Ashram Scheme' as a sensitive initiative aimed at the vulnerable and marginalized sections of society.



सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

स्वयंसिद्धा आश्रम बने सम्मान और सहारे का सशक्त आधार

- ▶ वर्तमान में 17 जिलों में किया जा रहा आश्रमों का सफल संचालन
- ▶ बुजुर्गों को मिल रहा परिवार जैसा वातावरण

Key Points:

- **Announcement:** Made in the Budget 2024-25.
- **Operational Guidelines:** Issued on February 7, 2025.
- **Department:** Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan.
- Under this scheme, the Budget 2024-25 announced the establishment of Ashrams (shelter homes) with a capacity of 50 residents each at the divisional level; building upon this, the Budget 2025-26 extended the scheme to 10 new districts.

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- Currently, Swayamsiddha Ashrams are being operated in 17 districts of Rajasthan through voluntary organizations.

Eligibility:

- Senior citizens and helpless/destitute individuals from any state are eligible for admission to a Swayamsiddha Ashram.
- **Senior Citizens:** Men aged 58 years or above, and women aged 55 years or above.
- **Helpless/Destitute Individuals:** Men or women who are deprived of any form of shelter, support, or assistance; are childless; or are subjected to harassment by their own families.
- Under this scheme, a monthly mess allowance of ₹3,250 per resident is provided. Additionally, a non-recurring grant of ₹10,000 is provided once every five years.

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NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>City-Level Statistical Report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (Proposed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has proposed an annual 'City-Level Statistical Report' for 47 cities with a population exceeding one million, effective April 24, 2026.■ Three cities from Rajasthan—Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Kota—have been included in this report.■ The objective of this initiative is to enhance the availability of detailed urban statistics, facilitate city-level policy formulation, contribute to city-level Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimation, and foster a better understanding of urban labor markets and enterprise activities.■ The proposed report will be based on data from ASUSE (Annual Survey of Unorganized Sector Enterprises) and PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey).
2.	<p>Statue of the 13th Tirthankara of Jainism Found in Didwana-Kuchaman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ An ancient statue of Lord Vimalnath—the 13th Tirthankara of Jainism—was recently discovered during field plowing in Ahiron Ka Bas, located in the Didwana-Kuchaman district.■ Symbol of Lord Vimalnath: Shukar (Boar) or Wild Boar.■ Birthplace: Kampilyapur (present-day Uttar Pradesh).■ Place of Moksha (Salvation): Samed Shikhar (Jharkhand).

3.

Rajasthan Wins the Title of the Inaugural Journalist Premier League (JPL)

- **Venue:** Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Panchkula.
- **Organizers:** Journalist Welfare Trust and United Press Club.
- **Winner:** Rajasthan (represented by the 'Rajasthan Media Royals' team), defeating Himachal Pradesh.
- **Captain of the Rajasthan Team:** Mukesh Meena.

4.

Manuscript Exhibition and 21-Day Script Training Workshop in Jaipur

- On May 4, 2026, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari inaugurated a manuscript exhibition and a 21-day script training workshop in Jaipur.
- This event was jointly organized by the Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy and the Institute of Vedic Heritage and Manuscript Research.
- **Objective of the Training:** To train students and researchers to identify, catalog, and read ancient scripts such as Sharda, Nagari, and Ancient Devanagari.

SERVICES

NATIONAL

Asian Under-15 and Under-17 Boxing Championships, 2026

Why in News?

- At the Asian Under-15 and Under-17 Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, India's young boxers achieved significant success. In the Under-15 boys' competition, Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina secured a victory in the 46 kg category, while Prashant registered a win in the 49 kg category.



Key Points:

- Venue:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Indian Contingent:** A 56-member boxing squad

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Key Indian Winners:

- **U-15 Boys:** Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina (46 kg), Prashant (49 kg)
- **U-17 Boys:** Pal Nivesh (54 kg), Ranveer (66 kg), Yadav Yash (50 kg)
- **U-15/U-17 Girls:** Khushi Rana (49 kg), Hanshika Atri (46 kg), Karuna Albertson Kom (60 kg)

Prominent Winning Boxers:

- **Mohammad Yaser:** Mohammad Yaser secured a victory in the 58 kg category in the very first round against Akbarjan Nabidzhanov of Kyrgyzstan.
- **Pal Nivesh:** In the Under-17 boys' category, Pal Nivesh delivered a stellar performance in the 54 kg weight class.
- **Ranveer:** Ranveer registered a win in the 66 kg category against Ying-Chieh Chen of Chinese Taipei.
- **Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina:** In the Under-15 boys' category, Nongpoknganba Meitei Oina (46 kg) achieved a resounding 5-0 victory over Abdurakhman Vushanlo of Kazakhstan.
- **Prashant:** Prashant defeated Bakdaulet Akhmet 5-0 in the 49 kg category.
- **Yadav Yash:** Yadav Yash (50 kg) secured a magnificent 5:0 victory over Turkmenistan's Suleyman Ahmedov.
- **Karuna Albertsen Kom:** Karuna Albertsen Kom (60 kg) registered a 4:1 win against Tajikistan's Ali Nazarov.
- **Khushi Rana (49 kg):** Khushi Rana defeated Vietnam's Thi Ngoc Truc Nguyen via RSC in the first round.
- **Hanshika Atri (46 kg):** Hanshika Atri recorded a splendid 5:0 victory over Uzbekistan's Visola Bakhtiyorova.

Mutua Madrid Open, 2026



Why in News?

- The 24th edition of the Mutua Madrid Open (Tennis) was held at the 'Caja Mágica' in Madrid, Spain, from April 20 to May 3, 2026.



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Key Points:

Category	Men's Singles	Women's Singles
Winner	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Marta Kostyuk (Ukraine)
Defeated	Alexander Zverev	Mirra Andreeva
Highlights	With this victory, Sinner became the first player to win the first four ATP Masters 1000 tournaments in a single season.	With this win, Kostyuk will rise from World No. 23 to a career-high ranking of No. 15 in the WTA rankings. This is her third WTA 1000 title.



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Geography and Geology

Cotton Productivity Mission

Why in News?

- On May 5, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved an outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore for the Cotton Productivity Mission (2026-27 to 2030-31) to address bottlenecks, declining growth, and quality-related concerns within India's cotton sector.

कपास उत्पादकता मिशन

- कैबिनेट ने 5659.22 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय के साथ कपास उत्पादकता मिशन को मंजूरी दी
- इससे 2030-31 तक कपास के क्षेत्र में आत्मनिर्भरता आएगी और वैश्विक कपड़ा बाजारों में प्रतिस्पर्धा बढ़ेगी
- यह मिशन सरकार के 5F विज़न (खेत से रेशे तक, रेशे से कारखाने तक, कारखाने से फैशन तक और फैशन से विदेश तक) के अनुरूप है
- इस मिशन का लक्ष्य 2031 तक 498 लाख गांठ कपास का उत्पादन हासिल करना है
- इस मिशन से लगभग 32 लाख किसानों को लाभ होगा

मंत्रिमंडल निर्णय: 05-05-2026

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Key Points:

Cotton Productivity Mission:

- **Introduction:** This is a five-year initiative launched by the Government of India in the Union Budget 2025-26 to significantly boost cotton production in the country.
- **Announcement:** Union Budget 2025-26
- **Budget Allocation:** ₹500 crore
- **Duration:** 5 years (2026-27 to 2030-31)
- **Implementing Ministries:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Ministry of Textiles.
- **Vision:** This Mission aligns with the Government of India's '5-F' vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- **Mission Objectives:** To enhance cotton productivity by emphasizing the development of disease- and pest-resistant High-Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds; to expand the adoption of existing and latest crop production technologies through large-scale dissemination via State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and State Agricultural Universities; to ensure the supply of contamination-free cotton to the industry; and to promote the export of high-quality cotton.

Mission Targets:

1. To increase cotton productivity from 440 kg/hectare to 755 kg/hectare by the year 2031, aiming to achieve a total production of 498 lakh bales (each bale containing 170 kg of cotton). This is expected to benefit approximately 32 lakh farmers.
2. To promote the 'Kasturi Cotton Bharat' initiative, while simultaneously ensuring its proper identification and certification.
3. Aiming to reduce waste to less than 2 percent.
4. Promoting natural fibers such as flax, ramie, sisal, milkweed, bamboo, and banana fiber.

Other Important Points:

- **Cotton Production in India:** India ranks second globally in terms of cotton production.
- **Major Cotton-Producing Regions in India:**
 1. Northern Region – Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
 2. Central Region – Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh
 3. Southern Region – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka
- The four major species of cotton are as follows:
 - **Gossypium arboreum and Gossypium herbaceum** – Asiatic Cotton
 - **Gossypium barbadense** – Egyptian Cotton
 - **Gossypium hirsutum** – American Upland Cotton
- India is the only country in the world where all four of the aforementioned cotton species are cultivated.
- **Bt Cotton:** Genetically Modified (GM) cotton is referred to as Bt Cotton. GM cotton has been developed by incorporating a gene from a bacterium named *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). This renders the cotton resistant to pests such as the Pink Bollworm.

India's Initiatives for the Development of the Cotton Sector


1. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
2. PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM-MITRA)
3. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)
4. MSP for Cotton
5. Kasturi Cotton India Programme
6. Cot-Ally Mobile App

Indian Governance and State System

Increase in the Number of Judges in the Supreme Court


Why in News?


- On May 5, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved a proposal to introduce the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, in Parliament.


 **सूचना एवं संचार विभाग**
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

CABINET DECISIONS
May 05, 2026

Cabinet Approves
Proposal for introducing the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026

 To amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 for increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court of India by 4 from the present 33 to 37*

 To allow Supreme Court to function more efficiently & effectively ensuring speedy justice



*Excluding the Chief Justice of India

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Key Points:

- **Objective:** The objective is to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India (excluding the Chief Justice of India) from the current 33 to 37 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.
- **Increase in Number:** The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, provides for an increase of 4 in the number of Supreme Court judges specifically, raising the count from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).
- **Major Impact:** The increase in the number of judges will enable the Supreme Court to function more efficiently and effectively, thereby ensuring speedy justice.
- **Expenditure:** The expenditure incurred on the salaries and other amenities for the judges and supporting staff will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Background:** Article 124(1) of the Constitution of India, inter alia, provides that "there shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges."

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CIVIL SERVICES

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956: Section 2 sets the maximum number of judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India) at 10.



Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1960: 13 Judges



The number of judges of the Supreme Court of India (excluding the Chief Justice of India) was limited to 15 until the end of 1979.



Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1977: 17 Judges



Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1986: increased from 17 to 25



Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2008: increased from 25 to 30



Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019: Increased from 30 to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).

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The Supreme Court:

Brief Background:

- The Regulating Act of 1773 established the Supreme Court of India in Calcutta as a court of record with full power and authority.
- The Supreme Courts in Madras and Bombay were established by George III in 1800 and 1823, respectively.
- The High Courts of India Act, 1861, established High Courts in various provinces, abolishing the Supreme Courts in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the Sadar Courts in the Presidency towns.
- These High Courts held the distinction of being the highest court for all matters until the establishment of the Federal Court of India under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- **Establishment:** After India gained independence in 1947, the Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950. The Supreme Court of India also came into existence, and its first sitting was held on January 28, 1950.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Part V and Chapter 6 (Union Judiciary): Articles 124 to 147 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organization, independence, jurisdiction, powers, and procedures of the Supreme Court.

Appointment of Supreme Court Judges (by the President):

- **Chief Justice:** The Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consulting with such other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as he deems necessary.
- **Other Judges:** Other judges are appointed by the President after consulting with the Chief Justice and such other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as he deems necessary.

- **Collegium System:** The collegium system was introduced through the 'Third Judges Case' (1998). It is used for the appointment and transfer of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- There is no mention of a collegium in the original Constitution of India or its amendments.
- **Leadership of the Collegium System:** The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the CJI (Chief Justice of India) and consists of the four other senior-most judges of the court.
- The High Court collegium is headed by its Chief Justice and four other senior-most judges of that court.

Qualifications for Judges:

1. He must be a citizen of India.
 2. He must have been a judge of a High Court (or more than one court in succession) for at least five years, or
 3. He must have been an advocate of a High Court (or more than one High Court in succession) for ten years, or
 4. He must be, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.
- **Tenure of Judges:** The Constitution does not fix the tenure of a Supreme Court judge. However, the following three provisions have been made in this regard:
 - o He can hold office until he attains the age of 65. If any question arises regarding his case, it will be decided by a body established by Parliament.
 - o He may resign by submitting his resignation in writing to the President.
 - o He may be removed from office by the President on the recommendation of Parliament.

- **The Constitution has made the following provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the Supreme Court:**
 1. Method of appointment
 2. Security of tenure
 3. Fixed service conditions
 4. Expenditure from the Consolidated Fund
 5. The conduct of judges is not open to debate
 6. Bar from practicing law after retirement
 7. Power to punish for contempt
 8. Freedom to appoint its own staff
 9. Its jurisdiction cannot be curtailed
 10. Separate from the executive

Sociology

Provisions for Providing Relief to Acid Attack Victims

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has expanded the definition of "acid attack victims" under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016. This definition will now include victims who were forcibly administered acid. Additionally, it will cover victims who have sustained internal injuries.



Key Points:

- The Supreme Court has also suggested shifting the 'burden of proving innocence' onto the accused in cases involving acid attacks.
- The RPwD Act, 2016, aims to ensure that equal opportunities and a life of dignity are accessible to all Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) without any discrimination.

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Legal Provisions for Acid Attack Victims in India

- **Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS, 2023):** An acid attack resulting in injury or disfigurement is a cognizable and non-bailable offense. The provision stipulates a punishment ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment, along with a fine, for the offender.
- **Section 397 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):** It mandates free and immediate medical treatment at all hospitals, as well as the mandatory reporting of such incidents to the police.
- **Victim Compensation Scheme:** Provisions for compensating victims have been established under Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).
- **Assistance from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF):** Financial assistance of up to ₹1 lakh is provided, along with eligibility for various welfare schemes.

Landmark Judgments:

- **Laxmi vs. Union of India:** This case led to the regulation of the sale of acid.
- **Parivartan Kendra vs. Union of India:** This case resulted in a court order mandating action against illegal suppliers of acid.

Schemes and Policies

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0

Why in News?

- On May 5, 2026, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0.

मंत्रिमंडल निर्णय 05-05-2026

कैबिनेट ने
इमरजेंसी क्रेडिट लाइन गारंटी
स्कीम 5.0 को मंजूरी दी

इस योजना का उद्देश्य #WestAsia की स्थिति के मद्देनजर पात्र व्यवसायों को अतिरिक्त ऋण देने हेतु उधारदाताओं को NCGTC के माध्यम से क्रेडिट गारंटी सहायता प्रदान करना है।

योजना के तहत कुल ₹2,55,000 करोड़ के अतिरिक्त ऋण प्रवाह का लक्ष्य रखा गया है (जिसमें ₹5,000 करोड़ एयरलाइंस के लिए शामिल हैं)

*NCGTC: National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company



Key Points:

- **Approval Date:** May 5, 2026
- **Objective:** To provide guarantee coverage by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for default amounts under the additional credit facility extended to eligible borrowers, with the aim of addressing short-term liquidity constraints in the wake of the West Asia crisis.
- **Target for Additional Credit Flow:** A target of a total additional credit flow of ₹2,55,000 crore (including ₹5,000 crore for airlines).

Key Features/Provisions of the Scheme:

1. **Eligible Borrowers:** MSMEs and non-MSMEs with existing working capital limits as of March 31, 2026, as well as Scheduled Passenger Airlines holding outstanding credit facilities, provided their accounts are classified as 'Standard'.
2. **Guarantee Coverage:** 100 percent for MSMEs; and 90 percent for non-MSMEs as well as the airline sector.
3. **Guarantee Fee:** Nil.
4. **Quantum of Assistance:** Additional credit of up to 20 percent of the maximum working capital utilized during the fourth quarter of FY 2026 (subject to a maximum of ₹100 crore). For airlines, up to 100 percent (subject to a maximum of ₹1,500 crore per borrower, contingent upon the fulfillment of specific conditions).
5. **Tenor of Credit:**
6. **For MSMEs/non-MSMEs (excluding the airline sector):** 5 years from the date of the first disbursement, inclusive of a 1-year moratorium.

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7. **For the airline sector:** 7 years from the date of the first disbursement, inclusive of a 2-year moratorium.
 8. **Duration of Guarantee Cover:** The maximum duration of the guarantee cover shall be co-terminus with the tenure of the loan.
 9. **Scheme Period:** This Scheme shall be applicable to all loans sanctioned during the period commencing from the date of issuance of these guidelines by NCGC up to March 31, 2027.
- **Significance:** The proposed Loan Guarantee Scheme is a significant step aimed at assisting businesses particularly MSMEs and the airline sector in ensuring that their additional working capital requirements are met by banks and financial institutions.

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CIVIL
SERVICES

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Samarth Panchayat Portal

Why in News?

- The Central Government will expand the 'Samarth Panchayat Portal' to states such as Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.



Key Points:

Samarth Panchayat Portal

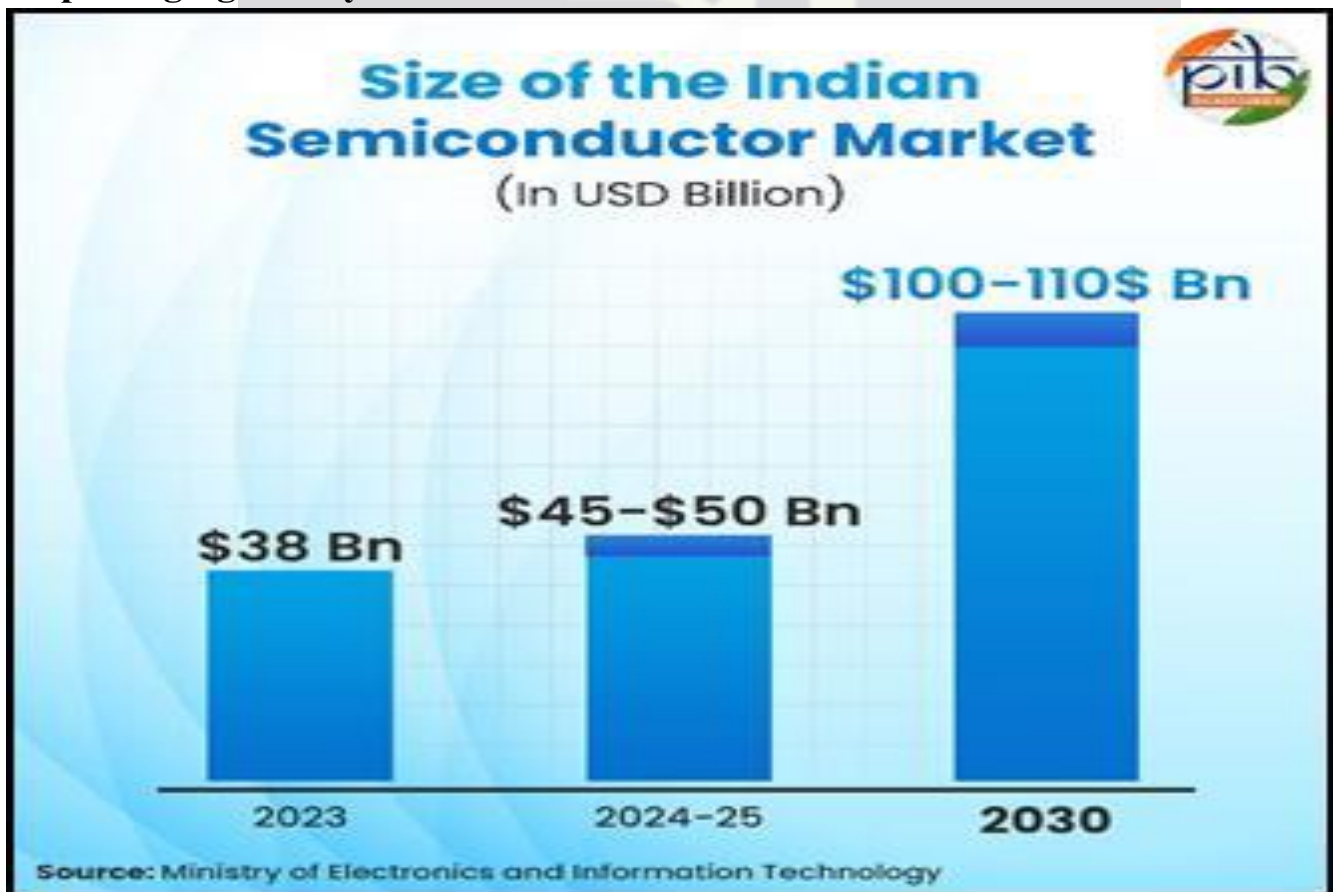
- **Concerned Ministry:** Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- **Objective:** It is a digital platform that empowers Panchayats to enhance their tax and non-tax revenue sources and to monitor them transparently.
- It assists Panchayats in augmenting their 'own revenue sources' through UPI-based online tax assessment and seamless tax payments at the Gram Panchayat level.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Semiconductor Manufacturing Units

Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved two additional semiconductor projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM); these include the country's first commercial Mini/Micro-LED display facility based on GaN (Gallium Nitride) technology, as well as a semiconductor packaging facility.



Key Points:

- **Location of New Semiconductor Manufacturing Units:** Gujarat
- **Total Investment:** Approximately ₹3,936 Crore
- **Employment Generation:** A total of 2,230 job opportunities are expected to be created.

Semiconductor Manufacturing Units:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Location: Dholera, Gujarat■ Crystal Matrix Limited (CML) will establish an integrated facility in Dholera, Gujarat, for compound semiconductor manufacturing and ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging) to produce Mini/Micro-LED display modules.■ Annual Production Capacity: The proposed annual production capacity for Mini/Micro-LED display panels is 72,000 square meters, and for Mini/Micro-LED GaN epitaxy wafers, it is 24,000 RGB wafer sets.■ Application of Proposed Products: The products will be utilized in large displays for TVs and signage/commercial displays; in medium-sized displays for tablets, smartphones, and automotive displays; and in micro-displays for Extended Reality (XR) glasses and smartwatches. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Location: Surat, Gujarat■ Suchi Semicon Private Limited (SSPL) will establish an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Surat, Gujarat, which will manufacture discrete semiconductors.■ Annual Production Capacity: Suchi Semicon's proposed production capacity is 1,033.20 million chips per annum.■ Application of Proposed Products: Targeted applications include power electronics, analog ICs, and industrial systems, serving end markets such as automotive, industrial automation, and consumer electronics. |
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- With these two approvals, the total number of approved projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) will reach 12, involving a total investment of approximately ₹1.64 lakh crore.

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Pathfinder

Why in News?

- 'Pathfinder' will be India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Orbital Data Center (ODC) satellite, developed through a partnership between the space-tech company Pixxel and the AI startup Sarvam.



Key Points:

- The Orbital Data Center (ODC) will not only enhance the country's space-based computing capabilities but also strengthen self-reliance within the technology sector.

Orbital Data Centers (ODCs)

- **Definition:** This refers to a data processing and storage system operating in space, designed to be scalable according to requirements. It is a system based on cloud technology.

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- These centers can function in coordination with cloud systems located on Earth, or they can operate independently within space without any external assistance.

Pathfinder

- **Category:** It will be a satellite in the 200-kilogram class. It is projected to reach orbit by the fourth quarter of 2026.

Key Features:

- **Data Center-Grade GPU (Graphics Processing Unit):** While traditional satellites rely on low-power processors, this satellite will deliver High-Performance Computing (HPC) capabilities in space.
- **Hyperspectral Imaging Camera:** This feature will be deployed on a satellite for the first time. It will significantly accelerate data analysis and decision-making processes in real-time.

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Modern Space Warfare

Why in News?

- Rising cyberattacks on satellite networks and incidents of GPS spoofing have drawn global attention to the challenges associated with dual-use satellites (both military and civilian) and modern space warfare.



Key Points:

The Role of Space in Modern Warfare

- **Definition:** This refers to military activities conducted in or from space. Their objective is to disrupt or destroy satellites and other space assets.
- This encompasses both kinetic (anti-satellite weapons) and non-kinetic weapons (cyber warfare and Electromagnetic Pulses – EMPs).

Consequences of Space Warfare:

- **Rapid and Widespread Impact:** The velocity of weapons in space is extremely high, making missiles faster and more precise.
- **Military Operations:** It can impact missions such as remotely operated drone operations, Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) strategies, and Manned-Unmanned Teaming.

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- **Debris:** Even a small fragment of debris from destroyed satellites can cause damage to spacecraft, such as the International Space Station.
- **Disruption of Essential Services:** These include GPS systems, banking networks, and power grids, potentially leading to situations such as widespread blackouts.

Key Measures to Prevent Warfare in Space

- **Outer Space Treaty (1967):** This treaty prohibits the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space.
- **Liability Convention (1972):** This convention expands upon Article 7 of the Outer Space Treaty. It holds launching states fully liable for any damage caused by them.
- **Moon Agreement (1984):** This agreement stipulates that the Moon and other celestial bodies are to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Indian Initiatives:

- **Formation of the Defence Space Agency (DSA)** to safeguard Indian interests in outer space.
- **The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** has issued guidelines for space cybersecurity.