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Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC



7th May 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Samarth Panchayat Portal**
- 2. Mahi River**
- 3. Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project**
- 4. UDGAM Portal**
- 5. New Plant Species**
- 6. Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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SAMARTH PANCHAYAT PORTAL

Mint

[Centre expands Samarth Panchayat portal to boost rural finances](#)



The initiative, which digitizes revenue collection, follows successful implementations in Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh, aiming to...

- **Why in News:** The Union Government plans to expand the **Samarth Panchayat Portal** to states like **Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra**.

Governance and Institutional Framework

- The **Samarth Panchayat Portal** is a unified digital platform for strengthening **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
- The portal is managed by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.
- It supports digital governance by improving transparency and simplifying administrative procedures.
- The initiative aligns with **Part IX of the Constitution** dealing with Panchayats and local self-government.




Fiscal Decentralisation and Revenue Mobilisation

- The portal helps Panchayats monitor and collect **Own Source Revenue (OSR)** efficiently.
- **OSR** includes local taxes, rents, fees, leases, and service charges collected by Gram Panchayats.
- Strong OSR improves financial autonomy and reduces dependence on grants from higher governments.

Administrative Significance

- The portal enables easier citizen access to local governance services through digitisation.
- It strengthens **grassroots governance** through data-driven financial management.
- The initiative supports the vision of transparent and accountable rural administration.

MAHI RIVER

 ThePrint

[Rajasthan: Two missing after boat capsizes in Mahi river](#)

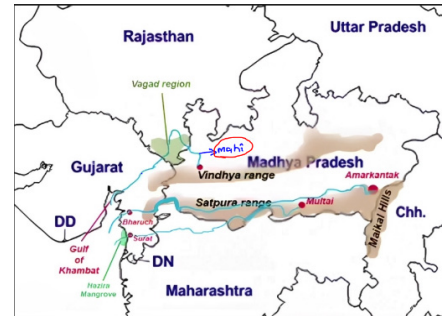
Jaipur, May 5 (PTI) Two persons, including an eight-year-old boy, went missing after a boat capsized in the Mahi River in Rajasthan's...



- **Why in News:** A recent boat accident in the **Mahi River** occurred in Rajasthan's **Banswara district**.

Geographical Profile

- The **Mahi River** is a major west-flowing interstate river of India.
- It flows through **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat**.
- The river originates from the northern slopes of the **Vindhya Range** in Madhya Pradesh.
- The river drains into the **Arabian Sea** near the **Gulf of Khambhat**.




Drainage and Basin Features

- The total length of the river is about **583 km**.
- The basin is bounded by the **Aravalli Hills, Vindhyas, and Malwa Plateau**.
- The river forms a distinctive U-shaped loop before entering Gujarat.
- Major tributaries include **Som, Jakham, Moran, Panam, and Anas** rivers.

Economic and Environmental Significance

- The river is popularly known as **Mahisagar** because of its vastness.
- Silt deposition from the river contributed to the thinning of the **Gulf of Khambhat**.
- Important dams on the river include **Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam, Kadana Dam, and Panam Dam**.

DORJILUNG HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

 Tata Power

[The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank Sign Financing Agreements for the Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project](#)

THIMPHU, May 5, 2026— The Royal Government of Bhutan and the World Bank today signed financing agreements totaling \$515 million for the...



- **Why in News:** Bhutan and the **World Bank** signed financing agreements for the **1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydroelectric Power Project**.

Project Characteristics

- The project is a **run-of-river hydropower project** on the **Kurichhu River** in eastern Bhutan.
- The Kurichhu River is a tributary of the **Drangmechhu River**, which enters India as the **Manas River**.
- The project is expected to generate over **4,500 GWh** of electricity annually.

India-Bhutan Strategic Cooperation

- Around 80% of the electricity generated will be supplied to India.
- The project strengthens India-Bhutan cooperation in the hydropower sector.
- Hydropower trade supports regional clean energy integration and energy security.

Institutional and Financial Dimensions

- The project cost is estimated at nearly **₹13,100 crore**.
- It is Bhutan's largest **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** hydropower project.
- The project is being developed by **Dorjilung Hydro Power Limited**, a joint venture between **DGPC** and **Tata Power**.
- The project is scheduled for commissioning in **2031**.

UDGAM PORTAL

THE Hindu

[30 banks integrated with UDGAM portal to help legal heirs trace funds, RBI tells SC](#)

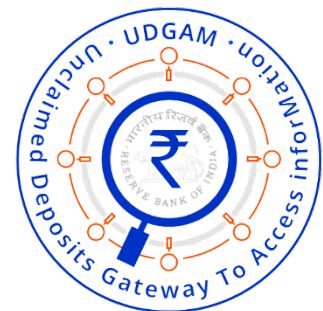
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday (May 5, 2026) that 30 banks have been integrated into its centralised web...



- **Why in News:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) informed the Supreme Court that 30 banks have been integrated with the **UDGAM Portal**.

Digital Banking Governance

- **UDGAM** stands for **Unclaimed Deposits-Gateway to Access inforMation**.
- The portal was developed by the **RBI** with support from **ReBIT** and **IFTAS**.
- It allows users to search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks through a single platform.
- Around 90% of unclaimed deposits in value terms are covered under the portal.



Financial Awareness and Consumer Protection

- Unclaimed deposits include inactive savings or current accounts for over **10 years**.

- Fixed deposits not claimed within 10 years after maturity are also treated as unclaimed deposits.
- Such funds are transferred to the **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund** maintained by RBI.
- The portal improves transparency and protects depositor interests.

Operational Features

- Users cannot directly claim money through the portal.
- Claims must be settled through the respective bank branches.
- Each unclaimed account is assigned a unique **Unclaimed Deposit Reference Number (UDRN)**.
- The UDRN protects depositor privacy and enables seamless verification by banks.

NEW PLANT SPECIES

 The Times of India

[3 new, critically endangered plant species discovered in AP](#)

Hyderabad: Scientists have identified three new plant species in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh following field surveys conducted over...



- **Why in News:** Scientists identified three new plant species in the **Eastern Ghats** of Andhra Pradesh.


Scientific Discoveries and Distribution

- The species discovered are **Euphorbia ananthapuramensis**, **Euphorbia chalamensis**, and **Ceropegia andhrlica**.
- These discoveries highlight the rich biodiversity of the **Eastern Ghats**.
- All three species are currently classified as **Critically Endangered** under the **IUCN Red List**.

Euphorbia ananthapuramensis	Euphorbia chalamensis	Ceropegia andhrlica
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a shrubby plant species discovered in Nigidi Forest of Sri Sathya Sai district. ➤ The species grows among granite rocks in scrub forests at elevations of 450–550 metres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a small annual herb discovered in Chalama Forest of Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary. ➤ The species occurs in dry deciduous forests at elevations of 300–500 metres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a dwarf tuberous herb discovered in the Paderu forest division of Andhra Pradesh. ➤ The plant grows at elevations above 1,000 metres near open forest edges.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Around 80 individual plants were recorded in an area of nearly 2.5 sq km. ➤ Local tribal communities use the plant for treating wounds and digestive disorders. ➤ Granite mining and forest fires threaten its survival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Its population is restricted to just over 100 individuals. ➤ The species also possesses medicinal properties used by tribal communities. ➤ Human activities and forest fires are major threats to the species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ About 200 individual plants were recorded within less than one sq km. ➤ The species produces edible tubers similar in size to small potatoes. ➤ Grazing, habitat destruction, and forest fires threaten the species.
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METHANE ALERT AND RESPONSE SYSTEM (MARS)

 Down To Earth

[UN methane alert system expanded to coal and waste sectors after Indian landfill named among world's top emitters](#)

The UN is expanding its Methane Alert and Response System beyond oil and gas to include coal mines and waste sites, after satellite data...



- **Why in News:** The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** expanded the **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)** to include coal mines and waste facilities.



Institutional and Global Climate Framework

- MARS operates under the **International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO)** of UNEP.
- It was announced during **COP27** held at **Sharm el-Sheikh** in 2022.
- The system supports the goals of the **Paris Agreement** and the **Global Methane Pledge**.
- IMEO was launched during the **G20 Leaders' Summit 2021**.

Operational Mechanism

- MARS is the **first public global satellite system** for methane emission detection.
- Satellites identify major human-caused methane emission sources worldwide.
- The system alerts countries and companies regarding detected methane leaks.
- It also tracks corrective actions and future emission reduction measures.

Significance

- Methane is a **highly potent greenhouse** gas contributing to global warming.
- The initiative improves transparency and accountability in methane reporting.

- MARS integrates satellite observations, scientific studies, and industry reporting systems.
- The associated **OGMP 2.0** programme improves methane emission data accuracy in the oil and gas sector.

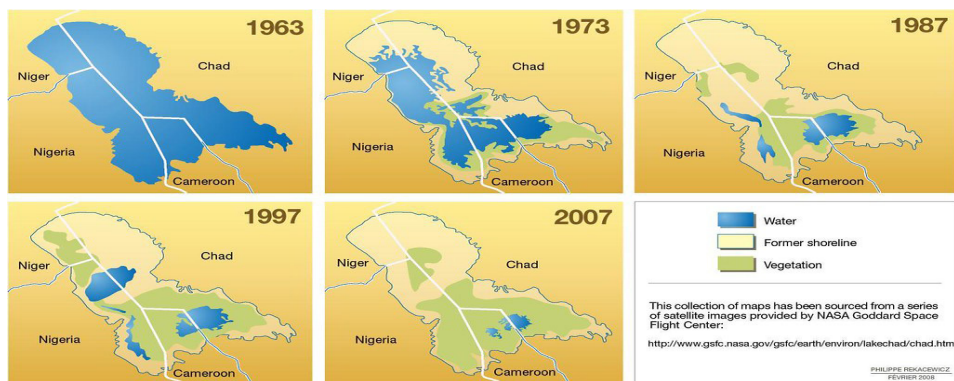
OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

LAKE CHAD

- **Why in News:** A recent **Boko Haram** attack in the **Lake Chad** region killed several Chadian soldiers.

Geographical Features



- **Lake Chad** is a freshwater lake located in the semi-arid **Sahel region** of west-central Africa.
- The lake is shared by **Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger**.
- It is an **endorheic lake**, meaning it has no outlet to the sea.
- The lake is shallow, with depths generally below 10 metres.

Hydrological Characteristics

- The **Chari River** supplies nearly 90% of the lake's water inflow.
- Large parts of the lake contain mud banks, reed beds, and small islands.
- The surrounding region contains a complex network of desert and wetland landscapes.

Environmental Concerns

- Lake Chad has shrunk drastically due to prolonged drought and excessive water extraction.
- The present size of the lake is less than one-tenth of its area during the 1960s.
- Shrinking water resources have intensified ecological stress and livelihood insecurity in the Sahel region.

Environ-
ment

CARACAL

- **Why in News:** Officials recently confirmed the return of the rare **Caracal** in the **Thar Desert** near the India-Pakistan border.



Species Identification and Distribution

- The **Caracal** is a medium-sized wild cat species found in arid and semi-arid regions.
- In India, it is locally known as **siya gosh**, meaning “**black ear**” in Persian.
- Its distribution includes **Africa, Central Asia, the Middle East, and northwestern India.**
- In India, it is mainly found in parts of **Rajasthan** and **Gujarat.**

Physical and Behavioural Features

- The species has long legs, tufted ears, and a short face.
- Its fur is generally red-tan or sandy in colour.
- Caracals can leap nearly 3 metres high to catch birds in flight.
- They can run at speeds of nearly 80 kmph during hunting.
- The species is mainly nocturnal and highly elusive in nature.

Habitat and Conservation Status

- Caracals prefer dry habitats such as shrublands, savannahs, steppes, and semi-deserts.
- The species is carnivorous and feeds mainly on birds and small mammals.
- The species is listed as **Least Concern** under the **IUCN Red List.**
- It receives the highest legal protection under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

- **Why in News:** A well-known Bengal tiger named **Vikram** recently died in **Jim Corbett National Park** in Uttarakhand.



Historical and Conservation Significance

- The park was established in **1936** as **Hailey National Park.**
- It was renamed in 1957 after **Jim Corbett**, a hunter turned conservationist.

- It is India's first national park and the first reserve included under **Project Tiger**.
- The park forms part of the larger **Corbett Tiger Reserve**.

Geographical and Ecological Features


- The park is located in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand** in the Himalayan foothills.
- It spreads across the **Bhabar** and lower **Shivalik** regions.
- The region contains porous landforms with sand and boulder deposits.
- The park covers an area of more than **1,300 sq km**.

Biodiversity Profile

- Major rivers include the **Ramganga, Sonanadi, Palain,** and **Mandal** rivers.
- The nearby **Kosi River** also supports the ecosystem.
- The vegetation mainly includes tropical moist and dry deciduous forests.
- Grasslands locally known as **Chaur** are important grazing habitats.
- Major fauna include tigers, elephants, leopards, sambar, and spotted deer.

Science and Technology

INDOPOTAMON ALIPURDUARENSE

 Research Matters

[New species of freshwater crab found buried deep under West Bengal's rice paddy fields](#)



A new species of freshwater crab discovered beneath the agricultural fields of West Bengal, named *Indopotamon alipurduarense* | New Species...

- **Why in News:** Scientists discovered a new freshwater crab species named **Indopotamon alipurduarense** in **West Bengal**.

Scientific and Taxonomic Importance

- It is only the second recorded species under the **Indopotamon** genus.
- The discovery increases India's known freshwater crab species count to **183**.
- The species name honours the **Alipurduar district** of West Bengal.

Habitat and Ecological Features

- The species was discovered in the sub-Himalayan **Dooars region** of West Bengal.
- These crabs live in deep underground burrows reaching nearly 1.5 metres.
- They remain underground for most of the year and emerge mainly during the monsoon season.

Morphological Characteristics

- The crab has a greyish shell with bright orange-red claws and shell edges.
- Male reproductive structures called **gonopods** are stout with blunt tips.
- Female reproductive openings are widely spaced and covered by a protruding sternal plate.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

NORTH TECH SYMPOSIUM

BS Business Standard

[North Tech Symposium: 'India's military might forged in defence factories'](#)

The government credited Indian forces for neutralising terror threats during Operation Sindoor, highlighting that the use of "Made-in-India"...



- **Why in News:** COAS General Upendra Dwivedi attended the North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj.

Key Highlights

- Theme: **“Raksha Triveni Sangam – Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge.”**
- The symposium focused on strengthening **Atmanirbharta** in defence production.
- It promoted coordination between the armed forces, industry, and academia for defence innovation.
- Discussions emphasised faster procurement and deployment of indigenous defence technologies.

Technology Focus

- The event highlighted the role of **Artificial Intelligence (AI), drones, robotics, and advanced surveillance systems** in modern warfare.
- It reflected India's push towards technology-driven and self-reliant defence capabilities.