

May - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted a licence to India's first seaplane airline, SkyHop Aviation, which will start services in Lakshadweep, connecting islands with the mainland.
- ❖ France has announced a roadmap to end fossil fuel use by 2050, with plans to phase out coal by 2030, oil by 2045 and gas by 2050, aiming to achieve carbon neutrality.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a 70-year lease to set up India's first integrated Basmati and organic demo farm at Tanda Bijaisi village in Pilibhit to promote sustainable farming by combining Basmati cultivation with organic practices.
- ❖ Finland launched Europe's first fully integrated lithium project near Kokkola, covering mining to refining, to boost energy independence and support electric vehicle battery production.
- ❖ IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, 4th edition, held between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo.
- ❖ India successfully tested a long-range hypersonic anti-ship missile developed by the DRDO with a strike range of over 1,500 km and speeds up to Mach 10.
 - The missile uses a hypersonic glide vehicle for high speed and manoeuvrability to evade radar.
- ❖ World Portuguese Language Day is observed annually on 5 May to promote the Portuguese language, linguistic diversity, and Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) cultures.

NATIONAL NEWS

Geospatial Systems in Governance

- ❖ India hosted the Asia-Pacific Forum on advancing geospatial systems for sustainable development.
- ❖ Geospatial systems use tools like GIS (Geographic Information System), GPS (Global Positioning System), remote sensing, drones, and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR).
- ❖ The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is the global body for geospatial policymaking under the UN Economic and Social Council.

- ❖ These systems help in urban planning, infrastructure development, disaster management, and internal security.
- ❖ Government initiatives include National Geospatial Policy 2022 and National Geospatial Mission (2025-26).
- ❖ eLoc is a National Digital Address System that provides a unique six-character digital address for every location in India.



India in USTR Priority Watch List



- ❖ India was placed on the Priority Watch List of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in 2026.
- ❖ The list is part of the Special 301 Report, which reviews the intellectual property rights protection of countries.
- ❖ It highlights concerns over patents, copyrights, trademarks, and enforcement issues in India.

- ❖ The report classifies countries into Priority Foreign Country, Priority Watch List, and Watch List.
- ❖ Being on this list does not impose sanctions but increases monitoring and trade pressure.
- ❖ It may impact trade relations and negotiations between India and the United States.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Jordan in India-led Global Initiatives

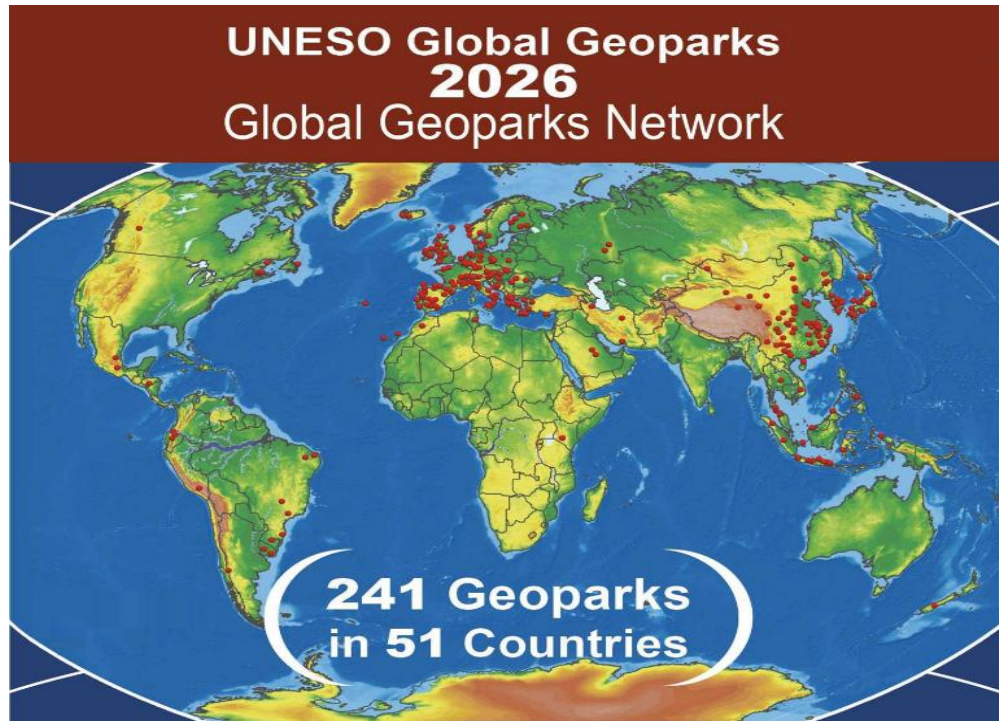
- ❖ Jordan joined India-led global initiatives ISA, CDRI and GBA.
- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by India and France in 2015 to promote solar energy.
- ❖ Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), which focuses on building disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- ❖ Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), launched during the G20 Summit 2023, to promote biofuels.
- ❖ These initiatives aim to support clean energy, disaster resilience, and sustainable development.



12 New UNESCO Global Geoparks

- ❖ UNESCO designated 12 new Global Geoparks.
- ❖ The total number of Global Geoparks increased to 241 sites in 51 countries.

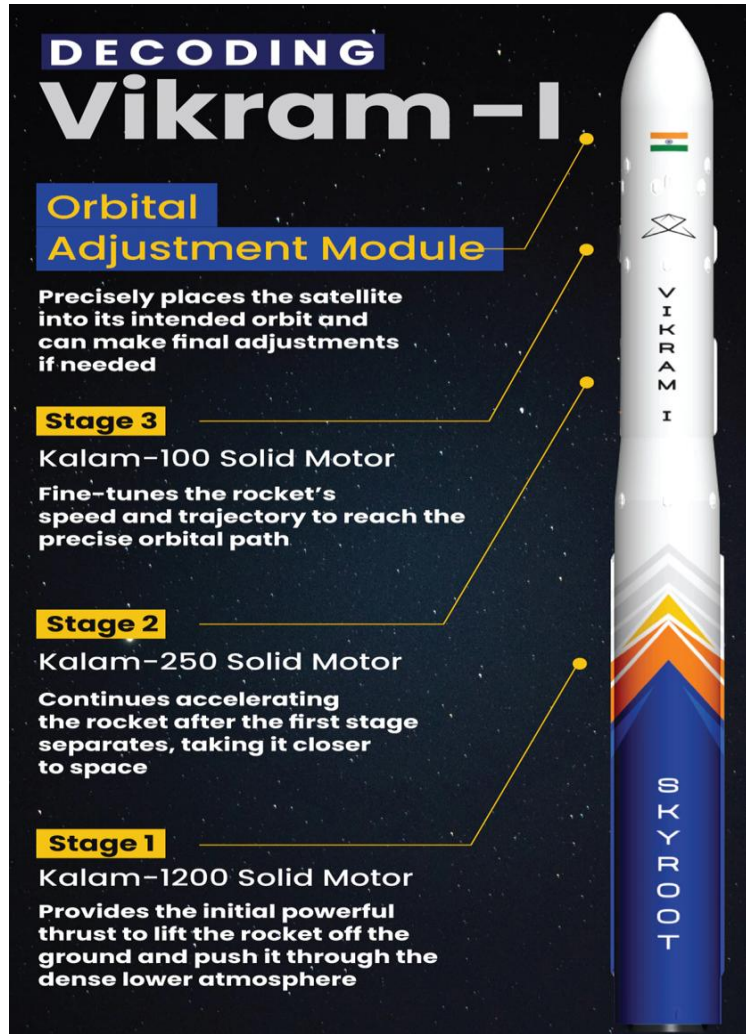
- ❖ New sites are in China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia and Uruguay.
- ❖ Tunisia got its first-ever Global Geopark under this list.
- ❖ UNESCO Global Geoparks were established as an official label in 2015 and follow a bottom-up approach with active involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
- ❖ The status is given for four years and requires revalidation to continue.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Vikram-1 Private Rocket

- ❖ India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram-1, was flagged off.
- ❖ The rocket has been developed by Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace.
- ❖ Vikram-1 is a three-stage carbon-composite launch vehicle with advanced 3D-printed engines and uses both solid and liquid propulsion systems.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying up to 350 kg payload to Low Earth Orbit and is recognised as India's first privately built orbital launch vehicle.
- ❖ The maiden launch is scheduled for June 2026 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh.



STATE NEWS

Sikkim Integration – 50 Years

- ❖ Sikkim marked the 50th anniversary of its integration with India on 16 May 1975.
- ❖ Sikkim was ruled by the Chogyal monarchy from 1642 to 1975 before joining India.
- ❖ 36th Constitutional Amendment Act 1975 made Sikkim the 22nd state of India.
- ❖ A 1975 referendum saw about 97% people voting to abolish the monarchy and join India.
- ❖ Earlier, the Indo-Sikkim Treaty of 1950 made it an Indian protectorate with internal autonomy.
- ❖ Sikkim is located in the eastern Himalayas and became the world's first fully organic state in 2016.



India's First Green Methanol Plant



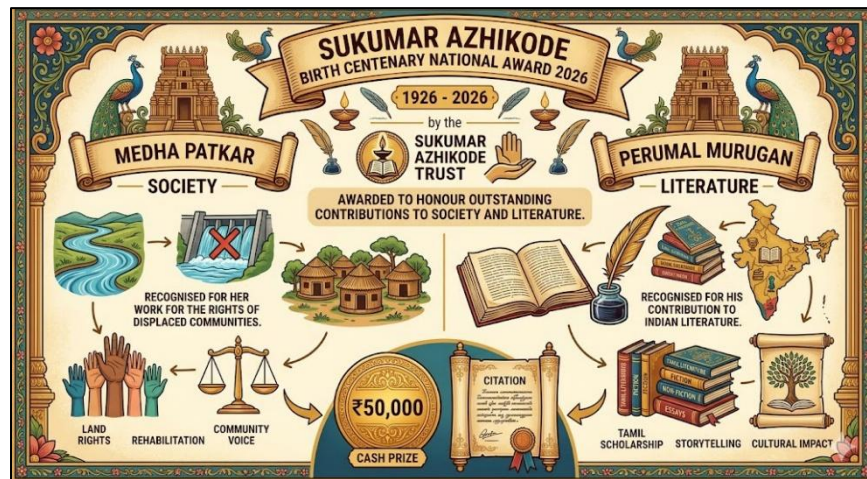
- ❖ India's first green methanol production plant is being set up in Gujarat.
- ❖ The plant in Gujarat will use invasive shrub *Prosopis juliflora* (locally called Gando Baval in Kutch) as feedstock to produce marine fuel for ocean-going ships.
- ❖ It is being developed at Deendayal Port Authority using gasification technology to convert biomass into methanol.

- ❖ It will use gasification technology to convert biomass into syngas and then into methanol fuel.
- ❖ The plant has an initial capacity of about 5 tonnes per day, with future expansion plans.
- ❖ Green methanol is a low-carbon, renewable fuel used for marine shipping and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sukumar Azhikode Birth Centenary National Award 2026

- ❖ Medha Patkar and Perumal Murugan have been selected for the Sukumar Azhikode Birth Centenary National Award.
- ❖ The award is given by the Sukumar Azhikode Trust to honour outstanding contributions to society and literature.
- ❖ Medha Patkar is recognised for her work for the rights of displaced communities, while Perumal Murugan is honoured for his contribution to Indian literature.
- ❖ The award carries a cash prize of ₹50,000 along with a citation.



NITI Aayog's New Members 2026

- ❖ Joram Aniya and R. Balasubramaniam appointed as full-time members of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Joram Aniya became the first person from Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast region to hold this position.
- ❖ With these appointments, the total number of full-time members increased to seven.

- ❖ NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was established in 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.



Whitley Awards 2026 – Indian Winners



- ❖ Two Indian women conservationists have won the prestigious Whitley Awards 2026, also known as the “Green Oscars.”

- ❖ Parveen Shaikh received the award for her community-based conservation work to protect the endangered Indian skimmer bird.
- ❖ Barkha Subba was honoured for her efforts to conserve the rare Himalayan salamander and restore its habitat.
- ❖ The Whitley Awards are given annually by the Whitley Fund for Nature to support grassroots environmental conservation projects.
- ❖ Each winner receives £50,000 funding for one year along with training, global recognition, and project support.

