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Weekly Current Affairs

(15th MAY - 21st MAY)



W W W . T E S T C O A C H . I N

Appointments:

- **Ajay Kumar**, former Defence Secretary, has been appointed **UPSC Chairman** by the President of India, **succeeding Preeti** Sudan whose term ended in April 2025.
- **Justice B.R. Gavai** was sworn in as the **52nd Chief Justice of India** by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- **Senior diplomat Anurag Bhushan** has been appointed India's next **Ambassador to Sweden**, as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 15, 2025.
- **Harvansh Chawla**, has been **appointed Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry** to strengthen economic ties among BRICS nations.
- **Anita Anand**, a Canadian lawyer and politician of Indian origin, became **Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs** in May 2025—the first Hindu and woman of Indian descent to hold the post.

Sports Current Affairs:

- Bangladesh all-rounder **Mehidy Hasan Miraz** won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for April 2025** for his stellar performance against Zimbabwe.
- On May 16, 2025, the Mumbai Cricket Association inaugurated the **Rohit Sharma Stand** at Wankhede Stadium, honoring his retirement. **Stands named after Ajit Wadekar and Sharad Pawar were also unveiled.**
- **Doha Diamond League, May 16, 2025:**
 1. **Neeraj Chopra** secured **2nd place** with a best throw of **90.23m** on his third attempt.
 2. **Julian Weber** of Germany won with a world-leading throw of **91.06m** on his sixth attempt.
 3. **Anderson Peters** (Grenada) finished **3rd** with **84.65m**.
 4. **Kishore Jena**, the other Indian athlete, placed **8th** with a throw of **78.60m**.

- **SAFF U-19 Championship 2025**

Key Points	Details
Why in the News?	India wins SAFF U-19 Championship 2025 after a dramatic penalty shootout against Bangladesh
Venue	Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia
Organizer	South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)
Participating Teams	India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives.

- **Carlos Alcaraz** won his maiden Italian Open title on May 18, 2025, by defeating **Jannik Sinner**. The tournament was held at Foro Italico in Rome.
- **Miss World 2025 sports challenge:**
 1. **Venue-** The event took place at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in **Hyderabad**.
 2. **Eliise Randmaa of Estonia won the gold medal**
 3. **Aur lie Joachim** from Martinique won **silver**
 4. **Emma Morrison** of Canada won **bronze**.
 5. **Anna-Lise Nanton** from Trinidad and Tobago stood **fourth**.
- 1. **FIFA has lifted the suspension of the Republic of Congo’s football federation**, three months after it was imposed due to third-party interference linked to a dispute with the country’s sports ministry.

Awards and Honors

- On May 17, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu presented the **58th Jnanpith Award**, India’s highest literary honour, to **Gulzar and Rambhadracharya**. The Jnanpith Award, instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, is presented by the organization to honour outstanding contributions to Indian literature, comprising a citation, cash prize, and a bronze idol of Vagdevi (Saraswati).
- **2025 World Food Prize**

1. The 2025 World Food Prize was awarded to **Mariangela Hungria**, a Brazilian microbiologist, for her work in sustainable agriculture and crop nutrition.
 2. **Established in 1987 by Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug**, the World Food Prize recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to global food security.
- On May 5, 2025, **Bhuwan Ribhu** became the first Indian lawyer to receive **the World Jurist Association's Medal of Honour**, a prestigious global accolade. He received the award at the 2025 World Law Congress held in the Dominican Republic.

Important Days of the Year 2025

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	International Day of Families	May 15	Theme- "Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development"
2.	National Dengue Day	May 16	Theme for 2025: "Act Early, Prevent Dengue: Clean Surroundings, Healthy Living"
3.	Sikkim's Statehood Day	May 16	The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary, or golden jubilee, of this significant event
4.	International Day of Living Together in Peace	May 16	Established by the UN in 2017 (Resolution 72/130), the day promotes global peace, tolerance, inclusion, and solidarity.
5.	International Day of Light	May 16	Theme "Light, Innovation, Society"

6.	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025	May 17	Theme "Gender Equality in Digital Transformation,"
7.	International Museum Day	May 18	Theme "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities"

Miscellaneous

Neeraj Chopra Honored with Honorary Lt. Colonel Rank in Territorial Army

About Territorial Army

- The **Territorial Army (TA)** is a voluntary, part-time defense force of India that serves as a vital backup to the **regular Indian Army** during emergencies and national needs.
- **Established:** 1949
- **Motto:** "Savdhani Va Shoorta" (*Vigilance and Valor*)
- **Role:** To relieve the regular army from static duties and assist in internal security, natural disasters, and national emergencies.
- Citizens of India aged **18 to 42 years**, employed in civilian professions, are eligible.

Exercise Raahat: Army, NDRF join forces for disaster relief excellence in Nagaland

- **Exercise Raahat** was a joint disaster relief exercise conducted by the Indian Army's Spear Corps and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) from May 13 to 15, 2025, at Rangapahar Military Station in Nagaland.
- The exercise aimed to enhance preparedness and coordination for disaster response operations, particularly in anticipation of the monsoon season
- Exercise Raahat exemplified a proactive approach to disaster management, emphasizing the critical role of joint preparedness and coordination between military and civilian agencies in safeguarding communities during natural calamities.

Supreme Court directed the Centre to urgently establish dedicated POCSO

About POCSO

POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, 2012 is a comprehensive law in India designed to protect children (under 18 years) from sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation.

Key Features:

- **Enacted:** 2012
- **Applies to:** All children under the age of 18
- **Covers:**
 - ✓ Penetrative and non-penetrative sexual assault
 - ✓ Sexual harassment
 - ✓ Use of children for pornography
- **Gender-neutral:** Applies to both boys and girls
- **Special Courts:** Mandates setting up of fast-track courts for speedy trials
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Failure to report abuse is punishable
- **Child-friendly procedures:** Includes in-camera trials, protection of the child's identity, and avoidance of repeated questioning

BCAS Cancels Celebi's Security Clearance Over National Security Issues

About BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security)

- **BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security)** is the **regulatory authority for civil aviation security in India**, functioning under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- **Established:** Originally a cell under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in 1976, it became an independent department in **1987** following the Kanishka bombing.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

President Murmu Seeks Supreme Court's Opinion on Governors' Assent Powers Under Article 143

About Article 143

Article 143 of the **Indian Constitution** empowers the **President of India** to seek the **advisory opinion of the Supreme Court** on important questions of law or fact.

Key Provisions:

- **Article 143(1):**

The President may refer **any question of law or fact** of public importance to the Supreme Court for its advisory opinion. This is **discretionary** and typically invoked in matters involving **constitutional interpretation or national significance**.

- **Article 143(2):**

The President **must** refer any dispute arising out of **pre-constitutional treaties or agreements** to the Supreme Court for its opinion.

Nature of Opinion:

- The Supreme Court's opinion under Article 143 is **advisory** and **not binding** on the President.
- However, in practice, the opinion is given **great weight and respect**.

Operation Olivia

- **Launch:** Initiated in the early 1980s by the Indian Coast Guard.
- **Duration:** Conducted annually from **November to May**, coinciding with the Olive Ridley turtles' nesting season.
- **Primary Locations:** Focuses on the Odisha coast, especially **Gahirmatha Beach, Devi River mouth, and Rushikulya River mouth**

About Olive Ridley Turtles

- ✓ **Scientific Name:** *Lepidochelys olivacea*
- ✓ **Conservation Status:** Listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.

Habitat & Distribution:

- ✓ Found in warm waters of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.
- ✓ Major nesting sites in India include Odisha (Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, Devi), Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Biological Features:

- ✓ Smallest sea turtle species, weighing up to 45 kg, with an olive-colored, heart-shaped carapace.
- ✓ Known for "arribada" or mass nesting, where thousands of females come ashore simultaneously to lay eggs.

WHO Recognises India for Eliminating Trachoma as a Public Health Concern

What is Trachoma?

Trachoma is a **chronic contagious bacterial eye disease** caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is the **leading infectious cause of preventable blindness** globally, especially affecting populations in poor, rural, and underdeveloped regions.

Causative Agent: *Chlamydia trachomatis* (bacteria)

Transmission:

- ✓ Through contact with eye or nasal discharge from infected individuals
- ✓ Flies acting as vectors
- ✓ Poor hygiene and sanitation conditions

Archaeological Survey of India restores a 16th-century stepwell “Rajon Ki Baoli” in Mehrauli, Delhi.

Key Highlights:

- **Location:** Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi
- **Historical Period:** Constructed around 1506 CE during the Lodi dynasty by Daulat Khan Lodi
- It was part of a ₹125 crore project in collaboration with World Monuments Fund India (**WMFI**) and **TCS Foundation**
- Traditional materials like lime plaster and mortar were used to preserve historical authenticity

About Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

- ✓ The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** is the premier organization for archaeological research, excavation, conservation, and preservation of India's cultural heritage.
- ✓ It functions under the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
- ✓ **Founded:** 1861 by **Alexander Cunningham**, often called the "**Father of Indian Archaeology**"
- ✓ **Re-established:** Under Lord Curzon's patronage in 1904 through the **Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904**

Yala Glacier Declared "Dead"

- **Location:** Langtang Valley, Nepal (5,170–5,750 m elevation)
- **Significance:** Asia's first glacier to receive a memorial plaque due to climate change; a major training site for HKH glaciologists
- **Loss:** 66% area lost since 1970s; retreated 784 meters
- Third glacier globally to be memorialized after Iceland's OK (2019) and Mexico's Ayoloco (2021)

World's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant opens in Denmark

What is Methanol?

- Methanol (CH_3OH), also known as **methyl alcohol**, is a **colorless, volatile, and flammable liquid**.
- It is used as a **fuel, chemical feedstock, and solvent**.
- It is also known as **wood alcohol**. It can completely mix with water.

What is E-Methanol?

- **E-Methanol** is a synthetic fuel produced by combining **green hydrogen** (generated via electrolysis using renewable energy) with **captured carbon dioxide (CO_2)**.
- It is a type of **carbon-neutral fuel** or **electrofuel**.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has opened a regional office in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, to develop inland water transport on three national waterways: NW-26 (Chenab), NW-49 (Jhelum), and NW-84 (Ravi).

About Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, established on 27 October 1986 through the **Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985**.
- Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, IWAI is tasked with the development, maintenance, and regulation of inland waterways designated as National Waterways (NWs) for shipping and navigation

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)2025

The **2025 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)**, published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), reveals a record **83.4 million** people living in internal displacement by the end of 2024—more than double the figure from 2018.

Regional Insights:

- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Home to **38.8 million** IDPs, accounting for 46% of the global total.
- **South Asia:** Experienced a near tripling of disaster-induced displacements, reaching **9.2 million** in 2024.
- **The Americas:** Reported **14.5 million** displacements, with the **U.S.** alone accounting for **11 million** due to climate-related events

Colombia officially joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

What is Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- A **global infrastructure and economic development strategy** launched by **China in 2013**.
- Seeks to improve connectivity and cooperation among **Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America**.
- Inspired by the ancient **Silk Road trade routes**.
- The Belt and Road Initiative comprises the **Silk Road Economic Belt**, promoting overland connectivity through Central Asia to Europe, and the **21st Century Maritime Silk Road**, enhancing sea routes linking China with Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Akashteer

- Akashteer played a crucial role in countering drone and missile threats during recent border tensions with Pakistan.
- Akashteer is an **AI-enabled, fully automated air defence system** designed to detect, track, and neutralise threats such as drones, missiles, micro-UAVs, and loitering munitions.
- **Developed by:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- Akashteer features an integrated network that connects surveillance systems, radars, and command units to provide real-time situational awareness and low-altitude threat monitoring in active combat zones.

Bhargavastra

- **India has successfully test-fired Bhargavastra**, an indigenously developed low-cost anti-drone system.
- Developed by **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**, Bhargavastra is a **'hard kill' anti-drone weapon** designed to neutralize drone swarm threats.
- Bhargavastra features a **two-layer defence system** comprising unguided micro-rockets with a 20-meter kill radius for swarm attacks and guided micro-missiles for precision targeting.
- Bhargavastra can **detect drones up to 2.5 km**, with radar coverage ranging from 6 to 10 km, and operates effectively at altitudes above 5000 meters.

Rights of Pedestrians

- The Court ruled that the **right to unobstructed and disability-friendly footpaths** is part of the **Right to Life under Article 21** of the Constitution.
- **Article 21** ensures that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except through a legal process.

Karreguttalu Hill (KGH)

Karreguttalu Hill (KGH), located on the **Chhattisgarh-Telangana border**, has been a key Maoist stronghold due to its dense forests and rugged terrain. In April 2025, security forces conducted **Operation Black Forest**, a 21-day offensive that eliminated 31 Maoists, including top leaders, and dismantled weapons units—marking a major step toward the government's goal of ending Naxalism by 2026.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

India urged IAEA in 2025 to monitor **Pakistan's nuclear safety**, citing regional security concerns

- **Established:** 1957 (following the "Atoms for Peace" proposal by U.S. President Eisenhower)
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria
- **Motto:** *"Atoms for Peace and Development"*
- **Members:** 179 countries
- **Current Director General:** Rafael Mariano Grossi

Legal Framework:

- Functions under the **United Nations system**, but reports independently
- Works closely with the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** as the key verification bod



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