



**Sanskriti IAS**



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**



**18th May 2026**

### TOPICS:-

1. Anaimangalam Copper Plates
2. Model Collapse
3. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
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## ANAIMANGALAM COPPER PLATES

TH The Hindu

### Display Anaimangalam copper plates at Nagapattinam museum, govt. urged

Jothimani Iraipani Thirukootam urges government to display Chola-era Anaimangalam copper plates at Nagapattinam museum for public access.



### Why in News

- The Netherlands recently returned the **11th-century Anaimangalam Copper Plates**, also called the **Leiden Plates**, to India during the Prime Minister's visit.

### Historical and Epigraphic Significance

- The copper plates belong to the **Chola Empire** and date to the reigns of **Rajaraja Chola I** and **Rajendra Chola I**.
- The collection contains **21 copper plates** weighing nearly **30 kg** and bound with a bronze ring carrying the royal seal.
- The inscriptions are written in both **Sanskrit and Tamil**, reflecting multilingual administrative traditions.
- The Sanskrit section traces the genealogy of Chola rulers and links them with mythological origins.



- The plates were taken abroad during the period of **Dutch East India Company** control over **Nagapattinam**.
- They later became part of the collections of **Leiden University Library** in the Netherlands.

### Key Details

- The Tamil inscriptions record grants of land revenue and taxes to the **Chudamani Vihara at Nagapattinam**.
- The monastery was established by **Sri Mara Vijayotunga Varman** of the **Srivijaya kingdom** in present-day Indonesia.
- The inscriptions **reveal strong maritime trade** and diplomatic relations between South India and Southeast Asia.
- The plates also demonstrate religious pluralism because Hindu Chola rulers patronised a Buddhist institution.

## MODEL COLLAPSE

### What is Model Collapse in AI? Causes, Signs, Consequences and Prevention



AI model collapse is a degenerative process where generative models experience progressive information loss after being trained on...

#### Why in News

- Researchers recently found that adding real-world data can prevent **AI model collapse**.

#### Technological Understanding

- Model collapse occurs when AI systems are **repeatedly trained on AI-generated** or synthetic data.
- This recursive training causes the models to drift away from authentic real-world data distributions.
- The process **gradually reduces accuracy, diversity, and reliability** in AI outputs.

#### Governance and Ethical Concerns

- Model collapse can reinforce existing social biases and stereotypes present in earlier datasets.
- Excessive dependence on synthetic data may reduce creativity and innovation in AI systems.
- It may also **weaken the capacity of AI models** to solve nuanced real-world problems.

#### Corrective Strategies

- Experts recommend preserving original human-generated datasets for future model training.
- Tracking data provenance is important for ensuring transparency and reliability in AI development.
- Combining synthetic and real data can reduce long-term degradation in model quality.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

#### Why in News

- The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** plans to establish a paramilitary force to protect mineral-rich mining zones.

DR Congo Deploys Paramilitary Force to Secure Critical Minerals

The Democratic Republic of Congo is deploying a new paramilitary force to secure its critical cobalt reserves. The geopolitical implications...



## Geographical Features

- The DRC is located in **Central Africa** and is crossed by the Equator.
- It shares borders with nine countries including **Angola, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zambia.**
- The country also possesses a short coastline along the **Atlantic Ocean.**



## Resource and Strategic Importance

- The DRC is one of the world's richest countries in minerals such as **cobalt, copper, and industrial diamonds.**
- The **Katanga Plateau** is an important mining region dominated by savanna landscapes.
- The country's mineral wealth is strategically important for global battery and electronics industries.

## Physical Geography

- The **Congo River** is the country's major river system.
- Major lakes include **Lake Tanganyika, Lake Kivu, Lake Albert, and Lake Edward.**
- **Mount Nyiragongo** is an active volcano located in the **Virunga Mountains.**
- The capital city of the DRC is **Kinshasa.**

## DAMODAR RIVER

ThePrint

### [2 drown while bathing in Damodar river in Jharkhand's Ramgarh](#)

Ramgarh, May 17 (PTI) A boy drowned, and another went missing while taking a bath in the Damodar River in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district on...



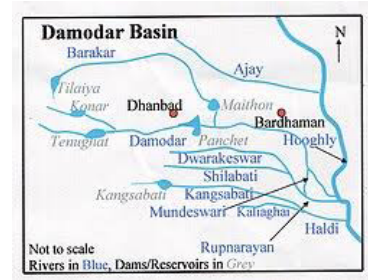
## Why in News

- Two boys recently drowned in the **Damodar River** in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district.

## Geographical Profile

- The Damodar River originates from the **Palamau hills of the Chota Nagpur Plateau** in Jharkhand.

- The river flows through **Jharkhand and West Bengal** and forms part of the **Ganga River System**.
- It finally joins the **Hooghly River** near **Shayampur**.



### Hydrological Importance

- The river is known as the “**Sorrow of Bengal**” because of its destructive floods in West Bengal plains.
- The river basin is rich in mineral deposits and supports industrial development in eastern India.
- Major tributaries include the **Barakar, Konar, Bokaro, and Jamunia rivers**.

## INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

III The Hindu

### [Philippines asks top court to allow ICC drug war arrest of senator](#)

Philippines seeks Supreme Court approval to arrest Senator Dela Rosa amid ICC warrant for his role in drug war atrocities.



### Why in News

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** recently issued an arrest warrant against a Philippine senator over crimes against humanity charges.

### Institutional and Legal Foundations

- The ICC is a permanent international criminal tribunal established under the **Rome Statute, 1998**.
- The Rome Statute came into force on **1 July 2002**.
- The ICC prosecutes individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.

#### Institutional Structure

- The Court has **18 judges** elected for non-renewable nine-year terms.
- The **Office of the Prosecutor (OTP)** conducts investigations and prosecutions.
- The **Registry** provides administrative and operational assistance to the Court.

### Jurisdictional Framework

- The ICC acts only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute offenders.
- Its jurisdiction applies if either the crime occurred in a member state or the accused belongs to a member state.

- The Court has jurisdiction only over crimes committed after **1 July 2002**.
- Cases may be referred by a State Party, the ICC Prosecutor, or the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.

### India and Global Governance

- India is **not a party** to the Rome Statute along with countries such as **the United States, China, and Russia**.
- The ICC is different from the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, which settles disputes between states.

## TUNGABHADRA DAM

TH The Hindu

### [From collapse to comeback: Tungabhadra dam in Karnataka gets new lease of life](#)



Tungabhadra Dam's restoration, featuring new crest gates, revitalises irrigation for farmers and ensures enhanced safety and longevity.

### Why in News

- The historic **Tungabhadra Dam** has been restored after replacement of all 33 crest gates.

### Engineering and Historical Importance

- The Tungabhadra Dam, also called **Pampa Sagar**, is built across the **Tungabhadra River** in Karnataka.
- It is located near **Hosapete in Ballari district**.
- The project originally began as a joint initiative of the erstwhile **Hyderabad State and Madras Presidency**.
- The dam was completed in **1953** as a joint project of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

### Functional and Strategic Relevance


- The dam supports irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power generation.
- The reservoir has a gross storage capacity of about **101 tmc ft**.
- The left bank canals mainly irrigate Karnataka, while right bank canals serve Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

### River System and Tributaries

- The Tungabhadra is the largest tributary of the **Krishna River**.

- It is formed by the confluence of the **Tunga** and **Bhadra** rivers near **Shivamogga**.
- Important tributaries include the **Varada River** and **Hagari River**.
- The river joins the Krishna at **Sangamaleshwaram** in Andhra Pradesh.

## NATIONAL TEST HOUSE (NTH)

 News On AIR

### National Test House establishes advanced Shoe Testing Laboratory in Ghaziabad



The National Test House (NTH) of Northern Region in Ghaziabad, under the Department of Consumer Affairs, has established a state-of-the-art...

#### Why in News

- The **National Test House (NTH)** established a modern shoe testing laboratory in Ghaziabad.

#### Institutional Profile

- NTH is a premier scientific organisation under the **Department of Consumer Affairs**.
- It was established in **1912** under the Railway Board.
- It is India's largest multidisciplinary government testing laboratory network.

#### Functions and Governance Role

- NTH conducts testing, calibration, and quality evaluation according to national and international standards.
- It supports the **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**.
- It also assists the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** in technical standard formulation.
- NTH is India's pioneering government body for drone certification.

#### Administrative Structure

- The organisation functions under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.
- Its branches are located in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Varanasi.

## INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION (IPC)

PIB

[Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission organizes Scientific Conclave & Interactive Session on Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education...](#)



Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission organizes Scientific Conclave & Interactive Session on Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 at the National Institute...

### Why in News

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** organised the **Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 Scientific Conclave** in **Hyderabad**.

### Institutional Framework

- IPC is an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- It is responsible for setting standards for drugs manufactured and marketed in India.
- The official standards are published under the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

### Functions and Public Health Relevance

- IPC regularly updates standards for medicines used in disease treatment.
- It publishes the **Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)** and the **National Formulary of India (NFI)**.
- The Commission prescribes standards for identity, purity, and strength of medicines.
- It also provides **Indian Pharmacopoeia Reference Substances (IPRS)** for quality testing.

### Pharmacopoeia and Regulatory Significance

- A pharmacopoeia is an official compendium containing quality standards of medicines.
- IPC strengthens drug safety, generic medicine promotion, and pharmaceutical regulation in India.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in  
News

### NORDIC COUNTRIES

News On AIR

**India, Nordic countries elevate relations to Green Technology & Innovation Strategic Partnership: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's partnership with the Nordic countries is set to be upgraded into a Green Technology and...



### Why in News

- The Prime Minister is scheduled to attend the **3rd India-Nordic Summit** in Norway.

### Geographical and Political Composition

- The Nordic region consists of **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.**
- The region also includes autonomous territories such as **Greenland, Faroe Islands, and Åland Islands.**
- The term “**Nordic**” is broader than “**Scandinavia**,” which mainly refers to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.



### Governance and Institutional Features

- Denmark, Norway, and Sweden are constitutional monarchies with parliamentary democracies.
- Finland and Iceland function as democratic republics.
- Iceland’s parliament, the **Althing**, is considered the world’s oldest parliament.

### Regional Cooperation and Strategic Relevance

- Nordic cooperation occurs through the **Nordic Council** and the **Nordic Council of Ministers.**
- Denmark, Sweden, and Finland are members of **the European Union (EU).**
- Norway and Iceland are members of the **European Economic Area (EEA).**
- The countries consistently rank high in education, civil liberties, quality of life, and competitiveness.

Environ-  
ment

### RED-NECKED FALCON

#### Rare Red-necked falcon sighted in Kawal Tiger Reserve

A rare Red-necked falcon was sighted in Telangana’s Kawal Tiger Reserve, marking a significant avian record. Wildlife researchers say the...



#### Why in News

- A rare, **Red-necked Falcon** was recently sighted in **Kawal Tiger Reserve.**

### Ecological Characteristics

- The Red-necked Falcon is a medium-sized bird of prey scientifically known as **Falco chicquera**.
- It is recognised by its **reddish-brown crown**, bluish-grey upperparts, and sharp hunting abilities.
- The species commonly inhabits open woodlands, scrublands, agricultural fields, and dry deciduous forests.



### Distribution and Behaviour

- The species has two disjunct populations located in **India** and **Africa**.
- In South Asia, it is distributed **across India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh** up to the Himalayan foothills.
- The falcon often hunts in pairs during dawn and dusk and feeds on birds, rodents, reptiles, and insects.

### Conservation Dimensions

- Habitat degradation, pesticide use, and deforestation are major threats to the species.
- The species is listed as **Near Threatened** under the **IUCN Red List**.
- It receives protection under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE (NDRF) – PRESIDENT’S COLOUR AWARD

#### Why in News

Reuters Connect

India: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Hails NDRF During President’s Colour Award Ceremony In Ghaziabad

GHAZIABAD, INDIA - MAY 14: Union Home Minister Amit Shah poses for a group photograph during the President's Colour Award Ceremony at the...



- The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** was recently conferred with the prestigious **President’s Colour Award** during a ceremony in Ghaziabad attended by the Union Home Minister.

## Institutional Framework

- The NDRF was established under **Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** and was raised on **19 January 2006**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** with headquarters in **New Delhi**.
- The force operates through **four operational zones** for disaster response across India.



## President's Colour Award

- The **President's Colour Award** or 'Nishaan' is among the highest honours awarded to military and paramilitary forces for exceptional service.
- The award recognises the NDRF's contribution in disaster response, rescue operations, and humanitarian assistance.

## Disaster Preparedness Measures

- Foundation stones for **six new Regional Response Centres (RRCs)** were laid during the event.
- A new Regional Response Centre at **Dehradun** was also virtually inaugurated.
- The expansion aims to improve emergency response systems and strengthen India's goal of **"zero casualty" disaster management**.

## Strategic and Governance Relevance

- The NDRF plays a key role in disaster management during floods, earthquakes, cyclones, and industrial accidents.
- Its functioning supports India's commitments under the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)**.