

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 May 2026



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### Successful Test of 'Vayu Astra-1' in Pokhran

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the indigenous loitering munition system 'Vayu Astra-1' was successfully tested at the Pokhran Field Firing Range.



#### Key Points:

- Tested by:** Nibe Limited, a Pune-based defence company.
- This test marks a significant step towards strengthening the Army's strike capabilities under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.
- Strike Range:** This advanced suicide drone possesses a strike range of 100 kilometers.

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- **High Precision:** During the test, the system achieved a 'Circular Error Probable' (CEP) of less than 1 meter.
- **Warhead:** The drone is equipped with a 10-kilogram explosive payload.
- **Advanced Control System:** To enhance operational flexibility on the battlefield, control of the drone was successfully transferred from the Ground Control Station (GCS) to a Forward Control Station (FCS) located approximately 70 kilometers away.
- **Abort & Re-attack Capability:** The drone is equipped with a unique capability to abort a mission mid-flight and subsequently re-engage by designating a new target.

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CIVIL  
SERVICES

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## Rajasthan Cabinet Meeting (May 22, 2026)

### Why in News?

- Recently, A meeting of the Rajasthan Cabinet was held on May 22, 2026, under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister.



GOVERNMENT OF  
RAJASTHAN

सत्यमेव जयते

## CABINET DECISIONS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

22 MAY 2026



### Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy – 4G: An Endorsement by the Cabinet

- The Cabinet has approved the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy – 4G (Green, Governance, Growth and Globalization), marking a major step towards industrial prosperity in the state.
- Under this policy, industrial investment proposals received from the financial year 2028-29 until the year 2035 will be eligible for incentives of up to ₹350 billion.

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## Key Points:

### Approval of the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy:

- **Approval:** Granted during the Cabinet meeting held on May 22, 2026.
- **Concerned Department:** Department of Industries and Commerce (Rajasthan).
- **Four Strategic Pillars of the Policy:** 4G – Green, Governance, Growth, and Globalization.
- **Primary Objective of the Policy:** To expand Rajasthan's economy to reach \$350 billion by the year 2028-29.

### Key Provisions:

- Under this policy, eco-friendly industrial production, renewable energy, and the circular economy will be promoted within the state.
- Through this policy, new schemes will be introduced for the establishment of CETPs (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) in both RIICO and non-RIICO areas, and new Integrated Resource Recovery Parks will be set up.
- Work will commence on the development of node-based industrial parks within the DMIC (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor).
- Emphasis will be placed on facilitating fast-track approvals, logistics connectivity, CETPs, and 'Plug-and-Play' facilities.
- Additionally, while promoting industries based on cutting-edge technologies such as semiconductors, data centers, GCCs (Global Capability Centers), and defence manufacturing special efforts will also be undertaken to encourage sectors such as Gems & Jewelry, Textiles, Tourism, Handicrafts, Agro-processing, Dairy, and Logistics.
- This policy focuses on Research and Development (R&D) and technology transfer, thereby fostering both investment and indigenous production within the state.

## Amendments to the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996:

- The Rajasthan Cabinet approved three amendments to the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996.
- **Amended Rule – 67:** Persons with special abilities (Divyangjan) are now required to submit their permanent disability certificate only once. Previously, the submission of this certificate was mandatory every three years.
- **Amended Rule – 134:** Pensioners will now have the facility to submit their Annual Life Certificate via a mobile app using face authentication technology. Additionally, alongside Gazetted Officers, Non-Gazetted personnel (excluding Class IV employees) have also been authorized to issue Life Certificates using their SSO IDs.
- **Amendment to Form-14:** Previously, authentication for Family Pension required the certification of two Gazetted Officers or persons of repute. Now, instead of two, the certification of a single Gazetted Officer or person of repute will suffice.

## Land Allotment for a Cement Plant (Clinkerization Unit) in Jaisalmer:

- The Rajasthan Cabinet has approved the allotment of 121.42 hectares of land in Jaisalmer to M/s Dalmia Cement, in accordance with the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment of Industrial Area) Rules, 1959.
- Dalmia Cement Company will establish a cement plant (Clinkerization Unit) with an annual capacity of 3.6 million tonnes at this site.

## Land Allotment for Renewable Energy Projects:

- **Jaisalmer:** Magra, Basra, and Ghotaru villages.
- **Barmer:** Mungeria village.
- **Bikaner:** Karnisar Bhatiyar and Barju villages.

## Inauguration of Various Rail Services in Rajasthan



### Why in News?

- Recently, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, dedicated various rail services and projects to Rajasthan.



### Key Points:

- A Coach Care Complex, constructed at a cost of ₹67 crore, has been inaugurated in Jaisalmer.
- The coach composition of the Jodhpur–Delhi Cantt Vande Bharat Express has been expanded from 8 coaches to 20 coaches.
- The Sabarmati–Jodhpur Express rail service has been extended up to Jaisalmer.
- The “Jalore–Delhi Inaugural Special” rail service was launched.

### Other Significant Points:

- 25 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals are being developed in Rajasthan, 12 of which have already been completed.
- Under the Central Government's 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme', 85 railway stations in Rajasthan are undergoing rejuvenation and redevelopment.
- A Vande Bharat Sleeper Terminal is being developed at Bhagat Ki Kothi (Jodhpur).

## Status of the 'Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)' in Rajasthan

### Why in News?

- Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)' in Rajasthan, the Central Government has sanctioned 34 projects across 4 state-funded universities and 30 government colleges, with a total cost of ₹330 crore.



## प्रधानमंत्री उच्चतर शिक्षा अभियान (PM-USHA)

### Key Points:

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, was the first university to be selected.

### Universities selected from Rajasthan under this scheme:

- Govind Guru Tribal University, Banswara.
- Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner.
- Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur.
- Mugneeram Bangur Memorial University, Jodhpur.
- Note:** Under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) 1.0 and 2.0, a total of 130 projects were sanctioned across 5 universities and 116 colleges in Rajasthan, with a total cost of ₹611 crore.

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## Universities selected from Rajasthan under RUSA:

- Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.
- Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur.
- University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer.
- University of Kota, Kota.

## Facts for Prelims:

- The 'Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) – 1.0 and 2.0', launched in 2013 and 2018 respectively, were Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- In June 2023, these schemes were restructured under the National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 and launched as the 'Pradhan Mantri Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)'.
- The PM-USHA scheme covers government and government-aided institutions across States/Union Territories.

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Karpur Chandra Kulish Research Institute</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The 'Karpur Chandra Kulish Research Institute' has been established at the Pratapnagar campus of the Udaipur-based Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth.</li><li>■ This institute is dedicated to the memory and ideological contributions of Karpur Chandra Kulish the founder of Rajasthan Patrika and a pioneer of Hindi journalism.</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>Rajasthan's First Rural 3R Center: Shakti Sangam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, Rajasthan's first rural 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) center, named 'Shakti Sangam', has been established in the Khejrawas Panchayat of Jaipur district.</li><li>■ <b>Objective:</b> Under the 'Waste to Art' concept, the aim is to recycle and transform discarded household items such as old clothes, tires, fans, toys, and books into new forms.</li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Rajasthan's First Data Center with Dual-Source Power Supply: Jaipur</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Rajasthan's first data center featuring a dual-source power supply system has been established at the STT Global Data Center in the Sitapura Industrial Area of Jaipur.</li><li>■ Thanks to this technical arrangement, the data center's electricity supply will not be dependent on a single grid, thereby ensuring uninterrupted digital services without any outages.</li></ul>

4.

## **Chain Singh Rathore: New President of RSGA**

- Recently, in elections concluded in Kota, Chain Singh Rathore was elected as the President of the Rajasthan State Gymnastics Association (RSGA) for the third consecutive term.
- These elections were held for a four-year tenure spanning from 2026 to 2030.

5.

## **Largest Foreign Investment in Rajasthan's Green Energy Sector**

- The largest foreign investment in Rajasthan's green energy sector is being undertaken by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The UAE will invest approximately ₹3 lakh crore in Rajasthan through its sovereign fund. Under this initiative, the country's largest green energy hub with a capacity of 60 gigawatts will be established in the Ghotaru region of Jaisalmer. This project encompasses solar, wind, and hybrid energy projects.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding this project was signed between the Government of Rajasthan and the Government of the UAE during the 'Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit'.

6.

## **Clinical Trial for Eumycetoma Medication: Jodhpur**

- An international-standard clinical trial for a medication to treat Eumycetoma (locally known as Kidinagra) will be conducted at Dr. S.N. Medical College, Jodhpur, by DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) an organization affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The objective of this multi-country international trial is to provide a safe, affordable, and effective medication for patients suffering from Mycetoma/Eumycetoma, a disease caused by a fungus.

## 7. **Completion of 100 Years of the State's First 'Harijan Pathshala'**

- Through the efforts of activists from the Rajasthan Charkha Sangh, the state's first 'Harijan Pathshala' (school for the Harijan community) was established in Amarsar, Jaipur, in the year 1926.
- In the year 2026, this school marks the completion of 100 years since its establishment.

## 8. **Latest Statistics on Cyber Fraud in Rajasthan**

- According to the latest data from the Central Government's 'Pratibimb Portal', four districts in Rajasthan rank among the country's most active districts for cyber fraud.
- **Alwar:** Ranked 4th in the country.
- **Khairthal-Tijara:** Ranked 10th in the country.
- **Deeg:** Ranked 11th in the country.
- **Jaipur:** Ranked 16th in the country.





### Major Abhilasha Barak

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)



#### Why in News?

- Major Abhilasha Barak, an Indian Army officer serving in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, has been selected for the 2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (established in 2016).



#### Key Points:

- Major Barak is currently serving with the Indian Battalion in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as the Commander of the Women's Engagement Team.
- Major Barak is also the Indian Army's first female combat helicopter pilot.
- Major Barak has become the third Indian peacekeeper to receive this award. Previously, Major Suman Gawani received this award in 2019, and Major Radhika Sen received it in 2023.
- India is one of the largest troop and police-contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

#### Other Important Points:

- **Shishupal Singh, Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, and Shabber Tahir Ali:** In 2023, India received the United Nations' highest peacekeeping honor the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal which was awarded posthumously to Indian peacekeepers Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, and civilian UN worker Shabber Tahir Ali, for their sacrifice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- **India's Contribution:** Since the 1950s, India has deployed over 290,000 peacekeepers to more than 50 missions worldwide, making it one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping efforts. Currently, over 5,000 Indian troops are serving in nine of the eleven active missions.
- Despite global efforts, women still constitute less than 10 percent of the United Nations' 70,000 uniformed peacekeepers, a group that includes military personnel, police officers, and observers.
- To address the need for greater gender inclusivity, the United Nations under its Gender Parity Strategy has set a target of including 15 percent women in military contingents and 25 percent in police units by the year 2028.



## Indo-Tibetan Border Police: First Women's Mountaineering Expedition

(Source: DD-NEWS)

### Why in News?

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully completed its first women's mountaineering expedition to the summit of Mount Everest.



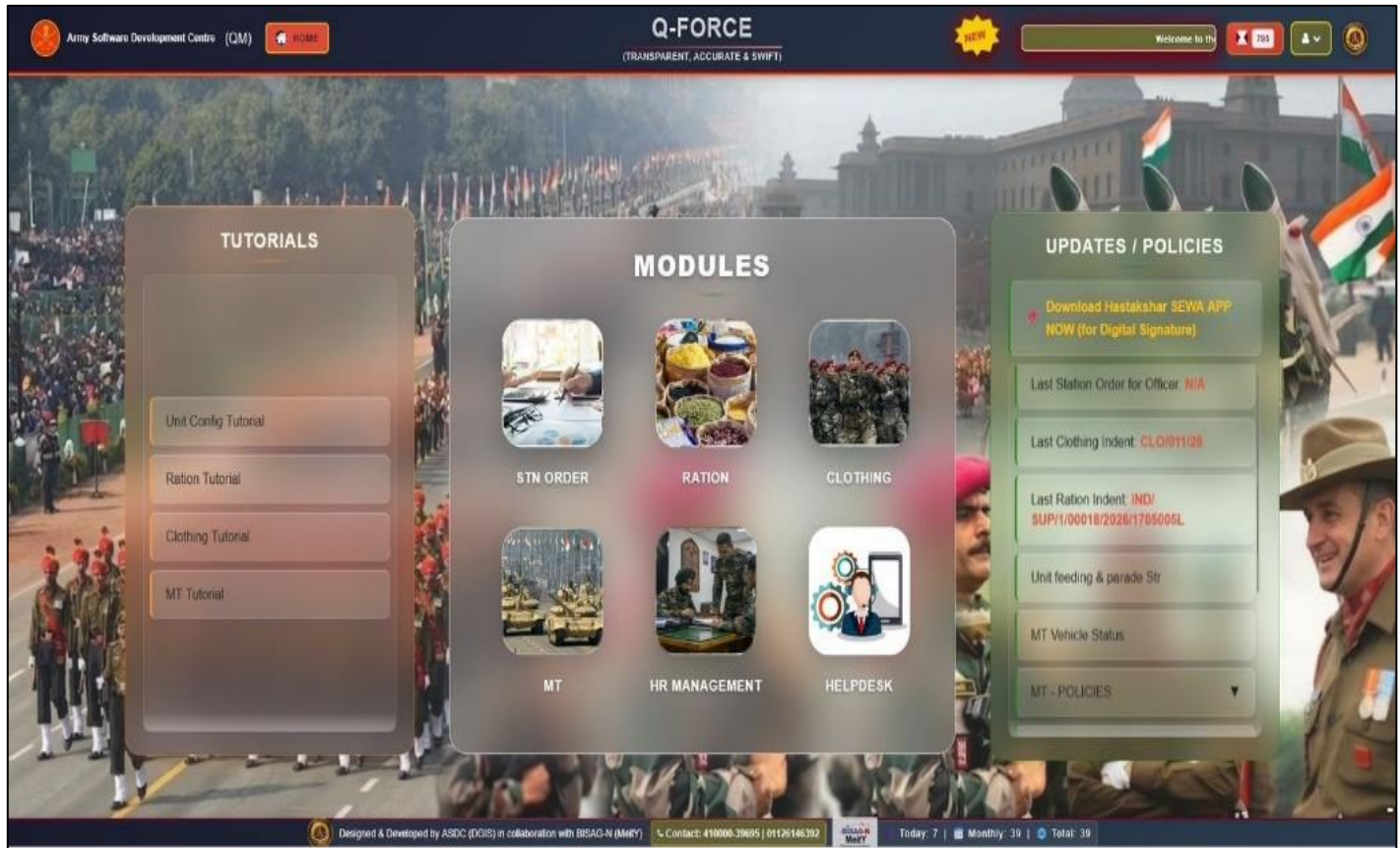
### Key Points:

- **The Team:** The 14-member team comprised 11 female mountaineers along with three technical and support staff members.
- Under the 'Clean Himalaya – Save Glaciers' campaign, the team also conducted environmental awareness activities and collected non-biodegradable waste from the Everest region.
- With this achievement, the team has now completed a total of 232 mountaineering expeditions to date. These include five successful ascents of Mount Everest. The Force has also scaled six of the world's peaks exceeding 8,000 meters in height, including Everest, Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Lhotse, Dhaulagiri, and Manaslu.

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## Integrated Logistics Application: 'Q-Force'

(Source: AIR)

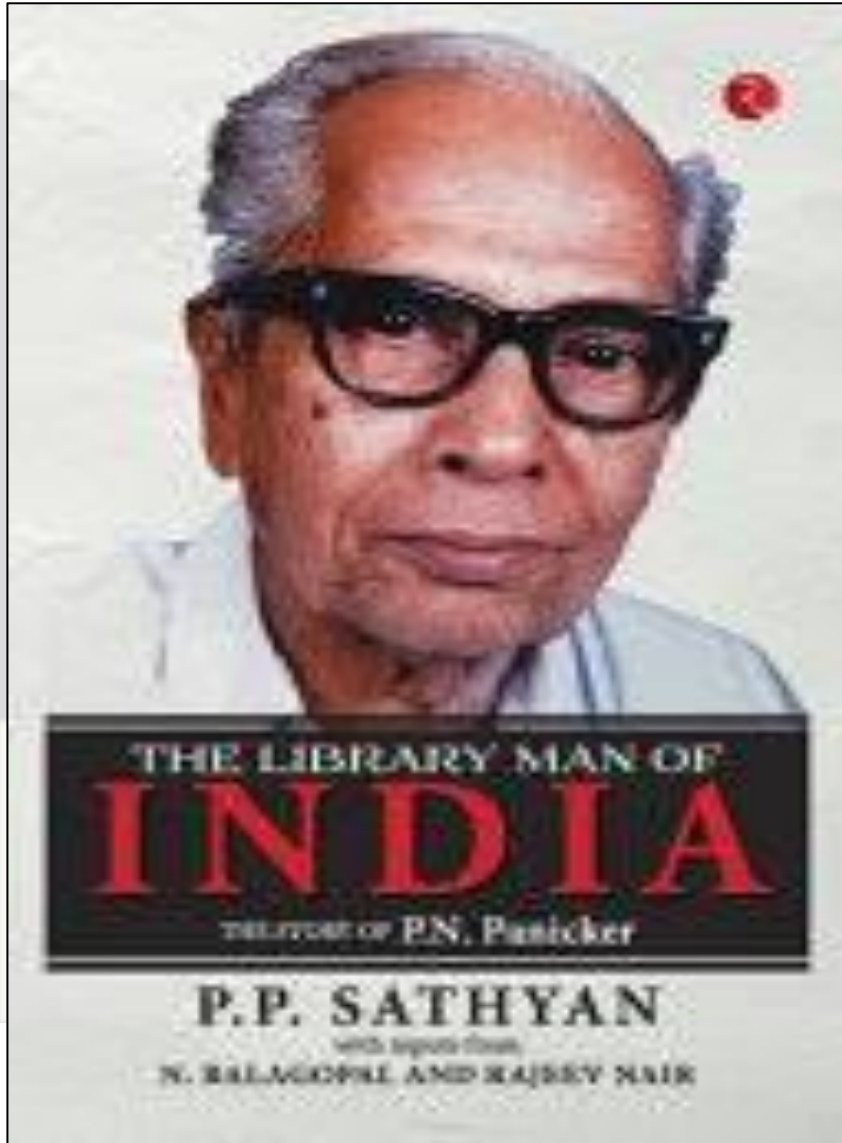


### Key Points:

- The Indian Army has launched an integrated application, 'Q-Force', to streamline logistics and supply management.
- This application will strengthen supply chain and transport management by integrating various logistics and inventory platforms. This will accelerate operations across different operational areas.

## The Book- 'The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker'

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)



### Key Points:

- India's Vice President, C.P. Radhakrishnan, released the book 'The Library Man of India: The Story of P.N. Panicker' authored by P.P. Sathyan at the Vice President's Residence.

## Shriyanshi Valishetty

(Source: AIR)



### Key Points:

- In the sport of badminton, on May 17, 2026, India's Shriyanshi Valishetty won a silver medal in the Women's Singles category at the Baoji China Masters, held in China.
- In the final match of the Super 100 tournament played at the Baoji City Gymnasium she was defeated in straight sets (14-21, 6-21) by local player An Qi Yuan.

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## Visit of the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, to India

(Source: PIB, AIR, and Ministry of External Affairs)

### Why in News?

- From May 20 to 23, 2026, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, concluded a State Visit to India.



### Key Points:

- This marks Christodoulides' first visit to India since assuming the Presidency.
- Both countries will complete 65 years of diplomatic relations in February 2027.

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## Outcomes:

### Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

1. MoU on the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
2. Agreement between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and the Cyprus Diplomatic Academy.
3. MoU on Innovation and Technology.
4. Agreement on Technical Arrangement for Search and Rescue (SAR) matters between the Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC), Larnaca (Cyprus), and the Ministry of Defence (India).
5. MoU on Cooperation in Higher Education and Research.
6. MoU on Cultural Cooperation (2026–2030).

## Announcements:

- Roadmap for Defence Cooperation between India and Cyprus for the period 2026–2031.
- Establishment of a Cyber Security Dialogue between India and Cyprus.
- Establishment of a Consular Dialogue between India and Cyprus.
- Cyprus is joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) under the pillar of "Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport."
- Gifting of the 'BHISHM' (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita and Maitri) Cube to Cyprus by India.
- Observance of the first 'India-Cyprus Space Day' on May 18, 2026.
- Announcement by Cyprus regarding its intent to open a Cyprus Trade Centre in Mumbai.
- India and Cyprus aim to double investment flows once again over the next five years.



### Deepening Ties Between Russia and China

(Source: Indian Express)



#### Why in News?

- The Russian President's recent visit to China underscored Russia's growing-dependence on the latter. Both sides signed over 40 agreements and reiterated their support for a 'multipolar world order' in opposition to Western dominance.



#### Key Points:

##### Reasons for Deepening Russia-China Ties

- **Shared Geopolitical Rivalry:** Both nations view the U.S.-led global order as a threat to their core interests.

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- **Role of Economic Complementarity:** Western sanctions have heightened Russia's economic reliance on China.
- **De-dollarization and Alternative Institutions:** Trade conducted in China's Yuan and Russia's Ruble currencies is steadily increasing. Additionally, forums such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are being utilized to promote a Non-Western Eurasian security architecture.

## Impact on India

- **Diminished Role of Russia as a Strategic Balancer:** Russia's growing dependence on China is undermining its neutrality regarding India-China tensions.
- **Defence-Related Vulnerabilities:** India's reliance on Russian weaponry (such as the S-400 system and stealth frigates) is facing challenges due to supply delays. Furthermore, Russia's sale of state-of-the-art military platforms to China has heightened India's security concerns.
- **Emerging Russia–China–Pakistan Nexus:** Russia is strengthening its ties with Pakistan through arms sales and concessional oil exports.
- **Challenges in Multilateral Forums:** Cooperation between Russia and China is intensifying within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
- **Pressure on India's Strategic Autonomy:** The growing proximity between Russia and China, coupled with the unpredictable policies of the United States, is constraining India's strategy of engaging with multilateral forums.

## India's Cultural Diplomacy

(Source: Indian Express)

### Why in News?

- During his five-nation diplomatic tour covering the United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, and Italy, Prime Minister Modi presented traditional Indian handicrafts, textiles, and regional artifacts to world leaders.



### Key Points:

#### Gifts Presented to World Leaders

- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was presented with a Muga silk shawl from Assam and an off-white Shirui Lily silk shawl from Manipur.
- Muga silk, often referred to as the "Golden Silk" of Assam, is a rare textile produced in the Brahmaputra Valley without the use of artificial dyes.
- The Shirui Lily silk stole is inspired by the Shirui Kashong Peak in Manipur and the rare Shirui Lily flower.

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- Queen Máxima of the Netherlands received a gift of Meenakari and Kundan earrings from Rajasthan.
- Norwegian leader Jonas Gahr Støre was presented with a dried orchid painting and orchid paperweights, crafted using authentic dried orchids and ferns from Sikkim.
- King Harald V was presented with a silver boat model crafted using “Tarakasi”, the traditional silver filigree art form from Cuttack, Odisha.
- Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson received a Santiniketan messenger bag featuring the works of Rabindranath Tagore from West Bengal.
- President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, received a Rogan painting from Gujarat depicting the "Tree of Life" motif.
- Rogan art is a rare textile painting tradition originating from the Kutch region of Gujarat.
- A box of Kesar mangoes, sourced from Junagadh, Gujarat, was also presented.

## Significance

- These gifts serve to promote local artisans, traditional craftsmanship, and products associated with Geographical Indications (GI) on an international platform.
- They strengthen cultural diplomacy and enhance India's soft power on a global level.

## Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

(Source: PIB)

### Why in News?

- Recently, India hosted the 68th meeting of the Governing Body of the Asian Productivity Organization, focusing on regional productivity cooperation.



## Asian Productivity Organization

### Key Points:

#### Asian Productivity Organization

- Established in 1961, it is a Tokyo-based intergovernmental body that promotes productivity growth in the Asia-Pacific region through mutual cooperation and capacity building.
- Currently, the APO comprises 21 member economies, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Taiwan, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)

#### Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme (for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31) with an outlay of ₹2,584 crore, aimed at revitalizing decentralized clean energy and establishing a capacity of approximately 1,500 MW.



#### Key Points:

- **Objective:** The objective of this scheme is to enhance energy generation through small hydro power projects and to extend electricity access to remote areas.

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- **Project Scope:** This scheme supports small hydro power projects with capacities ranging between 1 MW and 25 MW, focusing primarily on hilly and North-Eastern (NE) states, as well as districts situated along international borders.
- **Target:** To add approximately 1,500 MW of new capacity between 2026-27 and 2030-31.
- Currently, the country utilizes approximately 5,171 MW of small hydro power capacity, whereas the total potential capacity exceeds 21,133 MW.
- **Central Financial Assistance:**
  - o **For North-Eastern States and Border Districts:** ₹3.6 crore per MW or 30% of the project cost (whichever is lower), subject to an upper limit of ₹30 crore per project.
  - o **For Other States:** ₹2.4 crore per MW or 20% of the project cost (whichever is lower), subject to a maximum limit of ₹20 crore per project.
- This scheme is expected to generate employment opportunities for approximately 51 lakh individuals.

## International Day for Biological Diversity, 2026

(Source: PIB, CBD, DD-NEWS, and AIR)

### Why in News?

- On May 22, 2026, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, along with the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, presided over the national-level celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2026, and an event focused on Cheetah Conservation was held at the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) in Bhopal.



### Key Points:

- Theme of the Event:** The event was based on the theme 'Acting Locally for Global Impact.'

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- **Collaboration:** The event was organized by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- **On this occasion, the following publications, initiatives, and promotional materials were released:**
  1. Customized 'MyStamp'
  2. India's Biodiversity Report, 2026: Insights derived from the 7th National Report submitted to the CBD
  3. India's Progress in ABS Implementation: Insights derived from India's 1st National Report on the Nagoya Protocol
  4. ABS End-to-End Portal
  5. Film on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
  6. Film on the Amarkantak Biodiversity Heritage Site
  7. Film on the Conservation of 'Devlok' Forests (Sacred Groves) of Madhya Pradesh

## International Day for Biological Diversity, 2026

- **Date:** May 22
- **Theme for 2026:** 'Acting Locally for Global Impact'
- **Objective:** To raise awareness regarding the importance of biodiversity and to foster an understanding of its role in human life, climate security, and food security.
- **History:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) on May 22, 1992.

- The UNCBD is a legally binding treaty for the conservation of biodiversity.
- India is a party to this treaty and has enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

- **Date Revision:** Initially, this day was observed on December 29; however, in the year 2000, the United Nations changed its date to May 22.
- The 2026 observance is based on the global plan adopted in 2022, known as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

## **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:**

- Under the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 23 targets to be achieved by 2030 and 4 global goals to be achieved by 2050 have been established to halt and reverse the degradation of nature.
- **Goal 1:** To restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.
- **Goal 2:** To conserve 30% of land, inland waters, and oceans.
- **Goal 3:** To reduce the introduction or establishment of invasive alien species by 50%.
- **Goal 4:** To mobilize \$200 billion annually for biodiversity.

## **Biodiversity:**

- The term "biodiversity" was first coined as a concept in 1985 by Walter G. Rosen; it encompasses the diversity of all life forms, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans.
- Biodiversity refers to the variety of all types of organisms present on Earth and their natural habitats. This includes animals, birds, trees and plants, insects, microorganisms, and marine life.

- Generally, biodiversity is classified into three categories: genetic diversity, species diversity, and ecosystem diversity.
- The UNGA designated the period 2011–2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.
- The years 2021–2030 were declared by the United Nations as the 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' and the 'UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.'

## Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals:

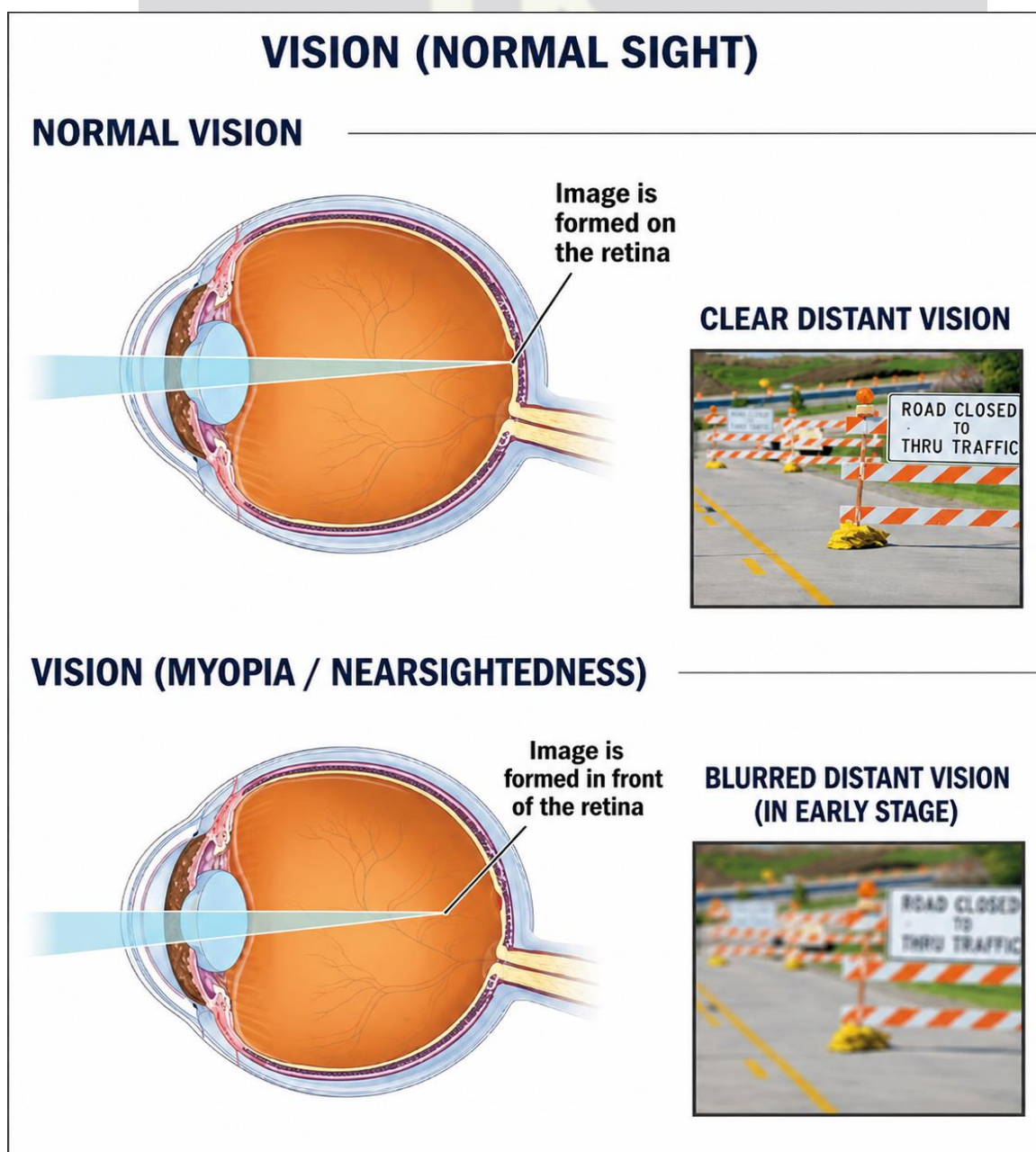
1. **SDG-2: Zero Hunger** – Biodiversity in crops, livestock, and ecosystems supports resilient food systems and long-term nutritional security.
2. **SDG-3: Good Health and Well-being** – Healthy ecosystems provide medicinal resources and reduce the risk of transmission of diseases from animals to humans.
3. **SDG-6: Clean Water and Sanitation** – Forests, wetlands, and healthy soils play a crucial role in water filtration, storage, and quality regulation.
4. **SDG-13: Climate Action** – Biodiversity-rich ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide, regulate climate systems, and enhance resilience to extreme weather events.
5. **SDG-14: Life Below Water** – Marine biodiversity supports ocean health, fisheries, and coastal livelihoods.
6. **SDG-15: Life on Land** – Protecting terrestrial ecosystems helps prevent habitat loss, species extinction, and land degradation.
7. **SDG-17: Partnerships for the Goals** – Biodiversity conservation relies on international cooperation under frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Nearsightedness (Myopia)

#### Why in News?

- Nearsightedness (Myopia) is rapidly emerging as a growing global health disorder. It is estimated that by the year 2050, approximately half of the world's population could be affected by nearsightedness.





## Key Points:

### Myopia

- **Definition:** Myopia (nearsightedness) is a common refractive eye disorder in which nearby objects appear clear, while distant objects appear blurry.
- This occurs when the eyeball becomes too long (elongates axially), or when the cornea is excessively curved.
- Due to this abnormal shape, incoming light rays focus in front of the retina rather than directly upon it meaning the image of the object forms before reaching the retina; this results in blurred distant vision.
- In Hyperopia (farsightedness), nearby objects appear blurry because the image of the object forms behind the retina rather than directly upon it.

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## Ballistic Missile 'Agni-1'

(Source: PIB and DD-NEWS)



### Why in News?

- On May 22, 2026, a successful test of the short-range ballistic missile 'Agni-1' was conducted from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha, under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.



### Key Points:

- Agni-1 is a short-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed indigenously. It has been designed for rapid deployment.
- **Testing of Advanced Agni Missile:** Prior to this, on May 8, 2026, India successfully tested a state-of-the-art Advanced Agni missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, located off the coast of Odisha. This test utilized Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.

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