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Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

10th May 2026

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WESTERN DISTURBANCES

Why in News

- Northwest India recently witnessed temporary relief from rainfall and thunderstorms after a **Western Disturbance** weakened and shifted eastward.

Meteorological Characteristics

- Western Disturbances are **extratropical storm systems** originating over the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- These systems move eastwards under the influence of the **Subtropical Westerly Jet Stream**.
- They transport moisture-laden winds towards **India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh**.
- India experiences maximum impact of Western Disturbances during **November to March**.

Agricultural and Climatic Relevance

- Western Disturbances provide crucial winter rainfall for **Rabi crops** in northwestern India.
- States like **Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Western Uttar Pradesh** benefit significantly.
- They also cause snowfall in the **Himalayan region**, supporting glacier replenishment and river systems.

Terminology and Geographical Linkage

- They are termed “Western” because they originate from regions west of the Indian subcontinent.
- The word “Disturbance” denotes atmospheric instability causing sudden weather changes.
- Similar mid-latitude weather systems are identified differently in other parts of the world.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL ASSESSMENT AND INDEX (GRAI)

Why in News

- The **Insurance Division of the Department of Financial Services** topped the

GRAI Rankings for March 2026 in Group A category.

Institutional Framework

- **GRAI** was developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- The first edition, **GRAI 2022**, was released on **21 June 2023**.
- It evaluates ministries through the **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)**.

Governance and Administrative Significance

- The index promotes **citizen-centric governance** and administrative accountability.
- It measures effectiveness and timeliness in grievance resolution mechanisms.
- GRAI strengthens transparency under principles of **Good Governance** and **Digital Administration**.

Assessment Parameters

- The index is based on **4 dimensions** and **11 indicators**.
- Major dimensions include **Efficiency, Feedback, Domain, and Organisational Commitment**.
- Ministries are comparatively ranked based on grievance disposal performance.

Key Features of CPGRAMS

- **CPGRAMS** is a 24×7 online grievance portal for citizens.
- It is managed by **DARPG** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
- The platform connects all Union Ministries, Departments, and State Governments.
- Complaints are trackable through a unique registration number.
- Grievances are expected to be resolved within a maximum period of **21 days**.

D'ERING MEMORIAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Why in News

- A tiger was recently sighted in **D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary** of **Arunachal Pradesh** after nearly two decades.

Location and Physical Features

- The sanctuary is situated in **East Siang district** of Arunachal Pradesh.

- It lies in the floodplains of the **Siang River** near the Assam border.
- The sanctuary was established in **1976**.
- It was earlier known as **Lali Wildlife Sanctuary** before being renamed in 1986.

Ecological Characteristics

- The sanctuary experiences both **South-West and North-East monsoons**.
- Its vegetation mainly consists of riverine grasslands and woodland patches.
- Important floral species include **Dillenia indica, Bombax ceiba, and Albizia spp.**

Faunal Diversity

- Mammals include **Tiger, Elephant, Hog Deer, and Wild Pig**.
- More than **150 bird species** inhabit the sanctuary.
- Threatened birds include the **White-winged Wood Duck** and **Bengal Florican**.

SOMNATH TEMPLE

Why in News

- The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit **Somnath Temple** during the 75th anniversary of its post-independence reconstruction inauguration.

Historical and Religious Importance

- Somnath Temple is dedicated to **Lord Shiva** and is the first among the **12 Jyotirlingas**.
- It is located at **Prabhas Patan near Veraval** in Gujarat's **Saurashtra region**.
- The site is associated with the **Triveni Sangam** of **Kapila, Hiran, and Saraswati rivers**.
- The temple has historical references dating back to around **649 BC**.

Political and Cultural Context

- The temple was repeatedly rebuilt after invasions, including the attack by **Mahmud Ghazni** in the 11th century.
- Post-independence reconstruction was led by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- The present structure was completed in **1951**.

Architectural Features

- The present temple follows the **Chalukya style** of temple architecture.
- The seven-storied structure rises nearly **155 feet** high.
- Its geographical alignment ensures no landmass exists directly south till **Antarctica**.

- The temple shikhara carries a nearly **10-ton Kalash** and a **37-foot flag mast**.

TACTICAL ADVANCED RANGE AUGMENTATION (TARA) WEAPON

Why in News

- **DRDO** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** recently conducted the maiden flight trial of the **Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA)** weapon off the Odisha coast.

Defence Technology Profile

- TARA is India's first indigenous **glide weapon system** converting unguided bombs into precision-guided weapons.
- Glide weapons use aerodynamic lift and onboard guidance instead of direct free-fall trajectories.
- The system was developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad** under DRDO.

Strategic and Operational Importance

- TARA enables **stand-off attacks** from safer distances.
- It enhances strike accuracy against ground-based targets.
- The weapon improves the lethality of low-cost conventional munitions.

Technical Features

- It uses modular architecture compatible with existing munitions.
- The system incorporates indigenous low-cost guidance technologies.
- It supports rapid integration with various **IAF platforms**.
- Development was undertaken with **Development-cum-Production Partners (DcPPs)** and Indian industries.

BAIGA TRIBE

Why in News

- Thirteen children belonging to the **Baiga tribe** were recently rescued from bonded labour in **Chhattisgarh**.

Tribal Identity and Distribution

- The Baiga are recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.

- They are primarily concentrated in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Smaller populations are found in **Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand**.
- Their language, **Baigani**, is influenced by **Gondi** and **Hindi**.

Livelihood and Cultural Practices

- Traditionally, they practised shifting cultivation called **Bewar**.
- The community now largely depends on **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**.
- Tattooing forms an important part of Baiga identity and cultural expression.
- Tattoos are prepared using **kajal from Niger (Ramtilla) seeds**.

Governance and Forest Rights

- The Baiga became the first community in India to receive **Habitat Rights**.
- Habitat rights are granted under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**.
- The recognition reflects their deep ecological and cultural relationship with forests.

Social Features

- Live-in relationships are socially accepted within the community.
- Marriage practices involve compensation to the bride's family for loss of labour contribution.
- The **Mahua tree** holds economic and cultural importance in Baiga society.

TEESTA RIVER

Why in News

- Bangladesh recently sought China's support for the **Teesta River restoration project**.

Geographical Features

- The Teesta originates from **Tso Lhamo Lake** in **North Sikkim** at about **5,280 metres** altitude.
- It is a glacier-fed river fed by glaciers like **Pahurni** and **Khangse**.
- The river flows through **Sikkim, West Bengal, and Bangladesh**.
- It is a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra River**, known as the **Jamuna** in Bangladesh.

Course and Tributaries

- The river cuts deep gorges through the **Siwalik Hills** near Darjeeling.
- It enters the plains through the **Sivok Khola pass**.

- Major tributaries include **Lachung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rangpo Chhu, and Rangit River.**

Strategic and International Relevance

- Around **83%** of the Teesta basin lies in India and **17%** in Bangladesh.
- The river is central to the **India-Bangladesh water-sharing dispute.**
- Teesta water sharing has major implications for regional diplomacy and irrigation security.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News	ITALY
Environment	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PEACOCK TARANTULA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PANNA TIGER RESERVE</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A rescued two-year-old tiger was recently found dead in the buffer zone of Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. <p>Geographical Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The reserve is located in the Vindhyan mountain range across Panna and Chhatarpur districts. ➤ It is the only tiger reserve in the Bundelkhand region. ➤ The reserve falls within the Deccan Peninsula biogeographic zone and Central Highlands biotic province. ➤ The Ken River flows from south to north through the reserve. <p>Landscape and Ecological Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The reserve is known for its distinctive Table Top topography. ➤ The terrain contains plateaus, gorges, grasslands, and dry deciduous forests. ➤ It represents the northernmost limit of natural Teak forests. ➤ The region also preserves nearly 2,000-year-old rock paintings.

	<p>Biodiversity Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Major fauna include Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Striped Hyena, Wolf, and Wild Dog. ➤ The reserve supports important bird species like White-necked Stork and Bar-headed Goose. ➤ Five species of vultures are also recorded in the reserve. ➤ Dominant vegetation includes Anogeissus pendula (Kardhai) and Acacia catechu. <p>Tribal and Cultural Dimensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Indigenous communities like the Baiga and Gond tribes inhabit surrounding regions. ➤ These tribes maintain strong socio-cultural and forest-based traditional practices.
<p>Science and Technology</p>	<p>CANINE DISTEMPER VIRUS</p>
<p>Defence</p>	<p>INS SAGARDHWANI</p> <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ INS Sagardhwani recently visited Cam Ranh, Vietnam, strengthening India-Vietnam scientific cooperation. <p>Institutional and Technical Profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ INS Sagardhwani is an oceanographic research vessel commissioned in 1994. ➤ It was designed by the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi. ➤ The vessel was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). ➤ The term “Sagardhwani” means the “voice of the sea”. <p>Scientific and Strategic Relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ship conducts advanced marine and oceanographic research. ➤ It contributes to the development of naval weapons and underwater sensors. ➤ The vessel has completed more than 200 scientific missions.

Regional Cooperation Dimensions

- INS Sagardhwani participates in the **Sagar Maitri initiative**.
- The initiative aligns with India's **MAHASAGAR vision**.
- It promotes scientific collaboration among **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** countries.
- The programme enhances maritime diplomacy and ocean research cooperation.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

SANDHYA SAMVAD INITIATIVE