

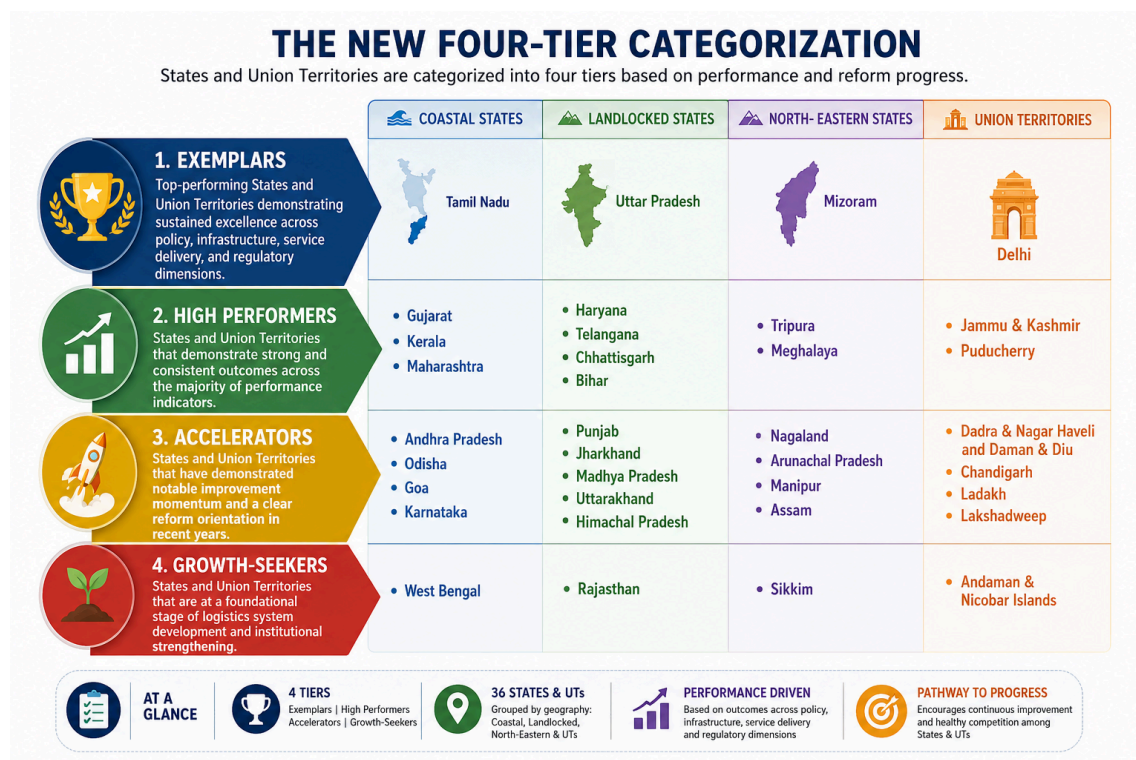
# 15/05/2026 Daily Current News

## 1. Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 Report:

Context: Shri Piyush Goyal Releases LEADS 2025 Report to Benchmark Logistics Performance Across States and Union Territories.

### About Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report:

- ❖ LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2025 was conceived on the lines of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) in 2018.
- ❖ It now uses a four-tier performance framework (earlier three-tier).
- ❖ It assesses states using objective indicators (~59% weightage) such as regulatory support and logistics enablers.
- ❖ It also includes perception-based indicators covering logistics infrastructure, logistics services, and sustainable logistics.
- ❖ LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) was conceived in 2018 on the lines of the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It evaluates logistics performance across four key pillars: logistics infrastructure, logistics services, operating and regulatory environment, and sustainable logistics.
- ❖ It highlights initiatives taken by various States and Union Territories across these pillars.
- ❖ It also focuses on State/UT-specific opportunities to support informed decision-making.



## 2. Ginger:

Context: Mizoram Ginger Mission was launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) and Government of Mizoram for cultivation Mizoram's GI-certified ginger.

**About Ginger:**

- ❖ Ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Rosc., family: Zingiberaceae) is a major spice crop in India.
- ❖ India is one of the leading global producers of ginger.
- ❖ Major producing states include Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It grows best in warm and humid climates up to 1500 m altitude.
- ❖ Ideal temperature range for cultivation is 12–35°C.
- ❖ It requires about 1500 mm annual rainfall, with dry conditions before harvesting.
- ❖ It thrives in well-drained, friable sandy loam, clay loam, or lateritic loam soils rich in humus.
- ❖ Ginger has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.
- ❖ It is effective in treating nausea and helping manage blood sugar (HbA1c) and cholesterol levels.

**3. Build-Operate-Transfer Model:**

Context: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is opening build-operate-transfer road projects to large institutional investors.

**About Build-Operate-Transfer Model:**

- ❖ The model is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) used for financing large infrastructure projects.
- ❖ In this model, a private company finances, designs, builds, and operates the project for a fixed concession period.
- ❖ The private entity collects user charges during the concession period.
- ❖ It involves high private sector participation in construction, operation, and maintenance over a long duration.
- ❖ After the concession period ends, ownership is transferred back to the government or public authority.
- ❖ The private partner bears major risks such as financial risk, traffic/volume risk, and sometimes pricing risk.

**4. Donanemab:**

Context: India's first Alzheimer's disease therapy donanemab was launched recently. Donanemab (brand name Kisunla) is a monoclonal antibody therapy approved by the FDA (July 2024) and launched in India (May 2026) to treat early-stage Alzheimer's disease by removing amyloid plaques in the brain.

**About Alzheimer's disease:**

- ❖ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder affecting the brain and causing memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioural changes.
- ❖ It is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for about 60–80% of cases.
- ❖ Symptoms include impaired speech and writing, poor judgment, confusion about time/place, and changes in mood and personality.

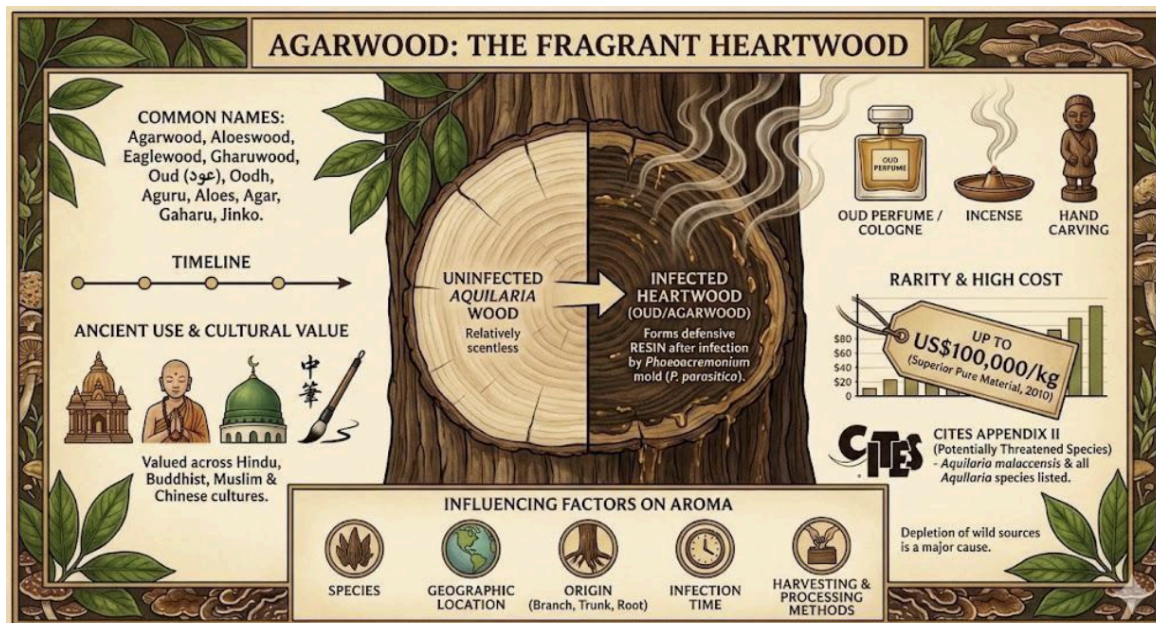
- ❖ The exact cause is not fully known, but it is linked to abnormal accumulation of amyloid-beta plaques and tau protein tangles in the brain.
- ❖ Major risk factors include advancing age (especially above 65), genetic mutations (APP, PSEN1, PSEN2), and lifestyle-related conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, smoking, and inactivity.
- ❖ Diagnosis is done through cognitive and neuropsychological tests, brain imaging (MRI, PET scans), and biomarker tests like cerebrospinal fluid analysis.
- ❖ There is no cure currently, but medicines and supportive therapies can help manage symptoms temporarily.
- ❖ Globally, Alzheimer's affects around 55 million people.
- ❖ In India, cases are projected to rise to about 7.6 million by 2030 due to population ageing.

### 5. Agarwood:

Context: Assam ships first legal agarwood chips to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

#### About Agarwood:

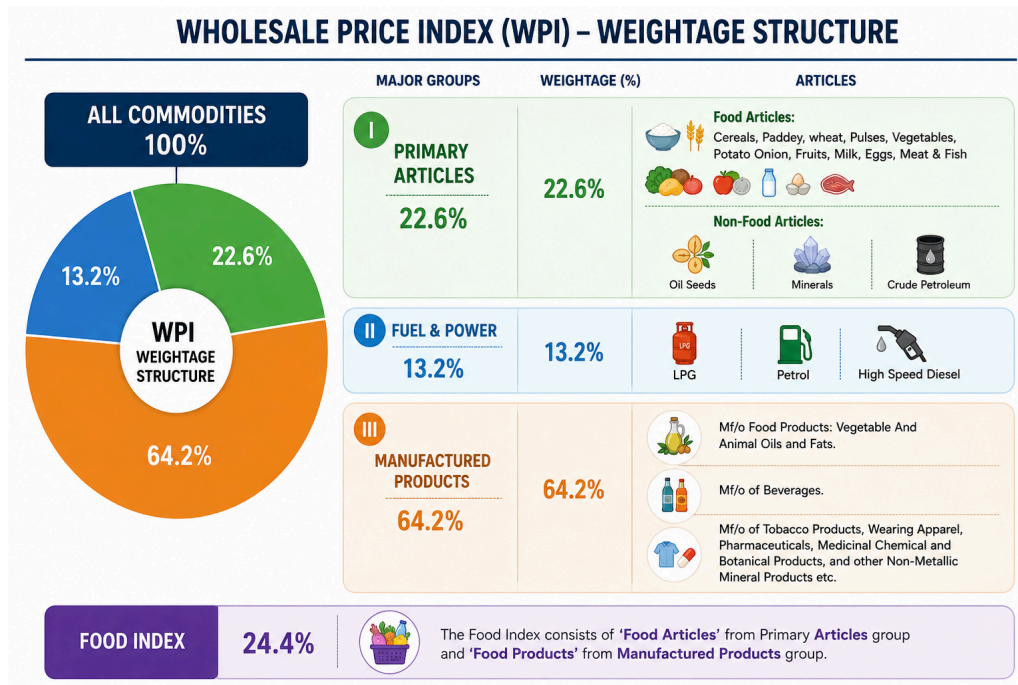
- ❖ Agarwood is a highly valuable fragrant resinous wood used in perfumes, incense, and traditional medicine.
- ❖ It is formed when Aquilaria trees get infected by fungi and produce resin as a defence response.
- ❖ India has three Aquilaria species, including agarwood-producing Aquilaria khasiana and Aquilaria malaccensis.
- ❖ It is traditionally used in Ayurveda, Unani, and Chinese medicine systems.
- ❖ Agarwood is listed under Appendix II of CITES for regulated trade.
- ❖ Aquilaria malaccensis is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.



### 6. Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

Context: In the first sign of the impact of the West Asia crisis on prices in India, wholesale inflation in India jumped to 8.3% in April 2026, its highest level in 3.5 years, driven by the sharp rise in crude oil and natural gas prices. Inflation in this category stood at 67.2% in April.

### About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):



- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures changes in the prices of goods traded in bulk at the wholesale level.
- ❖ It tracks prices of goods sold by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- ❖ WPI is published by the Office of Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It is one of the most widely used indicators of inflation in India.
- ❖ A major criticism of WPI is that consumers do not purchase goods at wholesale prices.
- ❖ The base year of the All-India WPI was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

### 7. **Raniganj Coalfield:**

Context: One person died and several others were injured in a landslide in the coal mines of Jamuria in the Raniganj coal belt in West Bengal on Thursday morning. Though the administration started rescue operations, several workers were believed to be still trapped inside the mines even in the evening.

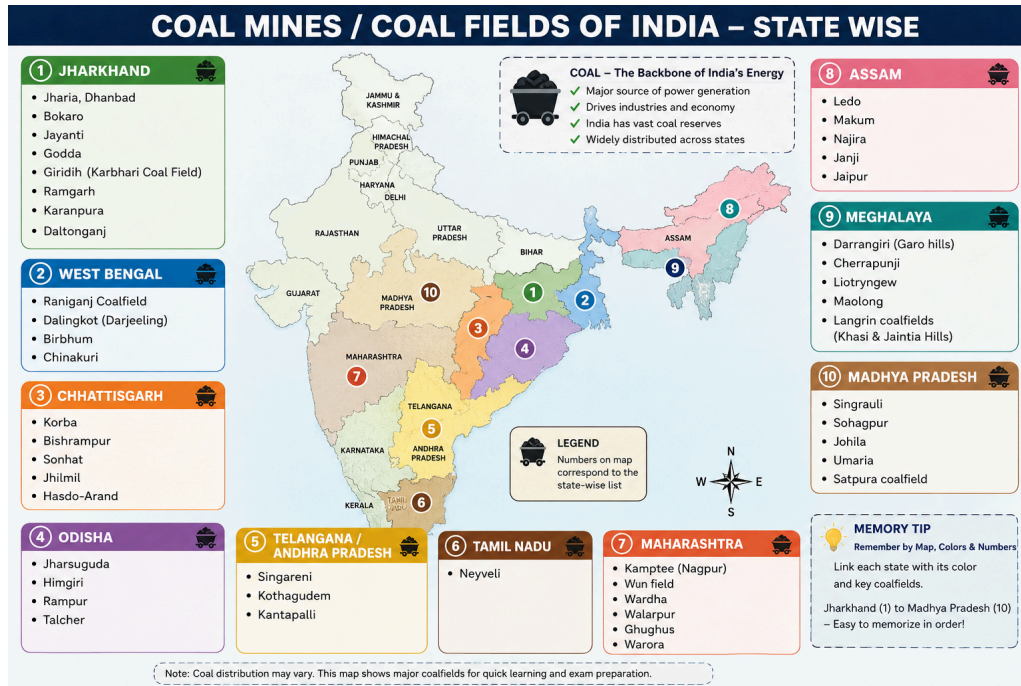
### About Raniganj Coalfield:

- ❖ Raniganj Coalfield is primarily located in the Asansol and Durgapur subdivisions of Paschim Bardhaman district of West Bengal, India.
- ❖ It spreads over to the neighboring districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and to Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.



- ❖ Mainly, coking coal is found here.
- ❖ Coalmining in India first started in the Raniganj Coalfield. In 1774, John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Heatly of the British East India Company found coal near Ethora, presently in Salanpur community development block.
- ❖ Raniganj Coalfield covers an area of 443.50 km<sup>2</sup> and has total coal reserves of 49.17 billion tonnes, spread across Indian states of West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- ❖ It is the second largest coalfield in the country (in terms of reserves) after Jharia in Jharkhand.

Other major coal fields in India:



## Quick Bites:

- ☐ Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today announced his new book 'Apnapan', chronicling his 35-year-long association and experiences with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ☐ The government banned export of sugar until September this year to cool domestic prices. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the export policy from 'Restricted' to 'Prohibited'.
- ☐ India is advancing a proposed subsea natural gas pipeline from Ras Al Jifan in Oman to Porbandar in Gujarat.

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