

May - 08

## TNPSC BITS

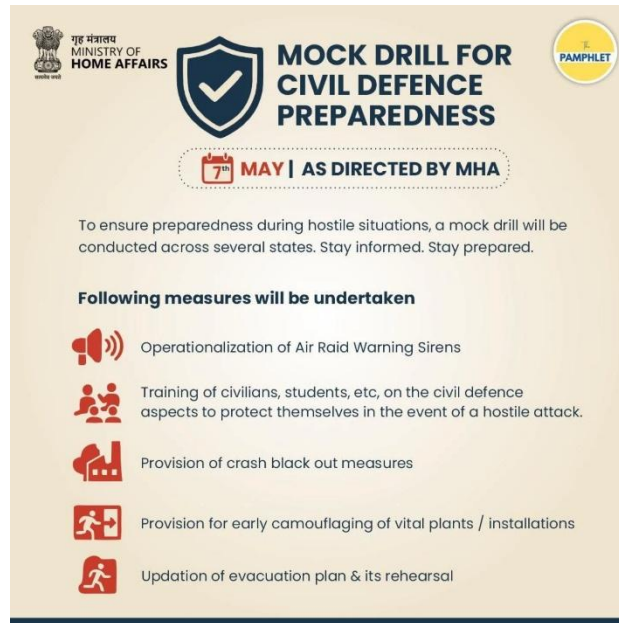
- ❖ The literary works of five Tamil scholars — late 'Kavikko' S. Abdul Rahman, late Merwin, and late A. Palani, and poets Ku. Ma. Kothandam and Ilama Tamilnavan were nationalised recently by the Tamilnadu Government and the royalties were presented to their families.
- ❖ A statue of German economist and political theorist Karl Marx, whose ideas influenced politics, economics, and social movements across the globe, is set to be installed at the entrance of the Connemara Public Library in Chennai.
- ❖ The Khelo India Youth Games 2025 is being held in Bihar for the first time.
- ❖ Kozhikode from Kerala was recently included in the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).
- ❖ Hyderabad-based 'Goldsikka' unveiled an AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM offering users the ability to buy, sell, exchange, lease, digitise and monetise gold and gold jewellery.
- ❖ Hyderabad is set to host the 72nd edition of the Miss World beauty pageant.
- ❖ Indian Army launches Operation Shiva to provide security to the two-month long Amarnath Yatra I Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The central government has announced the establishment of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai, an institution modelled after the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM).
- ❖ Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has become the first PM to win a second consecutive three-year term in 21 years.
- ❖ Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's People's Action Party (PAP) won the General Election by a landslide, securing 87 of the 97 parliamentary seats.
- ❖ Angola signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and became the 123rd member of the ISA.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### **Civil defense exercise in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ A civil defence exercise and rehearsal in certain vital installations in Tamil Nadu was held recently.
- ❖ It was conducted in Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam and Chennai Port Trust campuses.

- ❖ During this drill, activities was undertaken in these two vital installations to handle an incoming air raid.



**गृह मंत्रालय**  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**MOCK DRILL FOR CIVIL DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS**

**7<sup>th</sup> MAY | AS DIRECTED BY MHA**

To ensure preparedness during hostile situations, a mock drill will be conducted across several states. Stay informed. Stay prepared.

**Following measures will be undertaken**

- Operationalization of Air Raid Warning Sirens
- Training of civilians, students, etc, on the civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a hostile attack.
- Provision of crash black out measures
- Provision for early camouflaging of vital plants / installations
- Update of evacuation plan & its rehearsal

## NATIONAL NEWS

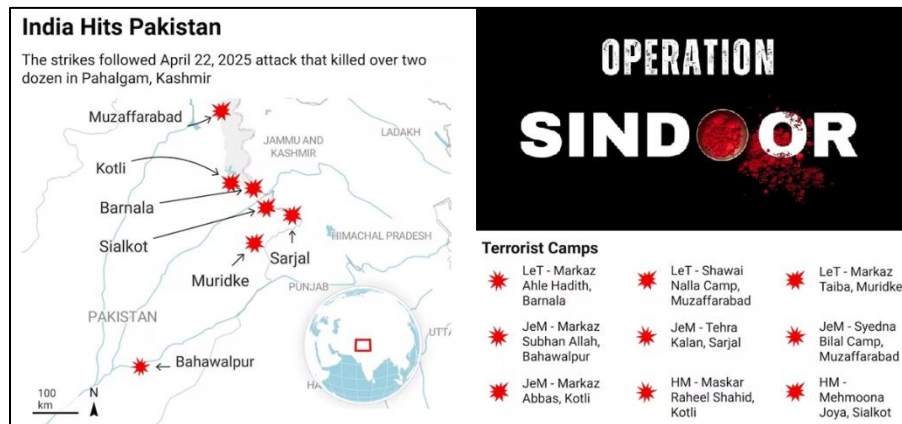
### Nationwide Civil defense drill

<p><b>WHAT IS A MOCK DRILL?</b> A mock drill is a practice exercise conducted to prepare civilians and emergency services for wartime scenarios such as air strikes or bomb threats.</p>	
<p><b>WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?</b> <b>Date:</b> 7th May 2024 <b>Time:</b> TBA <b>Nationwide Alert Will Be issued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobile Notifications</li> <li>Public Sirens</li> <li>Public Announcements</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHAT TO DO DURING THE MOCK DRILL?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Stay Calm –</b> It's just a Drill Don't panic. This is only a preparedness exercise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?</b> Educating people about wartime procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing emergency response systems</li> <li>Ensuring we're all better prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Follow Instructions from Authorities</b> Pay attention to official announcements or messages</li> <li><b>Practice Safety Measures</b> Move to a shelter, or drop, cover and hold</li> </ul>
<p><b>REMEMBER:</b> <b>No Need to Panic.</b> This is a Practice to Keep You Safe.</p>	

- ❖ The Centre has conducted a nationwide civil defence drill on May 7 across 259 locations.

- ❖ These drills will involve activating air-raid warning sirens and training civilians in civil defence measures for protection during a 'hostile attack'.
- ❖ The exercise is conducted under the Civil Defence Rules, 1968.
- ❖ The aim was to test the preparedness and efficiency of the current civil defence mechanisms at the state and local levels.
- ❖ Such a large-scale mock drill was taking place for the first time since the 1971 Bangladesh war.

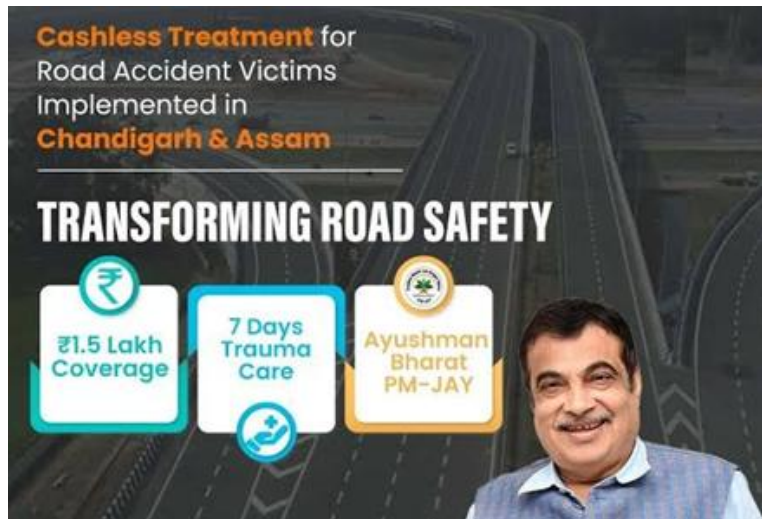
## Operation Sindoor 2025



- ❖ The Indian Air Force has deployed the Rafale jets armed with SCALP missiles and AASM Hammer bombs in the 23-minute-long Operation Sindoor early in the morning of 7 May 2025.
- ❖ The 25 minutes lasted attack targeted against only known terror camps.
- ❖ The Indian Armed Forces has struck nine terror sites in Pakistan's Punjab province and PoK.
- ❖ Among these four are said to be Bahawalpur and Muridke in Pakistan Punjab and Muzaffarabad and Kotli in PoK.
- ❖ It had marked the most expansive and widespread retaliation since the Balakot airstrikes in 2019 and the surgical strikes following the Uri attack in 2016.
- ❖ All are having the links to the terror groups, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen.
- ❖ Operation Sindoor was ostensibly a reference to only men being singled out based on their faith before being killed in Pahalgam.
- ❖ India has briefed the U.S., the U.K., Saudi Arabia, UAE and Russia after striking targets
- ❖ No Pakistani civilian, economic or military targets have been hit.

- ❖ India's Operation Sindoor briefing was led by Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi.
- ❖ Sofiya Qureshi is the first woman officer to lead an Indian Army contingent in a multinational military exercise in Pune, Maharashtra.

### Free Treatment Plan for Crash Victims

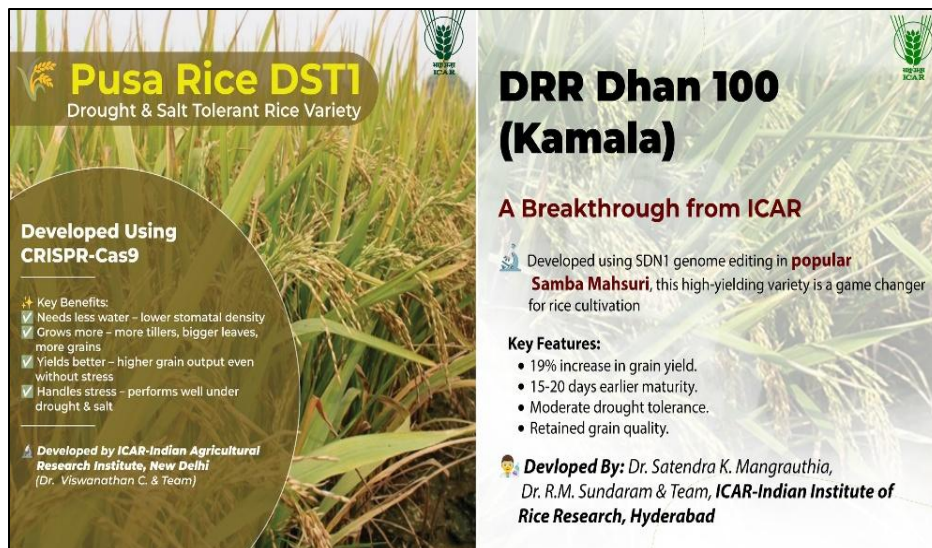


- ❖ The government has notified cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims nationwide.
- ❖ Under the scheme, they will be entitled to a maximum amount of ₹1.5 lakh per accident per victim for a maximum period of seven days from the date of accident.
- ❖ As per the notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the scheme has come into force with effect from May 5, 2025.
- ❖ The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the programme.
- ❖ The State Road Safety Council shall be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme for that state
- ❖ The term “golden hour” defined as the period of one hour following a traumatic injury when prompt treatment has the highest likelihood of preventing the victim’s death.

### First Genome-Edited Rice Varieties

- ❖ Indian scientists have made a history by producing two new climate-smart rice varieties using a 21st Century breeding technology called "genome editing".

- ❖ These improved rice varieties named as 'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1'.
- ❖ These varieties are considered climate-smart and climate resilient.
- ❖ The greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 20 per cent (32,000 tons).
- ❖ With this, India became the first country in the world to develop Genome-Edited or GE rice varieties.
- ❖ The two new varieties incorporate no foreign DNA, so they are not genetically modified (GM).



**Pusa Rice DST1**  
Drought & Salt Tolerant Rice Variety

**Developed Using CRISPR-Cas9**

**Key Benefits:**

- ✓ Needs less water – lower stomatal density
- ✓ Grows more – more tillers, bigger leaves, more grains
- ✓ Yields better – higher grain output even without stress
- ✓ Handles stress – performs well under drought & salt

**Developed by ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (Dr. Viswanathan C. & Team)**

**DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)**

**A Breakthrough from ICAR**

Developed using SDN1 genome editing in **popular Samba Mahsuri**, this high-yielding variety is a game changer for rice cultivation

**Key Features:**

- 19% increase in grain yield.
- 15-20 days earlier maturity.
- Moderate drought tolerance.
- Retained grain quality.

**Developed By: Dr. Satendra K. Mangrauthia, Dr. R.M. Sundaram & Team, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad**

## Chenab Water Through Baglihar Dam

### INDIA HAS HALTED THE FLOW OF WATER TO PAKISTAN FROM BAGLIHAR DAM ON THE CHENAB RIVER:

- Authorities after emptying the reservoir, have closed the gates of the Baglihar dam
- No water can flow to Pakistan's Punjab province till India refills the reservoir
- The flow of water to Pakistan via Chenab River has been significantly reduced
- India likely to take similar steps to restrict flow of water via Kishanganga project on the Jhelum River

- ❖ India has stopped the flow of water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River.

- ❖ Water level in the Chenab River in Jammu's Akhnoor area fell below waist level for the first time in years.
- ❖ This is followed the closure of all gutter gates of the Salal and Baglihar hydel power dams in Reasi and Ramban districts.
- ❖ Built as run-of-the-river projects, the Baglihar and Salal dams enable India to regulate the timing of water release downstream.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World Bank Land Conference 2025



- ❖ The 2025 World Bank Land Conference, is being held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Theme of the event is “Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: Moving from Awareness to Action”.
- ❖ Indian delegation presents its transformative SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform at the event.
- ❖ SVAMITVA Scheme provides legal ownership of rural properties using drones and geospatial technology, property cards to over 24.4 million households across 1.6 lakh villages.

### BRS COPs 2025

- ❖ The Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS COPs) is being held in Geneva.

- ❖ The BRS COPs occur every two years and aim to advance global action on hazardous chemicals and waste management.
- ❖ The theme of the event is “Make visible the invisible: sound management of chemicals and wastes”.
- ❖ Indian delegation advocated for sound management of chemicals and wastes, access to finance and technology for developing countries, and pushed for action on plastic pollution.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Maiden Flight of Stratospheric Airship Platform

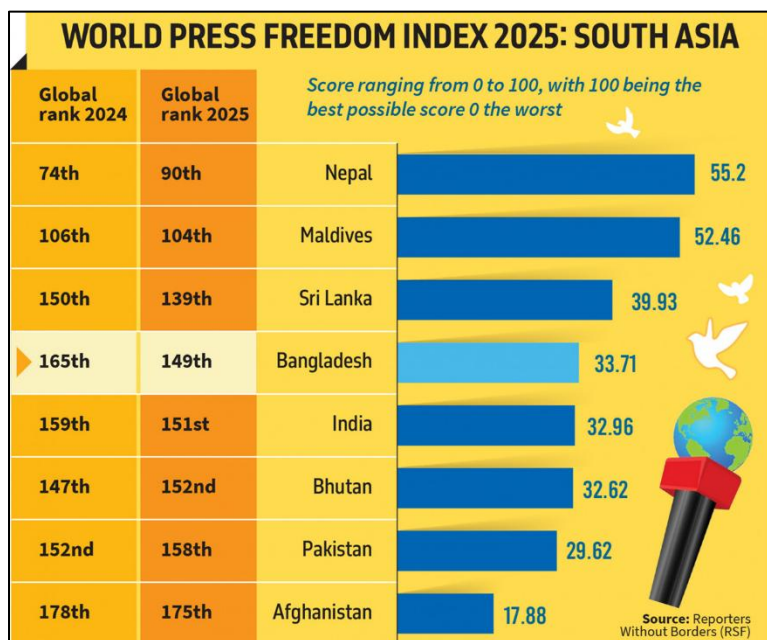


- ❖ India successfully carried out maiden flight-trials of a stratospheric airship platform.

- ❖ This system will uniquely enhance India's earth observation and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.
- ❖ It is a high-altitude, unmanned airship designed to operate in the stratosphere, typically between 17 to 22 kilometers above Earth.
- ❖ Unlike satellites or aircraft, it can stay over a specific area for days or weeks, providing persistent surveillance and communication support.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

### World Press Freedom Index – 2025



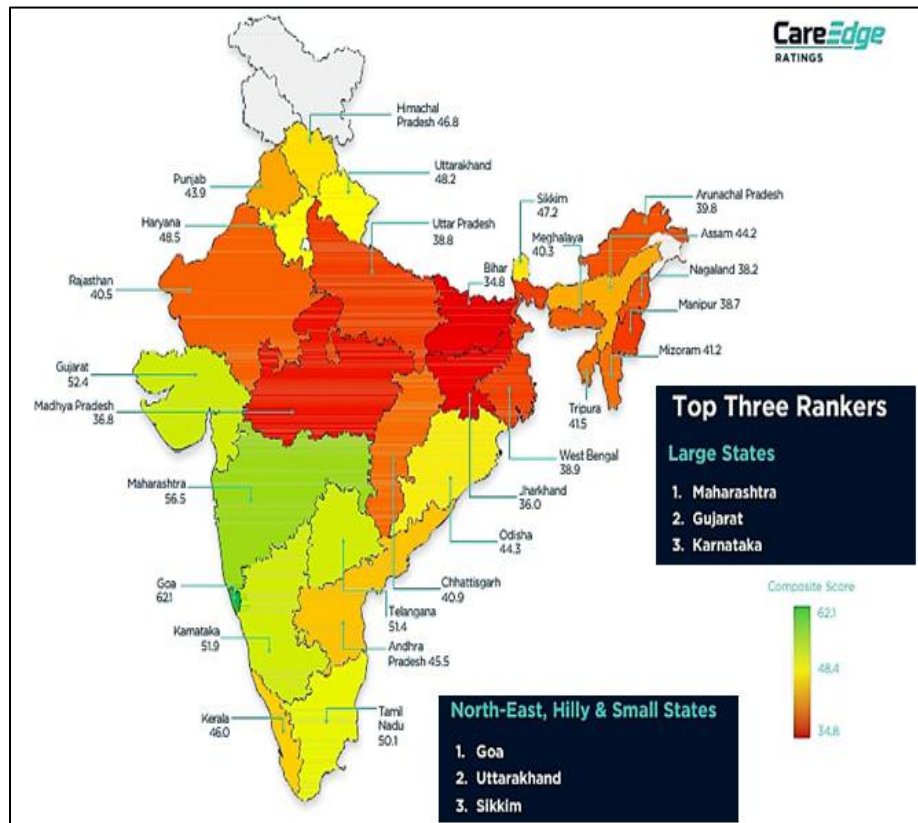
- ❖ This report is released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- ❖ Norway led the list in 2025, as it did last year, followed by Estonia, Netherlands, Sweden and Finland.
- ❖ Eritrea (180) is at the bottom-most this year, followed by North Korea, China, Syria and Iran.
- ❖ India ranked 151st with a total score of 32.96 in 2025, moving up 8 places from 159th last year.
- ❖ Out of 180 countries assessed, 160 face significant challenges regarding the financial stability of media outlets.
- ❖ All the South Asian countries were classified as "very serious" press freedom situations, except Nepal classified as "problematic" and the Maldives as "difficult".



- ❖ Among other major economies, Germany places at 11, United Kingdom at 20, France at 25, Brazil at 63 and Japan at 66.

## STATES' NEWS

### CareEdge State Rankings 2025



- ❖ Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka have emerged as the top-performing states in the 2025 CareEdge Ratings State Ranking.
- ❖ Western (Maharashtra, Gujarat) and Southern states (Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu) dominate the top five ranks.
- ❖ In Group B, comprising northeastern, hilly, and smaller states, Goa secured the top position with a score of 62.1.
- ❖ This second edition of the annual report assesses Indian states across seven core pillars—economic, fiscal, infrastructure, financial development, social, governance, and environment—using 50 performance indicators.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh secured the top spot in the governance pillar.
- ❖ Odisha topped the fiscal pillar, supported by low revenue deficits and controlled debt levels.

- ❖ Punjab and Haryana led in infrastructure and Kerala excelled in social indicators.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu also performed well, demonstrating consistent progress in key social metrics.
- ❖ Southern states such as Telangana and Tamil Nadu showed positive results in bank credit distribution and Self-Help Group (SHG) lending.
- ❖ In environmental rankings, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu tops.
- ❖ Bihar (17th), Jharkhand (16th), and Madhya Pradesh (15th) were the lowest ranked large states.

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

### **IMF Executive Director of India - K.V. Subramanian**



- ❖ IMF Executive Director, Krishnamurthy V Subramanian has been called back to India by the government before then term end.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had approved the “termination” of his services as IMF’s Executive Director (India), “with immediate effect.”



- ❖ The IMF has now marked the position of ED for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka as “vacant”.
- ❖ The Executive Board is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF.
- ❖ It is composed of 25 executive directors, who are elected by member-countries or by groups of countries, and the managing director, who serves as its chairman.
- ❖ The Board usually meets several times each week.

### **World Press Freedom Prize 2025**

- ❖ The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025 was awarded to Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa- El Diario de los Nicaragüenses.
- ❖ It has operated in exile since 2021.
- ❖ In 2024, the prize was awarded to Palestinian journalists covering the ongoing conflict in Gaza.
- ❖ This prize named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the founder of Colombian newspaper El Espectador.
- ❖ He was assassinated in front of its offices in Bogotá on December 17, 1986.

