

May - 26

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Liesl Zühlke (South Africa), Felice Jacka (Australia), Sarah A Teichmann (United Kingdom), Raquel Lia Chan (Argentina), and Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic (United States) were named laureates of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards for contributions to life and environmental sciences.
- ❖ The Panzath Nag Spring Conservation Festival was recently observed in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - It is a community-led festival that combines spring cleaning, wetland restoration, and traditional fish-catching practices.
- ❖ Salim Abdool Karim received the Order of Mapungubwe in Gold for contributions to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis research, and COVID-19 leadership, while Keertan Dheda received the award in Silver for research on tuberculosis and drug-resistant respiratory infections in Pretoria.
  - The Order of Mapungubwe is South Africa's highest civilian honour awarded for excellence and exceptional achievements benefiting society and humanity.
- ❖ Anti-Terrorism Day is observed every year on May 21 across India to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism and violence.
- ❖ International Tea Day is observed every year on May 21 to highlight the cultural, economic, and health importance of tea worldwide.
- ❖ World Fair Play Day is observed annually on May 19 to promote peace, inclusion, justice, unity, fairness, and respect through sports across the world.

## NATIONAL NEWS

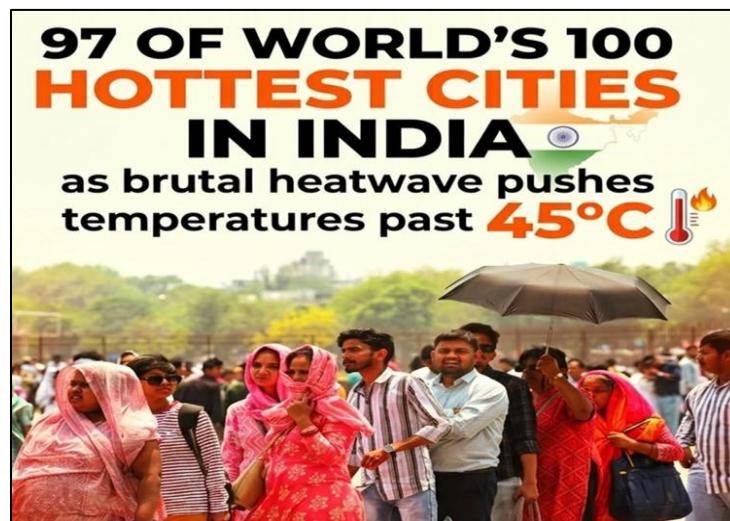
### India Semiconductor Mission 2.0

- ❖ The Central Government is considering extending the tenure of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 from 5 years to 12 years to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing and supply chains.
- ❖ The extended timeline aims to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in becoming suppliers for global semiconductor companies.
- ❖ The mission focuses on developing India's semiconductor ecosystem, including chip manufacturing, packaging, and raw material supply chains.
- ❖ The longer incentive period is expected to help firms improve quality, scale, and competitiveness in the semiconductor sector.

- ❖ The India Semiconductor Mission was launched to promote domestic semiconductor and display manufacturing in India.



### Heatwave in India 2026



- ❖ India recorded 97 of the world's 100 hottest cities on 22 May 2026 during a severe heatwave across northern, central, and eastern regions.
- ❖ Balangir in Odisha and Sasaram in Bihar recorded 48°C, while Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh recorded 47°C.
- ❖ Earlier on the same day, all 50 of the world's hottest cities were in India.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast heatwave to severe heatwave conditions until 27 May 2026 across several states in northern and eastern India.
- ❖ A heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperature lasting several days and is classified by IMD using temperature thresholds and departure from normal conditions.

- ❖ Low humidity levels of 6–8%, along with extreme temperatures increased risks of heat stress, dehydration, and heatstroke.

### **Raghav Chadha - Petition Panel**



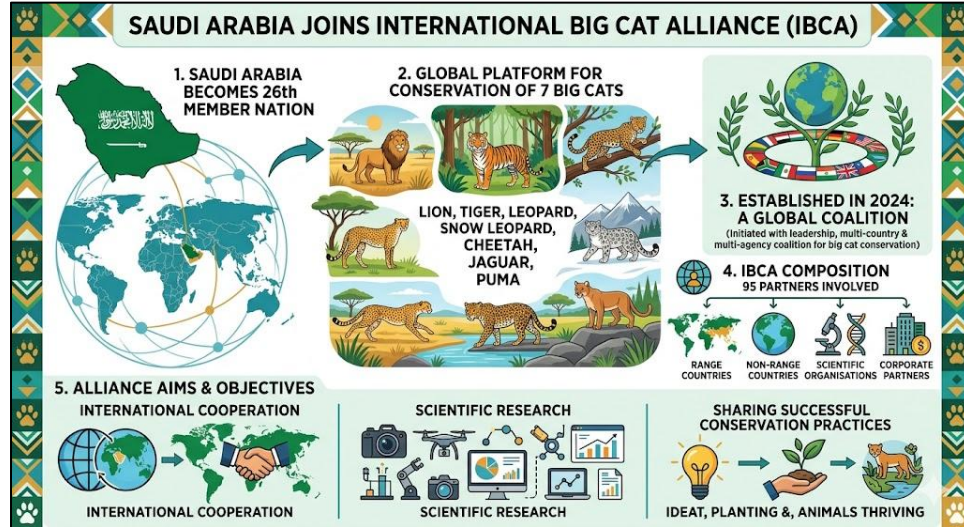
- ❖ Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Raghav Chadha was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Committee on Petitions examines petitions submitted by citizens on public issues and government matters.
- ❖ The committee was reconstituted by Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan with effect from 20 May 2026.
- ❖ The panel has 10 members, including Harsh Mahajan, Gulam Ali, Jebi Mather Hisham, and P. Sandosh Kumar.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Saudi Arabia in IBCA**

- ❖ Saudi Arabia became the 26th member nation of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- ❖ IBCA is a global platform for the conservation of seven big cats — lion, tiger, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.
- ❖ The alliance was established in 2024 as a multi-country and multi-agency coalition for big cat conservation.

- ❖ IBCA includes 95 big cat range countries, non-range countries, scientific organisations, and corporate partners supporting wildlife conservation.
- ❖ The alliance aims to promote international cooperation, scientific research, and the sharing of successful conservation practices for big cats.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### RBI's Record Surplus Transfer



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved its highest-ever surplus transfer of ₹2.86 lakh crore to the Central Government for the Financial Year (FY) 2025–26.
- ❖ The decision was taken at the 623rd meeting of the RBI Central Board of Directors, chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra in Mumbai.
- ❖ RBI's gross income increased by 26.42% in FY26, while its balance sheet expanded by 20.61% to ₹91.97 lakh crore as of 31 March 2026.

- ❖ The central bank transferred ₹1.09 lakh crore to the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) while maintaining the CRB at 6.5% under the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
- ❖ The Board also reviewed global and domestic economic conditions and discussed risks to the economic outlook.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Blue Straggler Star

- ❖ Researchers discovered the first confirmed blue straggler star with a brown dwarf companion in a compact binary system.
- ❖ Blue Straggler Stars are hot, blue, and massive stars mainly found in old stellar systems such as globular clusters.
- ❖ These stars appear brighter and hotter than nearby stars of the same age and seem younger than expected.
- ❖ They are called “stragglers” because they evolve differently and lag behind other stars in the normal stellar life cycle.
- ❖ Scientists believe they form by gaining matter from a companion star or through interactions between multiple stars.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### UNEP Global Buildings Report

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme has released the 10th edition of the “Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2025–2026”.
- ❖ The sector remains off track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

- ❖ The buildings and construction sector accounts for 37% of global carbon emissions and nearly 50% of global material extraction.
- ❖ Buildings' operational emissions increased to 9.9 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide (GtCO<sub>2</sub>) in 2024 and must decline by 56% by 2030 to meet climate targets.
- ❖ Cement, steel, and aluminium used in buildings contributed around 9% of global emissions in 2024 due to embodied carbon emissions.
- ❖ Global building floor area increased by 1.7% in 2024 to 273 billion square metres, with major growth seen in India and Southeast Asia.



## STATE NEWS

### 3200-Year-Old Settlement Found



- ❖ Archaeologists discovered evidence of a 3,200-year-old settlement in Hazaribag district in the Mohane river basin of Chauparan block, Jharkhand.
- ❖ The site includes villages such as Dehar, Sohra, Mangarh, and Hathinder.

- ❖ Surveys using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) identified large buried structures measuring more than 100 feet in length.
- ❖ Researchers found Northern Black Polished Ware pottery linked to the early historic period in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Statues of Buddha, Tara, Avalokiteshvara, Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh, and Ganesha were also discovered at the site.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Global Water Summit 2026 Award**

- ❖ The Global Water Summit 2026 held in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ In the event, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) was ranked among the world's top five water utilities at under the "Utility of the Year" category.
- ❖ BWSSB was recognised for its five-pillar approach to water conservation, wastewater recycling, reuse, and sustainable urban water governance.
- ❖ Its Cauvery Stage V Drinking Water Project was shortlisted among the world's top five in the "Water Project of the Year" category.



### **AIAA Award 2026**

- ❖ ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 received the 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 achieved the world's first soft landing near the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023.
- ❖ The mission explored a scientifically important region of the Moon that had not been studied earlier at the surface level.

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 confirmed the presence of important chemical elements in the lunar south polar soil, indicating possible local resources for future missions.
- ❖ The mission provided important scientific data to support future human missions and long-term exploration of the Moon.



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