

May - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ DRDO plans to establish an Aircraft Integration and Flight-Testing Complex at Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India activated a nationwide Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Network with 165 laboratories for Hantavirus surveillance.
  - The surveillance system works with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Virology (NIV), and World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ❖ Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is observed from 11 May to 17 May every year to spread awareness about mental wellbeing and emotional health.
  - The theme for 2026 is “Action”.
- ❖ International Day of Families is observed on 15 May every year to spread awareness about issues affecting families worldwide.
  - The theme for 2026 is “Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing.”

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Ancient Buddha Sculpture – Vedaranyam



- ❖ An ancient Buddha sculpture was identified at the Pidari Amman temple complex in Umbalacheri village near Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam district, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The stone sculpture shows Buddha in a meditative posture called ardhapadmasana with elongated ears and a halo around the head.
- ❖ Researchers identified Chola-style Buddhist features such as the ushnisha (cranial protuberance) and robe folds on the idol.
- ❖ Nagapattinam district is known for its Buddhist heritage due to the historical presence of Buddhist viharas in Nagapattinam and Poompuhar.
- ❖ Other Buddha statues have also been documented in places like Pushpavanam, Budhamangalam, Keezhaiyur, and Velankanni in the district.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### JANANI Platform



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched

# JANANI\*

To Strengthen **Maternal & Child Healthcare**

> **Service-oriented** digital platform designed to monitor & maintain **digital health records** of women during their reproductive age

> Creates **longitudinal health record** by capturing key service delivery events across continuum of care

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) digital platform during the National Summit on Best Practices.
- ❖ JANANI is an upgraded version of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal used to track maternal and child healthcare services across India.
- ❖ The platform creates digital health records for women and children, covering antenatal care, childbirth, neonatal care, and family planning services.
- ❖ It provides QR-enabled Mother and Child Health (MCH) cards, automated high-risk pregnancy alerts, and citizen reminders for check-ups and immunisation.
- ❖ JANANI integrates with platforms like U-WIN and POSHAN for better healthcare monitoring and aims to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

## Swasth Bharat Portal

- ❖ The Government of India recently launched the Swasth Bharat Portal to create a unified digital health platform across the country.
- ❖ The portal integrates different health programme systems through APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to improve interoperability and reduce duplicate data entry.
- ❖ It supports faster decision-making, evidence-based planning, and better monitoring of healthcare programmes.
- ❖ The portal is ABDM (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) compliant and is linked with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account).
- ❖ It will integrate national registries such as HPR (Healthcare Professionals Registry) and HFR (Health Facility Registry).

**Swasth Bharat Portal Unveiled:**  
Unifying Fragmented Health Systems to Power India's Digital Health Transformation

Launched by **Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda**,  
Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare,  
at the 10th National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity:  
Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future.

Swasth Bharat Portal  
One Platform. United Health. Digitally Empowered India.

**ONE-STOP AGGREGATOR PLATFORM. INTEGRATED. INTEROPERABLE. IMPACTFUL.**

- Integrate:** Integrates programme systems via APIs, enabling interoperability and reducing administrative burden.
- Streamline:** Single platform to eliminate duplicate data entry, streamline reporting, and support faster decision-making.
- ABDM-Compliant:** Enables ABHA integration for secure health data exchange and an interoperable digital health ecosystem.
- Data for Impact:** Data visualisation tools for local monitoring, evidence-based planning and better health outcomes.
- For Frontline Heroes:** Single login. Easy access. Less burden. More time for care.

**PROJECTED EFFICIENCY GAINS**

Infrastructure Load	~20-30% REDUCTION
Data Entry Effort	~20-40% REDUCTION
HR Duplication	~20-40% REDUCTION
Decision-Making Speed	INCREASE

*Driving efficiency. Delivering impact.*

## Workers Health Check-up Scheme

- ❖ The Union Labour Ministry announced free annual health check-ups for workers aged 40 years and above through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- ❖ The scheme is linked to the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020.
- ❖ Workers handling toxic chemicals or heavy machinery will get mandatory health check-ups and free treatment if illness is detected.
- ❖ The scheme mainly focuses on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

- ❖ Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals and dispensaries will provide the health services.
- ❖ The e-Shram portal is being integrated with ESIC to improve worker coverage across India.


## Strengthening Worker Welfare through New Labour Codes

### Launch of

#### Free Annual Health Check-up Camp For Workers Aged 40+

**KEY HIGHLIGHT**

- **Mandatory free annual health check-up**
- **Early detection & prevention from diseases**
- **Promotes safer workplaces, higher productivity**
- **Special provisions for workers in hazardous industries**
- **Health records ensures accountability**



### Micro Irrigation under NMSA

#### MICRO IRRIGATION UNDER NMSA (NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE)

**NMSA: LAUNCHED 2014-15**  
Part of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

**NMSA AIMS:**

- IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY
- ENHANCE WATER-USE EFFICIENCY
- IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH
- PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

**PER DROP MORE CROP (PDMC) INITIATIVE**  
PROMOTES DRIP & SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

**COVERED ABOUT 109 LAKH HECTARES**  
(Since 2015-16)

**MILESTONE**

**FUTURE TARGET: AN ADDITIONAL 100 LAKH HECTARES UNDER MICRO-IRRIGATION**  
FROM 2025-26 to 2029-30 through the Per Drop More Crop initiative

**OTHER NMSA COMPONENTS:**

- RAINFED AREA DEVELOPMENT (RAD)**  
Water harvesting, Contour farming
- SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT (SHM)**  
Nutrient recycling, Soil testing, Nutrient balancing
- CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**  
Data collection
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MONITORING**  
Data collection

through the Per Drop More Crop

- ❖ The government targets an additional 100 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation from 2025-26 to 2029-30 through the Per Drop More Crop initiative.

- ❖ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) was launched in 2014-15 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- ❖ NMSA aims to improve agricultural productivity, water-use efficiency, soil health, and sustainable farming practices.
- ❖ Per Drop More Crop promotes drip and sprinkler irrigation systems and has covered about 109 lakh hectares since 2015-16.
- ❖ Other components of NMSA include Rainfed Area Development, Soil Health Management, and Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture Monitoring.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Five New Members - IUCN



- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) approved 48 new members globally, including five organisations from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean region.
- ❖ IUCN was established in 1948 for global nature conservation and sustainable development.
- ❖ It is a membership union of governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Indigenous groups, and civil society organisations.
- ❖ IUCN works on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, environmental research, and global policy support.
- ❖ The new members include organisations from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- ❖ The addition increased IUCN membership in the Mesoamerica and Caribbean region to 123 organisations.

## Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor



- ❖ A new report warned that the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor is under threat from oil expansion, logging, and organised crime.
- ❖ The corridor is a proposed 16-million-hectare protected area in the Amazon region along the Peru–Brazil border.
- ❖ It is home to the world’s largest population of isolated Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI).
- ❖ The region is an important carbon sink and a major biodiversity hotspot with very high primate diversity.
- ❖ Oil and gas blocks overlap more than 10% of the corridor, threatening large areas of tropical forest.
- ❖ Logging activities are also affecting forest areas in the Peruvian section of the corridor.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### GARUDA Green-Channel for AIFs

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India proposed GARUDA, a green-channel mechanism for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- ❖ GARUDA stands for Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement.
- ❖ The proposal aims to reduce the AIF scheme launch time from 30 days to 10 working days after filing the Placement Memorandum (PPM).

- ❖ AIFs are privately pooled investment funds regulated under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.
- ❖ Angel Funds and Accredited Investor-only schemes may get immediate launch approval after direct PPM filing with SEBI.

**SEBI GARUDA 2026**  
**AIF Green Channel Proposal**  
Faster Scheme Launches. Direct Filing, Continued Oversight.

SEBI has proposed the **GARUDA** mechanism for AIFs — Phase 2 of its Ease of Doing Business reforms. A step towards faster launches with enhanced accountability.

 <b>FASTER LAUNCHES</b> 10 working days for Regular Schemes	 <b>DIRECT FILING</b> For AI-only Schemes & Angel Funds	 <b>IMMEDIATE LAUNCH</b> For eligible accredited-investor categories	 <b>POST-FACTO SCRUTINY</b> Continued SEBI oversight on a risk-based basis
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**GARUDA**  
Green-Channel AIF Rollout  
Upon Document Acknowledgement

**FASTER LAUNCHES. STRONGER OVERSIGHT. SMARTER REGULATION.**

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

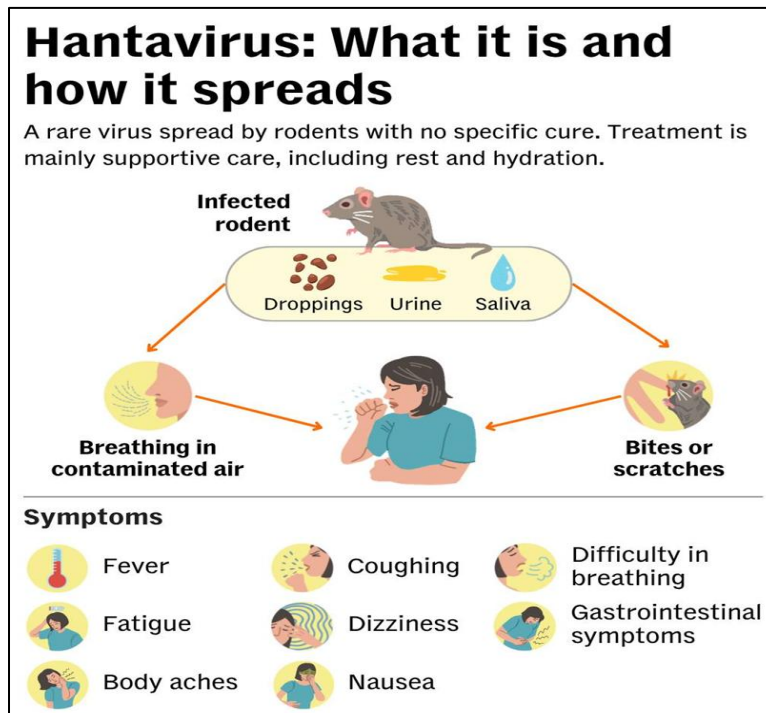
### Plastic Waste to Hydrogen Fuel



- ❖ Scientists developed new methods to convert plastic waste into hydrogen fuel using sunlight through a process called photoreforming.

- ❖ Photoreforming is a photocatalytic process where sunlight and catalysts break down plastics to produce hydrogen and industrial chemicals.
- ❖ Researchers from the University of Cambridge and the University of Adelaide developed systems using plastic waste, solar energy, and safe catalysts for clean fuel production.
- ❖ The process can convert plastics like polyethylene and polypropylene into hydrogen, syngas, acetic acid, and liquid fuels.
- ❖ Hydrogen is an important clean fuel used in industries such as refining and ammonia production.
- ❖ Global plastic production is more than 400 million tonnes annually, but less than 10% to 18% of plastic waste is recycled.

## Hantavirus Outbreak


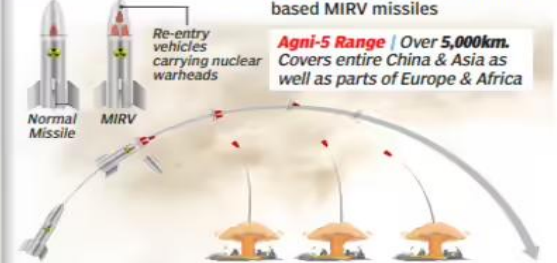


- ❖ A suspected Hantavirus outbreak was reported on the Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius near Cape Verde, Africa.
- ❖ Hantavirus is a zoonotic disease spread mainly through infected rodent urine, saliva, or droppings.
- ❖ It can cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) and Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS).
- ❖ Early symptoms include fever, fatigue, and muscle pain, which may later develop into severe breathing problems.

- ❖ The virus usually does not spread between humans, but rare human-to-human transmission was seen in the Andes virus strain.
- ❖ There is no specific vaccine or cure, so prevention mainly depends on rodent control and sanitation.

## Mission Divyastra and Agni-5 MIRV

### INDIA'S NUCLEAR TRIAD

<p><b>A Land Vector</b> Prithvi-II (350-km), Agni-1 (700-km), Agni-2 (2,000-km), Agni-3 (3,000-km) &amp; Agni-5 (over 5,000-km) missiles inducted by the Strategic Forces Command</p> <p><b>B Air Vector</b> Sukhoi-30MKI, Mirage-2000, Jaguar &amp; Rafale fighters can deliver nuclear gravity bombs</p> <p><b>C Sea Vector</b> &gt; Only 1 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), the 6,000-tonne INS Arihant, fully operational. Armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear missiles &gt; 6,000-tonne INS Arighat undergoing final trials. Will be commissioned this year &gt; Will be followed by two 7,000-tonne SSBNs (called S-4 &amp; S-4*) being built at Vizag. Over 13,000-tonne S-5 class SSBNs to be built later &gt; K-4 missiles (3,500-km range) have completed development trials &gt; Development of K-5 (5,000-km) and K-6 (6,000-km) SLBMs in progress</p>		<p><b>MIRV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; All Indian nuclear-capable missiles inducted so far <b>have single warheads</b></li> <li>&gt; MIRV payload means a single missile capable of <b>carrying at least two to three nuclear warheads</b>, with each programmed to hit different targets in different directions</li> <li>&gt; The targets can be a <b>few hundred km apart</b></li> <li>&gt; MIRV missiles can <b>overcome enemy defence systems</b> &amp; ensure effective retaliation to a first strike</li> <li>&gt; <b>US, UK &amp; France</b> have submarine-launched MIRV missiles</li> <li>&gt; <b>China has land-based</b> MIRV missiles</li> <li>&gt; <b>Russia has both</b> sea and land-based MIRV missiles</li> </ul> <p><b>Agni-5 Range   Over 5,000km.</b> Covers entire China &amp; Asia as well as parts of Europe &amp; Africa</p>
		

- ❖ India successfully tested the Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology under Mission Divyastra.
- ❖ MIRV technology allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads that can strike different targets independently.
- ❖ The missile was launched from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha and tracked through ground and ship-based stations.
- ❖ Agni-5 is a nuclear-capable long-range ballistic missile with a strike range of over 5,000 km.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### LEADS 2025 Logistics Ranking

- ❖ The LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2025 report ranked Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Delhi as “Exemplars” in logistics performance.

- ❖ The report was released by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).
- ❖ LEADS assesses states and Union Territories based on logistics policy, infrastructure, service delivery, and regulatory systems.
- ❖ LEADS 2025 introduced a new four-tier system: Exemplars, High Performers, Accelerators, and Growth-Seekers.
- ❖ Gujarat and Kerala were placed in the “High Performers” category along with other states and Union Territories.
- ❖ Around 59% weightage in LEADS 2025 was given to objective and evidence-based indicators for better assessment accuracy.



## STATE NEWS

### Highest Cybercrime Cases – Bengaluru



- ❖ Bengaluru recorded 17,561 cybercrime cases in 2024, the highest among metropolitan cities in India, according to NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) data.
- ❖ The city reported a cybercrime rate of 206.6 cases per one lakh population in 2024.
- ❖ Fraud was the largest category of cyber offences, with 16,842 fraud-related cases reported in Bengaluru.
- ❖ Karnataka recorded 21,993 cybercrime cases in 2024, making it one of the leading states in cybercrime registration.
- ❖ Across India, cybercrime cases increased from 86,420 in 2023 to 1,01,928 in 2024, showing a 17.9% rise.
- ❖ Bengaluru's charge-sheeting rate in cybercrime cases was 24.2% in 2024.

