

May - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the 127th annual flower show at the Government Botanical Garden (GBG) in Udhagamandalam.
- ❖ The NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) has signed a binding MoU with IIT Madras for a comprehensive research and development initiative in Carbon Capture System (CCS).
- ❖ The Indian Army and Jammu, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Kashmir Police conducted a counter terrorism joint operation named 'Operation Nader'.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of India's 6th semiconductor unit near Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The joint forces of the CRPF and Chhattisgarh police conducting a 21-day-long, largest-ever operation against Naxals, named 'Operation Black Forest'
- ❖ The Illinois Tech becomes the first US university approved to grant full degrees in India, with a new Mumbai campus set to open in 2026.
- ❖ Cambodia is hosting its latest and largest 'Golden Dragon joint military exercise' with China.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Composite cylinder connections



- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country in providing the connections of composite liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.



- ❖ Around 1.06 lakh connections have been provided between April 2024 and March 2025 by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Karnataka has sold around 60,000 connections during the same period.
- ❖ It is a three-layer cylinder made of blow-moulded inner liner, which is covered with a composite layer of polymer fibre glass.
- ❖ This cylinder is lightweight and rustproof and does not explode in case of fire.

NATIONAL NEWS

President's 14 questions to the Supreme Court

Rare reference under Article 143

Since Independence, the President has invoked Article 143 at least 14 times

ARTICLE 143: It empowers the President to seek the Supreme Court's opinion on questions of law or fact of public importance

PAST INSTANCES

Delhi Laws Act (1951): Laid down foundational principles on legislative delegation

Berubari Union (1960): Territorial cession to another country required a constitutional amendment under Article 368, not just a parliamentary law

Ramjanmabhoomi case (1993): The only reference declined by the Court. It refused to answer whether a temple existed beneath the Babri Masjid, citing judicial propriety and ongoing litigation —a rare assertion of the Court's discretionary boundary under Article 143.



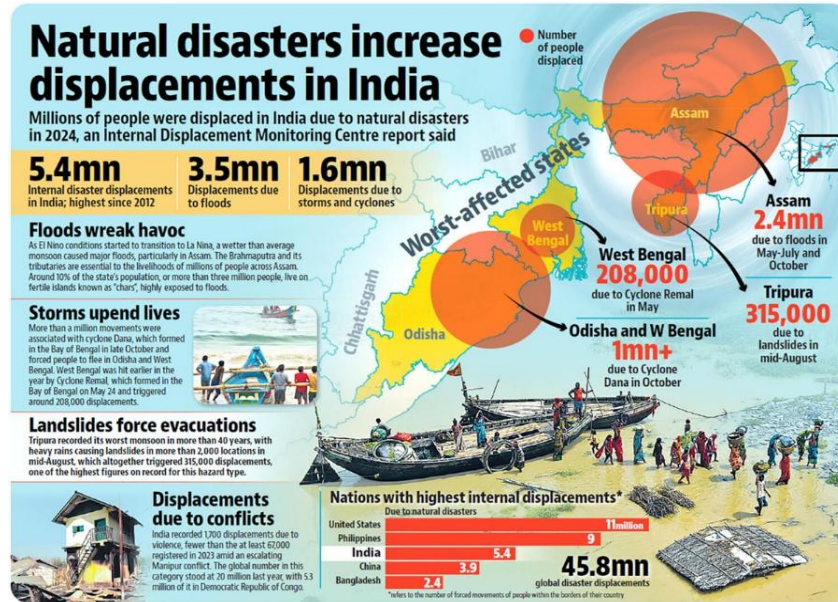
- ❖ The President has used the powers conferred under Article 143 of the Constitution to seek advice on the Supreme Court's decision in the landmark Tamil Nadu governor judgment.
- ❖ 14 questions referred to the Supreme Court by the President of India.
- ❖ What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?
- ❖ Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice tendered by the Council of Ministers while exercising all the options available to him when a Bill is presented before him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?



- ❖ Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India justiciable?
- ❖ Is Article 361 of the Constitution of India an absolute bar to the judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?
- ❖ In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the manner of exercise of powers by the Governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of all powers under Article 200 of the Constitution of India by the Governor?
- ❖ Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justiciable?
- ❖ In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India?
- ❖ In light of the constitutional scheme governing the powers of the President, is the President required to seek advice of the Supreme Court by way of a reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India and take the opinion of the Supreme Court when the Governor reserves a Bill for the President's assent or otherwise?
- ❖ Are the decisions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution of India, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the Courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?
- ❖ Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President / Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142 of the Constitution of India?
- ❖ Is a law made by the State legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?
- ❖ In view of the proviso to Article 145(3) of the Constitution of India, is it not mandatory for any bench of this Hon'ble Court to first decide as to whether the question involved in the proceedings before it is of such a nature which involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of constitution and to refer it to a bench of minimum five Judges?
- ❖ Do the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India limited to matters of procedural law or Article 142 of the Constitution of India extends to issuing directions /passing orders which are contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force?

- ❖ Does the Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to resolve disputes between the Union Government and the State Governments except by way of a suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India?

Internal displacements in India 2024

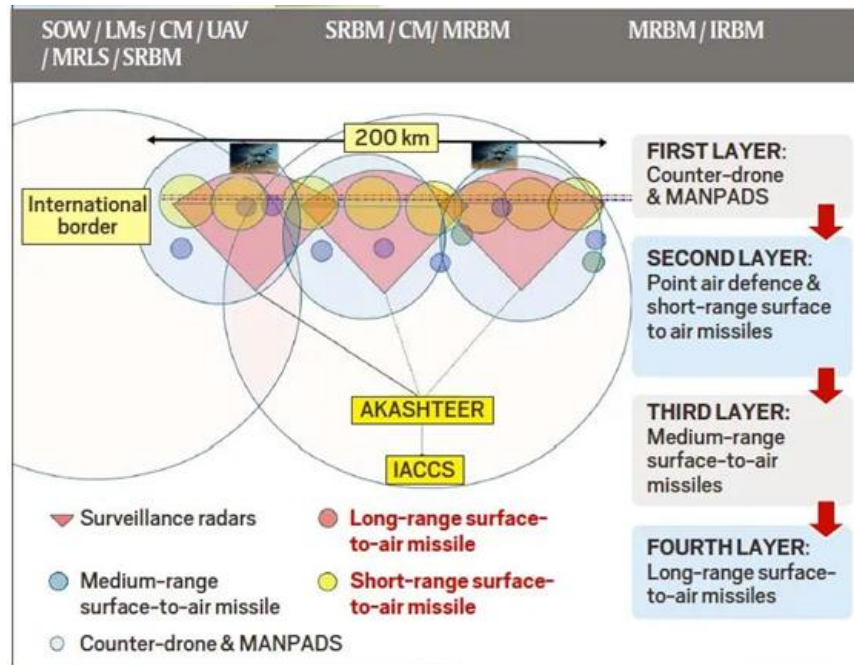


- ❖ Global Report on Internal Displacements 2025 was released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
- ❖ India saw 5.4 million displacements in 2024, the highest in 12 years, with floods causing two-thirds of them.
- ❖ Violence caused 1,700 displacements, with Manipur accounting for 1,000, remaining the main hotspot for such movements.
- ❖ IDMC is the world's leading source of data and analysis on internal displacement.
- ❖ It was established in 1998 as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).
- ❖ India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol on refugee protection.
- ❖ The Global Compact on Migration (2018) mentions climate displacement but is non-binding.

Integrated Air Command and Control System

- ❖ The Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) is an automated Air Defence Command and Control centre for controlling and monitoring the air operations by the Indian Air Force.

- ❖ It consists of the strategic level (Air Headquarters), Operational level (Command Headquarters), and Tactical Level (Divisional level).
- ❖ The IACCS system receives data from different types of sources and generates reports to create a real-time comprehensive Recognised Air Situation Picture.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos



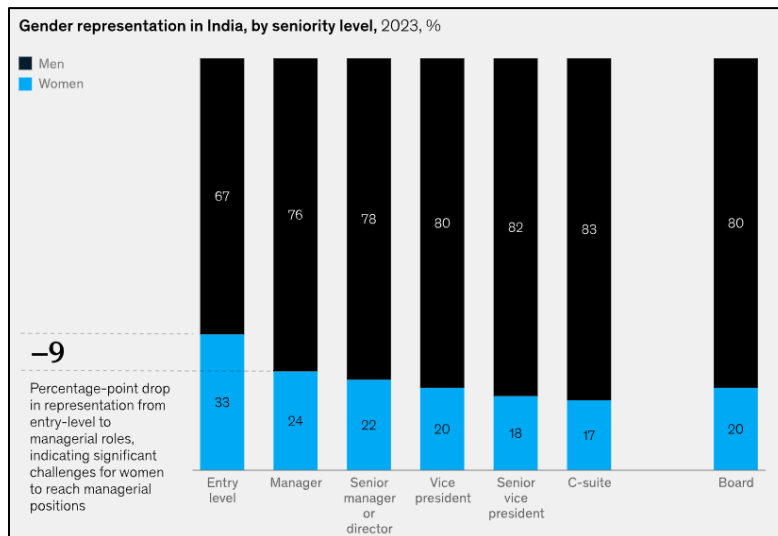
- ❖ India attacked nine terrorist camp sites in Pakistan and POK as part of Operation Sindoor.

- ❖ Pakistan had launched a major military campaign, “Operation Bunyan Marsoos” (Arabic for “a structure made of lead”) against India.
- ❖ Pakistan Army used precision-guided long-range Fatah series missiles F1 and F2.
- ❖ It also used Turkey-made Bayraktar TB2 and YIHA drones against India.

ECONOMY NEWS

Women's private jobs in India

- ❖ The Women is holding just one in three entry-level private sector roles and only 24 per cent of managerial positions in India.
- ❖ The gender imbalance in India is a seven-year age gap at the entry level, where women average 39 years compared to men at 32 years.
- ❖ A man at the entry level is 2.4 times more likely to be promoted to a managerial position than a woman in the same role.
- ❖ The Women are just 1.3 times more likely to leave their positions than men at this stage.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

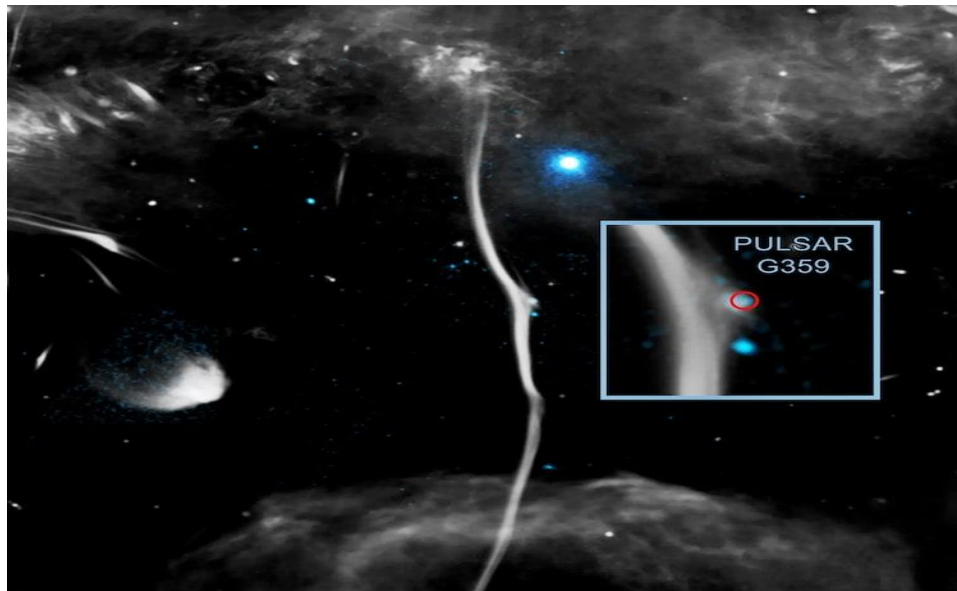
Akashteer

- ❖ India’s AI-driven, fully automated ‘Akashteer’ air defence system, was developed indigenously by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ❖ This is an integral part of the Indian military’s multi-layered air defence (AD) grid.

- ❖ It has played a vital role in detecting, identifying, tracking and engaging Pakistani missiles and drones.

INDIA'S FIRST	AKASHTEEER	NO HUMAN DELAY
AI-POWERED DEFENCE SYSTEM	INDIA'S NEXT-GEN DEFENCE SHIELD	NO FOREIGN DEPENDENCY
Developed by DRDO, ISRO, and BEL	Secures borders. Strikes threats. Saves lives	AI-driven battlefield analysis in seconds
Designed for real-time, precision-based border defence	Proof that India leads in AI-enabled warfare	Secured communication via BEL nodes
A breakthrough in indigenous military innovation	A bold leap under PM Modi's vision of self-reliance	Zero reliance on imported chips or GPS

Pulsar G359 - Galactic 'Bone'



- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a huge fracture in the cosmic bone of the Milky Way galaxy.
- ❖ X-ray data from Chandra and radio data from the MeerKAT radio array in South Africa show the cosmic bone dubbed G359.13 by NASA.
- ❖ The fracture is likely caused by a pulsar that smashed into G359.13 at a speed between one million and two million miles per hour.
- ❖ At about 230 light-years long, G359.13 is one of the longest and brightest of these structures in the Milky Way.



- ❖ G359.13 is located about 26,000 light-years from Earth, near the centre of the Milky Way.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Top 10 most spoken languages in 2025

- ❖ More than half of the world population communicates in just 23 major languages.
- ❖ English is the most widely spoken language in the world in 2025.
- ❖ It is the native and the second language of 1.53 billion individuals across 188 countries.
- ❖ The Mandarin Chinese, the official language of China, is considered the largest language in the world when counting only first-language (native) speakers.
- ❖ It has 1.18 billion speakers, making it the second-most widely spoken language in the world in 2025.
- ❖ 5 Indian languages ranked among the global top 20.
- ❖ They are Hindi (3rd), Bengali (7th), Urdu (11th), Marathi (16th), Telugu (18th).

Rank	Language	Number of Speakers
1	English	1.5B
2	Mandarin Chinese	1.2B
3	Hindi	609.1M
4	Spanish	558.5M
5	Standard Arabic	334.8M
6	French	311.9M
7	Bengali	284.3M
8	Portuguese	266.6M
9	Russian	253.4M
10	Indonesian	252.4M

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

2025 World Food Prize - Mariangela Hungria

- ❖ Brazilian scientist Mariangela Hungria has won the 2025 World Food Prize.
- ❖ This is awarded for her pioneering work in reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and developing biological seed and soil treatments to boost crop yields and nutrition.
- ❖ The Brazilian farmers were estimated to have saved up to \$40 billion annually in input costs due to the technologies Hungria developed.

- ❖ She has developed the first microbial inoculant for grass pastures.
- ❖ It results in a 22 per cent increase in biomass and improved cattle forage.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) 2025 - May 15

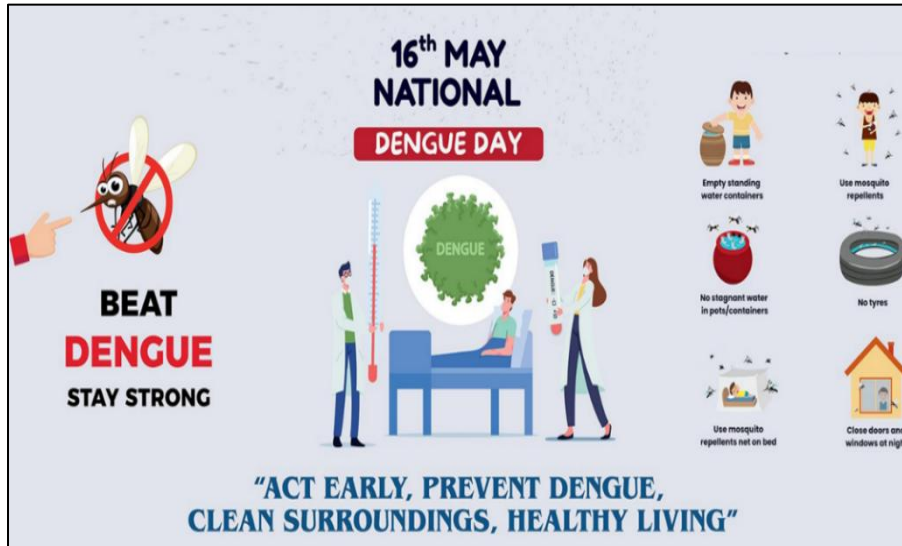
- ❖ It is observed annually on the third Thursday of May.
- ❖ The purpose of GAAD is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about the digital access/inclusion and people with different disabilities.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organised the 'Inclusive India Summit' in New Delhi on this day.



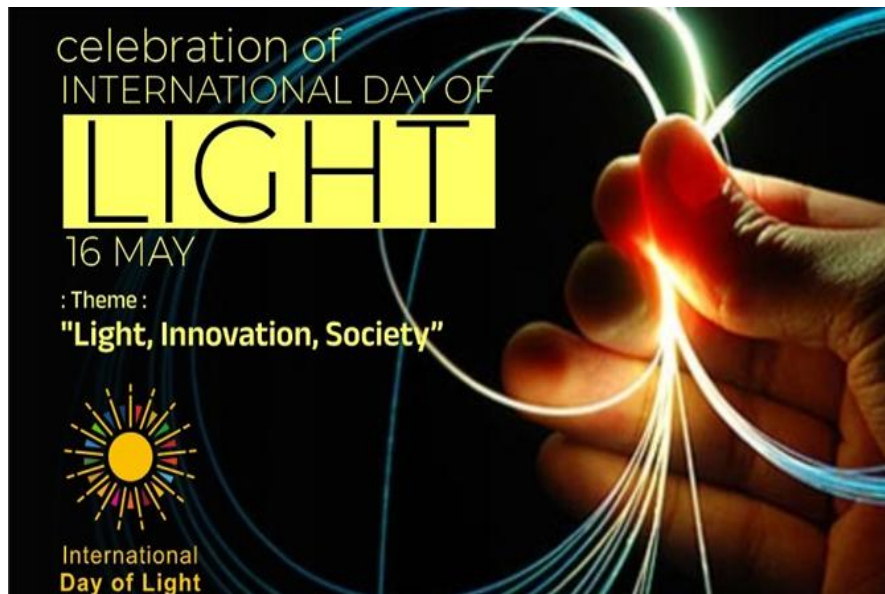
National Dengue Day 2025 - May 16

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the growing threat of dengue fever, particularly during the monsoon season.

- ❖ Dengue is a viral infection spread by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, especially the Aedes aegypti type.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is 'Act Early, Prevent Dengue: Clean Surroundings, Healthy Living.'



International Day of Light 2025 - May 16



- ❖ It aims to increase awareness of the essential role that light-based technologies play in everyday life.
- ❖ This day commemorates the anniversary of the physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation in 1960.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Light, Innovation, Society."



- ❖ The United Nations declared 2015 the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015).

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Phthalates - Cardiovascular Deaths

- ❖ Phthalates have contributed to more than 10% of all global mortality from heart disease in 2018 among men and women aged 55 – 64.
- ❖ These Synthetic chemicals are found in consumer products such as food storage containers, shampoo, makeup, perfume and children's toys.
- ❖ The di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), a chemical commonly used to make the plastics more flexible, caused heart disease deaths.
- ❖ India recorded the highest number of DEHP-attributable heart disease deaths globally, with an estimated 103,587 fatalities among individuals aged 55 to 64.
- ❖ China, also a major producer and consumer of plastics, recorded 33,858 such deaths, placing it third after Indonesia, which had 52,219 deaths.

