

May - 31

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi International Airport Limited is planning India's first driverless airport air train at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.
- ❖ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) commissioned a 3.37 Gigawatt-hour (GWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Khavda, Gujarat, becoming the world's largest single-location battery storage system outside China.
- ❖ Russia and Kazakhstan signed an agreement to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant, which will be developed by Rosatom at Ulken village near Lake Balkhash in south-eastern Kazakhstan.
- ❖ Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB) received the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) award for outstanding performance under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
  - The bank achieved 2,49,185 APY enrolments against the target of 1,75,500 accounts, recording 142% achievement.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has appointed Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal as the Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of the Police Force (HoPF), succeeding Sandeep Rai Rathore.
- ❖ The International Day of Action for Women's Health is observed every year on 28 May to promote women's health rights and access to quality healthcare services.
- ❖ Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed annually on 28 May to promote menstrual health, hygiene, and dignity for women and girls worldwide.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Leiden Copper Plates

- ❖ The Leiden Copper Plates, an important record of the Chola Empire, were officially returned to India by Leiden University at The Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ The plates contain inscriptions issued by Rajaraja Chola I, Rajendra Chola I, and Kulottunga Chola I, recording land grants to the Chudamani Vihara at Nagapattinam.
- ❖ The inscriptions provide valuable information on Chola administration, land revenue, maritime trade, and cultural links with Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The larger set contains 21 copper plates (16 in Tamil and 5 in Sanskrit written in Grantha script) and dates to the early 11th century.

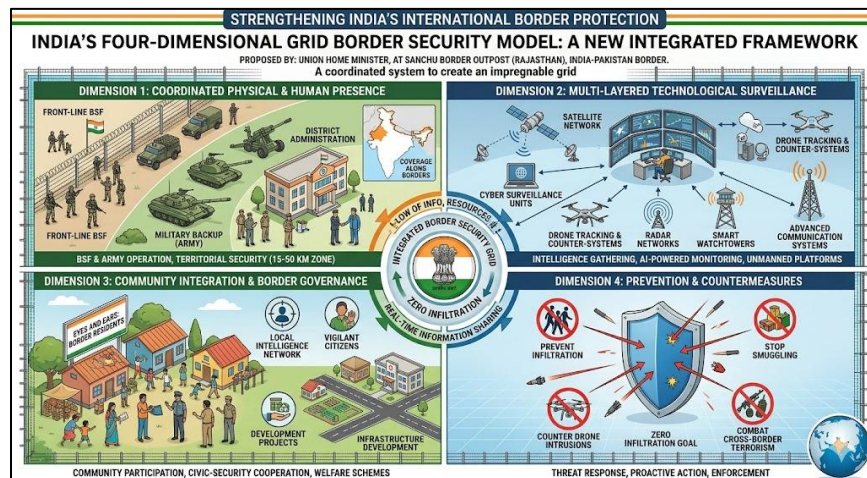
- ❖ The plates record the support given by the Cholas to a Buddhist monastery built by the Sailendra rulers of Srivijaya (Java), showing strong India–Southeast Asia relations.



**HISTORIC : Netherlands returns 1000-Year-Old Chola Copper Plates to India**  
Ancient Chola-era Leiden Plates return to India after centuries in Dutch custody.

## NATIONAL NEWS

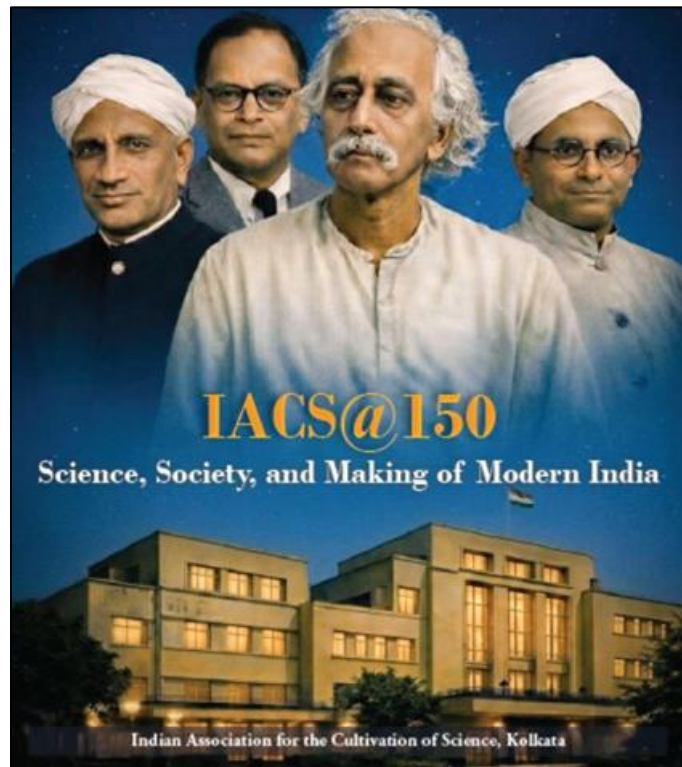
### India's Four-Dimensional Security Framework



- ❖ The union home minister proposed the Four-Dimensional Grid Border Security Model during his visit to the Sanchu Border Outpost on the India–Pakistan border in Rajasthan.

- ❖ It is a new integrated border security framework to strengthen India's international border protection.
- ❖ The model brings together the Border Security Force (BSF), Army, district administration, cyber surveillance units, and border residents under one coordinated system.
- ❖ It aims to prevent infiltration, smuggling, drone intrusions, and cross-border terrorism through multi-layered security.
- ❖ The framework uses technology such as cyber monitoring, drone tracking, real-time intelligence sharing, and advanced communication systems.

### **150 Years of Indian Science Excellence**



- ❖ The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) celebrated the 150th anniversary of its establishment in 2026.
- ❖ IACS was founded in 1876 by Mahendralal Sircar at Kolkata and is considered Asia's first research institution established by Indians for scientific research.
- ❖ The Government inaugurated the Plasma Enhanced Chemical Vapour Deposition (PECVD) system at IACS to develop India's first amorphous silicon solar cell.
- ❖ Eminent scientists such as Jagadish Chandra Bose, Meghnad Saha, Satyendra Nath Bose, and C. V. Raman were associated with IACS.

- ❖ C. V. Raman discovered the Raman Effect at IACS, earning India's first Nobel Prize in Science in 1930.

### **SARTHAK-PDS Scheme**



- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the SARTHAK-PDS scheme with a Central outlay of ₹25,530 crore for the period up to March 2031.
- ❖ SARTHAK-PDS (Scheme for Assistance in Ration Transport and Handling-Income with Automation in Public Distribution System) integrates ration transport support and SMART-PDS reforms under one umbrella scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensure efficient last-mile delivery of food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
- ❖ It will provide financial assistance for intra-state movement, handling of food grains, and Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers' margins.
- ❖ The scheme will support food security for 81.35 crore beneficiaries covered under NFSA.

### **Water Budgeting - 11,000 Villages**

- ❖ India's water budgeting initiatives have improved groundwater levels, helping make over 11,000 villages drought-free.

- ❖ Under the Atal Bhujal Yojana, 180 of 229 blocks recorded measurable groundwater improvement during 2023–24 and 2024–25.
- ❖ Water budgeting assesses water availability and demand to ensure sustainable use of groundwater and surface water resources.
- ❖ The Varuni App, developed with support from NITI Aayog, automatically generates block-level water budgets using rainfall and land-use data.
- ❖ Maharashtra's Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan (2014) helped make over 11,000 villages drought-free through water conservation and groundwater recharge measures.
- ❖ Rajasthan's Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan (2016) contributed to an approximately 4% rise in groundwater levels.



### **SC on Special Intensive Revision**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, beginning with Bihar and extending to other States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The Court ruled that SIR is within the powers of the Election Commission of India under Article 324 and helps maintain accurate electoral rolls.
- ❖ The exercise was justified due to migration, urbanisation, duplicate entries, and unreported deaths affecting voter lists.
- ❖ In Bihar, the electoral roll decreased from 7.89 crore to 7.42 crore voters after the revision process.

- ❖ Persons excluded on citizenship grounds must have their cases referred to authorities under the Citizenship Act, 1955, for adjudication.
- ❖ The Court mandated safeguards such as publication of exclusion lists, disclosure of reasons, and opportunities for appeal to ensure procedural fairness.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

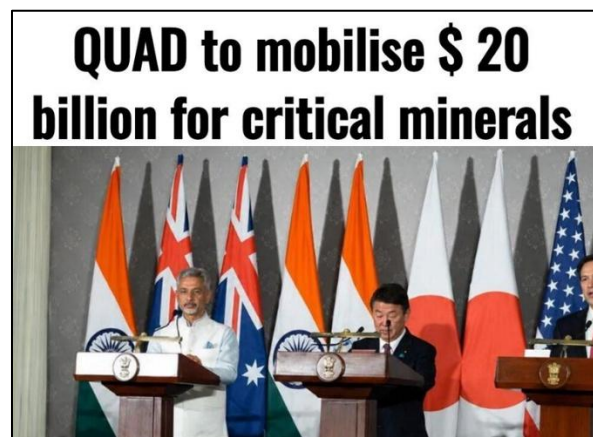
### Education World Forum 2026



- ❖ Education World Forum 2026 concluded in London with major discussions on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and future learning skills.

- ❖ OpenAI highlighted its “Education for Countries” initiative for secure AI tools, teacher training, and research-based learning systems.
- ❖ The forum brought together education ministers and global education leaders to discuss education reforms, AI adoption, and workforce skills.
- ❖ OpenAI stated that students and teachers are rapidly adopting AI tools such as ChatGPT in classrooms.
- ❖ The event also focused on non-formal education, resilience, and human skills needed for future jobs.

### **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework**



- ❖ The Quad countries unveiled the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework during the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The framework is a joint initiative of India, the United States, Japan, and Australia to build secure and diversified critical mineral supply chains.
- ❖ It aims to reduce dependence on China-dominated supply routes for critical minerals and rare earth elements.
- ❖ The initiative plans to mobilise nearly 20 billion US dollars through public and private investments.
- ❖ It covers the entire supply chain, including mining, processing, refining, manufacturing inputs, and recycling of critical minerals.
- ❖ Critical minerals are essential for Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, semiconductors, solar panels, and defence technologies.

### **India–Cyprus Strategic Partnership**

- ❖ India and Cyprus elevated their bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership during the visit of the Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides to India.

- ❖ India and Cyprus agreed to establish a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and reaffirmed cooperation against all forms of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism.
- ❖ Both countries signed agreements on counter-terrorism cooperation and diplomatic training.
- ❖ New initiatives include a Cyber Security Dialogue, a Consular Dialogue, and a Roadmap for Bilateral Defence Cooperation (2026–2031).
- ❖ Cyprus is the 9th largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India and the second largest among European Union (EU) countries after the Netherlands, with cumulative investments of about US\$16 billion since 2000.



## ECONOMY NEWS

### Memflation: Rising Memory Chip Prices



**Supply Crunch**

Memory chips are seeing **rising demand** from the AI server industry

**Price hikes** could become a quarterly or even monthly trend in 2026, execs warn

**Memory market in 'hyper-bull' phase with prices up 50% last quarter; set to rise 40-50% Jan-Mar, another 20% Apr-Jun**



- ❖ Memflation is affecting India's electronics sector due to rising prices and shortages of memory chips used in smartphones, laptops, and other electronic devices.

- ❖ Memflation refers to inflation caused by shortages and rising prices of DRAM (Dynamic Random-Access Memory) and NAND (Not AND) Flash Memory chips.
- ❖ The main causes are increased demand from Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres, a shift towards High-Bandwidth Memory (HBM) production, and reduced supply of conventional memory chips.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Hunger Day 2026 – May 28

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about global hunger and food insecurity.
- ❖ The day highlights the role of farmers, women, youth, and communities in creating a hunger-free world.
- ❖ According to the United Nations (UN) State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report 2025, global hunger has started to decline for the first time since 2017.
- ❖ However, about 673 million people (1 in 12 people globally) still suffer from chronic hunger, and 2.6 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- ❖ The day was founded in 2011 by The Hunger Project, a global organisation established in 1977 to work towards ending hunger.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “The End of Hunger is in Our Hands.”

