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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**


*6th May 2026*

### TOPICS:-

1. Germanium
2. Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)
3. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
4. Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)
5. Project Deepak
6. Narmada River
7. Other Important News of the day
8. Uttar Pradesh in News

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# GERMANIUM

bt Business Today

## Big breakthrough: India cuts China supply barrier with new Germanium-free drone imaging tech

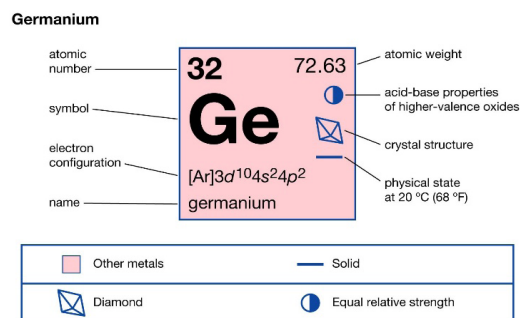
A Hyderabad-based startup recently unveiled the system that can reportedly detect humans from up to 2 km and vehicles from 8 km away using...



- **Why in News:** A Hyderabad-based defence company developed India's first germanium-free thermal imaging payload for drones.

### Scientific Characteristics

- **Germanium (Ge)** is a silvery-grey **metalloid** with atomic number **32**.
- It possesses a **diamond-like crystalline structure** and shares properties with **silicon**.
- It remains stable in air and water and resists most acids and alkalis except **nitric acid**.
- Germanium is highly reactive and therefore does not occur in free elemental form naturally.
- Important germanium-bearing minerals include **germanite** and **argyrodite**.



### Industrial and Strategic Relevance

- Germanium is extensively used in **semiconductors, fibre-optic systems, transistors, rectifiers, and infrared optics**.
- It is important for **thermal imaging systems, satellite technologies, defence sensors, and solar cells**.
- Germanium is extracted mainly as a by-product of **zinc refining** and from **coal fly ash**.
- Nearly **75%** of global production comes from **sphalerite zinc ores**.
- The metal is classified as a **critical mineral** because of its defence and electronics applications.

### Global Production Pattern

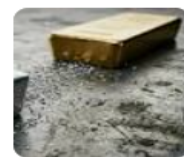
- **China** accounts for nearly **60%** of global germanium production.
- Other producers include **Canada, Finland, Russia, and the United States**.
- China's dominance in critical minerals has strategic implications for global supply chains.
- Growing demand for advanced electronics has increased geopolitical competition over germanium resources.

## ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPTS (EGRS)

BS Business Standard

### [Buy gold like stocks? NSE's Electronic Gold Receipts launch explained](#)

NSE also witnessed a successful dematerialisation of a gold bar (1,000 grams) into an Electronic Gold Receipt, symbolising the seamless...



- **Why in News:** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)** as a new trading instrument.

### Regulatory and Institutional Framework

- EGRs are **dematerialised securities** representing ownership of physical gold.
- The system functions under the regulatory supervision of **SEBI**.
- Gold backing EGRs is stored in **SEBI-regulated accredited vaults**.
- **Vault Managers** are SEBI-registered entities responsible for secure storage.
- EGRs are held in investors' **demat accounts** similar to equities and ETFs.

### HOW IT WORKS

- Investors can buy **electronic receipts** for gold kept in vaults
- These e-receipts could be **traded on exchanges**
- These could also be **exchanged for physical gold** at authorised vaults
- Govt has also allowed fund houses to launch **silver ETFs**




### Operational Mechanism

- Investors deposit physical gold into accredited vaults for conversion into EGR units.
- These EGR units can be freely traded on recognised stock exchanges.
- Investors may reconvert EGRs into physical gold whenever required.
- Each receipt is backed by standardised physical gold ensuring transparency and purity assurance.
- The mechanism creates an organised ecosystem for digital gold trading.

### Economic and Market Relevance

- EGRs help formalise India's largely unorganised gold market.
- The framework improves transparency, liquidity, and price discovery in gold trading.
- It reduces risks linked to physical storage, theft, and purity disputes.
- Participants include **jewellers, refiners, traders, institutional investors, and retail buyers**.
- EGRs may support the long-term objective of developing an **Indian bullion exchange ecosystem**.

## ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

 www.adb.org

### [ADB Launches Initiative to Build Asia's Critical Minerals Supply Chains](#)



SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN (3 May 2026) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today launched a new financing facility to help countries in Asia and...

- **Why in News:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a \$70 billion infrastructure programme for the Asia-Pacific region by 2035.

### Institutional Background

- ADB is a **multilateral development bank** established on **19 December 1966**.
- Its headquarters are located in **Manila, Philippines**.
- It aims to promote a **prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia-Pacific region**.
- Membership currently includes **69 countries**, including regional and non-regional members.
- Membership is open to countries that are members of the **United Nations** or its agencies.




### Governance Structure

- The **Board of Governors** is the highest decision-making body of ADB.
- The **Board of Directors** manages operational activities of the institution.
- The Board consists of **12 directors**, including eight from regional members.
- Voting rights are determined according to members' capital subscriptions.
- Major shareholders include **Japan, USA, China, India, and Australia**.

### Developmental and Strategic Functions

- ADB provides loans, grants, and technical assistance for development projects.
- It supports sectors such as infrastructure, climate resilience, energy, transport, and digital connectivity.
- The institution promotes regional integration through cross-border economic projects.
- ADB also finances private sector initiatives through guarantees and equity support.
- India is among the largest borrowers from ADB for infrastructure and urban development projects.

## NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM)

 India Today

### [India issues NOTAM for long-range missile test in Bay of Bengal](#)

India has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) designating a vast stretch of the Bay of Bengal as a danger zone for a long-range missile test,...



- **Why in News:** India issued a **NOTAM** declaring parts of the **Bay of Bengal** as a danger zone for missile testing.

### Concept and Purpose

- **NOTAM** stands for **Notice to Airmen** or **Notice to Air Mission**.
- It is an official aviation notice regarding hazards or operational changes affecting flight safety.
- Issued by national aviation authorities for pilots and flight operators.
- They provide **time-sensitive information** essential for safe air navigation.
- NOTAMs are encoded in standardised formats for operational precision and brevity.

### Operational Applications

- Issued during military exercises, missile tests, and airspace restrictions.
- They also cover runway closures, faulty navigation systems, and temporary obstacles.
- Events such as airshows, parachute jumps, and VVIP movements require NOTAM issuance.
- Temporary cranes or structures near airports may also trigger NOTAM alerts.

### Strategic and Safety Importance

- NOTAMs are communicated rapidly through aviation communication systems.
- Pilots use NOTAMs for **flight route planning** and hazard assessment.
- Ignoring NOTAM information may endanger aircraft, passengers, and ground operations.
- Missile-test NOTAMs also indicate strategic defence preparedness and maritime surveillance activities.

## PROJECT DEEPAK

The Tribune

### [BRO's Project Deepak marks 66 years of service in western Himalayan region](#)

Project Deepak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> Raising Day at Shimla on May 4, marking over six decades of...



- **Why in News:** Project Deepak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its **66th Raising Day** in Shimla.

### Institutional Background

- Project Deepak was initiated in **1962** under the **BRO**.
- BRO was established on **7 May 1960** for border infrastructure development.
- BRO was fully brought under the **Ministry of Defence** in **2015**.
- The organisation's motto is "**Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam**".

### Geographical Coverage

- Project Deepak operates mainly in **Shimla, Kinnaur, Kullu, and Lahaul-Spiti** districts.
- It works in highly challenging Himalayan terrains and border regions.

### Strategic Infrastructure Importance

- The project developed important routes like the **Hindustan-Tibet Road** and **Manali-Leh axis**.
- It plays a major role in military logistics and border connectivity.
- Project Deepak also contributes significantly during disasters and humanitarian crises.

## NARMADA RIVER

NDTV

### [Boat Capsizes Near Bargi Dam On Narmada River, 9 Dead, Several Missing](#)

A tragic incident unfolded near Bargi Dam in Madhya Pradesh after a cruise boat capsized on the Narmada River amid a sudden storm on Friday.

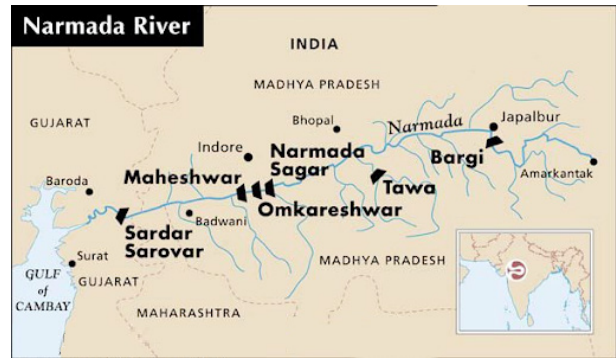


- **Why in News:** A cruise boat accident in the **Bargi Dam** area of Madhya Pradesh caused multiple deaths in the **Narmada River**.

### Geographical Characteristics

- Narmada is the **largest west-flowing river** of peninsular India.
- It originates from **Narmada Kund** at **Amarkantak** in Madhya Pradesh.

- The river flows through **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.**
- It drains into the **Gulf of Cambay (Khambhat)** in the Arabian Sea.



### Geomorphological Importance

- Narmada flows through a **rift valley** between the **Vindhya and Satpura ranges.**
- It acts as a traditional divider between **North and South India.**
- The basin is crossed by the **Tropic of Cancer** in its upper plains.
- Important waterfalls include the **Dhuandhar Falls** near Jabalpur.

### Hydrological and Economic Relevance

- The river is around **1,312 km** long and is India's fifth-longest river.
- Major tributaries include **Tawa, Banjar, Barna, and Hallon** rivers.
- Important dams include **Sardar Sarovar, Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Bargi, and Maheshwar.**
- Major pilgrimage centres along the river include **Omkareshwar and Maheshwar.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### Person in News

## PRASOON JOSHI APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF PRASAR BHARATI

- **Why in News:** The Government of India appointed **Prasoon Joshi** as the Chairman of **Prasar Bharati.**

### Appointment Highlights

- Prasoon Joshi has served as Chairman of the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** since 2017.
- He also held leadership roles in **McCann World Group India** and **Asia Pacific.**
- His appointment strengthens the leadership of India's public broadcasting system.



### About Prasar Bharati

- **Prasar Bharati** is an autonomous body under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- It was established under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990** and became operational in 1997.
- It consists of **All India Radio (AIR)** and **Doordarshan (DD)**.

### Strategic Importance

- Prasar Bharati plays a key role in public information dissemination and cultural integration.
- It recently launched the **WAVES OTT platform** to strengthen digital broadcasting.
- The organisation supports educational outreach and communication during national events and emergencies.

### Places in News

### PHILIPPINES

- **Why in News:** A **magnitude 6.0 earthquake** struck the Philippine island of **Samar** recently.

### Geographical Features

- The Philippines is an island country located in **Southeast Asia** in the **western Pacific Ocean**.
- It is surrounded by the **South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Celebes Sea, and Sulu Sea**.
- The capital city is **Manila** while the highest peak is **Mount Apo**.
- The **Luzon Strait** separates the Philippines from **Taiwan**.
- The country consists of more than **7,000 islands** grouped into **Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao**.

### Climatic and Geological Significance

- The Philippines experiences mainly **tropical monsoon climate** conditions.
- It lies within the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, making it vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.



- Important volcanoes include **Mayon, Bulusan, and Kanlaon**.
- Frequent typhoons and seismic activities make disaster management crucial for the country.
- Samar island lies close to tectonically active zones of the Pacific plate system.

**Economic and Resource Importance**

- Major natural resources include **nickel, cobalt, copper, gold, silver, timber, and petroleum**.
- The Philippines is the world’s **third-largest producer of geothermal energy**.
- The country is strategically important in the **South China Sea dispute** involving China.
- It is a key maritime nation in the **Indo-Pacific strategic region**.

**Environ-  
ment**

**TADOBA-ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE (TATR)**

- **Why in News:** The **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** released updated wildlife data during its annual **Machan Census on Waterholes**.

**Geographical and Administrative P**

- TATR is situated in **Chandrapur district of Maharashtra**.
- It is the **largest and oldest tiger reserve** in Maharashtra.
- The reserve covers nearly **1,727 sq km** of forest area.
- It includes **Tadoba National Park** and **Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The reserve derives its name from local tribal deity **Tadoba or Taru** and the **Andhari River**.



### Ecological Characteristics

- The reserve falls within the **Deccan peninsula's tropical dry deciduous forest region**.
- Major vegetation includes **Teak, Bamboo, Tendu, Salai, Haldu, Ain, and Semal**.
- **Bamboo (Dendrocalamus strictus)** occupies around 40% of the reserve area.
- Important water bodies **include Tadoba Lake, Kolsa Lake, and Tadoba River**.
- The reserve has hilly terrain with elevations ranging from **200–350 metres**.

### Biodiversity and Conservation Importance

- Important fauna include **tigers, leopards, sloth bears, dholes, gaur, hyenas, and marsh crocodiles**.
- Herbivores include **sambar, chital, barking deer, and four-horned antelope**.
- The reserve supports more than **250 bird species** including hornbills and serpent eagles.
- Wildlife corridors connect TATR with **Nagzira-Navegaon and Pench Tiger Reserves**.
- It forms an important landscape under India's **Project Tiger conservation framework**.

### Defence

### INS SINDHUKESARI

- **Why in News:** The Indian Navy submarine **INS Sindhukesari** arrived in **Colombo** for an **Operational Turnaround (OTR)**.



### Technical Specifications

- INS Sindhukesari is a **3,000-tonne Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine**.
- It was commissioned on **19 December 1988**.
- The submarine was built under **Project 877** with Russian collaboration.
- It has an endurance of **45 days** and a diving depth of **300 metres**.

### Strategic Features

- It carries torpedoes, anti-ship missiles, mines, and **Klub/3M-54E cruise missiles**.
- Kilo-class submarines are known for extremely low noise levels.
- Due to stealth capability, they are nicknamed **“Black Hole” submarines**.

### Operational Relevance

- These submarines are mainly designed for **anti-shipping and anti-submarine warfare**.
- They are particularly effective in relatively shallow waters.
- Kilo-class submarines continue to serve in both **Indian and Russian navies**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### Coca-Cola India–Uttar Pradesh Partnership

- **Why in News:** Coca-Cola India Pvt Ltd signed a **three-year MoU** with **Invest UP** for community and environmental initiatives in Uttar Pradesh.

### Governance and Institutional Aspects

- The partnership reflects growing **public-private collaboration** for sustainable development.
- The initiative focuses on long-term and community-led development outcomes.
- It supports local infrastructure creation through coordinated government and private sector efforts.

#### About Invest UP

- **Invest UP**, earlier known as **Udyog Bandhu**, is the investment facilitation agency of the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**.
- It works to attract investments and resolve industrial concerns in the state.
- The agency plays an important role in improving Uttar Pradesh’s investment ecosystem.

### Environmental Sustainability

- The MoU aims to improve **water access infrastructure** and promote **water stewardship**.
- It also focuses on strengthening **waste collection and recycling systems**.
- The initiative supports sustainable resource management and environmental protection.

### Community and Livelihood Focus

- The programme seeks to generate livelihood and skill-building opportunities for local communities.
- Tourism-intensive areas are expected to receive improved civic and environmental infrastructure.
- The initiative may support inclusive local economic development.