

19/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Coffees of Nagaland:*

Context: Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches Mission "Coffees of Nagaland"

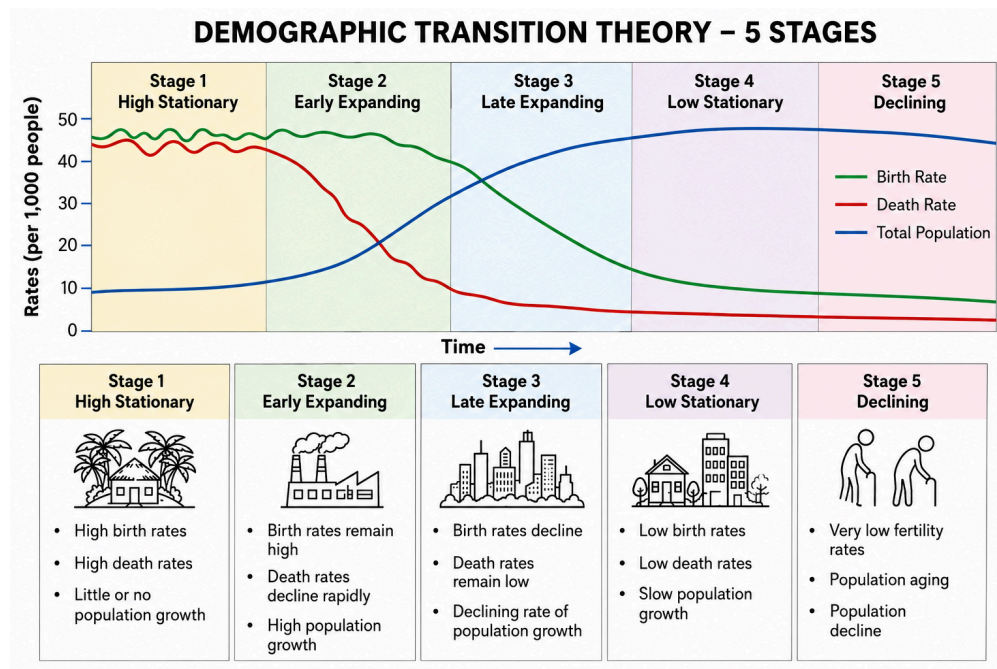
About Coffees of Nagaland:

- ❖ Mission “Coffees of Nagaland” launched with an outlay of ₹175 crore.
- ❖ Designed through a whole-of-government approach involving all stakeholders.
- ❖ Focuses on ground realities and aspirations of farming communities.
- ❖ Adopts a cluster-based coffee development model.
- ❖ Tuophema village (Kohima district) selected as pilot cluster for Arabica coffee.
- ❖ Ghotovi village (Niuland district) selected as pilot cluster for Robusta coffee.
- ❖ Aims to strengthen the entire coffee value chain in Nagaland.
- ❖ Includes plantation development and scientific cultivation support.
- ❖ Focuses on post-harvest processing and value addition.
- ❖ Promotes branding and marketing of Nagaland coffee.
- ❖ Emphasises traceability and export promotion.
- ❖ Integrates coffee tourism and farmer capacity building initiatives.

2. *Demographic Transition Theory (DTT):*

Context: Andhra Pradesh has recently announced financial incentives for 3rd child and 4th child to transition Demographics.

About Demographic Transition Theory (DTT):



- ❖ Demographic Transition Theory (DTT) explains the shift from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates.
- ❖ It describes changes in population patterns during economic development.
- ❖ DTT explains the transformation of a country's population structure over time.
- ❖ The theory links demographic change with industrialisation and modernization.
- ❖ DTT was first proposed by Warren S. Thompson in 1929.
- ❖ The theory was later developed further by Frank W. Notestein in 1945.

3. ***Saranda Forest:***

Context: Supreme Court has directed Jharkhand to notify the ecologically significant Saranda Forest as a wildlife sanctuary amid concerns over mining, elephant habitats, and conservation of sal forest landscape.

About Saranda Forest:

- ❖ Saranda Forest is the largest Sal forest in Asia; “Saranda” means “the land of seven hundred hills.”
- ❖ Sal is a moist deciduous tree, and the forest also contains Kusum, Mahua, mushrooms and other flora.
- ❖ The forest is home to fauna such as elephants and endangered flying lizards.
- ❖ Around 80% of the local population belongs to tribal communities including Ho, Munda, Oraon and other primitive tribes.

4. ***Kalpasar Project:***

Context: India's Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management signed a Letter of Intent on 17 May 2026 for technical cooperation on Gujarat's Kalpasar Project.

About Kalpasar Project:

- ❖ Kalpasar Project is a proposed multipurpose water infrastructure project in Gujarat.
- ❖ The project plans to create a freshwater reservoir by constructing a dam across the Gulf of Khambhat.
- ❖ It aims to store freshwater from seven rivers flowing into the Gulf of Khambhat.
- ❖ The project includes tidal power generation facilities.
- ❖ It also proposes irrigation and water supply infrastructure.
- ❖ Kalpasar is expected to provide irrigation benefits to nearly 10 lakh hectares of land.
- ❖ The irrigation benefits will cover 42 talukas across nine districts of Saurashtra.
- ❖ The project aims to improve transport connectivity between South Gujarat and Saurashtra.
- ❖ It seeks to reduce travel distance between South Gujarat and Saurashtra from about 240 km to around 60 km.

5. ***Operation Smiling Buddha:***

Context: India conducted its first successful nuclear test, codenamed Smiling Buddha, on 18 May 1974 at Pokhran in Rajasthan during the tenure of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The test was officially described as a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion and made India a nuclear-capable nation.

About Operation Smiling Buddha:

- ❖ Pokhran Test Range is India's nuclear test site located in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan.
- ❖ India conducted its first underground nuclear test at Pokhran in 1974 using plutonium.
- ❖ After the 1974 test, India became the sixth country to conduct a nuclear test after the United States, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France and China.
- ❖ India carried out Pokhran-II in May 1998 under Operation Shakti with five nuclear explosions.
- ❖ Key scientists associated with Pokhran-II included A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, R. Chidambaram and Anil Kakodkar.
- ❖ India declared itself a nuclear weapons state after the 1998 Pokhran-II tests.
- ❖ India observes National Technology Day on 11 May to commemorate the Pokhran-II tests and technological achievements.
- ❖ A United States nuclear industry delegation is visiting India from 18–21 May 2026 to explore civil nuclear cooperation after the enactment of the SHANTI Act.

6. *Pangolin*:

Context: Scientists use DNA maps to find pangolin trafficking hubs. Pangolins are one of the world's most trafficked mammals even as their existence is threatened by shrinking habitats. So to protect them, conservationists are keen to know where they are being poached.

About Pangolin:

- ❖ They are nocturnal, toothless mammals that dig burrows and feed on ants and termites.
- ❖ Pangolins are scaly anteater mammals and they have large, protective keratin scales covering their skin.
- ❖ Pangolin is the only scaly mammal on the planet.
- ❖ It uses these scales as armor to defend itself against predators by rolling into a ball when threatened.
- ❖ Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are found in India.
- ❖ It occurs in tropical forests, open land, grasslands, and degraded habitat, including in close proximity to villages.

Indian Pangolin

- ❖ Range – Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- ❖ IUCN – Endangered
- ❖ The Indian pangolin, which dons a thick scaly skin, is hunted for meat and used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- ❖ Both these species are listed under Schedule I Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ In a special ceremony hosted in Oslo, His Majesty King Harald V of Norway conferred upon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the 'Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit'.

The award is Norway's highest honour bestowed on foreign Heads of Government, and is conferred in recognition of the outstanding service in the interest of Norway and humankind.

- ☐ Shri Saurabh Vijay assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on Monday. He is an IAS officer of the 1998 batch of the Maharashtra cadre.
- ☐ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Gundadhur Seva Dera Jan Suvidha Kendra, a major public service and skill development hub in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- ☐ India and Norway elevated their bilateral relations to a Green Strategic Partnership on 18 May 2026 in Oslo.
- ☐ 'Over 20 IS militants killed' in new strikes by Nigeria, U.S. forces. The Nigerian military said on Monday that a new operation with U.S. forces has killed more than 20 Islamic State group militants in **Borno state**. The operation in **Metele** followed the killing of Abu Bakr al-Mainuki, deputy leader of the group's local West African "province".
- ☐ Russia launches attacks on Odesa and Dnipro as Ukraine targets Belgorod.

-----The END-----