

May - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The 2nd edition of Exercise CINBAX-II (Cambodia-India Bilateral Army Exercise) 2026 is being held in Cambodia.
- ❖ Royal Enfield announced a ₹2,200 crore investment to set up its first manufacturing plant outside Tamil Nadu at Satyavedu in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The first phase of the Guindy Eco-Park project, being developed on 118 acres of Guindy Race Course land in Chennai, is expected to be completed by October 2026.
- ❖ India created a Guinness World Record by unfurling the largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar Beach in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ International Day of the Midwife (IDM) is observed on May 5 every year across the world to recognize the important role of midwives in maternal and newborn healthcare.
 - The theme for 2026 is “One Million More Midwives.”
- ❖ World Hand Hygiene Day is observed on May 5 every year to spread awareness about the importance of hand hygiene in preventing infections and improving patient safety.
 - The theme for 2026 is “Action saves lives.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Vande Mataram – Proposal for Legal Protection

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has proposed amending the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, to extend legal protection to Vande Mataram, similar to the National Anthem.
- ❖ The proposed amendment aims to provide Vande Mataram the same legal protection as Jana Gana Mana (National Anthem).
- ❖ It seeks to make any insult or obstruction to the singing of Vande Mataram a punishable offence.
- ❖ At present, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 penalises disrespect to the National Flag, the Constitution of India, and the National Anthem.

- ❖ Under the existing law, intentional disrespect to these symbols is punishable with imprisonment up to three years, a fine, or both.
- ❖ There is currently no specific legal provision under the Act for the protection of the National Song Vande Mataram.
- ❖ Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in his novel Anandamath in 1882.
- ❖ The novel Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi Rebellion in the late 18th century.
- ❖ In 1937, the Indian National Congress (INC) adopted the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram for official use.
- ❖ The Constitution of India accorded Vande Mataram the status of the National Song.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued instructions stating that all six stanzas (around three minutes) may be sung or played at official events.
- ❖ The MHA also stated that the National Song should be given precedence before the National Anthem in events where both are played.
- ❖ However, the MHA guidelines are advisory in nature and do not have statutory backing.



South Coast Railway Zone

- ❖ The Union Government announced that the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) will be officially notified on June 1, 2026.
- ❖ The headquarters of the South Coast Railway Zone will be located at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ South Coast Railway Zone will become the 18th railway zone in India.
- ❖ The new railway zone will manage railway administration across Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The zone will include the existing Guntakal, Guntur, and Vijayawada railway divisions.
- ❖ The formation of the new zone aims to improve railway administration and operational efficiency in the region.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

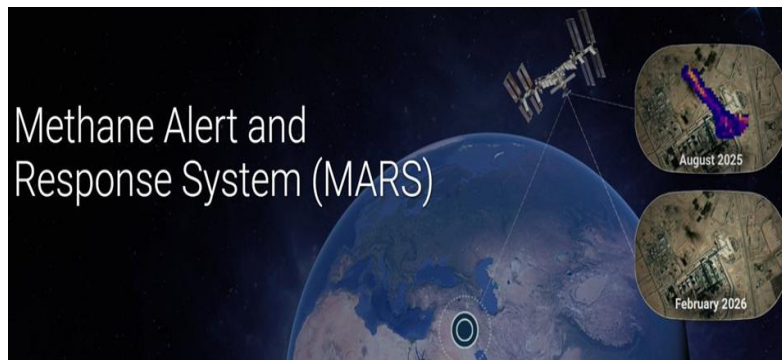
India's First Portable MRI System

- ❖ India's first portable Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system was deployed at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi for ICU and critical care patients.
- ❖ The portable MRI system allows bedside brain imaging for critically ill patients in intensive care units (ICUs), emergency wards, and neurosurgical care.
- ❖ The device is an ultra-low-field MRI that can be moved directly to the patient, removing the need for shifting patients to MRI rooms.
- ❖ It is being used at the Centre for Neurological Conditions at AIIMS Delhi.
- ❖ The system is expected to improve the rapid diagnosis of stroke, trauma, and post-operative brain conditions.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Methane Alert and Response System

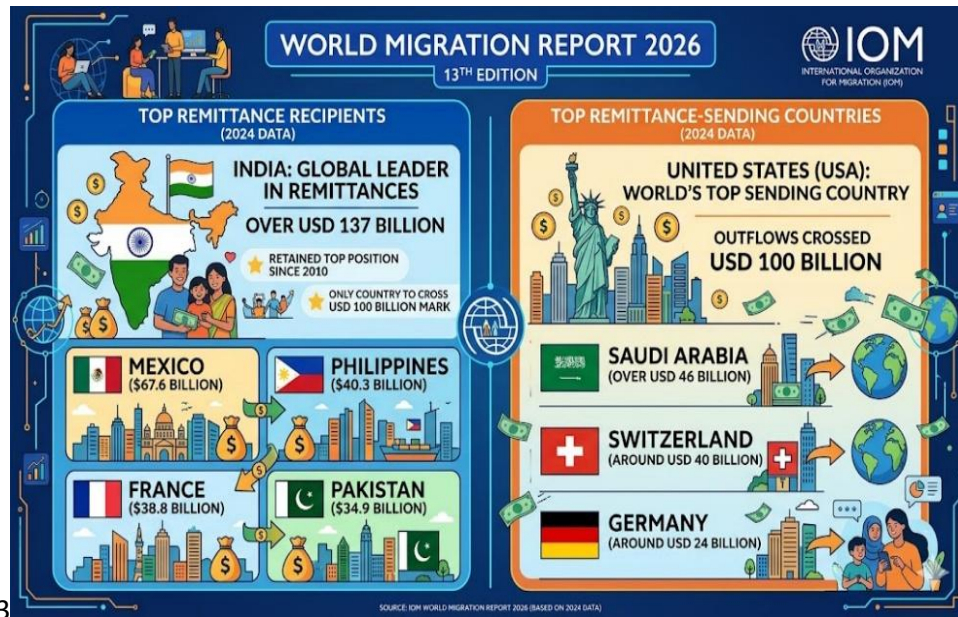


- ❖ The United Nations (UN) expanded the Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) to include the coal and waste sectors.
- ❖ The decision followed satellite data that identified the Kanjurmarg landfill in India among the world's three largest methane-emitting landfill sites.
- ❖ Other major methane-emitting landfill sites were identified in Chile.
- ❖ MARS is the world's first global satellite-based system for monitoring methane super-emitters.
- ❖ The system connects satellite data with rapid methane mitigation and response efforts.

- ❖ MARS functions under the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ The system was announced during the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) and was officially launched in January 2023.

REPORTS AND INDICES

World Migration Report 2026



- ❖ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) released the 13th edition of the World Migration Report 2026.
- ❖ India remained the world's top remittance recipient country in 2024, receiving over USD 137 billion.
- ❖ India has retained the top position in global remittance inflows since 2010 and is the only country to cross the USD 100 billion mark.
- ❖ Mexico was the second-largest remittance recipient country with USD 67.6 billion in 2024.
- ❖ The Philippines received USD 40.3 billion, France received USD 38.8 billion, and Pakistan received USD 34.9 billion in remittances during 2024.
- ❖ The United States of America (USA) remained the world's top remittance-sending country, with total outflows crossing USD 100 billion in 2024.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia sent over USD 46 billion in remittances, followed by Switzerland with around USD 40 billion and Germany with around USD 24 billion.

STATE NEWS

PMGSY-IV in Odisha

- ❖ Union Minister for Rural Development launched the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-IV) in Odisha on 1 May 2026 with a total outlay of ₹1,700 crore.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved PMGSY-IV on 11 September 2024 for the financial period 2024–2025 to 2028–2029.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve rural connectivity by constructing 827 road projects covering 1,701.84 km across eight districts of Odisha.
- ❖ These districts include Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Khordha, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, and Sambalpur.
- ❖ The project will benefit 898 villages and improve access to education, healthcare, and employment in rural areas.



Khuarel App - Mizoram

- ❖ Mizoram launched the 'Khuarel' mobile application in 2026 to strengthen real-time disaster reporting and response.
- ❖ The app was launched in Aizawl by the Disaster Management and Rehabilitation (DM&R) Minister.
- ❖ It is designed as a real-time disaster incident reporting and management system for faster emergency response.
- ❖ The application enables citizens to report disasters quickly and helps authorities coordinate response through State and District Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA and DDMA).

- ❖ The initiative aims to improve communication, coordination, and efficiency during natural and man-made disasters.
- ❖ Mizoram is among the first states in Northeast India to adopt such a digital disaster management system.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Fire Safety Week 2026 - May 4 to May 10

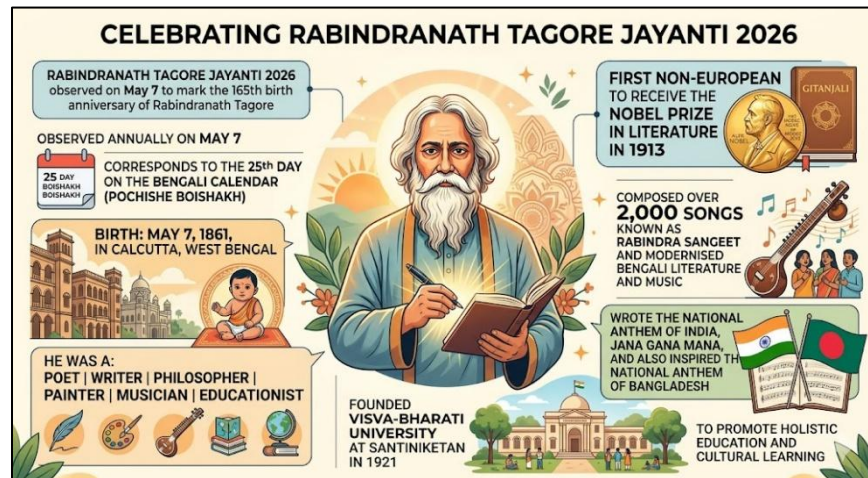


- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Fire Safety Week 2026 from May 4 to May 10 to improve fire safety standards in hospitals across India.
- ❖ The government released new National Guidelines on Fire and Life Safety in Healthcare Facilities.
- ❖ The guidelines focus on risk assessment, emergency response systems, fire-resistant infrastructure, and staff training.
- ❖ Special safety measures are planned for Intensive Care Units (ICUs), Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs), and Operation Theatres (OTs).

- ❖ The theme of Fire Safety Week 2026 is “Safe Schools, Safe Hospitals, and a Fire-Safety Aware Society: Together for Fire Prevention.”

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2026



- ❖ Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti 2026 was observed on May 7 to mark the 165th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.
- ❖ This corresponds to the 25th day of Boishakh in the Bengali calendar (Pochishe Boishakh).
- ❖ It commemorates the birth of Rabindranath Tagore, who was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta, West Bengal.
- ❖ He was a poet, writer, philosopher, painter, musician, and educationist.
- ❖ He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali.
- ❖ He composed over 2,000 songs known as Rabindra Sangeet and modernised Bengali literature and music.
- ❖ He wrote the national anthem of India, Jana Gana Mana, and also inspired the national anthem of Bangladesh.
- ❖ He founded Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan in 1921 to promote holistic education and cultural learning.

