

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 22 May 2026



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### 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0' in Rajasthan



#### Why in News?

- Under the 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0', work will be undertaken across 10 thematic areas in 184 villages of strategic importance located in 5 border districts of Rajasthan namely, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar, and Phalodi.



#### Key Points:

- In Rajasthan, the 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0' stands as the Central Government's second major scheme aimed at the holistic development of international border areas, following the Border Area Development Programme.
- Under this project, these villages will achieve 100% saturation in terms of all-weather connectivity, 4G telecom connectivity, television connectivity, and on-grid electrification.
- Additionally, the development of these villages will also be ensured through initiatives focused on livelihood generation, rural infrastructure, the promotion of tourism and culture, livelihood and skill development, cooperatives, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

#### Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0

- On April 4, 2025, the Union Cabinet granted approval to the 'Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) – 2.0' as a 100% centrally funded scheme.
- Duration:** Years 2024–2029

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Feature	Vibrant Villages Programme	Vibrant Villages Programme – 2.0
Launch Year	2023	2025
States Covered	Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and the Union Territory of Ladakh	Selected villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal
Funding	Fully funded by the Central Government	Fully funded by the Central Government
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the standard of living and create livelihood opportunities in border villages.</li><li>• Strengthen border security by involving local populations in support of border forces.</li><li>• Control cross-border crime and integrate border communities with the rest of the country.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the standard of living and create livelihood opportunities in border villages.</li><li>• Strengthen border security by involving local populations in support of border forces.</li><li>• Control cross-border crime and integrate border communities with the rest of the country.</li></ul>
Concerned Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs	Ministry of Home Affairs

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## Facts for Prelims:

- **Chief Minister's Thar Border Area Development Programme:** This is a significant scheme announced by the Government of Rajasthan in the 2025–26 Budget, launched with the objective of improving the standard of living of families residing near the international border and strengthening infrastructure in these areas.
- The State Government has sanctioned an initial budget of ₹150 crore for this program. Under this initiative, the holistic development of 1,206 villages across the 5 border districts of the state is proposed.

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## 'Matikala Center of Excellence' to be Established in Bichoon (Jaipur)

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Shriyade Matikala Board announced the establishment of a 'Matikala Center of Excellence' in Bichoon (Jaipur).



### Key Points:

#### Main Objectives of the Center of Excellence:

- Technical Upgradation:** Providing artists with modern electric wheels and advanced kilns.

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- **Product Development:** Creating designer artifacts and terracotta products alongside traditional pottery.
- **Market Linkage:** Directly connecting rural artists with major cities and e-commerce platforms.
- **Skill Development:** Providing new employment opportunities to the youth in the field of pottery and clay art.

## Facts for Prelims:

- The Shriyade Matikala Board is a prominent board constituted for the economic and technical development of the state's clay artisans and potters (clay artists).
- **Chairman of the Board:** Prahlad Rai Tak.
- The Shriyade Matikala Board has honored 45 artists who have excelled in various forms of clay art across the state with the 'Mati Ke Lal' (Son of the Soil) award.
- **Note:** Under the State Budget announcement for the year 2026-27, 5,000 electric-powered wheels and clay-kneading machines will be distributed.
- **Awa-Kajawa Method:** An ancient method traditionally used by the Kumhar (Prajapati) community in Rajasthan. Its primary application lies in constructing kilns for firing pottery, toys, roof tiles, and bricks.
- In 2016, the Government of Rajasthan formulated guidelines for clay artisans working with the Awa-Kajawa method.
- **Shriyade Mata Panorama:** Located at 'Shriyade Mata Pavan Dham' in Jhalamand, Jodhpur.

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## Increase in Honorarium for Senior Accredited Journalists

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Chief Minister approved a proposal to increase the monthly honorarium for the state's full-time senior accredited journalists from ₹15,000 to ₹18,000.

पत्रकार कल्याण और सम्मान के लिए, सरकार का अहम निर्णय

मुख्यमंत्री श्री भजनलाल शर्मा ने, वरिष्ठ अधिस्वीकृत पत्रकार सम्मान राशि में वृद्धि को दी मंजूरी

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग ने जारी की अधिसूचना

बजट घोषणा के अनुरूप, मिलेगी 18 हजार रुपये प्रतिमाह सम्मान राशि

RajGovOfficial

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## Key Points:

- **Concerned Department:** Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Rajasthan.

## Provisions:

- Full-time accredited journalists who have served for at least 20 years in daily, weekly, or fortnightly newspapers, or as independent journalists, or in electronic media and news agencies and who are aged 60 years or above, shall be eligible for a monthly honorarium of ₹18,000.
- Additionally, under the Senior Accredited Journalists Honorarium Scheme, the honorarium amount received by the spouse of a deceased beneficiary journalist has been increased from ₹7,500 to ₹9,000.

## Facts for Prelims:

### Rajasthan Journalists Health Scheme (RJHS):

- The Department of Information and Public Relations issued the notification for the 'Rajasthan Journalists Health Scheme (RJHS)' on April 4, 2025.
- **Launch of the Scheme:** The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister in Bhilwara on March 28, 2025, during the State-Level Development and Good Governance Festival.
- Under this scheme, all journalists accredited by the State Government will be eligible for RJHS. Following the issuance of the notification for this scheme, accredited journalists will be able to avail cashless medical facilities modeled after the RGHS (Rajasthan Government Health Scheme).

### Scholarship Scheme for Children of Journalists:

- On April 18, 2025, the Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan, issued the notification for the 'Scholarship Scheme for Higher Education for Children of Accredited Journalists.'
- This scheme aligns with the announcement made in the State Budget 2024-25 and has been launched to provide financial assistance to the children of all accredited journalists in the state for pursuing studies at national-level higher education institutions.

## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Demise of Padma Shri Dr. S.R. Mehta</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Padma Shri Dr. S.R. Mehta, a distinguished physician from Jaipur and the former Principal of Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College, passed away recently.</li><li>■ Dr. S.R. Mehta was conferred with the Padma Shri award by the then President, Zail Singh, on March 16, 1985.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>A New String Instrument: 'Kaundinya Veena'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Recently, Dr. Ashwin M. Dalvi Director of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, and a classical musician developed a new string instrument named the 'Kaundinya Veena'.</li><li>■ The 'Kaundinya Veena' is influenced by the sound of the Afghan Rubab. It was developed by combining the distinct characteristics of four different string instruments.</li><li>■ This instrument has been granted an official patent.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Para-Archer Shyam Sundar Swami</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Para-archer Shyam Sundar Swami, a resident of Bikaner, has been selected for the 'Para Asian Games' scheduled to be held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan.</li><li>■ Shyam Sundar Swami secured the second position in the selection trials held in Sonipat, Haryana.</li></ul>

4.

## **Pregnancy and Child Tracking System (PCTS) - 2.0**

- The Pregnancy and Child Tracking System (PCTS) - 2.0, which operates in Rajasthan to monitor the tracking of pregnant women and children, is currently being upgraded.
- **Concerned Department:** Department of Medical and Health.
- The Pregnancy and Child Tracking System (PCTS) has been operational in Rajasthan since the year 2008.

5.

## **Asia's Largest Water Diggi (Artificial Water Reservoir)**

- The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has completed the construction of Asia's largest water diggi (artificial water reservoir) in Jaisalmer at a cost of ₹242 crore.
- This ambitious water storage project will serve as a massive water backup system in the desert region during periods of extreme heat and during canal closure periods.
- This water reservoir will be filled using surplus water from the Indira Gandhi Canal Project (IGNP) and rainwater.

6.

## **Jai Bhagwan: Representing India at the Asian Beach Games Kabaddi Competition**

- International Kabaddi player Jai Bhagwan won a silver medal for the country while representing the Indian men's beach Kabaddi team at the 6th Asian Beach Games held in Sanya, China, in 2026.
- **Associated District:** Khairthal-Tijara.
- In the same competition, the Indian women's Kabaddi team won a gold medal.
- Organized by the Olympic Council of Asia, this tournament is a multi-sport event focused on beach and coastal sports. It was first launched in 2008 in Bali, Indonesia.

## 7. **Rajasthan Among the Leading States in the Cooperative Sector**

- **First in Membership:** Rajasthan ranks first nationwide in terms of membership within the Indian Seed Cooperative Society Limited (BBSSL).
- **PACS Digitization:** Under the PACS computerization initiative, the state ranks second in the country in terms of making PACS units 'Go-Live.' The computerization of PACS is a flagship scheme of the Government of India, aimed at digitizing all Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the country and linking them with NABARD and cooperative banks.
- **Number of e-PACS:** In terms of the number of Electronic PACS (e-PACS), the state ranks third in the country.

## 8. **'Build with AI' Workshop**

- Recently, a 'Build with AI' workshop was organized at the Jaipur-based Rajasthan Center of Advanced Technology (R-CAT) in collaboration with Google India.
- This collaboration with Google India underscores Rajasthan's commitment to equipping its youth and startups with world-class technological platforms.

## NATIONAL

### Asian Weightlifting Championships, 2026

(Source: DD-NEWS)

#### Why in News?

- India secured the 3rd position in the women's team rankings and the 5th position in the men's team rankings at the Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships, 2026.



#### Key Points:

- Host:** India
- Event:** Held from May 11 to May 17, 2026, in the city of Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Organizer:** Indian Weightlifting Federation
- Participants:** 172 athletes from 30 countries participated in the event, comprising 97 men and 75 women. The championships featured 8 bodyweight categories for women and 7 for men.

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## Team Rankings:

Ranking	Women	Men
1st	China	China
2nd	Chinese Taipei	DPR Korea
3rd	India	Uzbekistan
4th	Sri Lanka	Chinese Taipei
5th	Bangladesh	India

- **Overall Medal Tally:** In the overall medal tally, China dominated with 21 Gold, 12 Silver, and 8 Bronze medals; followed by DPR Korea, which secured the Second position with 18 Gold, 11 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal. Chinese Taipei secured third position with 3 Gold, 7 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals.
- **India's Performance:** India won a total of 10 medals, comprising one Silver and 9 Bronze medals (11<sup>th</sup> Place).
- **Records:** According to official results, the championships witnessed several record-breaking performances, with 27 Asian records and 25 World records being set.
- **Best Lifters:** Ri Suk of DPR Korea was named the Best Female Lifter, while He Yu of China was named the Best Male Lifter.

## Geography and Geology

### International Tea Day, 2026

(Source: AIR, DD-NEWS, and FAO)

#### Why in News?

- International Tea Day is celebrated annually on May 21st by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

21 मई

# अंतरराष्ट्रीय चाय दिवस

एक कप चाय, अनेक एहसास  
स्वाद भी, सेहत भी, संवाद भी

एंटीऑक्सीडेंट से भरपूर  
हृदय के लिए लाभकारी  
तनाव कम करे, मन को शांति दे  
रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाए  
लोगों को जोड़ने वाला मधुर संवाद

आइए, चाय के इस अद्भुत सफर का आनंद लें और चाय उद्योग से जुड़े लाखों लोगों के योगदान को सम्मान दें।

#### Key Points:

- History:** Tea was discovered in China, approximately five thousand years ago. In its early days, it was regarded as a medicinal beverage.

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- **Establishment of the Day:** In 2019, the Intergovernmental Group on Tea proposed designating May 21st as International Tea Day. The United Nations approved this proposal on December 21, 2019. The first officially recognized International Tea Day was celebrated on May 21, 2020.
- **Theme for 2026:** "Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities."
- **Objectives:** To protect the rights of tea growers and workers. To promote sustainable and eco-friendly production systems. To reduce global trade inequalities. To highlight the role of the tea industry in poverty alleviation and rural development. To foster awareness regarding responsible consumption among consumers.
- **India's Tea Market:** India is the second-largest producer and consumer of tea, and the third-largest exporter. Kenya, the leading exporter, exports almost its entire tea production, while China is the second-largest exporter.
- India's tea exports have increased by 93 percent over the past 12 years rising from ₹4,509 crore in the financial year (FY) 2013-14 to ₹8,719 crore in FY 2025-26.
- **Major Tea-Producing Indian States:** Assam (Assam Valley and Cachar), West Bengal (Dooars, Terai, and Darjeeling), Tamil Nadu, and Kerala; these states collectively account for approximately 96% of the total tea production.
- In the organized sector, the Indian tea industry provides employment to approximately 1.2 million workers, of whom about 58 percent are women.
- **Tea Board of India:** Established under the Tea Act, 1953, it is a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce, with its headquarters in Kolkata and offices abroad in London, Dubai, and Moscow.

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## Other Important Points:

### Tea (*Camellia sinensis*):

#### ■ Growth Conditions:

- o **Climate:** Tea is a tropical and sub-tropical crop that thrives in warm and humid conditions.
- o **Temperature:** It requires temperatures between 20°–30°C.
- o **Rainfall:** It requires 150–300 cm of evenly distributed rainfall annually.
- o **Soil:** Slightly acidic, calcium-free soil, along with a porous sub-soil to ensure free drainage of water, is suitable.

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## Economic Developments



### Dollar-Rupee Swap

(Source: Indian Express)



#### Why in News?

- The RBI has announced a dollar-rupee swap auction worth \$5 billion for a tenure of three years to enhance liquidity.



#### Key Points:

- This swap is in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap on behalf of the RBI.
- A bank will sell US dollars to the RBI and, simultaneously, agree to purchase an equivalent amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period.

#### Dollar-Rupee Swap

- This is an instrument for foreign exchange liquidity management, wherein the RBI exchanges US dollars and Indian rupees, with an agreement to reverse this transaction in the future.
- **Objective:** To manage rupee liquidity, stabilize foreign exchange markets, and mitigate exchange rate volatility.

## Indian Governance and State System

### One Nation, One Election

(Source: News on air)

#### Why in News?

- The Joint Parliamentary Committee on One Nation, One Election stated that holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies could save approximately ₹7 lakh crore and boost GDP growth by up to 1.6%.



#### Key Points:

- The JPC is examining two proposed laws related to simultaneous elections: the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territory Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

#### One Nation, One Election:

- **Meaning:** One Nation, One Election means holding simultaneous elections for all three levels of government the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies (panchayats and municipalities).

## Significance:

- **Financial savings and development:** Holding simultaneous elections will reduce election costs and simplify time-consuming procedures, thereby boosting economic development.
- **Preventing policy paralysis:** Frequent elections lead to repeated enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, which hinders development work.
- Holding simultaneous elections will promote long-term development and welfare policies.
- **Conservation of resources and sustainable governance:** Administrative machinery, such as teachers and security forces, will be less likely to be repeatedly deployed for election work.

## Expert bodies recommending simultaneous elections:

- Reports of the Law Commission of India (170th Report of 1999, 255th Report of 2015, Draft Report of 2018),
- Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (2015),
- Working Paper of the NITI Aayog (2017).
- **High-Level Committee (2023) headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind:** This committee has recommended phased implementation of 'simultaneous elections' elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies simultaneously, and elections to local bodies within 100 days thereafter.

## Challenges in Implementation:

- **Constitutional and Legal Hurdles:** Amendments to constitutional provisions (such as Articles 83, 172, and 327) and changes to the 'Representation of the People Act, 1951' would be required.

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- **Dissolution Prior to Term Completion:** This system could face a crisis in situations involving a "hung assembly" or the collapse of a government due to a no-confidence motion before the completion of its full term.
- **Logistical Constraints:** Conducting simultaneous elections would necessitate a massive expansion of electoral infrastructure. According to NITI Aayog, this process could require approximately ₹9,300 crore for additional EVMs and VVPAT machines.
- **Subordination of Local Issues:** This system could lead to the "nationalization" of local issues, potentially marginalizing regional parties and local developmental concerns.

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## Sociology

### Shatayu Dashboard

(Source: AIR)



#### Key Points:

- On May 22, 2026, a virtual event was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment focusing on building a streamlined care economy.
- A key highlight of this event was the launch of the 'Jeevan App' for senior citizens and the 'Shatayu Dashboard' for information regarding elderly care providers.
- **Objective:** To develop a comprehensive framework for care services leveraging technology and community participation to address the needs of India's growing elderly population.



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Social Justice  
and Empowerment



### International Booker Prize

(Source: The Hindu)



#### Why in News?

- Taiwanese author Yang Shuang-zi writer of Taiwan Travelogue and translator Lin King won the 2026 International Booker Prize.



#### Key Points:

##### International Booker Prize

- It is awarded annually to a single book that has been translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- It was established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.

##### Indian Winners of the International Booker Prize:

- Geetanjali Shree (2022):** For Tomb of Sand, translated by Daisy Rockwell. This was the first Hindi work to win the International Booker Prize.
- Banu Mushtaq (2025):** For the book Heart Lamp. Translated by Deepa Bhasthi. This was the first Kannada work to win this award.
- The International Booker Prize is distinct from the Booker Prize, which is awarded to a work originally written in English.

## National Anti-Terrorism Day, 2026

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)



### Why in News?

- National Anti-Terrorism Day is observed annually on May 21st to mark the death anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

## राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद विरोधी दिवस

21 मई

- भारत में राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद विरोधी दिवस प्रतिवर्ष 21 मई को मनाया जाता है।

### इतिहास

- 21 मई 1991 को भारत के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री राजीव गांधी की तमिलनाडु के श्रीपेरंबदूर में एक आत्मघाती हमले में हत्या कर दी गई थी।
- इस घटना के बाद वर्ष 1992 में केंद्र सरकार ने प्रतिवर्ष 21 मई को राष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद विरोधी दिवस घोषित किया

### उद्देश्य

- आतंकवाद और हिंसा के प्रति समाज को जागरूक बनाना।
- युवाओं को कट्टरवाद और उग्रवादी विचारधाराओं से दूर रखना।
- राष्ट्रीय एकता और सामाजिक समरसता को सुदृढ़ करना।
- लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों तथा शांति के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता को मजबूत करना।
- आतंकवाद के विरुद्ध सामूहिक उत्तरदायित्व की भावना विकसित करना

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## Key Points:

- **History:** On May 21, 1991, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. His assassination was carried out by a suicide bomber belonging to the Sri Lankan separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- **Objective:** Following this incident, the Government of India decided to observe this day with the aim of raising public awareness regarding terrorism and strengthening peace and national unity within society.
- **First Observance:** May 21, 1992 (under the V.P. Singh government).
- **Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi:** Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister, serving as the country's sixth Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989.
- **United Nations; Counter-Terrorism Week (CT Week):** The 4th CT Week will be held from June 26 to July 2, 2026, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the theme: "A Terrorism-Free Future: Strengthening Global Commitment to a Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Countering Terrorism through Member State Leadership and Action."

## Other Important Points:

### Terrorism: Concept, Forms, and Evolving Nature

- **Concept:** The root meaning of the term 'terrorism' is to instill fear or terror. Generally, it constitutes the planned use of violence and intimidation to achieve a political, religious, social, or ideological objective. Its goal is not merely to cause loss of life, but also to impact the psychological fabric of society and national stability.

## Major Forms:

- **Traditional Terrorism:** Bombings, shootings, kidnappings, mass violence, and direct attacks are its primary manifestations.
- **Terrorism Based on Religious Extremism:** Attempts are made to justify violence through a narrow and violent interpretation of religious ideologies.
- **Separatist Terrorism:** When a group adopts violent means to achieve regional or political objectives.
- **Cyber Terrorism:** In the digital age, attacks on computer networks, banking systems, energy grids, and communication infrastructure have emerged as a new manifestation of terrorism.
- **Biological and Chemical Terrorism:** Attempts to cause mass destruction through the use of chemical or biological agents.
- **Lone Wolf Terrorism:** In this form, an individual, influenced by a specific ideology, may carry out a violent attack without any direct organizational affiliation.
- The nature of terrorism is evolving rapidly in modern times. It is no longer confined solely to physical attacks but now also leverages digital networks and psychological manipulation.
- **Major Causes of Terrorism:** Terrorism is not the result of a single cause, but rather the cumulative effect of various social, economic, political, and ideological factors. Its primary causes include: political instability and proxy wars; religious fundamentalism and ideological extremism; economic inequality and unemployment; social marginalization and discontent; foreign interference; the misuse of technology and social media; and the radicalization of youth. The discontent and distorted ideologies arising from these circumstances often serve as the foundation for violent activities.

- **Major Terrorist Incidents in India:** The 1993 Bombay Bombings; the 2001 Attack on the Indian Parliament; the 2008 Mumbai Attacks; and the 2019 Pulwama Attack.

## India's Initiatives:

- **New Policy 'PRAHAAR' (2026):** On February 23, 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs launched India's first comprehensive national counter-terrorism policy and strategy, titled 'PRAHAAR' a framework centered on an intelligence-driven and 'whole-of-government' approach.
- **Zero Tolerance Policy:** On global platforms, India adheres to a policy of 'Zero Tolerance' towards terrorism.
- **National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008:** Constituted following the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the NIA investigates terrorism-related crimes across various states, thereby ensuring a centralized, specialized investigative mechanism.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:** This primary anti-terrorism legislation empowers the government to ban terrorist organizations, confiscate their assets, and designate individuals as terrorists.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Warship 'Sanghamitra'

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)

#### Why in News?

- On May 20, 2026, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, launched 'Sanghamitra' the first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) built for the Indian Navy.



#### Key Points:

- Introduction:** This is the first indigenously designed Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV – Yard 3039).

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- **Meaning of 'Sanghamitra':** Meaning 'Friend of Society,' this vessel has been named 'Sanghamitra' after the daughter of Emperor Ashoka. The ship's crest features a depiction of the Saptarishi (Big Dipper) constellation and a red-and-white lighthouse.
- **Name:** Yard 3039
- **Function:** Designed and constructed using indigenous technology, this warship will play a crucial role in maritime surveillance, search and rescue operations, protection of offshore assets, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and anti-piracy missions.
- **Features:** It will be approximately 113 meters long and 14.6 meters wide, with a displacement of 3,000 tons. The vessel can attain a maximum speed of 23 knots and possesses an endurance of up to 8,500 nautical miles at a speed of 14 knots.
- A total of 11 Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels are being constructed for the Indian Navy. These vessels are being built simultaneously at two shipyards: Goa Shipyard Limited (Goa) and GRSE (Kolkata).

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## Quantum Physics: A New Method of Quantum Measurement

(Source: DD-NEWS)

### Why in News?

- Scientists have discovered a phenomenon in quantum physics demonstrating that, at times, two particles prepared in opposite states can yield more information than particles prepared in identical states.
- Researchers believe that this discovery could aid in the future testing of quantum devices and help make quantum cryptography techniques more effective.





## Key Points:

- **Research:** Conducted by researchers from the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Balagarh Bijoy Krishna Mahavidyalaya, and the Indian Statistical Institute.

### A New Perspective on a Fundamental Limit of Quantum Physics:

- In quantum physics, it is not possible to know all the properties of a system simultaneously with complete accuracy. This limitation is known as Bohr's Principle of Complementarity. This principle states that certain quantum properties cannot be measured simultaneously with absolute precision.
- Famous examples of this include the trade-off between "path information" and "interference visibility" in the double-slit experiment, or the simultaneous measurement of non-commuting observables such as position and momentum.
- **Study on Parallel and Anti-parallel Spins:** These pairs were prepared in two distinct ways. In the first type, both spins were aligned in the same direction referred to as the parallel state whereas in the second type, the two spins were aligned in opposite directions relative to each other referred to as the anti-parallel state.
- The researchers found that anti-parallel spins are capable of making more accurate simultaneous predictions regarding three mutually incompatible spin components. Conversely, doing so is fundamentally impossible with parallel spins.
- **Conclusion:** This finding challenges the fundamental understanding of quantum theory. In classical physics, the measurement of multiple properties is often considered limited only by technical constraints; however, quantum systems impose their own intrinsic limitations.

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- **Study Linked to Heisenberg and Bohr's Principles:** This study is also connected to fundamental principles such as Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle and Bohr's Complementarity Principle. According to the research, if quantum states are prepared in a specific manner, certain limits can be surpassed in an unexpected way.
- This research also relates to the renowned quantum puzzle known as the 'Mean Kings Problem,' originally proposed by Yakir Aharonov and his collaborators.
- **Applications:** The counter-parallel configuration could prove useful in the more effective testing and analysis of quantum devices. It may play a significant role in the future development of reliable quantum technologies.
- Furthermore, this discovery could also be beneficial for quantum cryptography protocols, where it is essential to extract maximum information from limited quantum resources.

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## Skyroot Aerospace

(Source: DD-NEWS)

### Why in News?

- Space-tech firm Skyroot Aerospace has become the country's first space-tech startup unicorn after raising \$60 million (approximately ₹570 crore in Indian currency).



### Key Points:

- Skyroot's Valuation:** In the current funding round, Skyroot's valuation stood at \$1.1 billion nearly four times the company's valuation of \$519 million in 2023.
- Unicorn:** A startup is considered a "unicorn" whenever its valuation exceeds \$1 billion.
- The new capital will enable Skyroot to accelerate the launch schedule for Vikram-1, scale up production, and develop Vikram-2 (a 1-ton class launch vehicle powered by an advanced cryogenic stage).
- Skyroot Aerospace:** Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace is co-founded and led by CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana.

## New AI Model: Claude Mythos

(Source: DD-NEWS)

### Why in News?

- Claude Mythos is a new, state-of-the-art, and highly powerful AI model developed by the artificial intelligence (AI) company Anthropic.



### Key Points:

- **Introduction:** Claude Mythos is Anthropic's latest large language model. It possesses advanced coding, reasoning, and autonomous capabilities, making it a "general-purpose" model. Mythos excels at identifying security vulnerabilities.

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## Features:

1. According to Anthropic, Mythos has detected thousands of bugs across all major web browsers and operating systems including a bug found in OpenBSD (an operating system renowned for its security measures) that had gone unnoticed for 27 years.
2. Capable of identifying software vulnerabilities.
3. Proficient at discovering and exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities.

## Concerns:

1. The model can develop exploits without human assistance.
2. Even individuals with limited technical knowledge could potentially launch cyberattacks.
3. The threat to critical services such as healthcare, energy, transportation, and banking could increase.



## INDEXES AND REPORTS



### World Cities Report 2026

(Source: Hindustan Times)



#### Why in News?

- This UN-Habitat report has been released under the title "The Global Housing Crisis: Pathways to Action." The report highlights that issues related to housing affordability, widespread informality or unregulated housing units and escalating climate-related risks are interconnected challenges that exacerbate one another.



#### Key Points:

- **Scope of the Housing Crisis:** Approximately 3.4 billion people worldwide lack adequate housing facilities.
- **Informal Settlements:** About 1.1 billion people reside in slums or informal settlements, which lack basic urban services and infrastructure.
- **Climate-Related Hazards:** The report estimates that by 2040, 167 million homes could be destroyed due to climate-related hazards.
- The housing sector accounts for approximately 17–21% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Ineffective National Housing Policies:** Globally, the average housing price-to-income ratio rose from 9.5 in 2010 to 11.7 in 2023. This implies that the cost of a home can be as much as 11.7 times the annual income of an average family.
- In the context of India, this ratio was recorded at 14.3 in Mumbai and 10.1 in Delhi, respectively.

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## Key Recommendations Made in the Report

- **Comprehensive Affordability Strategies:** Strengthening land governance, expanding rental and non-market-based housing options, and simplifying regulatory processes.
- **Accessible Financing for Homeownership:** Priority in financing should be accorded to vulnerable and low-income groups, including informal sector workers and female-headed households.
- **Climate-Adaptive Policies:** Housing policies must curb exclusionary practices such as 'green gentrification' (the displacement of the poor in the name of environmental improvement) and trends involving the grabbing of green spaces.

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## Report on Ease of Doing Research & Development in India

(Source: NITI Aayog)

### Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released the "Report on Ease of Doing Research & Development in India." According to the report, India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) stands at approximately 0.65% of its GDP. This figure is lower compared to the United States (approx. 3.5%), China (approx. 2.4%), and the Republic of Korea (approx. 4.5%).

### Key Points:

- Furthermore, according to the Global Innovation Index 2025 report, the number of full-time equivalent researchers per million people in India is 262, whereas it is 4,821 in the US and 1,585 in China.

### Key Challenges Facing India's Research & Development (R&D) Ecosystem:

- **Inadequate Funding for R&D:** Not only is India's gross expenditure on R&D low, but it is also heavily reliant on public specifically government funding (approximately 64%). In contrast, in other major economies, 60% of the R&D budget is borne by the private sector.
- **Attracting Quality Human Resources:** Difficulties arise due to a lack of incentives for researchers to translate their patents into marketable products.
- **Practical Application and Commercialization of Technology:** Very few R&D institutions such as CSIR laboratories possess independent business divisions dedicated to promoting the practical application and commercialization of technologies.
- **R&D in State-Level Institutions:** Low funding for R&D and weak infrastructure constitute the primary challenges. Additionally, faculty members expend a significant amount of their time and energy on complying with regulations related to institutional affiliation.

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## Key Recommendations:

- Gross R&D expenditure should be increased to at least 2% of the GDP.
- An integrated fellowship system, named 'Vigyan Nidhi' (Science Fund), should be established to address delays in the funding and disbursement of fellowships.
- State-level RDI clusters should be constituted by integrating Higher Education Institutions, R&D institutions, MSMEs, PSUs, and the industry sector.
- Modeled after South Korea's STEPI and Japan's NISTEP initiatives, the National Institute of Science Policy and Governance (NISPG) could be established to address gaps related to policy, implementation, and monitoring.

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