

## 25/05/2026 Daily Current News

### 1. *Bhagwan Birsa Munda:*

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah today addressed the ‘Janjati Sanskriti Samagam’ organised in New Delhi on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary year of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as the Chief Guest.

#### About Bhagwan Birsa Munda:

- ❖ Birsa Munda was a tribal freedom fighter, religious reformer, and folk hero who led tribal resistance against British rule in India.
- ❖ He was born on 15 November 1875 at Ulihatu in a poor sharecropper family and belonged to the Munda tribe of the Chotanagpur plateau.
- ❖ His early name was Daud Munda because his father had briefly converted to Christianity; he studied in local and missionary schools, including at Chaibasa.
- ❖ Though initially influenced by Christianity, he later rejected it and was inspired by Vaishnavism and Anand Panre, eventually founding the Birsaite sect.
- ❖ Birsa became known as “Bhagwan” among followers and was lovingly called “Dharti Aaba” (Father of the Earth).
- ❖ He promoted worship of Singhbonga (monotheism), opposed alcoholism, black magic, superstitions, and forced labour (beth begari), while encouraging hygiene, spiritual unity, and pride in tribal culture.
- ❖ British land policies destroyed the traditional Khuntkatti communal land system, while zamindars and thikadars exploited tribals and pushed many into bonded labour.
- ❖ To resist these injustices, Birsa educated tribals about their rights and launched the Ulgulan (Great Rebellion), urging people to stop paying rent to the British.
- ❖ His famous slogan was: “Abua raj ete jana, maharani raj tundu jana” meaning “Let the Queen’s rule end and our rule begin.”
- ❖ The revolt began in 1895 against land encroachment and forced labour; Birsa was arrested in 1895, jailed for two years, and after release in 1897 continued mobilising tribals village to village.
- ❖ Birsa Munda died of cholera in 1900, bringing the active phase of the rebellion to an end.
- ❖ His struggle led to the 1908 Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, which protected tribal land rights and banned beth begari; since 2021, 15 November is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in his honour.

### 2. *‘Education to Employment and Enterprise’ Standing Committee:*

Context: NITI Aayog convenes the first meeting of the High Powered ‘Education to Employment and Enterprise’ Standing Committee.

#### Background and details:

- ❖ Para-51 of the Union Budget 2026–27 proposes a High-Powered ‘Education to Employment and Enterprise’ Standing Committee to strengthen India’s link between education, skills, jobs, and enterprise.

- ❖ The Committee aims to help India capture a 10% share of the global services market by 2047, focusing on long-term growth and global competitiveness.
- ❖ Its mandate includes identifying priority sectors to enhance growth, employment generation, and export performance.
- ❖ It will also assess the impact of frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) on future jobs, skills, and workforce requirements.
- ❖ Based on its assessment, the Committee will recommend policy measures to improve education-to-employment alignment and skill development systems.
- ❖ A formal Committee has been constituted under the chairpersonship of the CEO of NITI Aayog with members from relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, industry bodies, and experts.
- ❖ The first meeting was held on 22 May 2026, chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog, with participation from senior officials including MSDE Secretary Debashree Mukherjee, expert Debjani Ghosh, and representatives from government, industry, and academia.

### 3. *Egyptian Vultures:*

Context: An ecological crisis is currently unfolding across the rocky hill ranges of the Sri Sathya Sai district, wherein the endangered Egyptian Vulture, which was once a prevalent sight in the skies of Rayalaseema, is now approaching the brink of local extinction, raising significant concerns among wildlife experts and conservationists.

#### **About Egyptian Vultures:**

- ❖ The Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is a native bird of Europe, Central Asia, and Africa, and migrates to Asian countries including India during winter.
- ❖ A resident subspecies, *Neophron percnopterus ginginianus*, is found in India and stays throughout the year.
- ❖ It inhabits open, arid landscapes near human settlements, where food sources are relatively available.
- ❖ Egyptian vultures are monogamous, forming long-term pair bonds and migrating between breeding seasons as pairs.
- ❖ They build large nests, which are repeatedly maintained and refurbished during the breeding season.
- ❖ A major threat to the species is illegal poisoning, often intended for carnivores but indirectly affecting vultures.
- ❖ The species is classified as Endangered (IUCN Red List) due to declining populations and habitat pressures.
- ❖ India hosts 9 species of vultures, of which several are highly threatened and play an important ecological role as scavengers.
- ❖ Four Indian vulture species are Critically Endangered: Indian Vulture (*Gyps indicus*), White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*), and Slender-billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*).
- ❖ Other vultures in India include the Egyptian Vulture (Endangered), while species like Cinereous, Bearded, and Himalayan vultures are Near Threatened, and the Griffon Vulture is Least Concern.

#### **4. 79th annual Cannes Film Festival:**

Context: The 79th annual Cannes Film Festival took place from 12 to 23 May 2026.[1][2] South Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook served as jury president for the main competition. Romanian filmmaker Cristian Mungiu won the Palme d'Or for a second time with the drama film Fjord. Mr. Mungiu becomes just the 10th filmmaker to win the Palme d'Or twice. His 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days won the award in 2007.

#### **About Cannes Film Festival:**

- ❖ The Cannes Film Festival is widely regarded as the most prestigious film festival in the world.
- ❖ It was founded in 1946 in Cannes, France.
- ❖ It is held annually, usually in the month of May.
- ❖ The festival venue is the Palais des Festivals et des Congrès in Cannes.
- ❖ It is an invitation-only film festival.
- ❖ It showcases new films of all genres, including documentaries.
- ❖ It was officially accredited by FIAPF in 1951.
- ❖ It is considered part of the “Big Three” European film festivals along with Venice and Berlin.
- ❖ It is also part of the “Big Five” global film festivals along with Venice, Berlin, Toronto, and Sundance

#### **5. Judicial Custody:**

Context: A Delhi court on Sunday sent accused Shubham Khairnar to judicial custody till June 6 in the NEET-UG paper-leak case.

#### **About Judicial Custody:**

- ❖ Judicial custody means the accused is kept in the custody of the concerned Magistrate and lodged in jail, not in police lock-up.
- ❖ In contrast, police custody means the accused remains in the physical custody of the police and is kept in a police station lock-up.
- ❖ Judicial custody is governed under Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) during investigation and remand stages.
- ❖ In police custody, the accused must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours of arrest, as per legal requirements.
- ❖ Police custody begins immediately after arrest when police take charge of the accused for investigation.
- ❖ Judicial custody begins when the court authorises detention, usually when police seek remand beyond initial interrogation needs.
- ❖ In judicial custody, the accused remains in jail until bail is granted or court orders release.
- ❖ Police custody is primarily for interrogation and evidence collection, whereas judicial custody is for detention under court supervision.
- ❖ Maximum police custody is generally up to 15 days (in parts or whole) as permitted by the magistrate.

- ❖ Judicial custody can extend up to 60 days or 90 days, depending on the severity of the offence (60 days for lesser offences, 90 days for serious offences like death penalty, life imprisonment, or  $\geq 10$  years imprisonment).
- ❖ Judicial custody requires judicial oversight, making it more controlled compared to police custody.
- ❖ Both forms of custody are part of the criminal procedure ensuring investigation, legal supervision, and protection of accused rights.

## 6. *Uniform Civil Code:*

Context: Addressing a Sangh Parivar-organised ‘Janjati Sanskritik Samagam’ at New Delhi’s Red Fort, which he referred to as a “Janjatiya [tribal] Mahakumbh”, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday assured Scheduled Tribe communities across the country that any form of a Uniform Civil Code that is implemented in the country will ensure that tribal communities are exempt from its provisions.

### About Uniform Civil Code:

- ❖ The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to a single set of laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, and succession for all citizens of India.
- ❖ It is mentioned in Article 44 of the Indian Constitution under the Directive Principles of State Policy, which directs the State to strive for a uniform civil code across India.
- ❖ Article 44 is not legally enforceable, meaning UCC is a guiding principle rather than a fundamental right.
- ❖ The idea of UCC originated in colonial India, initially aimed at legal uniformity while keeping Hindu and Muslim personal laws separate.
- ❖ The demand gained momentum in the early 20th century, especially from women reformers advocating equality and secularism.
- ❖ During the Constituent Assembly debates, leaders like B.R. Ambedkar supported UCC, but it was included as a non-binding Directive Principle as a compromise.
- ❖ After independence, India codified Hindu personal laws (1955–56), while Muslim, Christian, and other communities retained separate personal law systems.
- ❖ The Supreme Court revived the UCC debate in landmark cases like Shah Bano (1985), Sarla Mudgal (1995), and Shayara Bano (2017), repeatedly urging its consideration.
- ❖ India currently follows a plural legal system, including religious personal laws and secular laws like the Special Marriage Act, 1954, with some regional exceptions under Article 371.
- ❖ At present, while UCC remains debated nationally, Goa and Uttarakhand are cited as states with UCC-type provisions, and other states like Assam and Gujarat are exploring its implementation.

### Quick Bites:

- ❑ The 75th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle today witnessed massive participation across more than 8,000 locations nationwide, commemorating Commonwealth Games Day and building momentum toward the historic 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. The Ahmedabad edition, themed “A New Icon for a Fitter India – Pedalling to 2030,” featured a grand 5-kilometre cycling rally alongside Yoga and Zumba demonstrations, turning the Sabarmati Riverfront into a celebration of fitness, culture and India’s sporting development.

- ☐ Raghav Chadha, a Rajya Sabha member, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House on 23 May 2026.
- ☐ India's third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE III) norms is scheduled from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032. The norms are framed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power and apply to M1 category passenger vehicles with seating capacity of up to nine persons and a gross vehicle weight of up to 3,500 kg.
- ☐ The archaeological site in Hazaribag district of Jharkhand has yielded evidence of a layered settlement in the Mohane river basin in Chauparan block. The site includes villages such as Dehar, Sohra, Mangarh, and Hathinder, where artefacts have been recovered during farming and foundation digging.
- ☐ Odisha's Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department has launched a revival plan for the original Bomkai weaving tradition in Ganjam district.

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