

24/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA):*

Context: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has released the detailed operational guidelines for the implementation of the BHAVYA Scheme, a landmark Central Sector Scheme aimed at developing investment-ready, world-class industrial parks across the country.

About Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA):

- ❖ The Scheme provides for development of 100 industrial parks over a period of six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of approximately ₹33,660 crore.
- ❖ In the first phase, up to 50 industrial parks will be taken up through a challenge-based competitive selection process.
- ❖ The scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story.
- ❖ Building on the success of Industrial Smart Cities developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) framework, BHAVYA will be implemented in partnership with states and private sector players.
- ❖ Under the scheme, industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1000 acres will be taken up for development.
- ❖ Financial support of up to Rs. One crore per acre will be provided for:
- ❖ Core infrastructure (internal roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT and administrative systems)
- ❖ Value-added infrastructure (ready-built factory sheds, built-to-suit units, testing labs, warehousing)
- ❖ Social infrastructure (worker housing and support amenities)
- ❖ Support for external infrastructure will also be provided up to 25% of the project cost, ensuring seamless connectivity and integration with existing networks.

2. *Sakura Science Programme:*

Context: Indian students to visit Japan under Sakura Science Programme 2026. The Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, today flagged off a group of students participating in the Sakura Science Programme 2026 at a ceremony held at NCERT, New Delhi.

About Sakura Science Programme:

- ❖ From May 24 to May 30, 2026, 56 school students and 4 supervisors from India will visit Japan as part of the Sakura Science Programme, alongside participants from Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. These 56 students (24 boys and 32 girls) are from Government schools across 15 States and Union Territories.

- ❖ The participants are recipients of scholarships under the National Means cum Merit Scholarship (NMMS) Scheme of the Government of India.
- ❖ To broaden intellectual horizons and foster scientific exploration among young learners, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) has been implementing the 'Japan Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science', also known as the 'Sakura Science Programme', since 2014.
- ❖ Under the programme, students are invited to Japan for one week to experience the country's advanced science and technology ecosystem and its rich cultural heritage.
- ❖ India has been participating in the programme since April 2016.

3. IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre):

Context: The Department of Space (DoS) has approved establishment of Common Technical Facilities (CTFs), to be built with the support of IN-SPACe, in Gujarat (Khoraj) and Tamil Nadu (Thoothukudi). These CTFs will be located within plug-and-play manufacturing clusters exclusively designated for space activities (spacecraft, payload systems, etc.).

About IN-SPACe:

- ❖ Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous single-window agency under the Department of Space created after India's space sector reforms to promote and regulate private participation in space activities.
- ❖ It authorizes, promotes, and supervises non-governmental entities in activities such as satellite building, launch vehicles, and space-based services.
- ❖ IN-SPACe facilitates sharing of ISRO/Department of Space infrastructure and acts as an interface between ISRO and private players, educational institutions, and research organisations.
- ❖ It functions through three directorates: Promotion Directorate (PD), Technical Directorate (TD) and Program Management & Authorization Directorate (PMAD).
- ❖ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) headquarters is located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

4. Chandrayaan-3 Mission:

Context: India's Chandrayaan-3 mission was honored with the prestigious 2026 Goddard Astronautics Award by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). It is the highest honor bestowed by AIAA for notable achievements in the field of astronautics.

About Chandrayaan-3 Mission:

- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 is India's third lunar mission and second attempt to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.
- ❖ It was launched on 14 July 2023 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre and successfully landed near the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023.

- ❖ The spacecraft entered lunar orbit on 5 August 2023 before the successful soft landing of the Vikram lander.
- ❖ Main objectives: safe and soft lunar landing, rover movement on the Moon, and in-situ scientific experiments.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-3 consists of three modules: Propulsion Module, Lander Module (Vikram), and Rover Module (Pragyan).
- ❖ The Propulsion Module carried the lander-rover system to lunar orbit and hosted the SHAPE payload to study Earth from lunar orbit.
- ❖ The Vikram Lander carried payloads like ChaSTE, ILSA, Langmuir Probe, and NASA's Laser Retroreflector Array to study lunar surface, temperature, plasma, and seismic activity.
- ❖ The Pragyan Rover carried APXS and LIBS instruments to analyze the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the landing site.

5. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

Context: AIIB launched an “Energy, Food Security and Economic Resilience Facility” to support members whose development may be affected by the conflict in the Middle East. It offers a time-bound financing envelope of up to USD10 billion over two years.

About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

- ❖ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank established in 2016 with headquarters in Beijing.
- ❖ Its main objective is to promote sustainable infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and economic growth, especially in Asia.
- ❖ AIIB has more than 111 approved member countries from across the world.
- ❖ India is a founding member, the second-largest shareholder after China, and also the largest borrower from AIIB.

6. Hutti Gold Mines:

Context: The soaring price of gold in the global market alone has helped Hutti Gold Mines — the only functional gold mine in the country — earn a whopping ₹633.34 crore more in 2025-26, when the average gold selling price increased by 34.11%.

About Hutti Gold Mines:

- ❖ Hutti Gold Mines, also spelled Hatti, is a notified area council in Raichur district in the Indian state of Karnataka. The mines are owned and operated by Hutti Gold Mines Limited.
- ❖ The mines have been worked for thousands of years, with ancient miners reaching depths of over 2,300 feet using fire-setting techniques. Modern operations date back to the late 1800s.

- ❖ The complex features the main underground mine at Hutti, along with satellite open-cast and exploratory mines at Uti and Hira Buddini.

7. *Enhanced alkalinity:*

Context: A climate mitigation strategy called ‘enhanced alkalinity’ involves spreading crushed rocks like silicates on land or in water. When the rocks dissolve, they release minerals that help the ocean absorb and hold CO₂. Now, two researchers from New Zealand and the U.S. have reported a flaw: as the minerals travel from soil to the sea, they’re often trapped in secondary minerals like clay, removing the alkalinity needed to store carbon and smothering the method’s efficacy.

About Enhanced alkalinity:

- ❖ Ocean alkalinity enhancement is a method to remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and store it in the ocean by changing the chemistry of seawater.
- ❖ It is one of several “carbon removal” techniques that help address climate change by drawing down CO₂, the most important climate-warming greenhouse gas humans are adding to the atmosphere.
- ❖ This absorption happens through chemical reactions between air and seawater at the ocean surface.
- ❖ When CO₂ enters the ocean, it reacts with water to form carbonic acid.
- ❖ Like all acids, this carbonic acid gives off hydrogen ions, which react with other, “alkaline” molecules in the water that can receive those ions.
- ❖ In the end, the carbon from the CO₂ forms stable bicarbonate and carbonate ions.

8. *Phishing scam:*

Context: The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has identified a sophisticated phishing campaign targeting Apple iPhone users whose devices have been lost or stolen, according to an advisory issued by the agency.

What is a Phishing scam?

- ❖ Phishing: It is a cyberattack used to steal sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, bank details and credit card data.
- ❖ Fake Identity: In phishing attacks, scammers impersonate trusted persons or organisations to deceive victims.
- ❖ Urgency Tactics: Fraudulent messages create urgency and direct users to fake websites resembling genuine ones.
- ❖ Credential Theft: Victims are tricked into entering login details, which are then misused for fraud, identity theft or illegal sale of personal information.

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C):

- ❖ About I4C: The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was established under the Ministry of Home Affairs as the national nodal agency to combat cybercrime.
- ❖ Headquarters: I4C is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ Main Purpose: It provides a coordinated framework for law enforcement agencies to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute cybercrimes.
- ❖ Collaborative Platform: I4C brings together academia, industry, government and the public to strengthen cybercrime response mechanisms.
- ❖ Women & Children Safety: One of its major objectives is to strengthen action against cybercrimes targeting women and children.
- ❖ Cybercrime Reporting: It facilitates easy filing of cybercrime complaints and helps identify cybercrime trends and patterns nationwide.
- ❖ Early Warning System: I4C acts as an early warning system for law enforcement agencies for proactive cybercrime prevention and detection.
- ❖ Capacity Building: It assists States and UTs in training police officers, prosecutors and judicial officers in cyber forensics, investigation and cyber hygiene.
- ❖ Research & Legal Reforms: I4C promotes R&D in cyber forensic technologies and suggests amendments in cyber laws to match changing technologies.
- ❖ Key Components: Major components include the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC), National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (TAU), Cybercrime Research and Innovation Centre, and National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory ecosystem.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ As India faces intensifying heatwaves due to climate change, parametric insurance is emerging as a tool for automatic financial relief during extreme heat events. Parametric insurance is a non-traditional model that pays out a pre-agreed, fixed sum when a specific, measurable event (e.g., temperature, rainfall, wind speed) occurs, rather than compensating for actual physical damages.
- ☐ Odisha made the purchase of electric vehicles mandatory for new two-wheelers and four-wheelers used by the state government from 1 June 2026.
- ☐ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has offered full technology transfer of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to Indian industry. The PSLV is an ISRO launch vehicle used for placing satellites into polar and sun-synchronous orbits. It is classified as a medium-lift launch vehicle and has been used for Earth observation, navigation, and scientific missions.
- ☐ India recorded 97 of the world's 100 hottest cities on 22 May 2026 during a heatwave across northern, central and eastern India. Balangir in Odisha touched 48°C, while Sasaram in Bihar also reached 48°C and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh recorded 47°C.
- ☐ Saudi Arabia became the newest member of the International Big Cat Alliance on 22 May 2026. The alliance now has 26 member countries and five observer nations.

- ☐ A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China has killed at least 90 people, state media reported on Saturday, the country's biggest mining disaster in 17 years. A total of 247 workers were underground at the time of the blast, at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, according to state news agency Xinhua.
- ☐ An Indian peacekeeper serving with the United Nations mission in Lebanon, Major Abhilasha Barak, has been named the recipient of a prestigious military gender advocate award by the UN. Ms. Barak has been honoured with the '2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year' award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation.
- ☐ The World Health Assembly (WHA) passed the first-ever resolution on strokes on Friday, urging member states to recognise the medical condition as a public health priority and to strengthen national policies across the full care pathway. This involves prevention and risk-factor control, timely acute treatment, expanded rehabilitation, and long-term support. The WHO definition of stroke is a medical emergency that occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, either due to a blockage or bleeding. This lack of blood flow can lead to brain cell death and serious complications.

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