

31/05/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Digi Yatra:*

Context: Marking a major milestone for India's digital public infrastructure, the Digi Yatra app has enabled over 10 crore seamless journeys with over 2.4 crore downloads across iOS and Android. The platform stands as one of the most successful digital innovations in global aviation today.

About Digi Yatra:

- ❖ Digi Yatra is a facial recognition-based initiative for contactless, seamless, and paperless passenger processing at airports.
- ❖ It uses Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to verify passenger identity linked to the boarding pass.
- ❖ Passengers can pass through airport checkpoints without showing physical documents, using their facial features for authentication.
- ❖ The platform provides a decentralized mobile wallet-based identity management system, enhancing privacy and data protection.
- ❖ The Digi Yatra Foundation was established in 2019 as a Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The Foundation was created to develop and manage the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE) and act as the custodian of Passenger ID validation.
- ❖ It also promotes coordination among aviation stakeholders and sets compliance standards and guidelines for airports.
- ❖ The first phase was launched at Kempegowda International Airport and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in August 2022, followed by airports such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada.
- ❖ The Airports Authority of India is implementing Digi Yatra across airports in a phased manner.
- ❖ Key objectives include enhancing passenger experience, reducing processing time, improving airport efficiency, and lowering operational costs.
- ❖ It also aims to digitize manual processes, strengthen security standards, and use a secure digital ID backed by Aadhaar or other government-issued identity documents.

2. *Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing:*

Context: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has realised Rs. 21.26 crore under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism during the financial year 2025–26. The amount was generated from approvals granted for research, commercial utilisation, intellectual property rights, bio-survey and bio-utilisation of biological resources, reflecting growing industry participation in India's biodiversity governance framework. During the period, the Seed sector emerged as the largest contributor, accounting for Rs. 11.75 crore, followed by the AYUSH sector with Rs. 5.56 crore.

About Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing:

- ❖ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ It was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ The protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014, after the 50th instrument of ratification was deposited.
- ❖ It establishes a transparent legal framework for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
- ❖ India ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing in 2012.
- ❖ The protocol applies to genetic resources covered under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ It also covers benefits arising from the utilization of these genetic resources.
- ❖ The protocol includes traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and ensures benefit sharing from their use.

About Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- ❖ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally binding international agreement that came into force in 1993.
- ❖ It was the first global treaty to recognize biodiversity conservation as essential for human welfare.
- ❖ The CBD covers ecosystems, species, and genetic resources comprehensively.
- ❖ It was opened for signature at the Earth Summit 1992.
- ❖ The CBD Secretariat is located in Montreal.
- ❖ It operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ Almost all UN member states have ratified it, except the United States.
- ❖ The Conference of the Parties (CoP) is the governing body and meets biennially to guide implementation.
- ❖ The CBD has three core objectives: conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of biodiversity.

3. *Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups And MSMEs (PRISM) scheme:*

Context: The Ministry of Mines in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), Nagpur successfully organized the two-days Interactive Workshop & Technical Evaluation Sessions under the S&T PRISM 5.0 (Promotion of Research & Innovation in Startups and MSMEs) at JNARDDC, Nagpur, during 29-30 May 2026.

About PRISM scheme:

- ❖ PRISM supports individual innovators, start-ups, and MSMEs by providing grants, technical guidance, and mentoring to transform innovative ideas into enterprises.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) through Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO).
- ❖ It promotes innovation across all science and technology disciplines.
- ❖ The scheme also supports technology solution providers developing solutions for MSME clusters.
- ❖ PRISM Phase-I (Category-I): Supports proof of concept, prototypes, and models with project costs up to ₹5 lakh; assistance up to ₹2 lakh or 90% of project cost, whichever is lower.

- ❖ PRISM Phase-I (Category-II): Supports fabrication of working models, testing, patenting, technology transfer, etc.; projects costing ₹5–35 lakh receive up to ₹20 lakh or 90% of project cost, whichever is lower.
- ❖ PRISM Phase-II: Focuses on enterprise incubation for projects costing ₹35 lakh–₹1 crore; assistance up to ₹50 lakh, limited to 50% of project cost.
- ❖ PRISM-R&D proposals are also eligible for support up to ₹50 lakh, limited to 50% of project cost.
- ❖ Eligibility for Phase-I: Any Indian citizen, including student innovators, can apply.
- ❖ Eligibility for Phase-II: Existing PRISM innovators, innovators with a government-supported proof of concept, and public-funded R&D institutions, laboratories, and academic institutions are eligible.

4. Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme:

Context: In a landmark development under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme, the National Steering Committee (NSC) has approved the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster in Andhra Pradesh, submitted by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) along with their academic partner New Age Makers Institute of Technology (NAMTECH). The approval marks the first-ever Strategic Investment Plan to be cleared under PM-SETU and makes Andhra Pradesh the first State to operationalize an industry partnership under the scheme.

About PM-SETU scheme:

- ❖ PM-SETU, a flagship initiative of the Government of India with an outlay of ₹60,000 crore, aims to transform 1,000 Government ITIs through an industry-led Hub-and-Spoke model.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to modernise infrastructure, strengthen industry engagement, improve employability outcomes, and establish National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs) in high-growth sectors, building, through stronger government-industry partnerships — a future-ready workforce equipped for advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.
- ❖ Component I – Upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs (200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs) in a Hub and Spoke model wherein upgradation includes smart classrooms, modern labs, digital content, and new courses aligned to industry needs.
- ❖ Component II – Capacity Augmentation of five NSTIs located in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana, including setting-up sector-specific National Centres of Excellence for skilling, with focus on advanced training of trainers with global partnership.

5. National Seed Reserve:

Context: Union Agriculture Minister announced the establishment of National Seed Reserve of 1 lakh 74 thousand quintals.

About National Seed Reserve:

- ❖ National Seed Reserve (NSR) is an intervention under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) within the Krishionnati Yojana.
- ❖ Objective: To ensure the availability of high-quality certified and foundation seeds for farmers.
- ❖ It serves as a strategic seed reserve for use during natural calamities, disasters, and other crisis situations.
- ❖ The reserve helps maintain continuity in agricultural production by ensuring timely seed supply.
- ❖ Implementing Agencies: National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations, and State/UT Agriculture Departments where State Seed Corporations do not exist.
- ❖ The scheme supports strengthening the country's seed security system.
- ❖ Seeds stored under NSR are required to be produced and tracked through the SATHI Portal.
- ❖ SATHI (Seed Traceability, Authentication and Holistic Inventory) enables end-to-end seed traceability and inventory management.
- ❖ The portal enhances transparency, quality assurance, and authentication in the seed supply chain.
- ❖ NSR contributes to improving food security and agricultural resilience in the country.

6. Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) Instrument:

Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has enabled companies to fulfill their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations through the ZCZP Instrument.

About Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) Instrument:

- ❖ ZCZP (Zero Coupon Zero Principal) is a SEBI-regulated fundraising instrument issued by not-for-profit organizations listed on the Social Stock Exchange.
- ❖ It is used to raise funds for eligible social welfare and development projects.
- ❖ Unlike conventional bonds, ZCZP instruments provide no interest (zero coupon) to investors.
- ❖ They also do not involve repayment of the principal amount (zero principal).
- ❖ Investors contribute funds primarily to create measurable social impact, not financial returns.
- ❖ The instrument enables philanthropic funding through a regulated capital market framework.
- ❖ It promotes transparency and accountability in funding social sector initiatives.
- ❖ Companies can subscribe to ZCZP instruments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
- ❖ A company's expenditure on ZCZP subscriptions is capped at 10% of its total CSR expenditure for the relevant financial year.
- ❖ ZCZP instruments are a key feature of India's Social Stock Exchange ecosystem for mobilizing social capital.

About Corporate Social Responsibility:

- ❖ CSR is a statutory requirement under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 for eligible companies.
- ❖ It requires companies to undertake activities that contribute to the social, environmental, and economic development of the country.
- ❖ Eligible companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profits of the preceding three financial years on CSR activities.
- ❖ CSR provisions aim to encourage businesses to participate in inclusive and sustainable development.
- ❖ The permissible CSR activities are listed under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ CSR initiatives cover areas such as education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, rural development, and gender equality.

7. *BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles:*

Context: India has signed a deal to supply BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam, and negotiations with Indonesia are in the final stages as of 30 May 2026. The BrahMos agreement with Vietnam includes missile systems, training, and logistical support, with an estimated value of about Rs 60 billion, or around USD 629 million.

About BrahMos missiles:

- ❖ The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, has a range of 290 km and is the fastest cruise missile in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8.
- ❖ BrahMos is named for the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- ❖ It is a two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.
- ❖ It is a multiplatform missile i.e., it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- ❖ It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.

8. *South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR):*

Context: The South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR) will begin operations on 1 June 2026 with headquarters at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It will become the 18th railway zone of Indian Railways and will function under the framework linked to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. The permanent headquarters of SCoR is planned at Mudasarlova in Visakhapatnam.

About South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR):



SOUTH COAST RAILWAY ZONE (SCoR)

India's 18th Railway Zone from 1 June 2026





The Union Government will notify the South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR), with headquarters at Visakhapatnam, on **1 June 2026**.

The zone will become India's 18th railway zone and will cover railway administration in Andhra Pradesh through a new organisational structure.



VISAKHAPATNAM

ABOUT SOUTH COAST RAILWAY ZONE (SCoR)



The SCoR zone will primarily cover **Andhra Pradesh**, along with parts of **Telangana** and **Tamil Nadu**.



The South Coast Railway Zone will include the existing **Guntakal**, **Guntur** and **Vijayawada** divisions from South Central Railway.



It will also include a newly created **Visakhapatnam division**, which was earlier part of the Waltair division under East Coast Railway.



The Union Cabinet gave ex post facto approval for the creation of the zone on **7 February 2025**.



As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, Indian Railways was required to examine the feasibility of a new railway zone.

COVERAGE OF SOUTH COAST RAILWAY ZONE



- **VISAKHAPATNAM DIVISION**
Newly created division (earlier part of Waltair division under East Coast Railway)
- **GUNTUR DIVISION**
Existing division from South Central Railway
- **GUNTAKAL DIVISION**
Existing division from South Central Railway
- **VIJAYAWADA DIVISION**
Existing division from South Central Railway



HEADQUARTERS: VISAKHAPATNAM
The headquarters of the South Coast Railway Zone will be at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



SIGNIFICANCE
The new zone will improve administrative efficiency, enhance infrastructure planning, boost connectivity, and support balanced regional development.



Chandrasekhar @ACE Academy

9. Indira Gandhi Canal:

Context: The Indira Gandhi Canal serves as a critical water supply resource for Jaisalmer and thousands of remote desert villages; yet scarcity persists, with many still relying on ancestral wells as concerns over groundwater depletion and canal maintenance remain.

About Indira Gandhi Canal:

- ❖ Indira Gandhi Canal (IGC), formerly known as the Rajasthan Canal, is the longest canal in India, with a length of about 837 km.
- ❖ It originates from the Harike Barrage, located at the confluence of the Sutlej River and Beas River.
- ❖ The canal passes through Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, terminating near Gadra Road in the Thar Desert.
- ❖ It is a major irrigation project that transformed the arid regions of western Rajasthan into cultivable land.
- ❖ The canal largely follows the palaeochannel of the ancient Sarasvati River, also known as the Ghaggar palaeochannel.
- ❖ Due to the natural gradient of the palaeochannel, the canal operates without requiring pumping stations along its course.
- ❖ It is also referred to as “Saraswati Rupa Rajasthan Canal” because it traces the course of the lost Sarasvati River.
- ❖ Numerous Indus-Sarasvati Civilization archaeological sites are located along its route.

- ❖ The canal plays a crucial role in irrigation, drinking water supply, and desert development in Rajasthan.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' to be carried out across the country from June 1 to June 30. The aim is to sensitize the farmers about the balanced use of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs based on soil tests, motivating them to increase the use of green manures, organic and bio-products. Live demonstrations of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) will also be held.
- ☐ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath jointly inaugurated 'Nausena Shaurya Vatika' in Lucknow on May 30, 2026. Built at a cost of Rs 19 crore over an area spanning over two acres, this Open-Air Display Museum honours the spirit, valour & prowess of the Indian Navy. It showcases the artefacts and weapon systems of INS Gomati, which was decommissioned on May 29, 2022 after 34 years of service.
- ☐ To augment availability of cotton for the Indian textile sector, the Central Government has temporarily exempted all customs duties on import of cotton from 1st June, 2026 till 31st October, 2026.
- ☐ In coordinated anti-narcotics operations carried out by the Cochin Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), substantial quantities of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methaqualone, methamphetamine and hashish oil, intended for illicit distribution and trafficking were seized at Kochi, Malappuram and Thiruvananthapuram under Operation Chakravyuh. A total of over 24 kg narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has been seized in these operations. Five individuals, including key operatives involved in the trafficking networks, have been apprehended under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Methaqualone is a sedative-hypnotic drug. Methamphetamine is a powerful synthetic stimulant. Hashish oil is a concentrated cannabis extract.
- ☐ The 39th National Games will be hosted by the state of Meghalaya in 2027, marking the first time the multi-sport event will be held in the state. The host state agreement was signed in May 2026 between the Government of Meghalaya and the Indian Olympic Association. The Games are scheduled to be held during the February–March 2027 window, with Shillong serving as the main venue, while neighbouring North-Eastern states will also host selected sporting disciplines.
- ☐ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report 2025-26 mentioned that it is exploring the possibility of introducing a 'Kill switch' mechanism. It allows a system, device, account, or service to be disabled or blocked immediately in an emergency or under suspect of attack by fraudsters.
- ☐ Ghepang Ghat Glacial Lake, is located at an altitude of about 4,068 metres above Sissu in the Lahaul Valley. The lake has been formed by the retreat of the Ghepan Glacier and is classified as a moraine-dammed glacial lake, meaning it is impounded by a natural barrier of rocks, sand, and debris deposited by the glacier. Rapid melting of the glacier due to rising temperatures has increased concerns over the lake's expansion and the potential risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), posing a threat to nearby Sissu village.
- ☐ Blue Bonds are innovative debt instruments that raise funds exclusively for ocean-friendly and sustainable marine projects, including marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, coastal ecosystem restoration, pollution control, and protection of critical clean water resources. They

support the development of the blue economy while promoting environmental sustainability. The Seychelles became the first country in the world to issue a sovereign blue bond in 2018. In India, Sagarmala Finance Corporation, the country's first maritime-focused state-owned NBFC, is set to launch India's first blue bonds during the current fiscal year to mobilize resources for sustainable maritime and coastal development projects.

- ☐ Kerala startup unveils India's first AI system-on-chip. Kerala-based fabless semiconductor startup Netrasemi launched its flagship AI system-on-chip, the A2000, after silicon bring-up in May 2026. The A2000 is designed in India and uses TSMC's 12 nm process node for edge devices such as smart cameras, edge AI boxes, and intelligent video gateways.
- ☐ A new cascade-dwelling frog species, *Amolops kamal*, was described on 29 May 2026 from Nagaland. The species was found near Singrep village in Kiphire district during a field survey conducted in August 2024 by scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Shillong.
- ☐ Gulveer Singh became the first Indian to run a mile in less than four minutes, enroute to winning the title at the 24th Annual Music City Track Carnival on Saturday. The World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event was organised at Lee University Cleveland Campus, USA.
- ☐ The 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships was held in Hong Kong, China, from May 28 to May 31, 2026. This continental track-and-field showcase featured top under-20 athletes from across Asia competing in various track, field, and combined events.
- ☐ The head of the World Health Organization on Saturday arrived in eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus still spreads faster than the response, despite better-organised health facilities and new aid arrivals. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to visit a treatment centre and meet local authorities, health workers and affected families in Bunia.
- ☐ The probability of the Mettur dam getting opened on the scheduled date of June 12 appears to be remote, in view of the poor storage and the forecast of a poor southwest monsoon (June-September) this year. Built in 1934, the Mettur Dam is one of the largest dams in India. It is located at Mettur in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, across the Kaveri River, at the point where the river enters the plains through a gorge. The dam is a masonry gravity dam measuring about 1,700 metres in length, with a maximum water level of 120 feet and a storage capacity of 93.4 TMC ft. It forms the Stanley Reservoir, a large artificial reservoir named after George Stanley, which serves as a major source of irrigation, drinking water supply, and hydroelectric power generation in Tamil Nadu.
- ☐ Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing on Saturday offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple, a Buddhist pilgrimage place and a UNESCO World Heritage site, in Bihar's Gayaji district.

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