

03/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):*

Context: The National Green Tribunal's Southern Zone Bench in Chennai has directed all five southern States and Union Territory Puducherry to ensure "strict and time-bound implementation" of their State Action Plans (SAP) under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

About National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

- ❖ In January 2019, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to prepare clean air action plans.
- ❖ It aimed to cut the concentration of atmospheric Particulate Matter (PM) by 20-30% by 2024, from 2017 levels.
- ❖ This was later revised to 40% by 2026.
- ❖ Cities continuously violating annual PM levels in India need to prepare and implement annual Clean Air Action Plans (CAAPs).
- ❖ To facilitate this, the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has allocated ₹10,422.73 crore.

2. *Cell Broadcast Alert System:*

Context: Mobile phones across the country went abuzz after Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the cell broadcast alert system on Saturday that will warn citizens about emergency and natural disasters in their area.

About Cell Broadcast Alert System:

- ❖ National Disaster Management Authority operationalized the Integrated Alert System called SACHET for disaster warnings across India.
- ❖ The SACHET system was developed by Centre for Development of Telematics under the Department of Telecommunications.
- ❖ The system is based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) recommended by the International Telecommunication Union.
- ❖ SACHET is operational across all 36 States and Union Territories of India.
- ❖ The platform sends geo-targeted disaster and emergency alerts through SMS to mobile users.
- ❖ More than 134 billion SMS alerts have been disseminated in over 19 Indian languages for cyclones, weather warnings, and natural disasters.
- ❖ India introduced Cell Broadcast (CB) technology for faster emergency alerts during events such as earthquakes, tsunamis, lightning strikes, gas leaks, and chemical hazards.
- ❖ The indigenous Cell Broadcast Alert System developed by C-DOT and NDMA enables near real-time transmission of public safety alerts directly to mobile phones.

3. *Apnoea test:*

Context: The Supreme Court has found prima facie a "ring of truth" in a doctor's plea that the apnoea test, alleged to be widely used in Kerala, is not a conclusive assessment of brain death.

What is the Apnoea test and issues surrounding it?

- ❖ The apnea test, a critical component of brain death certification in India, is currently under review by the Supreme Court (SC) following allegations of malpractice and subjectivity, which may impact organ harvesting ethics.
- ❖ The test checks for spontaneous breathing by disconnecting a patient from a ventilator to observe brainstem reflexes.
- ❖ Supreme Court of India is reviewing the effectiveness and reliability of the apnea test used for brain death certification.
- ❖ Concerns have emerged that the apnea test may be too subjective compared to EEG and cerebral angiogram tests.
- ❖ Activists and legal petitions argue that premature brain death declarations may be used to facilitate organ transplantation.
- ❖ Petitioners demand that the apnea test should act only as a confirmatory test and not the sole basis for declaring brain death.
- ❖ Brain death certification in India is governed by the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.
- ❖ The law mandates certification by a four-member medical board, including a neurologist, through two tests conducted 12 hours apart.
- ❖ Experts highlighted gaps in training and inconsistent implementation of mandatory videography during apnea tests.
- ❖ The Supreme Court directed an All India Institute of Medical Sciences panel to examine protocols and consider mandatory EEG or angiography tests for improved accuracy.

4. ***Swang (also spelled Swaang or Svang):***

Context: In the age of YouTube and Netflix, a folk theatre play has not just survived but thrived for 25 years. The remarkable achievement of Swang Jaani Chor, led by Satish Georgy Kashyap — popularly called the ‘King of Swang’ — has turned attention to a journey that began inside Hisar jail in 2001 and travelled from village chaupals (gatherings) to international festivals.

About Swang:

- ❖ Swang or Saang is a traditional dialogue-driven folk theatre form popular in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Punjab.
- ❖ The folk art combines music, poetry, dance, humour, and dramatic storytelling in open-air performances.
- ❖ The term “Swang” originates from the Sanskrit word “Svngam”, meaning imitation, disguise, or impersonation.
- ❖ Swang performances involve actors portraying characters from mythology, folklore, history, and social life.
- ❖ One of the most famous Swang narratives is “Jaani Chor”, a Robin Hood-like folk character known for wit and intelligence.
- ❖ Swang is generally performed in village squares, courtyards, and rural community spaces.
- ❖ The folk theatre form plays an important role in preserving regional dialects, oral traditions, and folk music.
- ❖ Swang also promotes social awareness, moral values, communal harmony, and cultural interaction among rural communities.

5. *Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme:*

Context: An Outreach Workshop on the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme was organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Telangana, at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad on May 2, 2026.

About Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme:

- ❖ The Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme aims to strengthen the financial self-reliance of Gram Panchayats and Block Panchayats.
- ❖ The programme supports Panchayats in developing financially viable and bankable revenue-generating projects.
- ❖ It focuses on increasing Own Sources of Revenue (OSR) for local self-governments.
- ❖ Panchayat proposals will be selected through a transparent national challenge process.
- ❖ Selected projects will receive technical assistance from project preparation to financial closure.
- ❖ Funding support may involve Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), CSR funds, bank finance, and convergence with government schemes.
- ❖ Mandatory Gram Sabha approval ensures community participation and local ownership of projects.
- ❖ The programme seeks to create economically confident and self-reliant Panchayats over a four-year implementation period.

6. *Medical and Wellness Tourism in India:*

Context: Across the world, rising healthcare costs, long waiting times, and the growing burden of lifestyle diseases are driving patients to seek treatment abroad. This global shift has led to the emergence of a multi-billion-dollar Medical Value Travel (MVT) industry.

More details:

- ❖ The global Medical Value Travel market was valued at about USD 115.6 billion in 2022. It is projected to reach around USD 286.1 billion by 2030. The market is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 10.8%.
- ❖ India has emerged as one of the most significant destinations in this evolving global landscape. Industry estimates place the medical tourism market at about USD 8.7 billion in 2025, with projections of USD 16.2 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Through the flagship “Heal in India” initiative, the Government is positioning the country as a premier destination for integrated and holistic healthcare.



Quick Bites:

- ☐ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) received the prestigious Subhash Chandra Bose 'Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar' 2025 for its outstanding contributions to disaster management and ocean hazard early warning services.
- ☐ In India's first international shipyard acquisition, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) last month acquired a 51% stake in Sri Lanka's Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC) for ₹250 crore, boosting India's maritime presence in the Indian Ocean Region. The move is seen as both strategically and commercially significant for both countries.
- ☐ The government has appointed Rohit Jain as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a three-year term. Mr. Jain is replacing T. Rabi Sankar, whose extended tenure ended.
- ☐ Renowned Lyricist and Communication Expert Shri Prasoon Joshi Appointed Chairman, Prasar Bharati.
- ☐ Karnataka operationalised a grievance redressal mechanism for gig workers and Telangana becomes fifth state to adopt gig workers legislation, following Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar and Jharkhand.
- ☐ India was retained on Special 301 Report Priority Watch List indicating concerns over intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement. Special 301 Report released by Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), under Trade Act 1974. The report identifies countries that are considered by the US as not providing adequate and effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) or fair and equitable market access to IP rights holders from the US.

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