



# TestCoach

Powered By **S CHAND**

## Weekly Current Affairs

(8<sup>th</sup> MAY - 14<sup>th</sup> MAY)



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

### **Appointment of CBI Director:**

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director **Praveen Sood** has been granted a one-year extension, days before the end of his original two-year term on 25 May

### **Appointment Process:**

- The appointment process of the **Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** in India is governed by the **Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946**, particularly after amendments made through the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**

The CBI Director is appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on the recommendation of a **three-member high-powered selection committee**:

- **Prime Minister of India** (Chairperson)
- **Leader of Opposition** in the Lok Sabha (or the leader of the single largest opposition party if no formal LoP)
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the CJI

### **Operation Shiva:**

- **Operation Shiva** is a series of security operations initiated by the Indian Army to safeguard the annual **Amarnath Yatra**, a significant Hindu pilgrimage to the Amarnath Cave Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **About Shri Amarnath ji:**

- **Amarnath Cave** is situated at an altitude of about **3,888 meters (12,756 feet)** in the **Lidder Valley** of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **Amarnath Yatra** is an **annual pilgrimage** that takes place during **Shravan (July–August)**.
- **Situated in the Anantnag district** at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the Amarnath Cave is home to the ice lingam, **a symbolic representation of Lord Shiva**.
- Two smaller ice stalagmites are believed to represent his wife, Parvati, and his son, Ganesha.
- Pilgrimage occurs in Shravan month, when the lingam reaches full size, and the origin of the pilgrimage is described in a Sanskrit book **“Bringesha Samhita”**

### **Piprahwa Relics:**

- India's Ministry of Culture issued a notice to **Sotheby's** and **William Claxton Peppé's** family, demanding the **halt** of the auction and **repatriation** of the Buddha relics from **Piprahwa**.

- The **Piprahwa Relics** are a significant archaeological find related to early Buddhism. They were discovered in **Piprahwa**, a site located in the present-day **Uttar Pradesh** state of India, near the Nepalese border.
- The Piprahwa relics are crucial as they offer rare physical evidence of early Buddhist traditions and relic worship described in ancient texts.

### MICE Industry

- The Ministry of Tourism and Culture seeks to develop at least 10 Indian cities into leading global destinations for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions** (MICE).
- The India MICE market generated a revenue of USD 49,402.6 million in 2024 and is expected to reach USD 103,686.5 million by 2030 while registering a growth of 13% CAGR.
- e.g. of MICE Industry Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, Jio World etc

### **Parameswaran Iyer:**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has named **Parameswaran Iyer as India's new Executive Director on the IMF's Executive Board.**

### **IMF's Executive Board:**

- The Executive Board (the Board) is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF.
- **It is composed of 25 Directors**, who are elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the Managing Director, who serves as its Chairman.
- The Board usually meets several times each week. It carries out its work largely on the basis of papers prepared by IMF management and staff.

### Nilgiri Tahr:

The **Nilgiri Tahr** (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is an endangered mountain ungulate native to the **Western Ghats** of southern India, particularly found in **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**.

Powered By **S CHAND**

### **Key Facts:**

- **Status:** Endangered (IUCN Red List)
- **Habitat:** High-altitude grasslands and rocky cliffs, typically above 1,200 meters
- **Range:** Nilgiri Hills, Anamalai Hills, and Eravikulam National Park
- It is the **state animal of Tamil Nadu**
- Protected under **Schedule I** of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- Plays an important role in the region's **ecotourism** and **biodiversity conservation**

### **Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA) : EV-Mission:**

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has launched the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas – Electric Vehicle (MAHA-EV) initiative.
- The mission aims to develop critical EV technologies to minimize import reliance, foster domestic innovation, and establish India as a global leader in the electric vehicle sector.

### **About ANRF**

- **Established:** Through the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023**.
- **Function:** Acts as the apex body for guiding scientific research in India.
- **Supersedes:** The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, which was dissolved upon the enactment of the NRF Act.
- **Administrative Oversight:** Operates under the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**

### **Saola:**

- An international team of scientists has mapped the genome of the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), the rarest large land mammal in the world.
- The **Saola** (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), often called the "**Asian unicorn**," is one of the world's rarest and most elusive large mammals.

### **Key Facts:**

- **Scientific Name:** *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*
- **Discovered:** 1992 in the **Annamite Mountains** on the Laos–Vietnam border
- **Status:** **Critically Endangered** (IUCN Red List)
- **Habitat:** Dense, remote mountain forests in the Annamites
- **Appearance:** Resembles an antelope, with long, straight, parallel horns and white facial markings

### **Kozhikode gets WHO recognition as age-friendly city:**

Kozhikode has been recognized globally with membership in **WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)**

### **About GNAFCC:**

- The **Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)** is a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative that supports cities and communities in becoming more **inclusive and accessible for older adults**
- **It was established 2010**

- The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities currently includes 1705 cities and communities in 60 countries, covering over 330 million people worldwide.

### **Human Development Report 2025**

- India secured the **130th position** among **193 countries and territories** in the **2025 Human Development Report (HDR)**, titled "*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*", published by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

### **United Nations Development Programme**

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** is the **leading global development network** of the United Nations. It works in about **170 countries and territories** to help eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress
- Established in 1965, the UNDP is headquartered in New York City, USA.
- Introduced the **Human Development Index (HDI)**, which measures a country's overall development using:
  1. Life expectancy (health)
  2. Education level
  3. Per capita income

### **India-UK free trade agreement**

- India and the UK have concluded negotiations for a free trade agreement, aiming to double bilateral trade to USD 120 billion by 2030.
- The pact eliminates import duties on 99% of Indian goods entering the UK, while India safeguards sensitive sectors.

### **What is Free Trade Agreement?**

- A **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** is a **treaty between two or more countries** to reduce or eliminate **barriers to trade**, such as **tariffs, import quotas, and export restrictions**, to promote **easier and increased trade and investment** among the member nations.

### **Key Features of FTAs:**

- **Elimination or reduction of tariffs**
- **Improved market access** for goods and services
- **Rules of origin** to determine where a product was made
- **Intellectual property protection**
- **Investment and dispute resolution mechanisms**

### Alcatraz Island

- The President of the USA ordered the reconstruction and reopening of the notorious Alcatraz prison on Alcatraz Island to accommodate dangerous and violent criminals.
- Alcatraz Island is a small island located in **San Francisco Bay, California**, about 1.25 miles (2 km) offshore from the city of San Francisco.
- It is a popular tourist attraction managed by the **National Park Service**.
- The prison was closed in 1963 due to its high operational costs and deteriorating infrastructure. After closure, the island was briefly occupied by Native American activists in 1969, a significant event in the history of the Native American rights movement.

### Thrissur Pooram Festival

- Thrissur Pooram is one **of Kerala's most vibrant** and spectacular temple festivals.
- It is held annually at the Vadakkumnathan Temple in **Thekkinkadu Maidanam, Thrissur district**.
- Celebrated every year during the month of Medam in Malayalam (April-May), this temple festival is commonly known as the 'Mother of all Poorams
- The **Vadakkunnathan Temple** in Thrissur, Kerala, was honored with the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award of Excellence for Cultural Heritage Conservation** in 2015

### Maldives (Capital: Male)

- **INS Sharda** arrived at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, for a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise planned from 04 to 10 May 25

### **About Maldives:**

The Maldives, an archipelagic nation in the Indian Ocean, serves as a critical maritime crossroads. It straddles two vital Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs):

- **Gulf of Aden to the Strait of Malacca:** Facilitating trade between the Middle East and Southeast Asia.
- **Gulf of Hormuz to the Strait of Malacca:** Connecting the energy-rich Persian Gulf with global shipping routes.
- Comprising approximately 1,190 coral islands grouped into 26 atolls, the Maldives is the world's lowest-lying country, with an average elevation of just 1.5 meters above sea level
- The **Eight Degree Channel** (also known as Māmalē Kandū or Maliku Kandū) separates the Indian island of Minicoy from the Maldives



### **Pulitzer Prize**

- The **New York Times** photographer **Doug Mills** was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for a sequence of photos of the attempted assassination of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump

### **About Pulitzer Prize**

- **Established:** 1917
- **Founded by:** Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American newspaper publisher
- **Administered by:** Columbia University, New York
- **Awarded for:** Excellence in journalism, literary achievements, and musical composition
- **Annual Announcement:** Typically in April

### **Ladakh records world's highest snow leopard density**

- The Union Territory of Ladakh is home to the highest recorded density of snow leopards in the world, with nearly 68 per cent of India's population of the elusive big cat found in the Union Territory, according to a new study

### **About Snow Leopard**

- The Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is a rare and elusive big cat native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.
- **Scientific Name:** *Panthera uncia*
- **Common Name:** Snow Leopard
- Included in CITES Appendix I (international trade is banned)
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Native to **12 countries** including: Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Found in **alpine and subalpine zones** (typically 3,000 to 5,500 meters or 9,800 to 18,000 feet).

### **Operation Sindoor:**

- **Operation Sindoor** was a significant military operation conducted by India in May 2025, marking a notable escalation in the India-Pakistan conflict

### **India's Precision Strike Weapons:**

- **SCALP (Storm Shadow) Missile:** A long-range, air-launched cruise missile with a strike range of approximately 450 km. It is specifically engineered for deep penetration missions targeting high-value, fortified enemy assets.
- **HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range):** A precision-guided, stand-off weapon system with an operational range of 50 to 70 km, designed to engage and destroy ground targets from a safe distance.
- **Loitering Munitions (Kamikaze Drones):** These are unmanned aerial systems capable of hovering over designated areas to detect, track, and

engage threats either autonomously or via remote control, offering a flexible and responsive strike option.

- **METEOR:** A next-generation Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), highly effective even in complex and dense electronic warfare environments, offering superior no-escape zones and engagement capabilities.
- **BRAHMOS:** A supersonic cruise missile that operates on the "fire-and-forget" principle. It can execute varied flight profiles en route to its target, making it a versatile and formidable strike weapon.

## **IMDEX Asia 2025**

**Indian Naval Ship INS Kiltan arrived in** Singapore to participate in IMDEX Asia 2025 at the Changi Exhibition Centre.

### **About IMDEX Asia**

**IMDEX Asia** is Asia's premier international maritime defence exhibition, held biennially in Singapore. The 2025 edition took place from May 6–8 at Changi Exhibition Centre. It showcases cutting-edge naval technologies, hosts warship displays, and brings together global naval leaders, defence companies, and maritime experts.

## **Deepika Kumari wins Bronze medal in Archery World Cup stage 2**

**Event:** Archery World Cup Stage 2, Shanghai (May 2025)

**Medal:** Bronze

**Opponent in Semifinal:** Lim Sihyeon (World No. 1, Korea)

**Opponent in Bronze Playoff:** Kang Chae Young (Korea)

**Score in Bronze Playoff:** Deepika Kumari defeated Kang Chae Young 7-3

## **India's International Borders:**

India shares its land borders with 7 countries: Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan.

### **Line of Control (LOC):**

The Line of Control (LoC) is a military-controlled boundary separating Indian and Pakistani territories in the Jammu and Kashmir region. Initially referred to as the **ceasefire line**, it was officially renamed the **Line of Control** after the **Shimla Agreement in 1972**.

### **Line of Actual Control (LAC):**

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the boundary between India and China, originally formed as a ceasefire line following a conflict. It later evolved into the LAC and now functions as the de facto border separating the two countries.



### **Durand Line:**

The Durand Line is a boundary drawn by Sir Mortimer Durand in 1896, marking the separation between India (now Pakistan) and Afghanistan. It runs through the region that includes Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Radcliffe Line:**

The Radcliffe Line, named after Sir Cyril Radcliffe—the chairman of the boundary commission—was drawn in August 1947 to divide British India. It serves as the border between India and Pakistan in the west, and between India and Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) in the east.

### **McMahon Line:**

The international boundary between India and China, known as the McMahon Line, was defined by Sir Henry McMahon, the British foreign secretary. It was established during the Shimla Convention held on July 3, 1914.

Here's the information organized in a table format under the "**One Border, One Force**" policy:

<b>Border/Line</b>	<b>Force Responsible</b>
<b>Coastal Borders</b>	Indian Coast Guard
<b>Bangladesh, Pakistan</b>	Border Security Force ( <b>BSF</b> )
<b>China</b>	Indo-Tibetan Border Police ( <b>ITBP</b> )
<b>Nepal, Bhutan</b>	Sashastra Seema Bal ( <b>SSB</b> )
<b>Myanmar</b>	Assam Rifles ( <b>AR</b> )

**TestCoach**  
Powered By **S CHAND**