

08/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care):*

Context: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care) at the recently concluded National Summit on Innovation and Inclusivity – Best Practices Shaping India's Health Future.

About JANANI:

- ❖ JANANI is a service-oriented digital platform for monitoring and maintaining digital health records of women during reproductive age.
- ❖ It is an upgraded version of the existing Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.
- ❖ The platform creates longitudinal digital health records by capturing service delivery events across the continuum of care.
- ❖ JANANI tracks maternal and child health services including antenatal care, delivery preparedness, delivery, postnatal care, newborn care, home-based newborn and young child care, and family planning.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen continuity of care through continuous monitoring and timely interventions.
- ❖ A major feature is QR-enabled digital Mother and Child Health (MCH) Cards for portability and easy access to health records.
- ❖ The platform includes automated alerts for high-risk pregnancies and real-time dashboards for supervisory monitoring.
- ❖ JANANI generates due-lists for timely tracking and targeted healthcare interventions.
- ❖ It is interoperable with national platforms such as U-WIN and POSHAN for seamless data exchange and integrated monitoring.
- ❖ Beneficiaries can register using ABHA, Aadhaar (OTP/biometric), or mobile number.

2. *Hantavirus Outbreak:*

Context: A suspected outbreak of the rare Hantavirus has trapped approximately 150 people aboard the Dutch cruise ship MV Hondius off the coast of Cape Verde (an island nation in West Africa).

About Hantavirus Outbreak:

- ❖ Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome and Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome are severe diseases caused by hantaviruses, leading to respiratory distress, internal bleeding, and kidney failure.
- ❖ Hantaviruses are zoonotic viruses mainly transmitted by infected rodents such as deer mice, white-footed mice, and cotton rats.
- ❖ Humans usually become infected by inhaling airborne viral particles from rodent urine, droppings, or saliva during activities like sweeping contaminated areas.
- ❖ Initial symptoms are flu-like, including fever, fatigue, and muscle aches, with an incubation period of 1–8 weeks.
- ❖ Severe infection rapidly progresses to breathing difficulty, chest tightness, and can become fatal without timely treatment.

- ❖ Hantavirus infection is diagnosed mainly through PCR testing.
- ❖ Globally, hantavirus causes around 150,000–200,000 cases annually and is generally less contagious than COVID-19 or influenza.
- ❖ Human-to-human transmission is rare, though the Andes virus strain in Argentina and Chile has shown limited transmission cases.
- ❖ There is no specific cure or vaccine; treatment is supportive through oxygen therapy and ventilation, while prevention depends on rodent control and sanitation practices.

3. **Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework:**

Context: EAC-PM paper proposes overhaul of India's Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework. The paper titled 'Economic Impact Analysis of Priority Sector Lending' was released by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

What is the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework?

- ❖ Priority Sector Lending is an RBI initiative mandating banks to allocate a fixed share of credit to priority sectors.
- ❖ Priority sectors are sectors considered important for national development but underserved by formal credit systems.
- ❖ These sectors often face limited credit access due to information asymmetry, banks' preference for larger firms, and social or caste-based biases.
- ❖ Domestic commercial banks and foreign banks with more than 20 branches must allocate 40% of lending to priority sectors.
- ❖ Small Finance Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks must allocate 60% of lending to priority sectors.
- ❖ Regional Rural Banks are required to allocate 75% of lending to priority sectors.
- ❖ Priority Sector Lending credit increased by about 85% from ₹23.01 lakh crore in 2019 to ₹42.73 lakh crore in 2024.
- ❖ As of 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates that domestic commercial banks allocate 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors, including Agriculture, MSMEs, Export Credit, Education, Housing, Social Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, and Weaker Sections. Key focus areas include small/marginal farmers, affordable housing, and renewable energy projects.

Issues and suggestion by the paper:

- ❖ Private banks often fail to meet Priority Sector Lending (PSL) targets through direct lending and depend heavily on mechanisms like PSLCs and RIDF deposits.
- ❖ Nationalised Banks and Small Finance Banks are major sellers of Priority Sector Lending Certificates (PSLCs).
- ❖ Mandatory PSL lending can reduce Total Factor Productivity (TFP) and encourage inefficient capital allocation.
- ❖ PSL lending often finances lower-yield projects and involves high administrative costs and higher default risks.

- ❖ District-level studies using nighttime luminosity as an economic proxy show limited impact of PSL on overall economic growth.
- ❖ Priority Sector Advances are geographically concentrated, with less than 10% of districts accounting for over 45% of total PSL credit.
- ❖ State capitals, industrial hubs, and southern and western regions receive a disproportionately high share of PSL advances.
- ❖ Experts recommend treating PSL mainly as a social equity instrument rather than a primary growth driver.
- ❖ Policy suggestions include excluding legacy beneficiaries such as large corporate farmers and focusing on small farmers, micro-enterprises, and weaker sections.
- ❖ Recommendations also include reducing overall PSL targets to provide greater flexibility to banks.
- ❖ A holistic strategy combining targeted credit with investments in infrastructure, skills, and market linkages is considered more effective for lagging regions.

4. *Chilika lake:*

Context: A new genomic study of Chilika Lake in Odisha has found that fluctuations in salinity and seasonal changes play a decisive role in shaping the composition and functional potential of ‘cyanobacteria’, highlighting the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems to environmental stress.

More details:

- ❖ Researchers from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology studied cyanobacterial communities in Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon using metagenomic sequencing.
- ❖ Cyanobacteria play an important role in photosynthesis, nitrogen fixation, and carbon sequestration, but uncontrolled growth can cause harmful algal blooms.
- ❖ The study reconstructed 83 cyanobacterial Metagenome-Assembled Genomes (MAGs) to analyse seasonal and environmental variations.
- ❖ Salinity was identified as the most important factor influencing cyanobacterial community structure, along with phosphate, silicate, oxygen demand, and water transparency.
- ❖ Researchers identified 22 core cyanobacterial taxa present across seasons, mainly from the Cyanobiaceae family including Cyanobium and Synechococcus.
- ❖ The study also found seasonal changes in genes linked to nutrient cycling and toxin production, highlighting ecological risks associated with algal blooms.

About Chilika lake:

- ❖ Chilika Lake is a brackish water lake and shallow lagoon with estuarine characteristics located across Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam districts of Odisha.
- ❖ Chilika Lake is the largest brackish water lake in Asia and the second-largest brackish water lagoon in the world after the New Caledonian barrier reef.
- ❖ It is situated at the mouth of the Daya River and connected to the Bay of Bengal through a 32-km-long channel.
- ❖ The lake’s waterspread area varies between about 900 sq. km. in summer and 1165 sq. km. during monsoon.

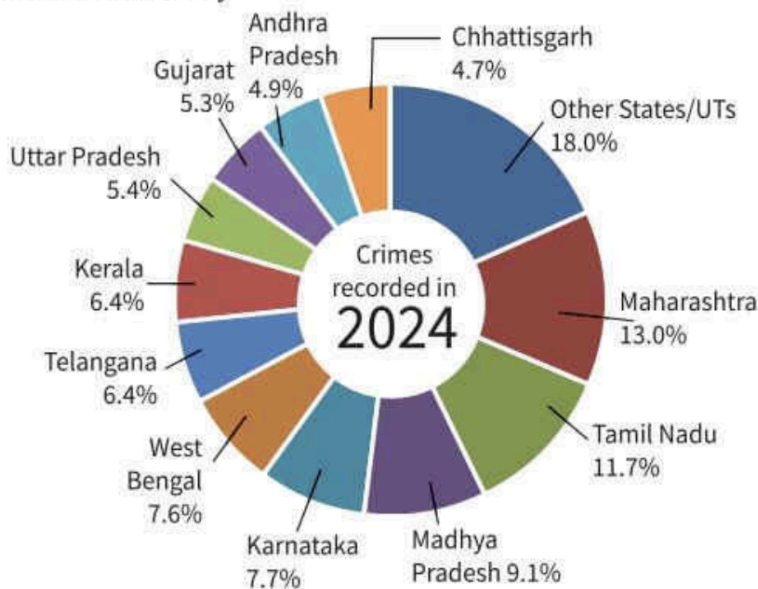
- ❖ Important islands in Chilika Lake include Nalabana Island, Kalijai Island, Honeymoon Island, Breakfast Island, Beacon Island, and Satpada Island.
- ❖ Nalabana Island was declared a Bird Sanctuary in 1987.
- ❖ Kalijai Island is famous for the Kalijai Temple.
- ❖ In 1981, Chilika Lake became the first Indian wetland designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ Chilika Lake is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds in the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ Migratory birds arrive from regions such as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, Mongolia, Central Asia, Ladakh, and the Himalayas.
- ❖ Important bird species found here include Flamingos, Graylag Geese, Purple Moorhen, Jacana, Herons, and White-bellied Sea Eagles.
- ❖ Chilika hosts one of the world's largest breeding colonies of Flamingos.
- ❖ The region also supports wildlife such as Blackbuck, Golden Jackals, Spotted Deer, and Hyenas.
- ❖ Chilika Lake is especially known for its population of Irrawaddy dolphin.

5. *National Crime Records Bureau report: (GS paper 3)*

Context: Telangana recorded the highest number of cybercrime cases in the country in 2024, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report released on Wednesday.

Major details of the report:

NCRB report says Telangana is among States with high crime rates in the country



Quick Bites:

- ☐ IndiaAI, the Government of India's flagship initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), implemented through the Digital India Corporation (DIC),

today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India's apex body for biomedical and health research. The partnership marks a significant step towards advancing healthcare outcomes through the responsible and scalable application of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

- ☐ The Department of Financial Services (Banking and Insurance Division) has been receiving more than 2.50 lakh grievances in a financial year. It has been consistently figuring in the top 10 Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) rankings amongst various Ministries/Departments since November 2025. The GRAI framework, developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), evaluates ministries and departments on the effectiveness and timeliness of grievance resolution through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- ☐ NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Shri Suman Bery and CEO Smt. Nidhi Chhibber released a policy report titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement' on May 6, 2026. The report is a policy document that presents a comprehensive, decade-long analysis of India's School Education System across key parameters such as access and enrolment, infrastructure, equity and inclusion, and learning outcomes.
- ☐ Skyroot Aerospace became India's first space-tech unicorn on 7 May 2026 after raising about 60 million at a valuation of 1.1 billion. Vikram-1 is Skyroot Aerospace's orbital launch vehicle under development for satellite launches into Earth orbit.
- ☐ Delhi will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship (CTTC 2026) from 27 July to 2 August 2026. The seven-day event will be held at Thyagraj Stadium in Delhi and is being organised jointly by the Delhi government and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).
- ☐ South Korea introduced its first humanoid robot monk, Gabi, at a Buddhist ceremony at Jogyesa Temple in Seoul on 6 May 2026.
- ☐ The Indian women's recurve team defeated South Korea 5-1 in the Archery World Cup Stage 2 at Shanghai, China, on 7 May 2026 and entered the final. The team included Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Kumkum Mohod.