

May - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India successfully tested the indigenous Vayu Astra loitering munition developed by Nibe Limited.
 - The system completed demonstrations in mountainous terrain at Malari in Uttarakhand and desert terrain at Pokhran in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Oil India Limited discovered a new natural gas zone in the Dandewala Field of Jaisalmer district, western Rajasthan, marking the first successful gas discovery in the shallow Sanu Formation.
- ❖ Squadron Leader Saanya became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to receive the Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor (CAT-A QFI) qualification.
- ❖ India unveiled its first indigenous 300-km “Suryastra” Universal Rocket Launching System in Shirdi, Maharashtra.
 - Suryastra is a precision-guided rocket system capable of striking targets at ranges of 150 km and 300 km.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹6.5 lakh crore with Adani Power, Reliance Industries, NTPC Limited, and Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited to generate 25,400 MW of nuclear power.
- ❖ Odisha made Electric Vehicles (EVs) mandatory for all new government two-wheelers and four-wheelers from 1 June 2026.
- ❖ World Football Day is observed every year on 25 May to recognise the role of football in promoting peace, inclusion, and development.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Crop Loan Waiver 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced a cooperative crop loan waiver scheme for farmers.
- ❖ The scheme was announced by Chief Minister for loans taken from cooperative banks between 1 May 2025 and 28 February 2026.
- ❖ Marginal farmers will receive a full waiver for loans up to ₹50,000, while small farmers will receive a 50% waiver within this limit.
- ❖ Farmers with loans above ₹1 lakh and other large farmers will receive a flat waiver of ₹5,000 each.

- ❖ Around 14.22 lakh farmers are expected to benefit from the scheme, with an estimated government expenditure of ₹2,044.46 crore.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay Announces ₹2,044 Crore **Crop Loan Waiver** for Over 14 Lakh Farmers

The scheme will provide full waiver for small and marginal farmers with cooperative crop loans up to ₹50,000, while around 14.22 lakh farmers are expected to benefit from the ₹2,044 crore relief announced by the Tamil Nadu government.

NATIONAL NEWS

Cockroach Janta Party

COCKROACH JANTA PARTY

FIVE-POINT AGENDA

- 1 NO POST-RETIREMENT REWARDS FOR JUDGES**
No Chief Justice shall be granted a Rajya Sabha seat as a post-retirement reward.
- 2 PROTECT EVERY LEGIT VOTE**
If any legit vote is deleted, whether in a CJP or opposition-ruled state, the CEC shall be arrested under UAPA, as taking away voting rights of citizens is no less than terrorism.
- 3 50% RESERVATION FOR WOMEN**
Women shall receive 50% reservation, not 33%, without increasing the strength of Parliament. Additionally, 50% of all Cabinet positions shall be reserved for women.
- 4 INDEPENDENT MEDIA, NOT GODI MEDIA**
All media houses owned by Ambani and Adani shall have their licenses cancelled to make way for truly independent media. Bank accounts of Godi media anchors shall be investigated.
- 5 20-YEAR BAN ON POLITICAL DEFECTION**
Any M.L.A or M.P who defects from one party to another shall be barred from contesting elections and from holding any public office for a period of 20 years.

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- ❖ The Central Government blocked the website and social media accounts of the newly formed Cockroach Janta Party using powers under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.
- ❖ Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act allows the government to block online content in the interest of national security, public order, sovereignty, or defence of India.

- ❖ The action included blocking the party's digital platforms and online communication channels.
- ❖ Orders under Section 69A are implemented through the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ The blocking process follows procedures and safeguards provided under the Information Technology Rules, 2009.

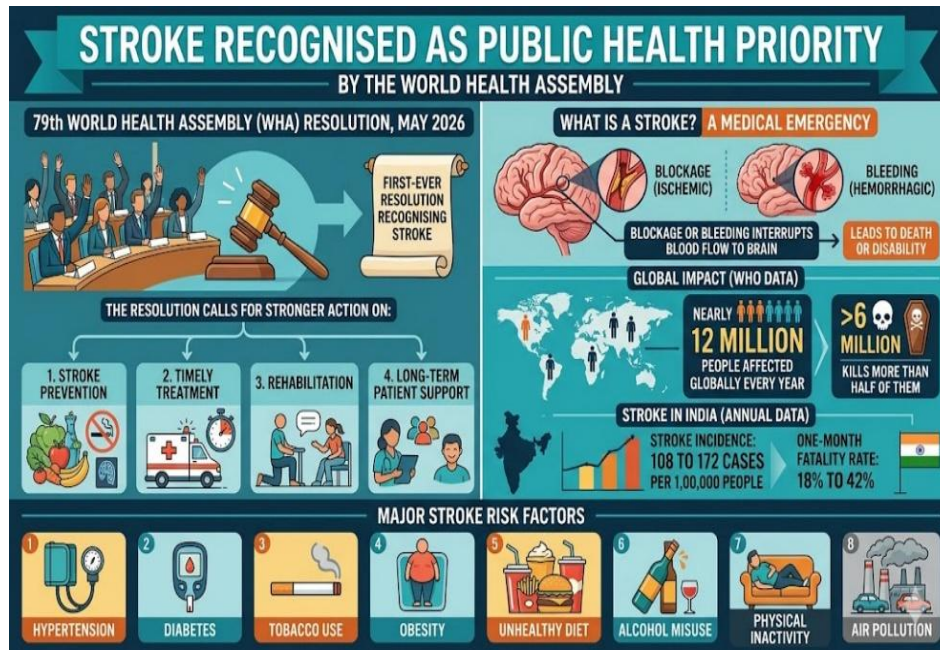
BHAVYA Scheme Guidelines



- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released operational guidelines for the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) Scheme.
- ❖ BHAVYA is a Central Sector Scheme launched to develop investment-ready and world-class industrial parks across India.
- ❖ The scheme aims to develop 100 industrial parks between 2026-27 and 2031-32 with a total outlay of about ₹33,660 crore.
- ❖ The scheme supports the Make in India initiative, the PM Gati Shakti programme, manufacturing growth, logistics improvement, and employment generation.
- ❖ Projects will be implemented through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) under the Companies Act, 2013, with National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation acting as the Project Management Agency.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Stroke - Public Health Priority



- ❖ The 79th World Health Assembly passed its first-ever resolution recognising stroke as a major public health priority in May 2026.
- ❖ The resolution calls for stronger action on stroke prevention, timely treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term patient support.
- ❖ Stroke is a medical emergency caused by blockage or bleeding that interrupts blood flow to the brain and can lead to death or disability.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation, strokes affect nearly 12 million people globally every year and kill more than half of them.
- ❖ In India, stroke incidence ranges from 108 to 172 cases per 1,00,000 people annually, with a one-month fatality rate between 18% and 42%.
- ❖ Major stroke risk factors include hypertension, diabetes, tobacco use, obesity, unhealthy diet, alcohol misuse, physical inactivity, and air pollution.

11th NPT Review Conference

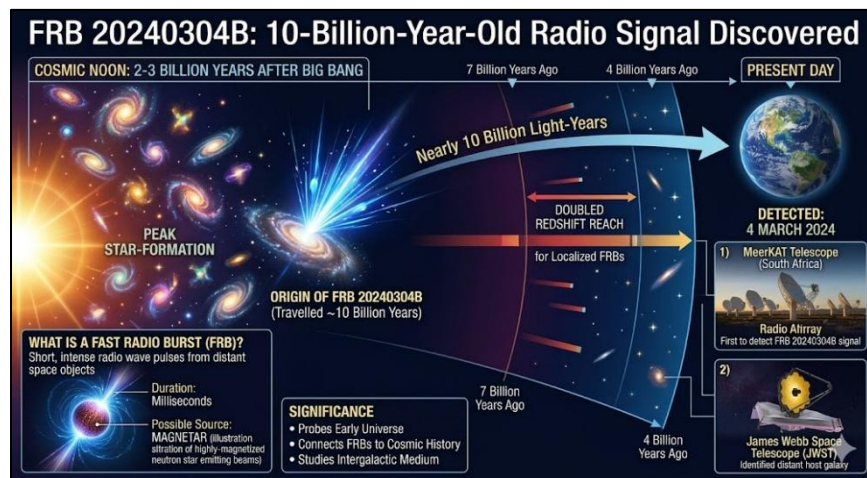
- ❖ The 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons concluded in New York City in May 2026 without achieving consensus on an outcome document.

- ❖ The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and support nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ The European Union said the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and international peace and security.
- ❖ Major concerns discussed included Russia’s nuclear threats linked to Ukraine, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear and missile programme, and China’s rapid nuclear build-up.
- ❖ The conference also supported stronger transparency measures and improvements in reviewing treaty obligations of member countries.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

10-Billion-Year-Old Radio Signal



- ❖ Scientists detected FRB 20240304B, a fast radio burst that travelled nearly 10 billion years before reaching Earth.
- ❖ The signal was detected by the MeerKAT telescope in South Africa on 4 March 2024, and its host galaxy was identified using the James Webb Space Telescope.

- ❖ Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) are short and intense radio wave pulses from distant space objects, and magnetars are considered one possible source.
- ❖ The burst originated during “Cosmic Noon”, the peak star-formation period that occurred about 2–3 billion years after the Big Bang, and it doubled the redshift reach of localised FRBs.
- ❖ LOFAR (Low Frequency Array), a European radio telescope network, also detected a radio mini-halo around the SpARCS1049 galaxy cluster, located about 10 billion light-years away.

Loktak Protocluster Discovery



- ❖ Indian astrophysicist Ronaldo Laishram led an international team that discovered the “Loktak Protocluster”.
- ❖ The galaxy protocluster was formed about 12.6 billion years ago when the Universe was nearly 1.2 billion years old.
- ❖ The structure was named after Loktak Lake in Manipur, the largest freshwater lake in north-eastern India, because the galaxy groups resembled the floating phumdis found in the lake.
- ❖ A protocluster is an early-stage concentration of galaxies that later develops into a massive galaxy cluster containing hundreds or thousands of galaxies.
- ❖ The Loktak Protocluster contains four connected galaxy concentrations and was discovered using the James Webb Space Telescope and the Subaru Telescope.

India's First Geothermal Power Plant



- ❖ Ladakh approved a five-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to establish India's first geothermal power plant.
- ❖ The project will be set up at an altitude of nearly 14,000 feet in Puga Valley in eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ Under the revised agreement, ONGC will establish a 1-Megawatt electric (MWe) pilot geothermal power plant and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for large-scale geothermal energy development.
- ❖ Geothermal energy uses heat stored inside the Earth's crust and is considered a renewable and clean energy source.
- ❖ The Geological Survey of India has identified 381 hot springs and 10 geothermal provinces in India, with an estimated geothermal power potential of about 10,600 Megawatt (MW).
- ❖ The National Policy on Geothermal Energy, 2025, supports renewable energy expansion, energy security, and India's 2070 Net Zero target.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026

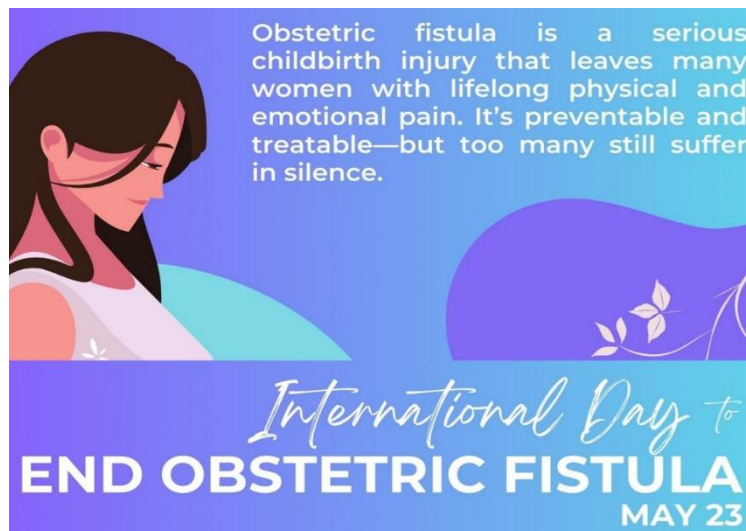
- ❖ The Sansad Ratna Awards 2026 were announced to honour outstanding performance by Members of Parliament (MPs) and Parliamentary Standing Committees.
- ❖ The awards recognised 10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs, and 4 Parliamentary Standing Committees for their parliamentary performance.

- ❖ Important awardees include Smita Uday Wagh, Medha Kulkarni, Jagdambika Pal, and Nishikant Dubey.
- ❖ The award was instituted in 2010 by the Prime Point Foundation, inspired by former President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The awards are based on official parliamentary data such as debates, questions, attendance, committee participation, and private member bills.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2026 – May 23



- ❖ The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed every year on 23 May to raise awareness about preventable childbirth injuries affecting women and girls.
- ❖ Obstetric fistula is a serious childbirth injury caused by prolonged or obstructed labour without timely medical treatment.

- ❖ The condition can lead to urine or faeces leakage, infections, emotional trauma, social isolation, and economic hardship.
- ❖ According to the United Nations Population Fund, around 50,000 to 100,000 new obstetric fistula cases occur globally every year, with many cases reported in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Restore Her Dignity. Protect Her Future.”

International Day of the Markhor 2026 – May 24



- ❖ The International Day of the Markhor is observed every year on 24 May to promote conservation of the markhor species and its mountain habitat.
- ❖ The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is a wild goat species found in mountainous regions of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The species is listed as “Near Threatened” by the IUCN and has been included in Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) since 1992.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly first observed the day of the Markhor in 2024.
- ❖ The markhor is the national animal of Pakistan and is known for its long corkscrew-shaped horns.

