

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 May 2026



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Unveiling of the Legislative Assembly Emblem and Naming of 13 Gates



Why in News?

- Recently, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary (Amrit Mahotsav) of the establishment of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Governor Haribhau Bagde and Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani unveiled a new emblem (logo) and named the 13 gates of the Assembly complex.



Key Points:

- Logo Motto:** "Rashtriya Dharmanishtha Vidhayika" (A Legislature Dedicated to Righteousness for the Nation).
- Assembly Building:** The Assembly building depicted in the emblem serves as the focal point of the hopes and aspirations of millions of citizens. The Ashoka Pillar, adorning the top, symbolizes Indian statecraft, truth, justice, and devotion to duty.

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- **Godawan (Great Indian Bustard) and Khejri:** The Godawan, featured in the logo, represents Rajasthan's cultural and natural identity, while the Khejri tree conveys a message of the tradition of sacrifice, patience, and public welfare.
- **Camel:** The camel symbolizes the resilience, spirit of struggle, and inspiration for continuous progress inherent to the 'Marudhara' (the land of the desert).
- **Designer of the Emblem:** Sher Singh.

Naming of the 13 Gates:

Main Directional Entrances (4 Major Gates):

1. **Kartavya Dwar (Northern Gate – Brass):** This gate is utilized for the movement of the Governor, the Assembly Speaker, the Chief Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition.
- **Shaurya Dwar:** The Northern Gate (Temple side), through which dignitaries arrive.
2. **Shakti Dwar (Southern Gate):** This is the designated main entrance for the general public.
3. **Sushasan Dwar (Western Gate):** This gate is primarily intended for the entry of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
4. **Sankalp Dwar (Eastern Gate):** This gate is used by officials and administrative staff.


Regional and Cultural Names (Other Gates):

- **Mewar Dwar:** A symbol of national pride, valor, and eternal sacrifice.
- **Marwar Dwar:** An embodiment of the resilience and courage of the 'Marudhara' region.
- **Brij Dwar:** A hub of devotional spirit and cultural arts.
- **Shekhawati Gate:** A symbol of art, murals, and entrepreneurship.
- **Hadoti Gate:** An emblem of literature, art, and a unique architectural tradition.
- **Dhundhar Gate:** The central hub of political energy and cultural heritage.
- **Wagad Gate:** A symbol of natural beauty and a rich tribal consciousness.
- **Merwara Gate:** A tribute to Rajasthan's sacred Saint and Sufi traditions.

500 e-Buses for Public Transport in the State by 2026

Why in News?

- Under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme and schemes approved at the state level, 500 e-Buses will be made available for public transport in the state by August 2026.



PM-e Bus Sewa

Cabinet nod to "PM-EBus Sewa" for augmenting city bus operation by **10,000 e-buses**

- Estimated cost of Rs.57,613 crore, of which Rs.20,000 crore to be provided by the Central government
- Scheme to cover cities of 3 lakh and above population

Key Points:

- To facilitate the operation of these buses, 9 state-of-the-art e-bus depots are being constructed across the state.
- The "PM-eBus Sewa Scheme" was approved by the Union Cabinet on August 16, 2023, and was launched on the very same day.
- Main Objective of the Scheme:** To operate 10,000 electric buses across various cities of the country through a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model.
- Purpose:** To strengthen urban public transport and reduce pollution levels.
- Scope:** Bus operations in 169 cities with a population of 300,000 or more, as per the 2011 Census.

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- **Related Schemes:** Additionally, to promote electric buses, schemes such as PM e-DRIVE and PM e-Bus Sewa-PSM have also been notified recently.

Other Important Points:

Operation of e-Buses in 08 Major Cities of Rajasthan:

- With the objective of realizing a clean, modern, and sustainable urban transport system in Rajasthan, the State Government, in February 2026, granted approval for the operation of a total of 675 electric buses across 08 major cities of the state (Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Alwar, and Ajmer) under the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme.
- According to the city-wise allocation, Jaipur will receive 150 e-Buses; Jodhpur, 100; Ajmer, 100; Kota, 100; Bikaner, 75; Alwar, 50; Bhilwara, 50; and Udaipur, 50.

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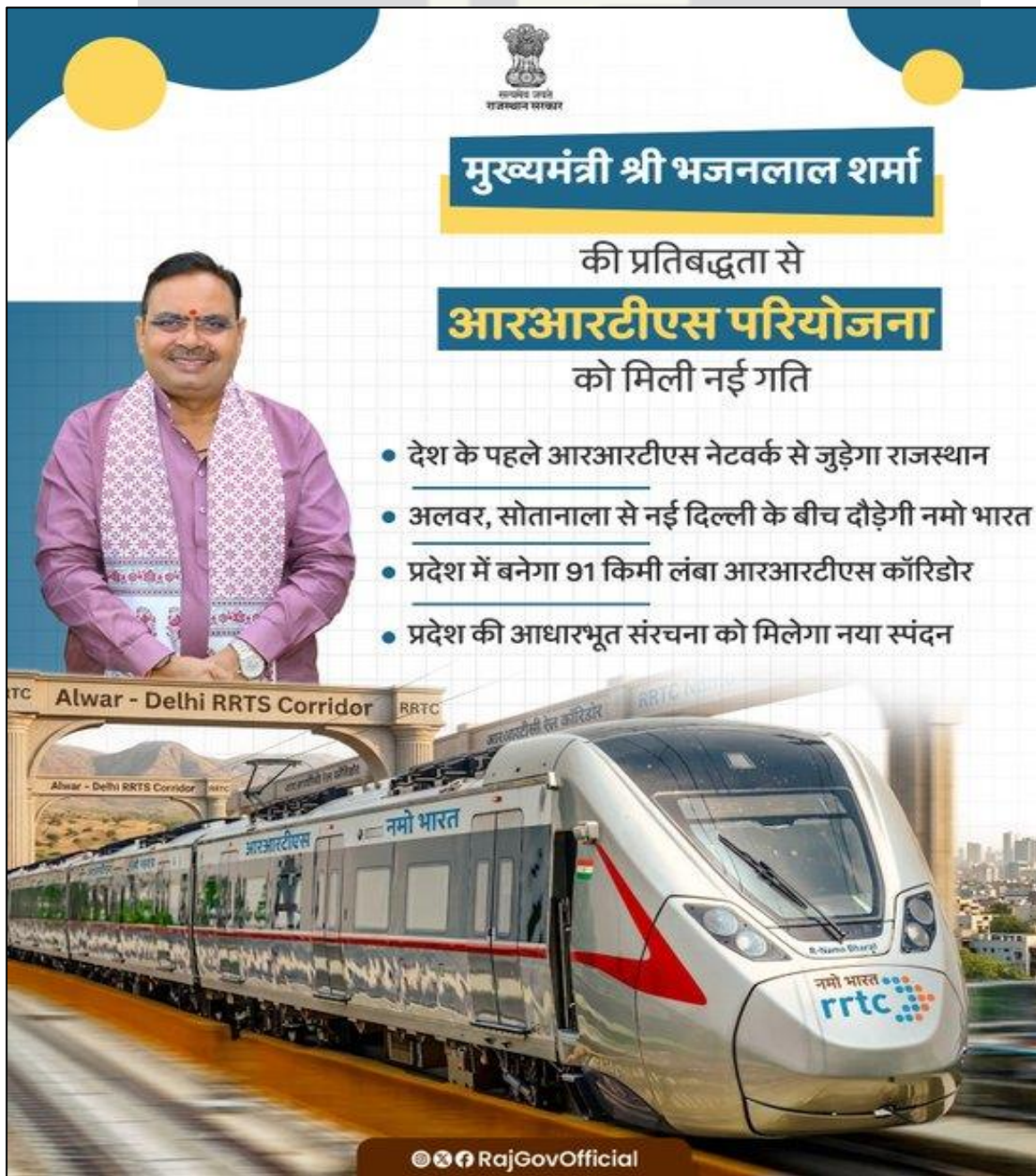
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Rajasthan to Connect with the Country's First RRTS Network



Why in News?

- Rajasthan is set to join the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) network; under this new initiative, the 'Namo Bharat' train will operate within the state via the Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar corridor.



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Key Points:

- Under the 'Integrated Transport Plan' formulated for the National Capital Region (NCR), efforts are underway to connect the region's major cities through a modern and high-speed transportation system.
- In the first phase, the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Gurugram-SNB-Alwar, and Delhi-Panipat-Karnal corridors are being developed as 'Namo Bharat Corridors.' Among these, the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor has already been inaugurated.
- **RRTS Project in Rajasthan:** Under the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project the 'Namo Bharat' network, spanning 196 kilometers—featuring 22 major stations—has been proposed to significantly bolster regional connectivity. Within Rajasthan, this project will cover a total distance of 91 kilometers and includes proposals for 6 stations. This network will be equipped with advanced features, such as a high operational speed of 160 kilometers per hour.
- The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) represents a state-of-the-art model of public transportation, developed specifically to address the unique requirements of the NCR region.
- Its trains operate at speeds approximately three times faster than those of a metro system. While a metro primarily serves as a mode of transport within a single city, the RRTS functions to connect neighboring cities in a fast, safe, and convenient manner.

Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium Scheme



Why in News?

- To help the state's talented athletes reach the Olympic stage, the 'Rajasthan Target Olympic Podium (RTOP) Scheme' has been launched in the state, modeled after the Central Government's initiative.

The poster features the Government of Rajasthan logo at the top center. The main headline in Hindi reads 'खेलों के साथ भी खेलों के बाद भी' (Along with sports, also after sports). A circular portrait of a man in an orange shirt and patterned shawl is on the right. Below the headline are three bullet points in Hindi: 'खिलाड़ियों के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए संकल्पबद्ध राज्य सरकार' (State government determined for the holistic development of athletes), '186 पदक विजेताओं को सरकारी सेवाओं में मिली 'आउट ऑफ टर्न' नियुक्तियाँ' (186 medalists received 'Out of Turn' appointments in government services), and '2028 के ओलंपिक खेलों के लिए राजस्थान हो रहा तैयार' (Rajasthan is getting ready for the 2028 Olympic games). At the bottom, there are colorful silhouettes of athletes in various sports. The footer includes social media icons and the text 'RajGovOfficial'.



Key Points:

- The objective of this scheme is to select and groom 50 talented young athletes from Rajasthan for the 2028 Olympic Games, and to provide these selected athletes with world-class coaches, training, kits, and other necessary support.
 - **Scheme Tagline:** 'With sports, and beyond sports.'
 - Under this scheme, selected athletes will receive a monthly 'out-of-pocket' allowance of ₹25,000.
 - This scheme is designed for athletes who are not currently availing the benefits of the Central Government's 'Target Olympic Podium' (TOP) Scheme. Within this scheme, 20 percent of the seats have been reserved for para-athletes.
 - To ensure the transparent operation of the scheme and to monitor the athletes' performance, the 'Rajasthan Mission Olympic Committee' and the 'State Talent Search and Development Committee' have been constituted.
- Rajasthan Centre of Excellence: Jaipur**
- To provide international-standard facilities to the selected athletes, a 'Rajasthan Centre of Excellence' will also be established in Jaipur.
- Safety Net through Sports Life Insurance Scheme:**
- Prioritizing the safety of the athletes' lives and health, the government has implemented a Sports Life Insurance Scheme.
 - Under this scheme, international medal winners are being provided with accident and life insurance coverage of up to ₹25 lakh.
 - Additionally, financial assistance is also being provided to athletes to purchase state-of-the-art sports equipment.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Revenue Village 'Sindoor Nagar'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Inspired by 'Operation Sindoor', a newly constituted revenue village in the Pachpadra Tehsil of Balotra district has been named 'Sindoor Nagar'.■ The proposal to name the village as 'Sindoor Nagar' was put forward with the objective of honoring brave soldiers and giving a lasting identity to the spirit of national consciousness.
2.	<p>State's First Plant for Manufacturing Soap and Shampoo from Goat Milk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The state's first plant for manufacturing soap and shampoo from goat milk will be established in Sojat, located in the Pali district.■ This project has been named the 'Rajasakhi Goat Milk Soap and Shampoo Project', which is primarily focused on rural women's empowerment and livelihood enhancement.■ This plant is being set up by the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) under the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee District Upliftment Program.
3.	<p>Selection of Two Players from Rajasthan for the 'Senior Asian Taekwondo Championship'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan's Taekwondo players, Tulip Ojha and Manjeet Chaudhary, have been selected for the Indian team participating in the Senior Asian Taekwondo Championship.■ This competition will be held in the city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.■ Tulip Ojha (Jaipur): In the Under-46 kg weight category.■ Manjeet Chaudhary (Alwar): In the Under-87 kg weight category.



Bhojshala

(Source: AIR)



Why in News?

- The Madhya Pradesh High Court has declared the Bhojshala complex, located in the Dhar district, a Hindu temple.



Key Points:

The Bhojshala Complex

- Raja Bhoj, the greatest ruler of the Parmar dynasty, established the famous Bhojshala in Dhar between approximately 1000 and 1055 AD; it served as a prominent center of learning dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.
- Later, during the period of Muslim rule, this structure was converted into the Kamal Maula Mosque.
- It functioned as a major college and a center for Sanskrit education. Even today, the mosque retains carved pillars, ceilings, and stone inscriptions belonging to the original Bhojshala.
- Notable inscriptions include Sanskrit grammar tables, hymns in praise of Lord Vishnu, eulogies of the Parmar kings, and the Sanskrit play Karpūramañjarī, authored by Madan during the reign of Arjunavarma Deva.

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11th Sanda World Cup, 2026

(Source: AIR and IWUF)

Why in News?

- The Indian Wushu team delivered a stellar performance at the 11th Sanda World Cup, 2026 held in Macau winning two gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.



Key Points:

- **Introduction:** Competitive Wushu is broadly categorized into two main disciplines: Taolu and Sanda. Taolu is a blend of gymnastics and martial arts, wherein competitors are scored based on their movements, whereas Sanda is a modern, unarmed combat discipline.
- **The Event:** Organized by the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) and hosted by the Wushu General Association of Macau, the 11th Sanda World Cup was held from May 13 to May 15, 2026, at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion in Macau, China.

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- This marked the first time that the world's highest-level Wushu Sanda competition was hosted in Macau, China.
- **Participants:** The event saw the participation of 110 competitors from 21 countries and regions. Approximately 60 of these athletes competed across 17 weight categories (11 for men and 6 for women), with a total of 17 gold medals awarded.
- **Indian Wushu Team:** A total of 5 medals two gold, one silver, and two bronze (secured by a 6-member squad).
- **2 Gold Medals:**
- **Shivani:** Competing in the women's 75 kg category, Shivani an athlete representing the Border Security Force (BSF) won the gold medal by defeating her Russian opponent.
- **Aparna Dahiya:** In the women's 52 kg weight category, Aparna defeated the reigning world champion Phuong Nga Ngo from Vietnam in straight rounds during the final match.
- This marked India's first gold medal in the tournament, which had commenced on May 12. Prior to this, Aparna had lost to this same opponent in the final of the World Wushu Championships held in Brazil in September 2025.
- **Silver Medal:** In the 48 kg category, Indian Air Force athlete Kushal Kumar won a silver medal while competing against a Chinese opponent.
- **2 Bronze Medals:** Karina Kaushik of the SSB and Sagar Dhaiya of the ITBP secured bronze medals, bringing India's total medal tally to five.

Other Key Points:

International Wushu Federation

- Established on October 3, 1990, the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) is the international federation governing all forms of Wushu worldwide.
- Currently, the IWUF has 162 national/regional members spread across five continents.
- The IWUF is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the sole global governing authority for all forms of Wushu, and it is also a member of both ARISF and SportAccord.
- **Current President:** Gao Zhidan

Squadron Leader Sanya

(Source: AIR)

Why in News?

- Squadron Leader Sanya has become the first female officer to achieve the prestigious 'Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor' qualification.



Key Points:

- **Qualified Flying Instructor:** This refers to a pilot authorized to impart training in aircraft flying. To attain this status, pilots must undergo rigorous training and examinations. The QFI course spans 22 weeks and involves 10 distinct phases of flying training. Additionally, it includes over 200 hours of ground training. Within the IAF, instructors are categorized into Categories C, B, and A, with Cat-A representing the highest rating.
- **Shivangi Singh:** Prior to this, in October 2025, Rafale fighter pilot Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh became the first Indian female fighter pilot to earn the QFI badge.

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International Day for Women in Maritime, 2026

(Source: AIR and IMO)

Why in News?

- On May 18, 2026, in London, to mark the 2026 International Day for Women in Maritime, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized an event centered on the theme: "From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality for Maritime Excellence."



Key Points:

- Date:** May 18, 2026
- 2026 Theme:** "From Policy to Practice: Empowering Maritime Excellence."
- Gender Equality Awards Ceremony:** Professor Momoko Kitada, nominated by Japan, was conferred with the IMO Gender Equality Award, 2026.
- Objectives:** To promote the recruitment, retention, and sustainable employment of women in the maritime sector; to raise the profile of women in the maritime field; to reinforce the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality); and to support ongoing efforts aimed at addressing the existing gender imbalance within the maritime sector.

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World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD), 2026

(Source: AIR and UN)



विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय
विधि कार्य विभाग

विश्व दूरसंचार एवं सूचना समाज दिवस



17 मई

जब सूचना का प्रवाह होता है, तो प्रगति अपने आप होती है।

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Key Points:

- **Introduction:** This day focuses on strengthening secure and resilient telecommunication infrastructure, such as submarine cables, satellites, and terrestrial data networks.
- **Date:** May 17, 2026
- **Background:** The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) the United Nations' specialized agency for digital technologies was established in Paris on May 17, 1865.
- **Objective:** The objective of this day is to promote the positive use of the Internet and related technologies.
- **2026 Theme:** “Digital Lifelines: Strengthening Resilience in a Connected World.”

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World Hypertension Day, 2026

(Source: AIR and WHO)

विश्व उच्च रक्तचाप दिवस

आइए इस दिवस पर **रक्तचाप** के
घातक प्रभावों के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करें



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Key Points:

- **Date:** May 17, 2026
- **Objective:** To promote global awareness, prevention, detection, and control of hypertension.
- **Theme/Subject for 2026:** “Controlling Hypertension Together: check your blood pressure regularly, defeat the silent killer.”
- **Hypertension:** This is a serious condition in which the blood pressure in the arteries remains consistently high. It is also referred to as the "silent killer" because its early symptoms often go unnoticed.
- It significantly increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, kidney disease, and premature death.

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National Dengue Day, 2026

(Source: AIR and WHO)



NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

16th May

Community Participation for Dengue Control:
Check, Clean and Cover

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Key Points:

- **Date:** May 16, 2026
- **Objective:** To raise awareness about dengue and to strengthen preventive measures against it prior to the monsoon season.

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- **Theme for 2026:** “Community Participation for Dengue Control: Check, Clean, and Cover”

Dengue:

- **Nickname:** Breakbone fever
- **Infection:** Dengue is a viral infection caused by the dengue virus (DENV).
- **Vector:** Aedes aegypti mosquito.
- **Affected Regions:** Dengue is found in tropical and subtropical climates worldwide, predominantly in urban and semi-urban areas.
- **Diagnostic Tests:** Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs), Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISAs), and Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs).

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Uganda's New President

(Source: AIR)

Why in News?

- Recently, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni took the oath for his seventh term following a historic victory in the elections held in January 2026.



Key Points:

- Election Results:** Museveni secured over 71 percent of the votes, while opposition leader Bobi Wine received 25 percent.
- President Museveni has held the presidency for the past 40 years.
- Oath-taking:** Museveni took the oath of office at a ceremony held at the Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

Other Important Points:

Uganda:



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- **Name:** The name Uganda is derived from the Buganda Kingdom.
- **Location:** The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country situated in East Africa.
- **Borders:** It shares its borders with Kenya to the east, Sudan to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, Rwanda to the southwest, and Tanzania to the south.
- **Capital:** Kampala
- The southern part of the country encompasses a large section of Lake Victoria, which defines its borders with Kenya and Tanzania.
- One-third of the country's population lives below the international poverty line.

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Latvian Prime Minister Resigns (Evika Silīņa)

(Source: AIR)



Key Points:

- Recently, Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silīņa announced her resignation.
- **President:** Edgars Rinkēvičs
- Latvia is a Baltic nation in Europe, situated on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.
- **Capital:** Riga

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Kami Rita Sherpa

(Source: AIR)



📌 Key Points:

- Nepalese mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa has scaled Mount Everest for the 32nd time.
- 56-year-old Kami Rita is the Sherpa with the highest number of ascents of Mount Everest.
- **Note:** Meanwhile, Lhakpa Sherpa known as the ‘Queen of the Mountains’ has also maintained her record as the first Nepali woman to successfully scale Mount Everest for the 11th consecutive time.

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Geography and Geology

Demographic Transition

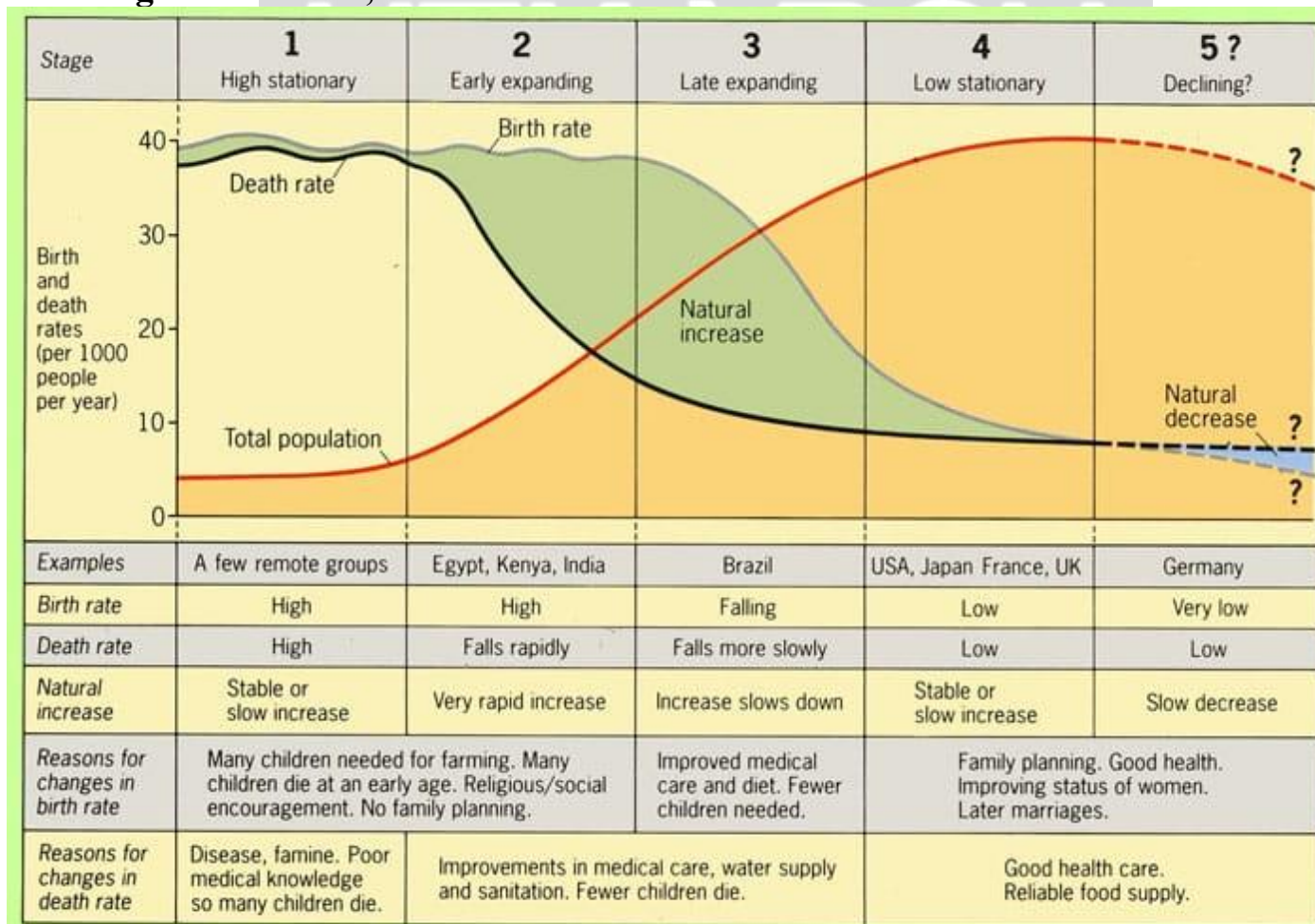
(Source: Live Mint)

Why in News?

- Recently, taking the demographic transition into consideration, the Government of Andhra Pradesh announced financial incentives for the birth of a third and fourth child.

Key Points:

- India's replacement fertility rate stands at 2.1, whereas in the South Indian states, this rate is 1.5 (below the replacement level).
- The Replacement Rate denotes the average number of children a woman must bear in order to replace herself and her partner within the population essentially, to maintain their proportional share. This is encapsulated by the slogan: 'Hum Do, Hamare Do'.



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The Theory of Demographic Transition (DTT)

- This theory describes the shift or transition within a population's demographics from a stage characterized by high fertility rates and high mortality rates to a stage characterized by low fertility rates and low mortality rates.
- The theory explains how a country's demographic structure changes in tandem with its economic development.
- The term 'Theory of Demographic Transition' was first coined by Warren S. Thompson (1929) and subsequently elaborated upon by Frank W. Notestein (1945).

Impacts of Demographic Transition on India

- **Inter-State Variations:** States with a high proportion of young population (such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) are currently positioned to reap the benefits of a 'demographic dividend.'
- **Rising Proportion of Dependent Population:** By the year 2050, one in every five Indians is projected to be aged 60 years or older. This figure is estimated to rise from the current level of approximately 149 million to reach 347 million.
- **Burden on the Exchequer:** In states with a larger elderly population, the number of taxpayers will gradually decline, while expenditure on pensions and healthcare services will continue to rise. This scenario will result in an increased fiscal burden due to higher levels of debt and interest liabilities.
- **Political Impact:** Changes in delimitation and political representation may occur, wherein states with larger populations are likely to receive greater representation in Parliament.

Early Arrival of the Southwest Monsoon

(Source: Down To Earth)

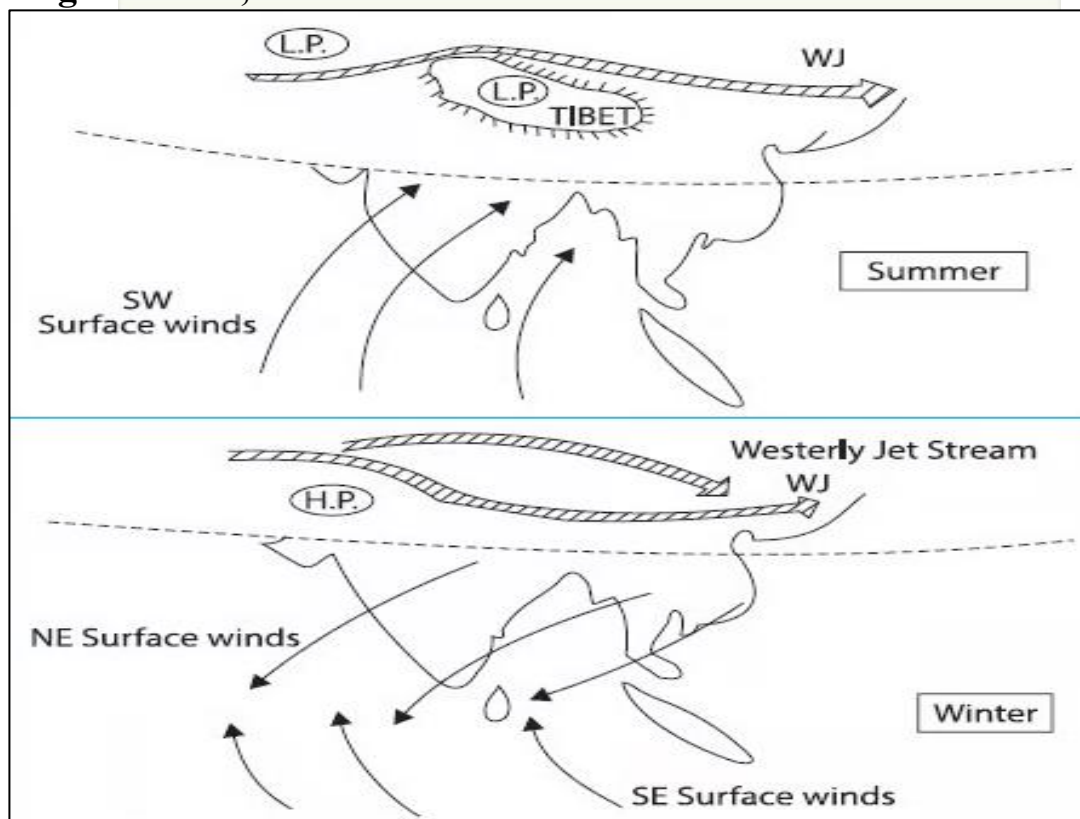
Why in News?

- Recently, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the Southwest Monsoon is likely to arrive in Kerala earlier than its normal onset date of June 1st.

Key Points:

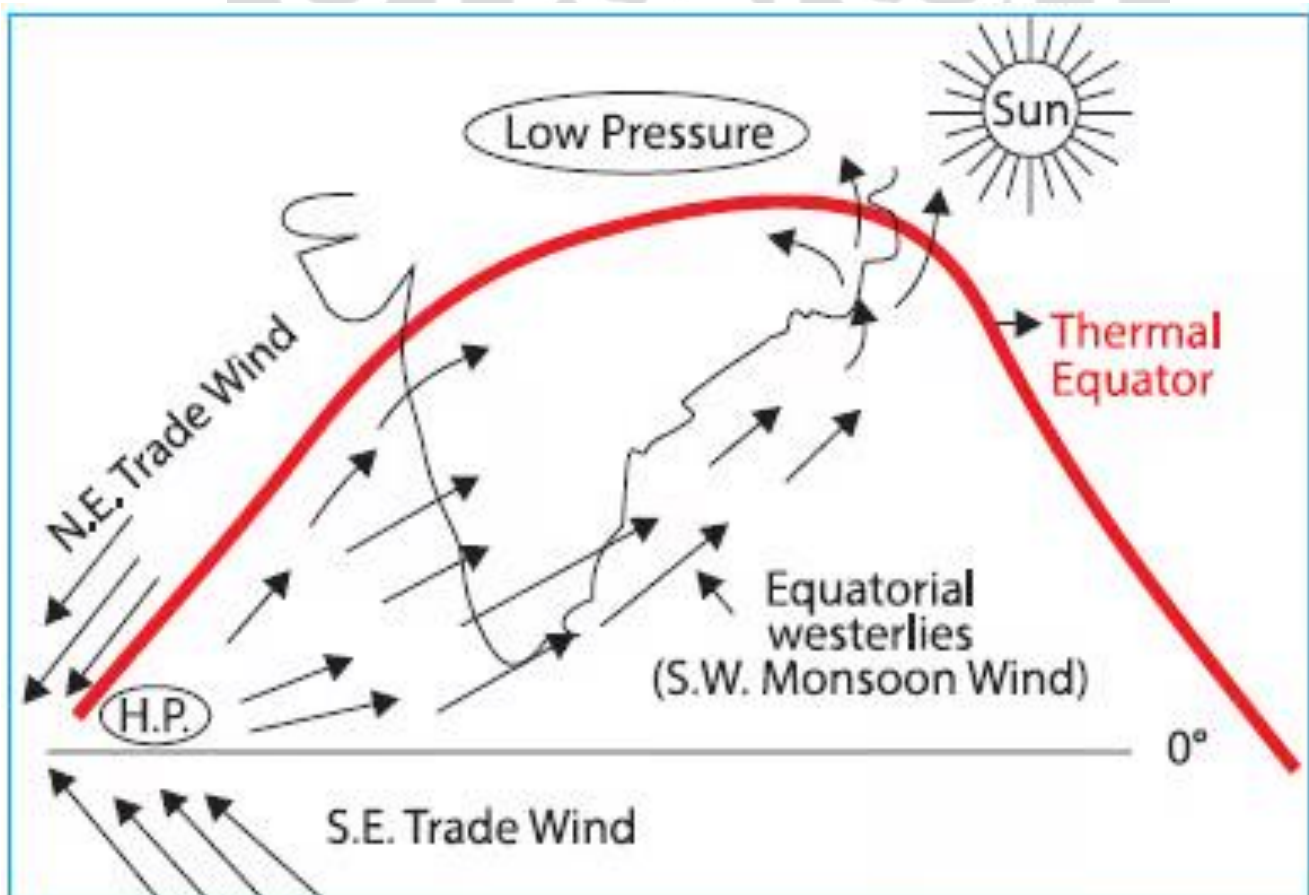
The Monsoon in India

- The term 'Monsoon' refers to the seasonal reversal of winds caused by the differential heating and cooling of land and sea.
- Monsoon rains in India constitute the backbone of the economy and the climatic system.
- Two major monsoon systems are observed in India:
 - Southwest Monsoon (June–September):** The primary rainy season, contributing approximately 75% of the annual rainfall.
 - Northeast Monsoon (October–December):** Primarily significant for Tamil Nadu and southeastern India.
- The Southwest Monsoon is crucial for agriculture, reservoirs, hydroelectric power generation, and rural livelihoods.



Formation of the Southwest Monsoon

- **Differential Heating:** The Indian landmass heats up faster than the surrounding oceans, leading to the formation of a low-pressure area over north-western India during the summer months.
- **Shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ):** The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone shifts northward, thereby attracting moisture-laden winds from the Indian Ocean.
- **Winds Crossing the Equator:** The southeast trade winds cross the equator and, due to the Coriolis force, get deflected and transform into southwesterly winds.
- **Role of the Jet Stream and the Tibetan Plateau:** The heating of the Tibetan Plateau and changes in the subtropical jet stream strengthen the monsoon circulation.



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Branches of the Southwest Monsoon

- **Arabian Sea Branch:** This branch strikes the Western Ghats first and causes heavy rainfall along the western coast. It then advances towards central and northern India.
- **Bay of Bengal Branch:** This branch advances towards Northeastern India and the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Upon encountering the Himalayas, it is deflected westward across Northern India.

El Niño and Its Impact on the Indian Monsoon

- El Niño refers to an abnormal rise in sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- This weakens the monsoon circulation and often results in lower-than-normal rainfall in India.
- According to NOAA, there is an 82% probability of El Niño developing during the May-July period.
- The IMD has projected seasonal rainfall at 92% of the Long Period Average (LPA), indicating lower-than-normal precipitation.
- A strong El Niño can reduce agricultural productivity, trigger drought-like conditions, impact groundwater levels and reservoirs, and exacerbate food inflation and rural distress.

Significance of the Indian Monsoon

- **Agricultural Significance:** Approximately 60% of India's farmers rely on rainfall for sowing and irrigation.
- **Economic Significance:** The monsoon influences GDP growth, food production, rural demand, and inflation.
- **Water Security:** It replenishes rivers, groundwater, and reservoirs.
- **Ecological Significance:** It plays a vital role in sustaining forests, biodiversity, and the hydrological balance.

‘Coffee of Nagaland’ Mission

(Source: PIB)

Why in News?

- On May 18, 2026, the Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jyotiraditya Scindia, and the Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, launched the cluster-based ‘Coffee of Nagaland’ (‘Coffee Value Chain Development Mission’) for the state of Nagaland.



Key Points:

- Launch Date:** May 18, 2026
- Outlay:** ₹175 Crore.
- Ministry:** Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and the Government of Nagaland.

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- **Objective of the Initiative:** To address critical gaps existing within the coffee value chain by integrating plantation development, post-harvest processing, branding, marketing, traceability (origin tracking), exports, tourism, and capacity building.
- This initiative aims to promote "Nagaland's Coffee" under the banner of 'Brand North East'.
- The Department of Land Resources, Government of Nagaland in collaboration with the Coffee Board of India has set a target to bring 50,000 hectares of land under coffee cultivation in the state by the year 2030.
- **Cluster-based Approach (Pilot Project):** This mission has been designed based on a cluster-based approach, under which two pilot coffee clusters have been identified:
 1. Tuophema village in Kohima district for 'Arabica' coffee.
 2. Ghothovi village in Niuland district for 'Robusta' coffee.

Other Important Points:

Coffee Production in India:

- **Origins:** It is said that India's journey with coffee began around 1600 AD, when the Sufi saint Baba Budan planted seven coffee seeds brought from the Port of Mocha in Yemen in the Baba Budan Giri hills of Chikmagalur, Karnataka.
- **Global Coffee Production:** India ranks 7th in global coffee production, contributing 3.5 percent to the total; the annual output stands at 360,000 tonnes, 70 percent of which is exported to 128 countries.
- **Coffee Growing Regions in India:** Coffee cultivation areas in India are distributed across 13 distinct agro-climatic zones, which are broadly categorized into three major groups:

1. **Traditional Areas:** Comprising Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
2. **Non-traditional Areas:** Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
3. **North-Eastern Areas:** Including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

- **Major Producing States:** Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu account for 96% of India's coffee production, with Karnataka leading the pack with an estimated output of 280,275 metric tonnes (2025-26).
- **Coffee Producing Regions:** Anamalai (Tamil Nadu), Araku Valley (Andhra Pradesh), Bababudangiri (Karnataka), Chikmagalur (Karnataka), Coorg (Karnataka), Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu), Shevaroy (Tamil Nadu), Travancore (Kerala), and Wayanad (Kerala).
- **Coffee Exports:** In the fiscal year 2024-25, coffee exports reached a record high of US\$ 1.8 billion a 40 percent increase over the previous year; among coffee-producing nations, India ranks as the 5th largest coffee exporter.
- **Trade Agreements:** Trade pacts such as the India-UK CETA and the India-EFTA TEPA facilitate duty-free access to markets in the UK, Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland.
- **GST Reduction:** The reduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on instant coffee from 18 percent to 5 percent is expected to result in an 11–12 percent drop in prices, thereby boosting domestic demand and expanding market reach.
- The Western Ghats one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots and the Eastern Ghats provide favorable conditions for this, where Arabica is cultivated in cool, high-altitude regions, and Robusta in warm, humid areas.

Dukono Volcano

(Source: AIR)



Why in News?

- Recently, the Dukono volcano, located in Indonesia's North Maluku province, erupted, spewing ash up to 5,000 meters above its summit.



Key Points:

- The country's Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation reported that a Level 2 alert the second-highest alert level has currently been issued for this 1,387-meter-high volcano.
- Location:** Halmahera Island, North Maluku, Indonesia
- Type:** Active Stratovolcano
- It is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, a region prone to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

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Economic Developments



Knowledge-Based Economy

(Source: PIB)



Why in News?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released a proposed framework to measure the contribution of India's 'Knowledge-Based Economy' to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This framework seeks to quantify knowledge-based contributions across the domains of capital, labor, innovation, and digital sectors.



Key Points:

Knowledge-Based Economy

- **Definition:** It is a system of consumption and production that places greater emphasis on the utilization of human capital—such as information, skills, technical expertise, and intellectual property—compared to physical resources and natural assets.

Types of Knowledge:

- **Codified Knowledge:** Information that can be readily documented and shared via digital mediums (e.g., "what it is" and "why it is").
- **Tacit Knowledge:** Skills and capabilities derived from experience that are difficult to articulate in writing or convey to others (e.g., "how to do it" and "through whom to do it").

Significance of a Knowledge-Based Economy:

- **Driven by Increasing Returns:** It generates consistently growing economic benefits through the diffusion of innovation, repetitive application, and sustained long-term economic growth.

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Daily Current Affairs

Date : 19 May 2026



- **Shift in Value Creation:** It commercializes science and innovation through Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), such as patents and copyrights. In leading OECD nations, knowledge-based activities contribute over 50% to the GDP.
- **High-Skilled Employment:** It generates high-paying employment opportunities and drives up the demand for skilled knowledge workers.
- **National Innovation System:** It is anchored in a dynamic network connecting educational institutions, the government, and industries, thereby fostering mutual learning and the diffusion of innovation.
- **Examples of a Knowledge-Based Economy:** The Digital India initiative, Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), AYUSH, GI Tags, etc.

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Jaggery

(Source: PIB)



Why in News?

- India accounts for over 70 percent of global jaggery production. Consequently, India is the world's largest producer of jaggery.



Key Points:

Jaggery

- Jaggery is considered a "superfood"—a natural and nutrient-rich alternative to refined sugar.
- Jaggery is produced by concentrating sugarcane juice without undergoing any chemical refining processes. As a result, essential minerals and micronutrients are preserved within it.
- Minerals Present:** It contains nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus, sodium, iron, zinc, copper, and manganese.
- Benefits:** It is rich in energy, aids in the treatment of anemia, boosts immunity, helps treat throat and lung infections, and assists in digestion.
- Production:** Uttar Pradesh contributes 48.5 percent to the total production of jaggery. It is followed by Maharashtra (24.1 percent) and Karnataka (10.5 percent).



Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

(Source: News on AIR)



Why in News?

- India has rejected the decision of the Court of Arbitration regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). India has never recognized the constitution of the Court of Arbitration. Furthermore, India has currently suspended the Indus Waters Treaty.



Key Points:

Court of Arbitration (CoA)

- This is a five-member arbitration panel. It was constituted in 2023 at the request of Pakistan. In this forum, Pakistan challenged the design of India's Kishanganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects.

- **India's Stance:** India refused to participate in its proceedings, arguing that this dispute falls under the jurisdiction of a 'Neutral Expert' appointed by the World Bank.

Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- **Introduction:** This treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in 1960. The World Bank played the role of a mediator in this process. Its objective was to determine the water distribution of the Indus River and its tributaries.
- **Scope of the Treaty:** This treaty applies to the main rivers of the Indus Basin. These rivers are: the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi (Eastern Rivers); and the Jhelum, Chenab, and Indus (Western Rivers).
- According to the treaty, the entire water of the Eastern Rivers was allocated to India for unrestricted use. Conversely, India bears the obligation to let the waters of the Western Rivers flow, barring only domestic use, non-consumptive use, and other uses permitted under the treaty.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- **Phase 1 – Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):** This body comprises one Commissioner from each country. Its meetings are held annually, alternating between the two countries.
- **Phase 2 – Neutral Expert:** This individual is appointed by the World Bank. Their decisions are binding in nature.
- **Step 3 – Court of Arbitration:** It is constituted upon the mutual consent of the parties to the treaty, or at the request of any party.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Amur Falcon

(Source: News on AIR)

Why in News?

- The Union Environment Minister highlighted the return of a satellite-tagged Amur Falcon as part of its migratory journey. This showcases the successful community-led conservation efforts in Manipur.



Key Points:

Key Features

- The Amur Falcon is locally known as 'Akhuai Puina' in Manipur.
- **Migratory Bird of Prey:** These birds travel from their breeding grounds in Russia and China (Far East Asia) all the way to Southern Africa, passing through India.

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Daily Current Affairs

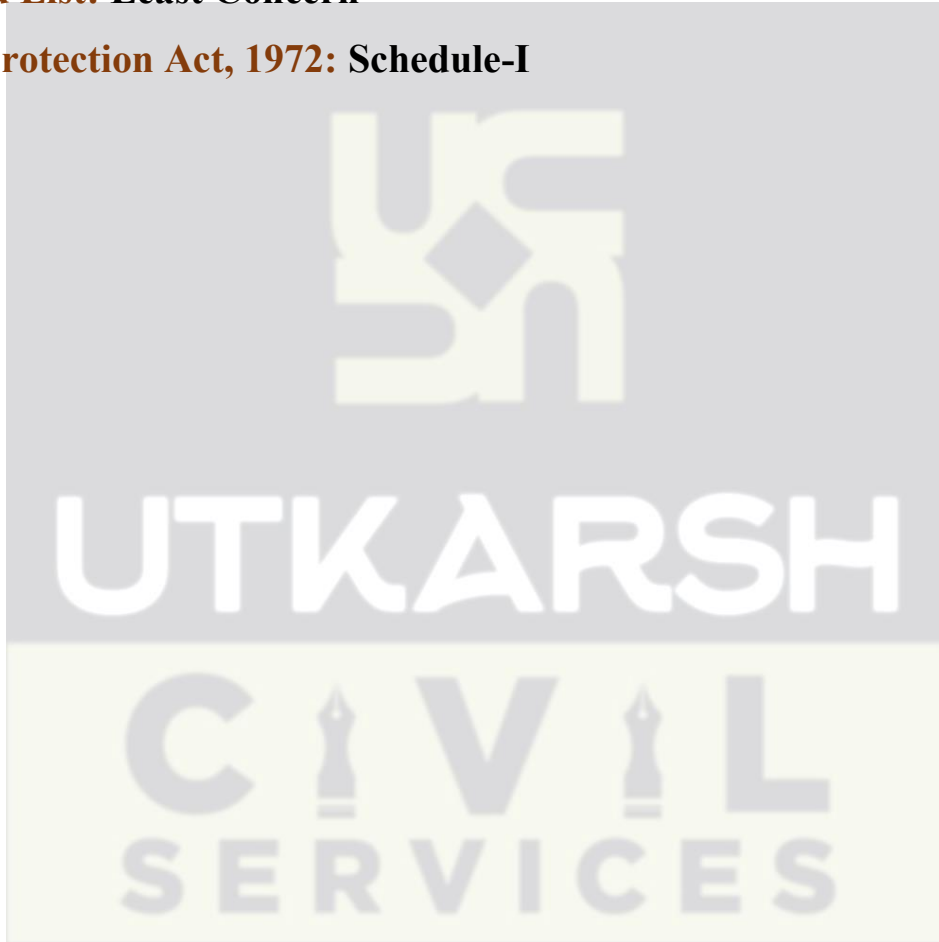
Date : 19 May 2026



- The 22,000 km journey constitutes the longest trans-oceanic migration undertaken by any bird of prey.
- It passes through the states of Manipur and Nagaland.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule-I



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Saranda Forest

(SOURCE: Indian Express)

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court directed the Jharkhand government to notify the ecologically significant Saranda Forest as a wildlife sanctuary, amidst concerns regarding mining, elephant habitats, and the conservation of the Sal forest region.



Key Points:

Saranda Forest

- It is Asia's largest Sal forest. It is located in Jharkhand.
- The Sal tree is a type of moist deciduous tree.
- Saranda means the "Land of Seven Hundred Hills."
- **Fauna:** It is a habitat for flying lizards and endangered species of elephants.
- **Flora:** Sal, Kusum, mushrooms, Mahua, etc.
- Approximately 80% of the human population in this region belongs to the Ho, Munda, Oraon, and certain primitive tribal communities.

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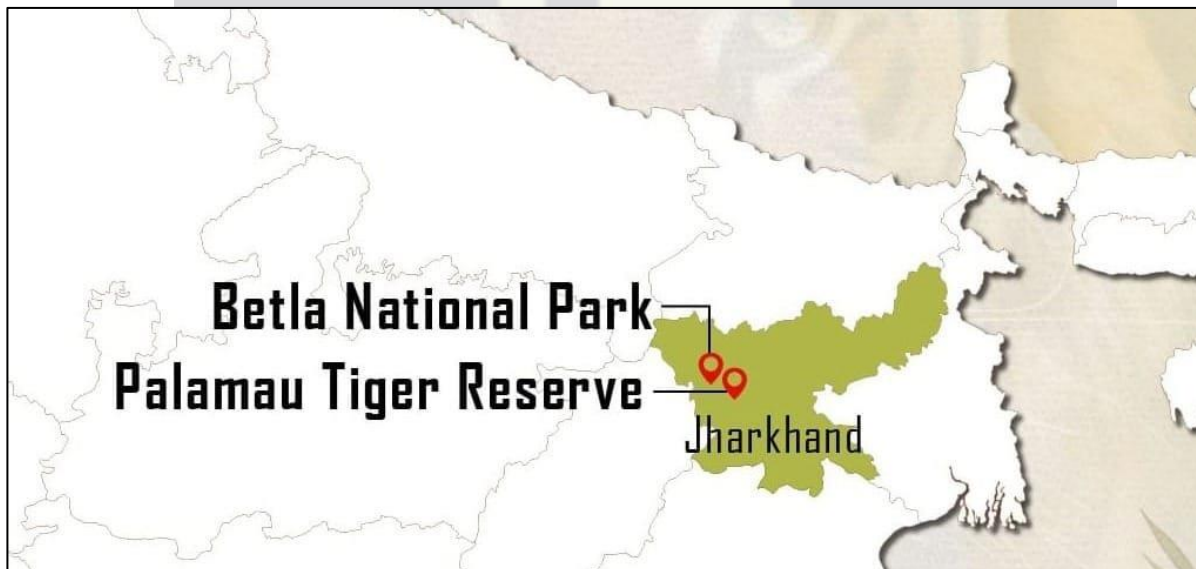
Palamu Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand

(Source: NIE)



Why in News?

- India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered research center dedicated to human-elephant conflict will be established at the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand.



Key Points:

- Approximately 15 acres of land within the reserve have been selected for this purpose.
- The proposed center will conduct an in-depth analysis of data related to human-elephant conflicts and generate solution-oriented reports to assist in mitigating such incidents.

Palamu Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand:

- Location:** Chotanagpur Plateau region.
- It was established in 1974 under Project Tiger.
- It is the world's first sanctuary where a tiger census was conducted based on counting their footprints.

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🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

Ebola

(Source: Economic Times)

📣 Why in News?

- The World Health Organization has declared the Ebola outbreak in the Congo and Uganda a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern.'



📌 Key Points:

Ebola Virus

- Ebola virus disease is a rare but severe illness affecting humans.
- **Zoonotic Transmission:** This means that it is transmitted from wildlife (such as bats, porcupines, and non-human primates) to humans, and subsequently spreads within the human population.
- **Mode of Transmission:** It spreads to other humans through contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of an infected person.

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