

21/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Metre Convention:*

Context: The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, today commemorated World Metrology Day 2026, marking the 151st anniversary of the historic Metre Convention signed in Paris on 20th May 1875. The theme of this year's World Metrology Day is "Metrology: Building Trust in Policy Making".

About Metre Convention:

- ❖ The Metre Convention, also called the Treaty of the Metre, was signed in Paris on 20 May 1875 to establish a globally standardized system of measurements.
- ❖ The Convention was initially signed by 17 founding countries including France, USA, Germany, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire.
- ❖ The treaty established the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) for international coordination of metrology.
- ❖ It also created the CGPM and CIPM as governing bodies for global measurement standards.
- ❖ The Convention developed international prototype standards of the metre and kilogram, preserved at the BIPM.
- ❖ In 1921, the Convention expanded to include all physical quantities, forming the basis of the International System of Units (SI).
- ❖ The SI system evolved from the framework established under the Metre Convention.
- ❖ As of October 2024, the Metre Convention has 64 member states worldwide.
- ❖ Organizations such as the IAEA, WMO, IRMM, and ESA participate in the CIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).
- ❖ The Convention promotes uniformity in measurements for science, industry, trade, and technology globally.
- ❖ India joined the Metre Convention in 1957 after passing the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956.
- ❖ Membership enabled India to align its standards with internationally accepted measurement systems.
- ❖ Indian measurement standards received global recognition through participation in the Metre Convention framework.
- ❖ India recently became the 13th country authorized to issue OIML Certificates under the OIML Certification System.

2. *PRAGATI 2026:*

Context: Multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 commenced today at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya, with the participation from 12 friendly nations, namely Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

About PRAGATI 2026:

- ❖ PRAGATI stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ The exercise is conducted in the spirit of equality, friendship, and mutual respect among participating nations.
- ❖ PRAGATI provides a common platform for professional military exchange and cooperation.
- ❖ The exercise aims to strengthen military-to-military ties among participating armies.
- ❖ It focuses on enabling seamless coordination during joint multinational operations.
- ❖ The exercise promotes sharing of expertise and exchange of best practices among participating countries.
- ❖ PRAGATI seeks to establish institutional mechanisms for defence cooperation and knowledge sharing.
- ❖ Joint training and cultural exchange activities are conducted to enhance camaraderie among troops.
- ❖ The exercise also focuses on developing common concepts for intelligence management and sharing in a multinational environment.
- ❖ The two-week exercise focuses on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain.
- ❖ Training activities include joint planning exercises, tactical drills, and coordinated operations.
- ❖ The exercise aims to improve adaptability, endurance, and tactical proficiency of troops.
- ❖ Special emphasis is laid on physical fitness, discipline, and operational coordination in challenging conditions.

3. ***Arunachal Kiwi:***

Context: Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches the Mission on “Arunachal Kiwi: The USP of Arunachal Pradesh”

About Arunachal Kiwi:

- ❖ Mission on Arunachal Kiwi has been launched with an outlay of approximately ₹167 crore.
- ❖ The Mission follows a whole-of-government and convergence-led approach led by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER).
- ❖ It integrates schemes of the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food Processing Industries.
- ❖ Institutions such as NABARD, ICAR-CITH, APEDA, NERAMAC, and private investors are key partners in the Mission.
- ❖ The Mission has been designed by considering the perspectives of all stakeholders in the kiwi value chain.
- ❖ The initiative aims to address ground realities and support the aspirations of kiwi-farming communities in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Mission adopts a cluster-based development approach for kiwi cultivation and processing.
- ❖ Six integrated cluster-level Post-Harvest Management Hubs have been identified under the Mission.
- ❖ The hubs are located in Ziro Valley, Dirang, Kalaktang, Shi Yomi, and Dibang Valley.
- ❖ India is an emerging producer of kiwifruit with annual production exceeding 13,000 metric tonnes.

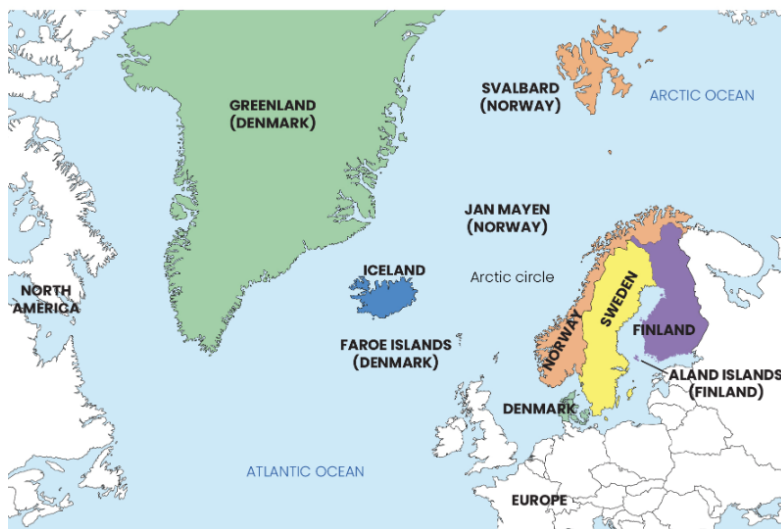
- ❖ Kiwi cultivation in India is spread across nearly 4,000–5,000 hectares of land.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh is the leading kiwi-producing state in India.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh contributes more than 50% of India's total kiwi production.

4. *Nordic group:*

Context: 3rd India-Nordic Summit 2026 held in Oslo, Norway. This Summit builds upon the previous two Summits held in Copenhagen in 2022 and Stockholm in 2018.

About Nordic countries:

- ❖ Nordic group is a highly advanced regional bloc consisting of 5 countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, and Denmark).
- ❖ The Nordic countries, also known as the Nordics or Norden, form a geographical and cultural region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic.
- ❖ The Nordic region includes Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
- ❖ Autonomous territories in the Nordic region include the Faroe Islands and Greenland.
- ❖ Åland is an autonomous region associated with the Nordic countries.
- ❖ The Nordic countries share similarities in history, culture, lifestyle, religion, and socio-economic systems.
- ❖ The region has a long history of political unions and close cooperation among member countries.
- ❖ The Scandinavist movement in the 19th century aimed to unite Denmark, Norway, and Sweden into a single state.
- ❖ The movement later expanded following Norway's independence, Finland's independence, and Iceland's constitutional referendum of 1944.
- ❖ Modern Nordic cooperation has been institutionalised since 1962 through the Helsinki Treaty.
- ❖ The Helsinki Treaty provides the framework for the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.



5. *Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3:*

Context: DRDO completes development trials of ULPGM-V3.

About ULPGM-V3:

- ❖ ULPGM-V3 is a fully indigenous, lightweight, fire-and-forget precision-guided missile designed for launch from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).
- ❖ The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation in collaboration with Bharat Dynamics Limited and Adani Defence Systems.
- ❖ ULPGM-V3 has a strike range of up to 10 kilometres.
- ❖ The missile operates in dual modes including Air-to-Ground mode for anti-armour and anti-tank strikes, and Air-to-Air mode against drones, helicopters, and low-flying aerial threats.
- ❖ It features an Integrated Ground Control System and a dual-channel seeker for high-accuracy day-and-night operations.

6. *Hop Experiment:*

Context: Scientists have revealed groundbreaking details about the Moon's upper surface at the Shiv Shakti landing site of Chandrayaan-3, utilizing data gathered during the "hop" experiment.

About Hop experiment:

- ❖ The Hop Experiment was conducted near the end of the active mission life of the Vikram lander under Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ❖ The experiment demonstrated ISRO's capability to reignite the Vikram lander's engines after landing on the lunar surface.
- ❖ The maneuver successfully lifted the lander off the Moon's surface, validating technology crucial for future lunar sample-return missions.
- ❖ The experiment revealed that the lunar surface has layered "cake-like" strata formed by continuous micrometeorite impacts over time.
- ❖ Findings showed that lunar soil becomes denser and more cohesive a few centimeters beneath the surface.
- ❖ Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment observed rapid temperature drops during lunar twilight due to the Moon's airless environment.

7. *Shukrayaan mission:*

Context: Sweden joins India's Shukrayaan (Venus Orbiter) mission.

About Shukrayaan (Venus Orbiter) mission:

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation's Venus mission is India's first dedicated scientific mission to explore the planet Venus.
- ❖ The mission was approved by the Government of India in 2024.
- ❖ The mission aims to study the Venusian surface, subsurface, atmospheric processes, and the Sun's influence on Venus' atmosphere.
- ❖ The mission is planned for launch in March 2028.
- ❖ ISRO will develop the spacecraft and carry out the mission launch operations.

- ❖ LVM3 has been identified as the launch vehicle for the mission.
- ❖ The spacecraft will initially be placed into an Elliptical Parking Orbit (EPO) before proceeding toward Venus.

8. *52nd G7 Summit:*

Context: French President Emmanuel Macron invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the 52nd G7 Summit, which France will preside over in 2026. The summit is scheduled from 15 to 17 June 2026 in Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France.

About G7 summit:

- ❖ The G7 originated from a 1973 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Paris, France.
- ❖ The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- ❖ In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- ❖ These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- ❖ These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.
- ❖ The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office. The agenda of G7 is set by the presiding nation.
- ❖ It cannot pass any laws because it is made up of separate nations with their own democratic processes.
- ❖ However, decisions taken by G7 have global effects as the member countries are political and economic heavyweights.

9. *International Booker Prize:*

Context: Taiwanese author Yáng Shuāng-zī and translator Lin King won the International Booker Prize on Tuesday for Taiwan Travelogue, a historical romance set in Japan-occupied Taiwan in the 1930s. It is the first novel written in Mandarin Chinese to win the prestigious prize for fiction translated into English. This is also the second year in a row that the independent press, And Other Stories, has taken home the prize, following Heart Lamp last year.

About International Booker Prize:

- ❖ The International Booker Prize is an annual literary award established in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.
- ❖ It honours the best long-form fiction or short story collections translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- ❖ The prize recognises both authors and translators, with the £50,000 award shared equally between them.
- ❖ Shortlisted authors and translators each receive an additional £2,500.
- ❖ The award aims to promote global literature and encourage reading of quality translated fiction worldwide.

- ❖ Indian winners include Geetanjali Shree for Tomb of Sand (2022, translated by Daisy Rockwell), the first Hindi work to win, and Banu Mushtaq for Heart Lamp (2025, translated by Deepa Bhasthi), the first Kannada work to win.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The 68th Session of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Governing Body is being hosted by the Government of India, as Chair of the APO, from 20 to 22 May 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ☐ Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, today, launched the Bharat Tex 2026 Event App, a unified digital platform designed to enhance the experience of buyers, international delegates, speakers, sourcing consultants, partners, exhibitors, and visitors at India's largest global textile event.
- ☐ World Bee Day is observed on 20 May each year to recognise the role of bees and other pollinators in agriculture, biodiversity, and ecosystem functioning.
- ☐ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the FAO Agricola Medal on 20 May 2026 at the Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The Agricola Medal is one of the highest honours of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It is awarded to leaders for work related to agricultural transformation, food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development.
- ☐ The Pune-based private sector defence manufacturer Nibe Ltd. has successfully conducted firing trials of its indigenous Suryastra rockets with strike ranges of 150 km and 300 km at the Integrated Test Range on May 18 and 19. The trials mark the first time an Indian private defence company has demonstrated indigenous long-range rocket systems of such capability, representing a significant milestone in India's defence preparedness.

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