



TestCoach

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Weekly Current Affairs

(21st MAY - 28th MAY)



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

Appointments

- **K. Ram Mohan** has been appointed as the new **Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Justice K. Somashekar**, former judge of the Karnataka High Court, has been appointed as the new **Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court**. His appointment was approved by the President of India following the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation.
- On May 19, 2025, **Sudan's army chief and de facto head of state, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**, appointed **Kamil Eltayeb Idris as the country's first Prime Minister since the civil war began** in April 2023, marking a significant step toward political transition.

Sports Current Affair

Tottenham Hotspur Win UEFA Europa League 2024

- **Event:** UEFA Europa League Final 2024
- **Winner:** **Tottenham Hotspur (Spurs)**
- **Runner-Up:** **Manchester United**
- **Scoreline:** Spurs defeated Manchester United **1-0** in the final
- **Venue:** Estadio de San Mamés, Bilbao, Spain

Joe Root Becomes Fastest to 13,000 Test Runs

- **Player:** **Joe Root**, former England Test captain
- **Achievement:** Became the **fastest cricketer** to score **13,000 runs in Test cricket**
- **Earlier Record Holder:** Jacques Kallis, who achieved the feat in 159 innings.
- **Significance-** Joe Root is also the only English player to breach the 13k Test runs mark, and overall only the fifth player to reach the milestone.
- **Match Details:** England vs Zimbabwe, One-off Test, May 22, 2025, at Trent Bridge

Kanak Budhwar Wins Gold at ISSF Junior World Cup 2024

- **Sport:** Pistol Shooting
- **Achievement:** Won **gold medal** at the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2024**
- **Event:** 10m Air Pistol (Women)
- **Runner Up-** Anna Dulce (Moldova)
- **Location:** Suhl, Germany

Awards and Honors

International Booker Prize 2025

Activist and lawyer **Banu Mushtaq** has created history by becoming the **first Indian author writing in Kannada** to win the **International Booker Prize** for her short story collection **Heart Lamp**, translated into English by **Deepa Bhasthi**.

About International Booker Prize

The **International Booker Prize** is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the world, recognizing the **best translated fiction** from around the globe.

Key Facts:

- **Established:** 2005 (in its current form since 2016)
- **Awarded For:** A **book translated into English** and published in the **UK or Ireland**
- **Eligibility:** Open to **authors of any nationality**, provided the work is fiction and translated into English
- **Prize Money:** **£50,000** (shared equally between the author and the translator)

President Murmu confers Gallantry Awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan

Wartime Gallantry Awards:

Award	Description
Param Vir Chakra (PVC)	Highest wartime gallantry award for exceptional bravery in the face of the enemy
Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)	Second-highest wartime gallantry award for acts of conspicuous gallantry
Vir Chakra	Third in rank, awarded for gallant acts during battle

Peacetime Gallantry Awards

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Award	Description
Ashoka Chakra	Highest peacetime gallantry award for most conspicuous bravery or self-sacrifice
Kirti Chakra	Second-highest peacetime gallantry award
Vir Chakra	Third-highest peacetime gallantry award for courageous action or sacrifice

Important Days

S.No.	Important Days	Date	Extra Information
1.	World Day for Cultural Diversity: Fostering Unity in Diversity	May 21	It was declared by UNESCO
2.	International Day for Biological Diversity 2025:	May 21	The 2025 theme— “Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development”
3.	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Jayanti	May 22	Raja Ram Mohan Roy Led the abolition of Sati (widow burning), which was officially banned in 1829
4.	World Turtle Day 2025	May 23	Established in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue, World Turtle Day highlights the need to protect turtles, many of which face threats from habitat loss, pollution, illegal trade, and climate change.
5.	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 2025	May 23	Theme- “Her health, her right: Shaping a future without fistula,”
6.	Memorial Day 2025	May 26	Memorial Day is observed on May 26 to honor U.S. military personnel who died in service.

National Current Affairs:

Mizoram becomes India's first fully literate state under the ULLAS Scheme:

- Mizoram has attained “full literacy” status with a 98.2% literacy rate, exceeding the 95% benchmark set by the Ministry of Education in the 2023–24 PLFS survey.

- Previously, Ladakh was the first administrative unit to achieve full functional literacy under the **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative**.
1. **ULLAS (2022-2027)** is a centrally sponsored scheme under NEP 2020 to educate adults aged 15+ who missed formal schooling.
 2. It covers five areas: Foundational Literacy & Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education.
 3. The mission “*Jan Jan Saakshar Bharat*” is driven by *Kartavya Bodh* and implemented through volunteer participation.

Who is literate in India?

As per the Office of the Registrar General of India, In India, a person is considered **literate** if they are **aged 7 years or older** and can **read and write with understanding** in any language.

E-zero FIR initiative launched to fast-track cyber fraud cases

- It **was launched by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** through the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, this system aims to streamline the process of filing First Information Reports (FIRs) for cybercrimes.
- Cybercrime complaints involving financial losses **exceeding ₹10 lakh**, reported via the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the **helpline number 1930, will be automatically converted into Zero FIRs**.

What is E-zero FIR?

- **Zero FIR** allows a cognisable offence to be reported at any police station, irrespective of jurisdiction, and is later transferred to the appropriate authority for investigation.
- **e-Zero FIR** is its digital counterpart, enabled under Sections 173(1) and 173(1)(ii) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

CISF sub-inspector scales Mt. Everest

Sub-Inspector Geeta Samota has made history as the first CISF officer in the force's 52-year journey to summit Mount Everest, the tallest peak in the world.

About Mount Everest:

- Mount Everest, the **world's highest peak at 8,848.86 meters**, lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet.
- It is known as **Sagarmatha** in Nepal and **Chomolungma** in Tibet.
- First summited in 1953 by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, it remains the ultimate challenge for mountaineers.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS):

Launched: February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways

Objective: Holistic redevelopment of 1,309 railway stations across India

Vision: Transform stations into modern, accessible, and culturally rich urban hubs

Key Features:

- **Phased Planning:** Custom development plans per station based on local needs
- **Modern Amenities:** Lifts, escalators, Wi-Fi, lounges, and meeting spaces
- **Cultural Touch:** Designs reflecting local art and architecture
- **Sustainability:** Eco-friendly features like LED lighting and rainwater harvesting
- **Economic Support:** 'One Station One Product' to boost local artisans and businesses

Supreme Court makes three years' legal practice mandatory to apply for judicial service

- The Supreme Court had introduced the **three-year legal practice** requirement in **1993**, ruling that a minimum of three years' experience as an advocate was necessary to be eligible for the subordinate judicial services examination.
- The Court emphasized that such experience was crucial for judges to perform their duties effectively.
- However, this rule was later abolished in 2002 following the recommendations of the **Shetty Commission**.
- A **one-year mandatory training program** is required for entry-level judicial officers before they assume courtroom responsibilities.
- Time served as a law clerk will be recognized as part of the three-year legal practice requirement.
- Recruitment processes that are already in progress or have been officially announced will continue under the current rules.

Gujarat's Lion Population Increases by 32% Since 2020:

The population of Asiatic lions (*Panthera leo persica*) in Gujarat has increased from 674 to 891 over a span of five years, as per the 16th Lion Census 2025 released by the Gujarat Forest Department.

About Project Lion:

- **Launch:** 2020, by the Government of India
- **Objective:** Long-term conservation of Asiatic lions by ensuring ecosystem health and sustainability

- **Location:** Gir landscape, Gujarat
- **Technological interventions** in Project Lion **include radio-collaring, camera traps, GPS tracking, automated sensor grids** (magnetic, movement, infrared), and GIS-based real-time monitoring for effective wildlife detection, surveillance, and conservation management.

About Asiatic Lions

- **Scientific Name:** *Panthera leo persica*
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **Habitat:** Exclusively found in the **Gir Forest and surrounding landscapes** in Gujarat, India
- Asiatic lions are smaller than African lions, have a distinctive belly skin fold, and live in smaller, more compact prides.

Konkan Railway to merge with Indian Railways:

The Maharashtra government has officially approved the merger of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) with Indian Railways, marking the final step in integrating this vital coastal railway line into the national network.

S.NO.	RAILWAY ZONES	Headquarter
1.	Central Railway	Mumbai
2.	Eastern Railway	Kolkata
3.	East Central Railway	Hajipur
4.	East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
5.	Northern Railway	New Delhi
6.	North Central Railway	Allahabad
7.	North Eastern Railway	Gorakhpur
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Guwahati
9.	North Western Railway	Jaipur
10.	Southern Railway	Chennai
11.	South Central Railway	Secunderabad
12.	South Eastern Railway	Kolkata
13.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur
14.	South Western Railway	Hubli
15.	Western Railway	Mumbai
16.	West Central Railway	Jabalpur
17.	South Coast Railway	Visakhapatnam
18.	Metro Railway	Kolkata

PM chairs 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on May 24, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Attended by representatives from 24 states and 7 union territories, the meeting highlighted a unified commitment to building a developed India. The theme of the session was "**Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047.**"

About NITI AAYOG

- **Establishment & Purpose:** **Formed on January 1, 2015**, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) replaced the Planning Commission to serve as India's premier policy think tank, promoting cooperative federalism and inclusive development
- **Composition:** **Chaired by the Prime Minister**, its Governing Council includes Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures, Lieutenant Governors of other UTs, Union Ministers, a Vice-Chairperson, full-time members, part-time members, ex-officio members, and a CEO.
- **Major initiatives** of NITI Aayog include **Atal Innovation Mission** for entrepreneurship, **Aspirational Districts Programme** for regional development, **SDG India Index** for tracking sustainability, and **POSHAN Abhiyaan** for combating malnutrition.

UP Government Launches India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train

- Uttar Pradesh launched India's first jungle safari train with a Vistadome coach, **linking Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Katarniaghat Sanctuary to boost eco-tourism.**
- **Initiative:** Part of the "One Destination, Three Forests" campaign

Significance

- First rail-based jungle safari experience in India
- Aims to boost eco-tourism and environmental awareness
- Expected to generate local employment and support sustainable development
- Enhances accessibility to remote forest areas

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

- Panchayat Advancement Index PAI is a Multi-domain and multi-sectoral index that is intended to be used to assess the overall holistic development, performance & progress of panchayats.
- It aims to evaluate the progress of grassroots institutions in achieving localized Sustainable Development Goals, thereby supporting the broader SDG 2030 agenda.
- **It was launched by Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

- Gram Panchayats are categorized based on their PAI and thematic scores as follows: Achievers (90+), Front Runners (75–89.9), Performers (60–74.9), Aspirants (40–59.9), and Beginners (below 40).

International Current Affairs

WHO Adopts First-Ever Pandemic Agreement:

- **Date Adopted:** May 20, 2025
- **Occasion:** 78th World Health Assembly (WHA)
- **Significance:** **First legally binding** global treaty under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution since the 2003 Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Key Highlights:

- **Purpose:** Strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness & response; promote equity and global solidarity.
- **PABS System:** Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing – manufacturers to give 20% of pandemic-related products to WHO (10% donations, 10% affordable).
- **Tech Transfer:** Support to LMICs for vaccine and drug production.
- **Sovereignty Clause:** WHO cannot mandate national actions (e.g. lockdowns, vaccine rules).
- **Supply Chain Network:** For fair and timely access to health products during emergencies.

Golden Dome missile defence shield

- **Announcement:** Former U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a \$175 billion "Golden Dome" missile defense initiative, inspired by Israel's Iron Dome but on a global scale.
- **Objective:** To protect the U.S. from ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missile threats using space-based interceptors, satellites, and ground systems.
- **Project Head:** Gen. Michael Guetlein (U.S. Space Force) appointed as the program leader.
- **Target Completion:** Operational by **2029**; initial funding: **\$25 billion**.
- **Key Partners:** Likely involvement of SpaceX, Palantir, Lockheed Martin, Anduril, RTX Corp

Six African nations sign pact to intensify efforts and launch cross-border programme to eliminate kala-azar.

- **Countries Involved:** **Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to eradicate visceral leishmaniasis (kala-azar) at an event organized by the African Union and the World Health Organization (WHO) during the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- **Disease Burden:** Over 70% of the global burden of kala-azar is in the Eastern African region, with half of the affected individuals being children under 15

About kala-azar:

Kala-azar, also known as *visceral leishmaniasis*, is a **life-threatening parasitic disease** caused by protozoa of the *Leishmania donovani* complex. It is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected female **phlebotomine sandflies**.

- **Other Names:** Visceral Leishmaniasis, Black Fever, Dumdum Fever.
- **Cause:** Protozoan parasite *Leishmania donovani*.
- **Transmission:** Bite of infected female phlebotomine sandfly.
- **Symptoms:** Symptoms include prolonged fever, weight loss, anemia, and enlargement of liver and spleen.
- **Initiatives for Elimination:** WHO's 2021–2030 roadmap aims to eliminate 20 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including kala-azar.

Algeria joined BRICS Development Bank

- The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS nations, has admitted Algeria as a new member, further expanding its global membership base

About The New Development Bank (NDB)

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** is a multilateral development bank established in 2015 by the BRICS nations—**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**—to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs)
- Its headquarter is located **in Shanghai, China**
- Initially formed by BRICS nations, the NDB has expanded to include Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria (joined May 2025).

UK signs deal to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius

- On May 22, UK PM Keir Starmer signed a deal transferring Chagos Islands' sovereignty to Mauritius, with Diego Garcia military base to be leased for 99 years for UK-US defence operations.
- Under the deal, the UK will pay Mauritius an average of £101 million (\$129m) per year — amounting to a total of £3.4 billion (\$4.35 billion) over the course of the lease. Starmer also claimed the arrangement would cost less than operating an aircraft carrier annually.

Chagos Archipelago

- **Location:** Chagos Archipelago lies ~1,600 km northeast of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean; comprises 60+ low-lying islands.
- **Size:** Total land area is 56.1 sq km (Diego Garcia: 32.5 sq km); total area including lagoons exceeds 15,000 sq km.
- **Great Chagos Bank:** World's largest atoll structure (12,642 sq km).

Colonial History:

- Settled in the late 18th century by French using enslaved labor.
- Ceded to Britain by France in 1814.
- Made part of **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)** in 1965.
- Separated from Mauritius during its 1968 independence in exchange for £3 million.

Diego Garcia:

- Largest island, southernmost atoll.
- Leased to the US under 1966 UK-US defence agreement.
- Plantation closed in 1971; base fully operational by 1986.
- Strategic hub for military operations in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Gaza.

'Golden Dragon 2025'

China and Cambodia have commenced their largest-ever joint **military exercise, "Golden Dragon 2025,"** in Cambodia, focusing on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance

LIST OF SOME IMPORTANT BILATERAL EXERCISES

Exercise Name	Partner Country	Type of Exercise
Garuda	France	Air Force
Yudh Abhyas	USA	Army
Vajra Prahar	USA	Special Forces
Mitra Shakti	Sri Lanka	Army
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia	Army
Shakti	France	Army
Varuna	France	Naval
Indra	Russia	Tri- Service
Hand-in-Hand	China	Army (Anti-terrorism)
Sampriti	Bangladesh	Army
Surya Kiran	Nepal	Army
Konkan	UK	Naval
Simbex	Singapore	Naval
SLINEX	Sri Lanka	Naval
Malabar	USA, Japan, Australia	Naval (Quad Nations)
Desert Knight	France	Air Force
Zair-Al-Bahr	Qatar	Naval
Al Nagah	Oman	Army
Harimau Shakti	Malaysia	Army
Dharma Guardian	Japan	Army