

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 25 May 2026



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### Amendment to the 'Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy – 2024'



#### Why in News?

- In compliance with the announcements made in the Rajasthan Budget 2026-27, the Department of Industries and Commerce recently issued a notification regarding amendments to the 'Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy – 2024'.

The advertisement features a portrait of a man in a blue vest on the right. The text on the left reads: 'राजस्थान निर्यात प्रोत्साहन नीति-2024 में महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव'. Below this, it states: 'अब तकनीकी अपग्रेडेशन पर मिलेगा 1 करोड़ रुपये तक का अनुदान'. The background includes a globe icon, a large Indian Rupee symbol (₹), and an image of a person using a tablet. At the bottom, it says 'RajGovOfficial' with social media icons.

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## Key Points:

- Through this amendment, the maximum subsidy previously provided under this policy for technical upgradation has been increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore.

## Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy, 2024:

- **Unveiling:** December 4, 2024.
- **Notification:** December 8, 2024.
- **Validity:** Effective until March 31, 2029, or until replaced by another policy.
- **Objective:** The objective of this policy is to increase the state's exports from the current ₹83,704 crore to ₹1.5 lakh crore by the year 2029.
- Implemented with the aim of transforming the state's entrepreneurs into exporters, this policy provides for financial assistance of up to ₹5 lakh for documentation purposes and up to ₹1 crore for technical upgradation for exporters.
- Additionally, a subsidy of up to ₹3 lakh is provided for participation in international events, and a reimbursement of up to ₹2 lakh is offered for fees incurred on e-commerce platforms.

## Facts for Prelims:

## Other Major State Government Initiatives for Export Promotion:

## Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS), 2024:

- **Launch:** October 8, 2024.
- **Objective:** To promote sustainable economic growth and employment within the state.
- **Focus Points:** Centered on fostering industrial development, innovation, environmental sustainability, and green growth.

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## Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit:

- **Event Dates:** December 9 to 11, 2024, in Jaipur.
- **Objective:** To promote the state's unprecedented, inclusive, and sustainable economic and social development, and to attract investors.

## One District One Product (ODOP) Policy, 2024:

- **Launch:** December 8, 2024.
- **Objective:** To implement the goals of the 2024-25 Budget by leveraging the capabilities of each district and integrating them with national and international markets.
- This policy emphasizes streamlining support for local industries, enhancing product value chains, and fostering regional development.

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## Amendments to the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) Policy

### Why in News?

- Recently, two significant amendments have been made to the 'One District One Product (ODOP) Policy – 2024,' which is being implemented by the Department of Industries and Commerce to promote local products within the state.

The infographic features a textured background with the ODOP logo (a map of Rajasthan) and the 'Rising Rajasthan' logo (a colorful sunburst). A red banner at the top contains the hashtag #OneDistrictOneProduct. The main title 'RAJASTHAN'S One District One Product (ODOP) Policy Empowering Entrepreneurs' is prominently displayed. Below the title, a paragraph states: 'Rajasthan is unlocking limitless possibilities for entrepreneurs through its ODOP (One District One Product) Policy, offering substantial margin money assistance to fuel new micro and small enterprises.' Two circular icons represent the key features: a blue icon for 'Margin Money Assistance for New Enterprises' and a green icon for 'Additional subsidy of up to INR 5 lakh for'. The first icon is accompanied by a list: 1. Micro Enterprises: 25% subsidy (up to INR 15 lakh), 2. Small Enterprises: 15% subsidy (up to INR 20 lakh). The second icon is accompanied by a list: 1. Women Entrepreneurs, 2. Young Entrepreneurs (below 35 years), 3. People with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD), 4. SC/ST Entrepreneurs. At the bottom, there are social media icons for X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, along with the website URL RISING.RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN and the hashtag #RISINGRAJASTHAN.

ODOP ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT

#OneDistrictOneProduct

RISING RAJASTHAN  
REPLETE • RESPONSIBLE • READY

## RAJASTHAN'S

### One District One Product (ODOP) Policy

#### Empowering Entrepreneurs

Rajasthan is unlocking limitless possibilities for entrepreneurs through its ODOP (One District One Product) Policy, offering substantial margin money assistance to fuel new micro and small enterprises.

**Margin Money Assistance for New Enterprises**

1. Micro Enterprises: 25% subsidy (up to INR 15 lakh)
2. Small Enterprises: 15% subsidy (up to INR 20 lakh)

**Additional subsidy of up to INR 5 lakh for**

1. Women Entrepreneurs
2. Young Entrepreneurs (below 35 years)
3. People with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD)
4. SC/ST Entrepreneurs

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#RISINGRAJASTHAN

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## Key Points:

- Notably, an announcement regarding the provision of 'margin money' grants to ODOP units for expansion purposes was made during the State Budget 2026-27.
- **First Amendment:** Micro-units undertaking the expansion of their enterprises (including gems and jewelry units) will now be eligible to receive a margin money grant of up to ₹20 lakh, while units falling under the Small category will be eligible for a grant of up to ₹15 lakh. An additional budgetary allocation of ₹15 crore has been earmarked for this purpose. Previously, this benefit was extended only to newly established units.
- **Second Amendment:** Under the ODOP policy, technical upgradation can now be undertaken through private institutions as well, for which a grant of up to ₹5 lakh will be provided. Previously, this benefit was granted only when technical upgradation was carried out through government institutions.
- This change will enable ODOP units to easily acquire the latest technology and machinery, thereby facilitating high-quality production with reduced energy consumption.

## Other Important Points:

- Recently, the State-Level Committee for the 'Panch Gaurav' program—chaired by the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan—approved five new projects to be established across five districts at a total cost of ₹18.19 crore.
- Common Facility Centers, testing laboratories, and storage facilities will be developed in the five selected districts: Dausa, Churu, Didwana-Kuchaman, Phalodi, and Balotra.

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## Facts for Prelims:

### One District One Product (ODOP) Policy – 2024:

- The 'One District One Product Policy – 2024' has been launched with the objective of promoting the state's unique products; under this initiative, one specific product has been identified for each of the state's 41 districts.
- **Concerned Department:** Department of Industries and Commerce (Government of Rajasthan)
- **Launch of Policy:** In December 2024
- **Validity:** Up to March 31, 2029.
- Under this policy, the State Government provides various types of incentives to Micro and Small Enterprises.

### Incentives:

S. No.	Incentive	Financial Assistance	Duration
1	Margin Money Assistance	Up to ₹20 lakh	For a maximum of 2 years
2	Advanced Technology and Software	Up to ₹5 lakh	
3	Quality Certification and IPR	Up to ₹3 lakh	
4	Participation in Marketing Events	Up to ₹2 lakh	
5	E-commerce Website Development	Up to ₹75 thousand	One-time

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## Statewide Eradication Campaign for Prosopis juliflora

### 📣 Why in News?

- The Panchayati Raj and Forest Departments are preparing a comprehensive action plan for the complete eradication of Vilayati Babool (*Prosopis juliflora*) from the state.



### 📌 Key Points:

- *Prosopis juliflora* is an invasive plant species, known in India by names such as Vilayati Babool, Gorakh Imli, or Sami (Thor). This species is primarily found in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- This plant species poses a serious threat to rural lands, pastures, and the environment. Its deep roots (extending up to approximately 30 feet) and high water-absorption capacity (reaching up to 15 meters) are causing a decline in groundwater levels and a reduction in soil fertility. Consequently, native plant species are also being wiped out.

### Other Important Points:

- **Lantana Grass:** Also found in Rajasthan, this is another invasive plant species, commonly known as *Lantana camara*. This plant is widely distributed across Central India, South India, the Himalayan foothills, and the Aravalli region of Rajasthan.

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- **Rajasthan's Forest Cover:** According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) – 2023, the state's forest cover stands at 16,548.21 sq. km (4.84 percent of the total geographical area), while the tree cover is 10,841.12 sq. km. Thus, the state's total forest and tree cover amounts to 27,389.33 sq. km, which constitutes 8 percent of the state's total geographical area.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP)

- **Support:** Supported by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).
- **Project Duration:** From 2023-24 to 2030-31 (8 years)
- **Total Project Cost:** ₹1,693.91 crore, of which ₹1,185.28 crore will be contributed as a loan by the AFD, and ₹508.63 crore will be borne by the State of Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** To conserve biodiversity and enhance deciduous forest resources in the eastern region of the State.
- This project is being implemented across 13 districts of Rajasthan: Alwar, Baran, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Bundi, Dausa, Dholpur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Karauli, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, and Tonk.

### Rajasthan Climate Change Response and Ecosystem Services Enhancement:

- This project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- **Project Cost:** ₹1,774.30 crore, comprising a loan component of ₹1,493.20 crore from JICA and a State share of ₹281.10 crore.
- This project is effective from October 2024 and will remain in effect until March 2035.
- This scheme is being implemented across 19 districts of Rajasthan: Ajmer, Barmer, Banswara, Bikaner, Churu, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Pratapgarh, Sikar, Sirohi, Rajsamand, and Udaipur.

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Study Chair: Banswara</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recently, Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani inaugurated the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Study Chair' at Govind Guru Tribal University, Banswara.</li><li>The primary objective of this Chair is to connect the younger generation with Indian life values and to extend the benefits of development to the last person in society.</li><li>Govind Guru Tribal University (GGTU) was established in 2012 to promote higher education, research, and vocational skills in the tribal regions of Southern Rajasthan.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>131st Meeting of RSRDC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During the 131st Board Meeting of the RSRDC, held on May 24, 2026, under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister and RSRDC Chairperson Diya Kumari, significant decisions were taken to accelerate the state's major road and expressway projects.</li><li><b>RSRDC:</b> Rajasthan State Road Development and Construction Corporation.</li><li><b>Establishment:</b> Originally established in 1979 as 'RSBCC' (Rajasthan State Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited). Its name was changed to RSRDC in 2001.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Special Campaign by the 'Public Health Engineering Department'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Rajasthan Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is conducting a state-level special campaign every Saturday until June 30, 2026.</li><li>The main objective of this campaign is to prevent water theft, repair leaks, and ensure water supply reaches the last mile in rural and high-demand areas during the intense summer heat.</li></ul>

4.

## 5th State-Level Sub-Junior Boxing Competition

- **Venue:** Indira Gandhi Stadium, Alwar.
- **Organizer:** Alwar District Boxing Association.
- **Girls' Category Winner:** The girls' team from Alwar defeated the girls' team from Kota.
- Arika Singh from Kota was honored with the 'Best Boxer' award; Priyanshi from Hanumangarh received the 'Best Challenger Boxer' award; and Taslima from Alwar was awarded the 'Best Promising Boxer' title.
- **Boys' Category Winner:** The team from Bharatpur defeated the team from Alwar.
- Yash Kumar from Bharatpur was honored with the 'Best Boxer' award, Veer Mrityunjay from Jaipur with the Best Challenger Boxer award, and Yuvraj Kumawat from Alwar with the Best Promising Boxer award.

5.

## Fit India Cycle Sunday

- The 'Fit India – Cycle Sunday' event was organized at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur, on Sunday.
- **Theme of the event:** "Commonwealth Day 2030"
- The objective of this rally was to raise awareness among citizens regarding physical fitness, a healthy lifestyle, and the Commonwealth Games 2030.



### Dr. Lharkyal Lama

(Source: AIR)



#### Key Points:

- The Government of Myanmar has conferred the prestigious religious title of 'Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja' upon Dr. Lharkyal Lama, the Vice-Chairman of the Lumbini Development Trust in Nepal.
- **Contribution:** Dr. Lama has been bestowed with this honor in recognition of his sustained contributions toward the preservation and promotion of Buddhist teachings and heritage.
- He also serves as the President of the International Buddhist Confederation, a global organization dedicated to Buddhist studies and archaeological conservation. Dr. Lharkyal Lama is a renowned Tibetan Buddhist scholar from Nepal and is also known by the name 'Khenpo Chimed Tshering'.

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## Gurindervir Singh

(Source: AIR)

### Why in News?

- Gurindervir Singh won the gold medal in the men's 100-meter event at the Federation Cup Athletics Championships.



### Key Points:

- He achieved this feat by setting a new national record of 10.09 seconds (previous record: 10.17 seconds). With this performance, he has also qualified for the Commonwealth Games.

### Men's 100-meter event:

Medal	Athlete	Time
Gold Medal	Gurindervir Singh	10.09 seconds
Silver Medal	Animesh Kujur	10.20 seconds
Bronze Medal	Pranav Pramod	10.29 seconds

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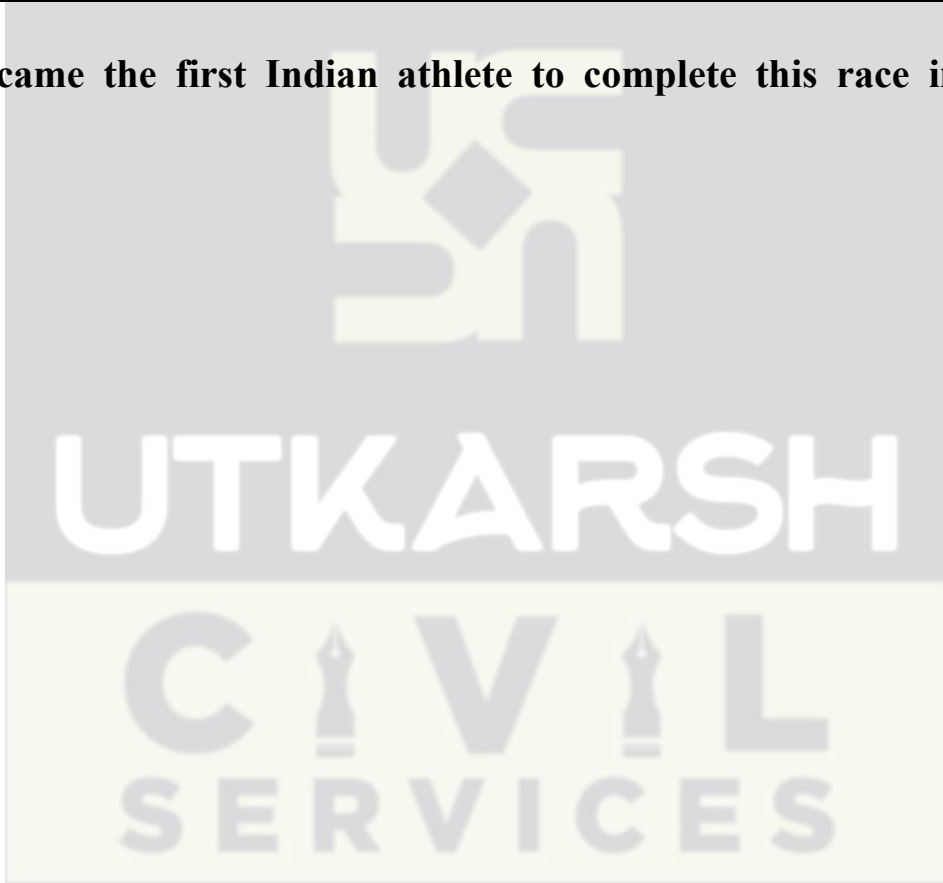
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## ■ Men's 400-meter event:

Medal	Athlete
Gold Medal	Vishal TK (44.98 seconds)
Silver Medal	Rajesh Ramesh
Bronze Medal	Jai Kumar

- Vishal became the first Indian athlete to complete this race in under 45 seconds.



## Smart Border Project

(Source: News on Air)



### Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs will launch the 'Smart Border Project'. The proposed Smart Border Project will incorporate drones, radars, modern cameras, and other state-of-the-art technologies.



### Key Points:

- The objective of this scheme is to render India's borders shared with Bangladesh and Pakistan completely secure and impenetrable.

### Why is the Smart Border Project Needed in India?

- **Vast Land Border:** India shares a land border spanning 15,106.7 kilometers with seven countries (Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Afghanistan).
- **To Curb Illegal Activities:** Strict surveillance at the borders is essential to prevent infiltration, organized crime, narcotics trafficking, cattle smuggling, arms smuggling, and the circulation of counterfeit currency.
- **To Counter New Types of Security Threats:** Such as cyberattacks, hybrid warfare, and infiltration attempts carried out using drones.
- **Inaccessible Terrain and Adverse Climatic Conditions:** India's borders feature deserts, glaciers, lakes, rivers, snow-capped peaks, marshlands, and dense forests. Maintaining a round-the-clock deployment of security forces in such locations is challenging.
- **Enhancing Efficiency Through Technology:** Border security management requires an integrated approach, real-time monitoring, and a greater utilization of cutting-edge technologies.

## Steps Taken for Smart Border Security

- **Anti-Drone Systems:** Jamming and detection technologies have been integrated to counter airborne threats. Example: The IG T-Shul Pulse Anti-Drone System.
- **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS):** Smart fencing, sensors, radars, CCTV cameras, and command-and-control systems are being utilized to facilitate real-time surveillance of the borders.
- **BOLD-QIT Project:** This is a high-tech 'smart fencing' initiative launched by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Bangladesh border.

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## Geography and Geology

### 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'

(Source: PIB)



#### Key Points:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, has achieved significant milestones through its nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' (Save the Farm Campaign), which focuses on soil health, balanced fertilizer use, and sustainable agriculture.
- **Campaign Organizer:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Focus Areas:** Soil health, balanced fertilizer use, and sustainable agriculture.

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## Economic Developments



### RBI Surplus

(Source: News on Air)



#### Why in News?

- The RBI has approved the transfer of its highest-ever surplus amounting to ₹2.86 lakh crore to the Central Government for the financial year 2025-26.



#### Key Points:

##### RBI Surplus

- Surplus refers to earning income in excess of expenditure.
- **Sources of RBI income:** Interest earned on holding rupee securities, the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF), loans and advances, and foreign sources.
- The RBI is not liable to pay income tax or super-tax on any of its income, profits, or gains.
- **RBI Expenditure:** Cost of printing notes; agency charges (which include commissions paid to banks, primary dealers, etc.); and employee costs.

##### Provisions Regarding the Transfer of RBI Surplus to the Government

- **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934:** It is mandatory to transfer the surplus profits to the Central Government after setting aside amounts for doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, and other standard banking provisions.
- Following the recommendations of the Malegam Committee (2013) and the Bimal Jalan Committee (2019), a significant increase has been observed in the transfer of surplus to the government.

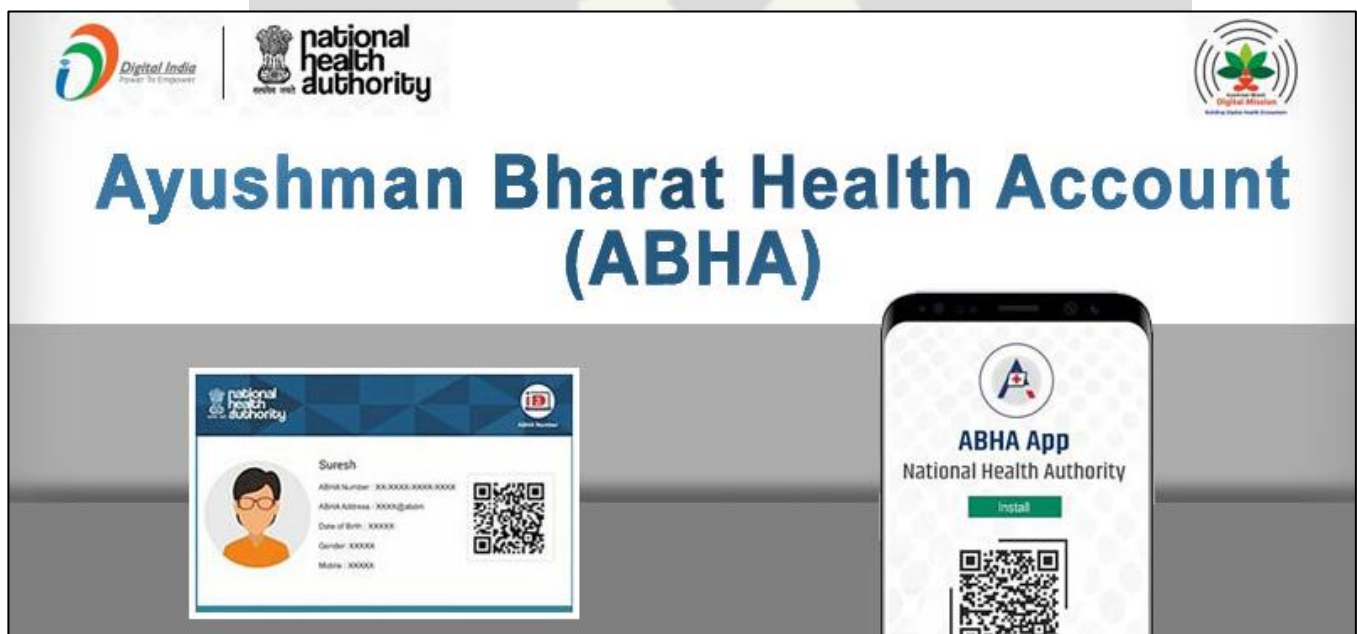
## Schemes and Policies

### Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

(Source: PIB)

#### Why in News?

- 100 crore health records have been linked to the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA). The Ayushman Bharat Health Account is an initiative under the 'Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission' (ABDM).



#### Key Points:

- Under this initiative, citizens are provided with a digital health identity card (Health ID). With its assistance, they can securely link their medical records across hospitals, clinics, and labs, and access them from anywhere.

#### Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

- Launch:** In 2021, by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as a Central Sector Scheme.
- Nodal Agency:** National Health Authority (NHA).

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- **Objective:** To create an integrated, shareable, and citizen-centric digital health infrastructure in India.

## Digital Components of ABDM

- **ABHA ID:** A unique 14-digit digital Health ID.
- **Health Facility Registry:** A national database of government and private health facilities across the country.
- **Healthcare Professionals Registry:** A database of all registered healthcare professionals, including doctors and AYUSH practitioners.
- **Unified Health Interface:** A universally accessible digital platform for tele-consultations, appointments, and other healthcare services.
- **Health Information Exchange:** A system for securely sharing medical records. Patient consent is mandatory for this process.
- **National Health Claims Exchange:** A digital platform designed to expedite and simplify the settlement of health insurance claims.

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### Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

(Source: Economic Times)



#### Why in News?

- The AIIB has launched the 'Energy, Food Security, and Economic Resilience Facility' to assist members whose development may be impacted by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.



#### Key Points:

- This facility provides a time-bound financing arrangement of up to US\$ 10 billion over a period of two years.

#### AIIB

- **Establishment:** A multilateral development bank established in 2016.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing (China)
- **Objective:** To promote sustainable infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and economic growth in Asia.
- **Members:** Over 111 approved members from across the globe.
- India is a founding member of this bank and is the second-largest shareholder after China.
- India has received the highest volume of loans from the AIIB.

## WTO Dispute Settlement Body

(Source: Economic Times & India Times)

### Why in News?

- India blocked China's first request at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to establish a dispute settlement panel, in which China had alleged that Indian tariffs and incentives (related to IT and solar energy products) were discriminatory.

### Key Points:

- A country can block the first request for the establishment of a panel. However, the panel is automatically established at the subsequent meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, unless there is a consensus against it.

### WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)

- The DSB is the institution responsible for resolving trade-related disputes among member countries.

### Key Features:

- **Structure:** It comprises representatives from all WTO member countries.
- **Main Function:** It administers the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism under the Dispute Settlement Understanding framework.
- **Other Functions of the DSB:** Establishing dispute settlement panels; adopting reports from panels and the Appellate Body; authorizing compensation or trade sanctions if decisions are not complied with, etc.
- Since 2019, the WTO's Appellate Body has been non-functional due to a lack of quorum (resulting from the U.S. blocking the appointment of judges).

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

(Source: News on Air)

#### Why in News?

- Saudi Arabia has become the 26th member of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The idea for the formation of the International Big Cat Alliance was first proposed by the Prime Minister of India in July 2019, on the occasion of International Tiger Day.



#### Key Points:

#### International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- **Establishment:** Launched by India in 2023.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi (India).
- **Objective:** To ensure the conservation of the seven major big cat species across the globe. These seven big cat species are: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Composition:** The IBCA is an alliance comprising various countries, institutions, and organizations. In addition to the 95 countries that serve as habitats for the seven aforementioned species, it includes other nations, conservation partners, scientific institutions, business groups, and corporate entities that have a vested interest in the conservation of these species.
- Currently, it has 26 member countries and 5 observer nations.
- **Nodal Agency:** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Ebola Disease

(Source: PIB and WHO)



#### Why in News?

- In light of reported outbreaks of Ebola disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO) under the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005 declared the situation a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on May 17, 2026.
- The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has also officially declared the ongoing outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus disease affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS).

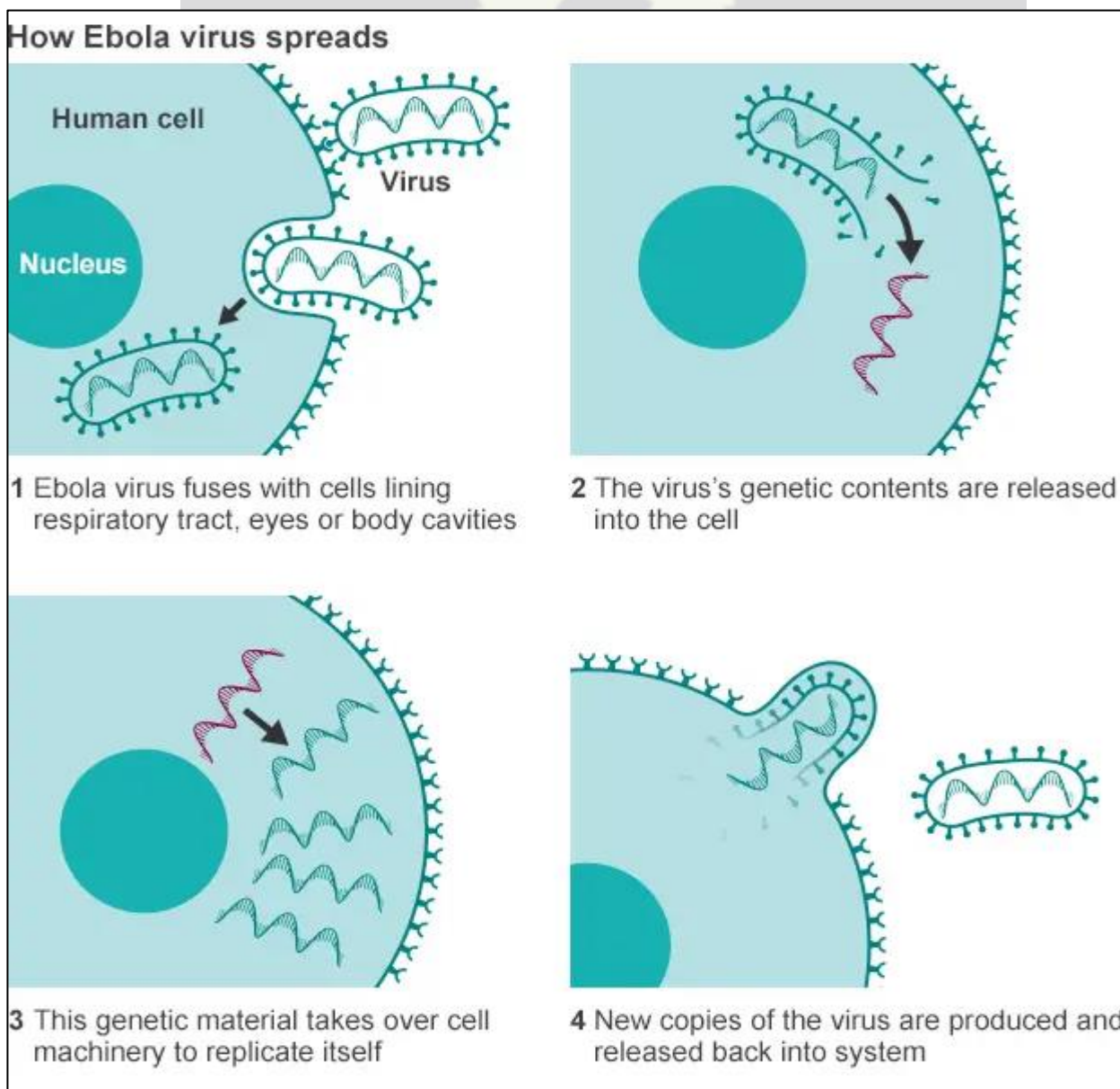


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## 📌 Key Points:

- It is a viral hemorrhagic fever resulting from infection with the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus. It is a severe illness characterized by a very high mortality rate.
- Currently, no vaccine or specific treatment has been approved for the prevention or treatment of Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain.

## Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):



- **Introduction:** EVD (formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal infectious disease that affects humans and other primates.
- **Origin:** The virus was first identified in 1976 during two simultaneous outbreaks one in Yambuku (DRC), near the Ebola River (after which the disease was named), and the other in Nzara (South Sudan).
- **Cause:** Ebola disease is caused by viruses belonging to the Orthoebolavirus genus within the Filoviridae family.
- **Vectors:** Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family serve as the natural hosts for Orthoebolaviruses. This virus can spread to humans when people come into close contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope, or porcupines that are found sick or dead in rainforests.
- Six species of Orthoebolavirus have been identified to date, three of which have caused major outbreaks: Ebola virus, Sudan virus, and Bundibugyo virus.
- **Transmission:** Animal-to-human (zoonotic) and human-to-human.
- **Fatality Rate:** The average case fatality rate for Ebola disease is approximately 50%. In previous outbreaks, fatality rates have ranged from 25% to 90%.
- **Diagnostic Methods:**
  - o Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) assay
  - o Antibody-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
  - o Antigen-capture detection tests
  - o Virus isolation by cell culture.
- **Vaccines:** Two vaccines have been approved: Ervebo (Merck & Co.) and Zabdeno and Mvabea (Janssen Pharmaceutica).

## World Thyroid Day, 2026

(Source: DD-NEWS)

### Why in News?

- World Thyroid Day is observed annually on May 25th, with the aim of raising public awareness regarding thyroid diseases, promoting early detection, and fostering discussions on improved health policies.



### Key Points:

- Reason:** This date May 25th was chosen to honor the establishment of the European Thyroid Association (ETA) on May 25, 1965.
- Inception:** The observance began in the year 2008.

### The Thyroid Gland:

- Location:** The thyroid gland is situated at the front of the neck, positioned above the windpipe (trachea) and below the larynx (voice box). It consists of two lobes connected in the middle by a thin structure, giving it a butterfly-like shape.

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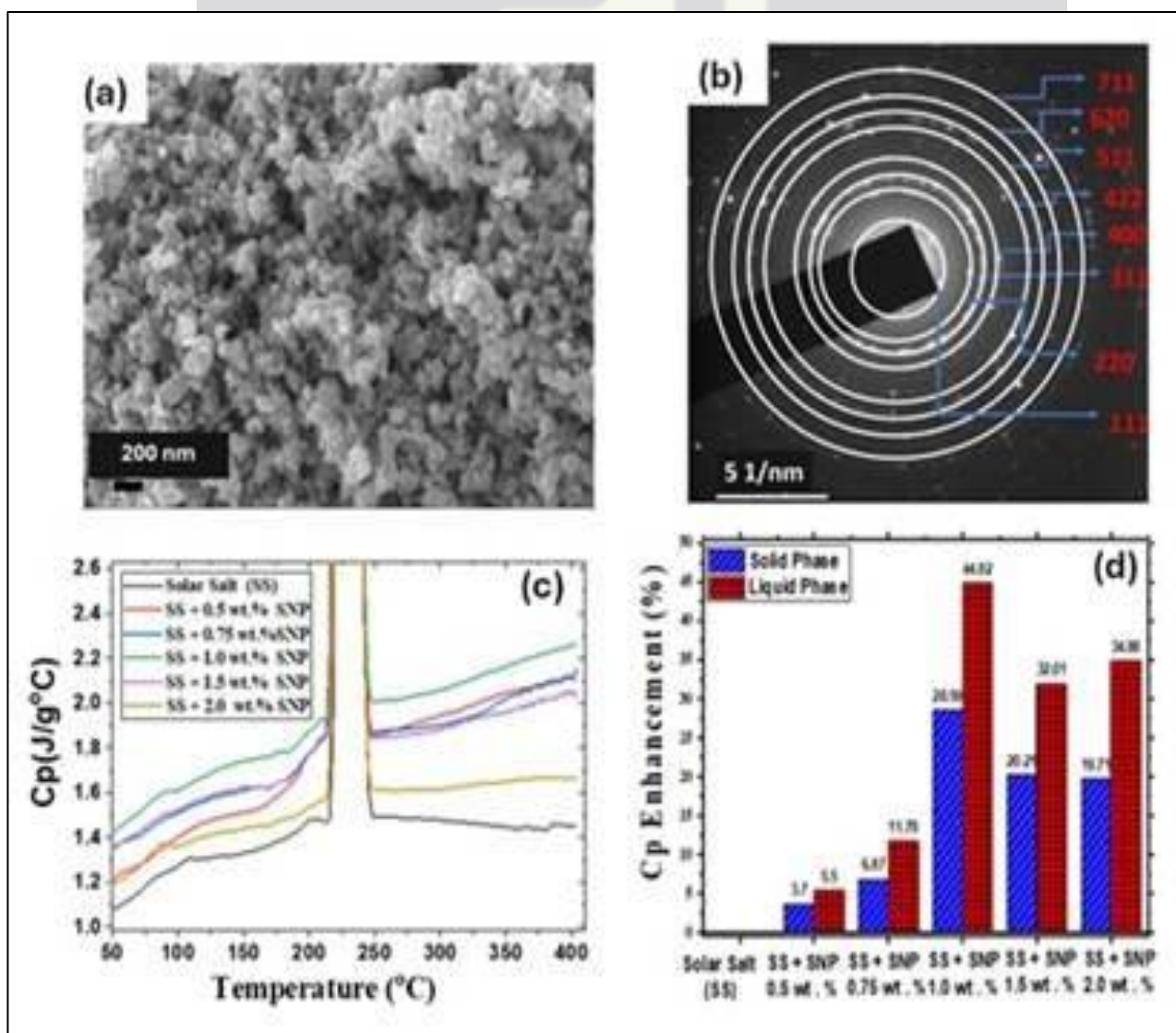
- **It is primarily associated with three important hormones:**
    1. **Thyroxine (T4):** This is the most abundant hormone found in the body.
    2. **Triiodothyronine (T3):** This is the more active hormone and regulates cellular function.
    3. **Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone (TSH):** This hormone is released by the pituitary gland in the brain and regulates the production of thyroid hormones.
  - **Functions:** The thyroid gland plays a crucial role in energy and metabolic regulation, heart rate control, maintaining body temperature balance, brain and cognitive development, as well as growth and reproductive health.
- Thyroid Disorders:**
- i. **Hypothyroidism:** Occurs when the thyroid gland produces less than the required amount of hormones; this condition is significantly more prevalent among women.
  - ii. **Hyperthyroidism:** Occurs when the gland begins to produce an excessive amount of hormones more than what is required.
  - iii. **(Goiter):** An abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland.
  - iv. **Goiter and Iodine Deficiency Disorders:** Goiter is the abnormal enlargement of the thyroid gland, and worldwide, the most common cause of goiter is iodine deficiency in the diet.
  - v. **Hashimoto's Thyroiditis:** Also known as Chronic Lymphocytic Thyroiditis, this is an autoimmune disease in which the thyroid gland is gradually destroyed.
- **Thyroid Cancer:** Thyroid cancer occurs in the cells of the thyroid gland.
  - **Major Causes:** Iodine deficiency, genetic predisposition, autoimmune diseases, excessive stress, irregular lifestyle, environmental pollution, and chemical exposure.

## Thermal Energy Storage (TES) Systems

(Source: PIB)

### Why in News?

- Researchers at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed a cost-effective, scalable process for producing spinel nanocomposite Phase Change Materials (PCMs) featuring an unprecedented increase in specific heat capacity for thermal energy storage applications.





## Key Points:

- **Introduction:** Thermal Energy Storage (TES) systems are advanced clean technologies designed to store thermal energy by heating or cooling a storage medium.
- **Publication:** Published in journal Materials Today Chemistry (Elsevier)
- **Objective:** To enhance the efficiency of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plants and industrial waste heat recovery systems, and to store a greater amount of thermal energy within a smaller physical space.
- **Developed Technology:** The process, developed by the ARCI team led by Dr. Mani Karthik, utilizes a simple co-precipitation method to produce spinel-type metal oxide nanoparticles with controlled particle sizes. These nanomaterials demonstrated excellent thermal stability and uniform dispersion, making them suitable for the production of high-performance nanocomposite PCMs.
- By incorporating just 1% spinel oxide nanoparticles into the PCM, the resulting nanocomposite phase change material demonstrated a remarkable increase of up to 45% in specific heat capacity (the capacity to store thermal energy) compared to the nanocomposite-free PCM.
- **Features:** This material can store more thermal energy per unit mass, thereby improving energy storage efficiency. This improvement facilitates the construction of smaller storage tanks requiring less construction material, leading to a significant reduction in both capital and operational costs.

## IN-SPACe

(Source: Times of India)



### Why in News?

- The Department of Space, in collaboration with IN-SPACe, has approved the establishment of Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) at Khoraj in Gujarat and Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu.



### Key Points:

- These CTFs will be situated within designated 'plug-and-play' manufacturing clusters specifically dedicated to space-related activities (spacecraft, payload systems).

### IN-SPACe

- This is the acronym for the 'Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre'.
- It is an autonomous body operating under the Department of Space.
- It was established under the Space Sector Reforms (2020) with the aim of enhancing private sector participation in space activities and strengthening India's space economy through public-private collaboration.

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## Key Functions:

- It promotes private sector participation in space activities by facilitating financial assistance and technology transfer from ISRO.
- It reduces costs for startups by providing them access to ISRO's infrastructure and laboratories.
- It acts as the primary regulator, authorizing private sector launches and ground operations.



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## Goddard Astronautics Award

(Source: News on Air)



### Why in News?

- India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has been honored with the prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).



**India's Chandrayaan-3 honoured  
by AIAA Goddard Astronautics Award**



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## Key Points:

### Goddard Astronautics Award

- **Significance:** This is the highest award presented by the AIAA for outstanding achievements in the field of space science.
- **Background:** The award is named after Robert H. Goddard, a pioneer in the development of liquid-fueled rocket engines. The current expanded criteria for this award were established in 1975.

### Chandrayaan-3 Mission

- **Historic Landing:** On August 23, 2023, Chandrayaan-3 made history by becoming the first spacecraft to execute a soft landing near the Moon's South Pole.
- **Mission Duration:** One lunar day (approximately 14 Earth days).
- **Components:** Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover.

## Pregabalin and Schedule H1

(Source: PIB)

### Why in News?

- In view of the widespread misuse of the drug Pregabalin among the youth attributed to its sedative, euphoric, and reality-detaching effects the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has included it under Schedule H1.



### Key Points:

#### Pregabalin

- **Therapeutic Uses:** Pregabalin (or Lyrica) is primarily a medication used to treat neuropathic pain, chronic pain, neuropathy, and fibromyalgia, as well as to manage seizures in individuals with epilepsy.
- **Health Risks:** Induction of suicidal thoughts and central nervous system (CNS) depression.

#### Schedule H1

- **Introduction:** Schedule H1 constitutes a highly restricted category under the Drugs Rules, 1945, framed pursuant to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

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- **Strict Regulations on Dispensing:** Drugs included in Schedule H1 may be sold only against a valid prescription issued by a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP).
- **Retailer Accountability:** Chemists and retailers are required to maintain a separate register in which all details regarding the sale of such drugs must be recorded.
- **Mandatory Warning Label:** Manufacturers are mandated to clearly display a "Schedule H1 Drug Warning" label on the packaging.

