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***8th May 2026***

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Gulf of Aden**
- 2. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**
- 3. Sambhar Lake**
- 4. Suriname**
- 5. Other Important News of the day**
- 6. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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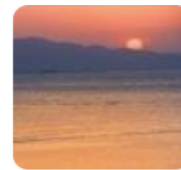
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# GULF OF ADEN

\*\*\* BBC

## Oil tanker hijacked off coast of Yemen and taken towards Somalia



The pirates departed a remote coastal area near the seaside town of Qandala, which sits on the Gulf of Aden, according to three separate...

### Why in News

- Yemen's coast guard reported the hijacking of an oil tanker near the **Gulf of Aden** close to Somali waters.

### Geographical Features

- The **Gulf of Aden** is an extension of the **Indian Ocean** located between the **Arabian Peninsula** and the **Horn of Africa**.
- It connects the **Red Sea** and the **Arabian Sea** through the **Bab el-Mandeb Strait**.
- It is bounded by **Yemen** in the north and **Somalia** in the south.
- The **Sheba Ridge**, an extension of the Indian Ocean ridge system, is its dominant relief feature.



### Oceanographic Importance

- The gulf experiences strong upwelling of nutrient-rich waters during both **southwest and northeast monsoons**.
- It has lower salinity compared to the neighbouring **Red Sea**.
- The region has a high-energy marine climate **supporting rich biodiversity**.

### Strategic and Economic Relevance

- The gulf forms a crucial segment of the **Suez Canal shipping route**.
- Around **21,000 ships** pass through it annually, making it one of the world's busiest waterways.
- Nearly **11% of global seaborne petroleum trade** passes through this route.
- Major ports include **Aden, Berbera, and Bosaso**.

## INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)

TOI The Times of India

[India exhorts big cat range countries to join treaty-based global Alliance ahead of its first Summit in D](#)

India News: As India prepares to host the first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit, it urges unjoined big cat range countries to...



### Why in News

- India launched the website and logo for the **1st IBCA Summit 2026** to be held in **New Delhi**.



### Institutional Framework

- The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** was launched in **2023** during the 50th anniversary of **Project Tiger**.
  - It is an inter-governmental organisation focused on conservation of seven major big cats.
  - The alliance is implemented through the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under **MoEFCC**.

### Conservation Scope

- The alliance covers **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.
- It promotes global collaboration among range and non-range countries for big cat conservation.
- Membership is open to all **UN Member States**.

#### Governance Structure

- The **Assembly** acts as the main decision-making body of the alliance.
- A **Standing Committee** assists in operational functioning.
- The **Secretariat** of IBCA is located in **New Delhi**.

### Financial and Strategic Relevance

- India committed **₹150 crore** support for the period **2023–2028**.
- The funding supports infrastructure creation, recurring expenditure, and corpus fund development.
- Founding members include countries such as **India, Bhutan, Nepal, Kenya, Malaysia, and Bangladesh**.

## SAMBHAR LAKE

### Why in News

- Environmentalists opposed a proposed **100 MW solar power project near Sambhar Lake** in Rajasthan.

Live Law

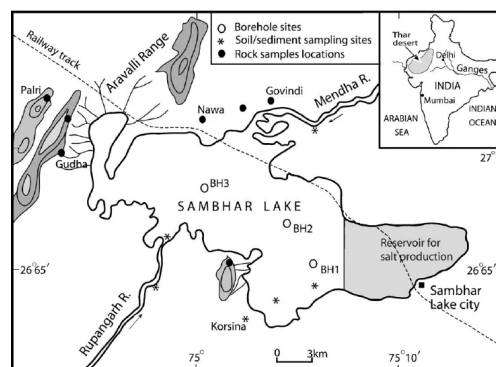
[Rajasthan High Court Clears Solar Project Near Sambhar Lake, Imposes Safeguards For Migratory Birds](#)

Rajasthan High Court granted permission for establishment of the 100 MW Solar Power Plant Project, in the Nagaur district, near Sambhar Lake...



## Geographical Importance

- **Sambhar Lake** is India's largest inland saltwater lake.
- It is located in the districts of **Jaipur and Nagaur in Rajasthan**.
- The lake is surrounded by the **Aravalli Hills**.
- It covers an area exceeding **200 sq km**.



## Hydrological Features

- The lake receives water from five streams including **Rupangarh** and **Mendha**.
- A 5-km stone dam divides the lake into different sections.
- Salt has been produced here for nearly **1,000 years**.

## Ecological Relevance

- It was designated a **Ramsar Site** in **1990**.
- The lake is an important wintering ground for flamingoes including **Phoeniconias minor** and **Phoenicopterus roseus**.
- Several migratory birds such as pelicans, sandpipers, and sociable lapwings are found here.
- Special algae and bacteria contribute to the lake's ecology and colouration.

## Economic Significance

- Sambhar accounts for nearly **9% of India's total salt production**.
- It houses one of the country's largest salt manufacturing units.

## SURINAME

DD News

### [Jaishankar reviews India-Suriname ties, outlines six-point roadmap during Paramaribo visit](#)



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday reviewed the full spectrum of India-Suriname relations during the 9th Joint Commission...

## Why in News

- India and **Suriname** reviewed bilateral relations during the **9th Joint Commission Meeting** held in **Paramaribo**.

## Location and Political Features

- Suriname is located on the northern coast of **South America**.
- It is bordered by **Brazil, Guyana, and French Guiana**.

- The **North Atlantic Ocean** lies to its north.
- Its capital city is **Paramaribo**.
- It is a member of **CARICOM**.

### Geographical Characteristics

- The country has an equatorial climate with high rainfall and humidity.
- Major mountain ranges include the **Bakhuys Mountains** and **Van Asch Van Wijck Mountains**.
- Its highest point is **Juliana Top** in the **Wilhelmina Mountains**.



### Economic and Resource Profile

- Major rivers include the **Suriname, Maroni, and Courantyne** rivers.
- Important natural resources include **bauxite, gold, petroleum, and agricultural products**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Person in News

### ROHIT JAIN APPOINTED AS RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

#### Why in News

- The Government of India appointed **Rohit Jain** as a **Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

#### Appointment Process

- The appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.
- He succeeds **T. Rabi Sankar**, whose tenure at the RBI ended recently.
- His tenure as Deputy Governor will be for **three years** from **May 2026**.
- Before this appointment, he served as an **Executive Director** in the RBI.

#### Reserve Bank of India: Key Facts

- The **RBI** was established on **1 April 1935** under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- The central bank was nationalised in **1949**.
- RBI was initially established in **Kolkata** before shifting permanently to **Mumbai in 1937**.

## Structure of RBI Leadership

- Under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, the RBI has **four Deputy Governors**.
- Two Deputy Governors are generally selected from within the RBI system.
- One Deputy Governor is usually appointed from the commercial banking sector.
- One economist traditionally heads the **Monetary Policy Department**.

## Places in News

## GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

Down To Earth

[New monitoring system provides 'scalable approach' to island conservation in Ecuador's Galapagos archipelago](#)

Discover how a new Smart Island monitoring system on Floreana in Ecuador's Galapagos archipelago is transforming conservation with real-time...



### Why in News

- Ecuador introduced a smart island monitoring system for ecosystem conservation in the **Galapagos Archipelago**.

### Geographical Features

- The archipelago lies in the **Pacific Ocean** nearly **600 miles west of Ecuador**.
- It consists of **19 islands**, several islets, and rocky formations.
- The islands are volcanic in origin and distributed across the **Equator**.
- The youngest islands are **Isabela** and **Fernandina**.



### Environmental Characteristics

- The region experiences low rainfall, low humidity, and relatively cool waters.
- The cool climate despite equatorial location is influenced by the **Humboldt Current**.
- The islands were designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1978**.

Environ-  
ment

## RUSTY SPOTTED CAT

TH The Hindu

[In a first, world's smallest wild cat snapped with kitten in Faridabad; confirms breeding outside protected areas, say researchers](#)



Researchers confirm breeding of the world's smallest wild cat, the rusty-spotted cat, in Faridabad, highlighting urgent conservation needs.

### Why in News

- A **Rusty Spotted Cat** was photographed for the first time in **Delhi-NCR and Haryana**.

### Species Profile

- The **Rusty Spotted Cat** is the **world's smallest and lightest** known wild cat.
- It weighs less than **1.5 kg** and measures around **20–29 inches** in length.
- The species is primarily **nocturnal** and highly agile in hunting behaviour.
- Its large eyes are an adaptation to night-time activity.

#### Conservation Concerns

- Habitat loss due to industrial growth and agricultural expansion threatens nearly **75%** of its habitat range.
- Its conservation status under the **IUCN Red List** is **Near Threatened**.
- It is listed in **CITES Appendix I**.
- It receives highest protection under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

### Habitat and Distribution

- It inhabits moist and **dry deciduous forests**, scrublands, rocky regions, and grasslands.
- In India, it is distributed from **Tamil Nadu** to **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- It is also found in **Nepal** and **Sri Lanka**.

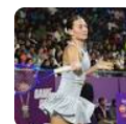
Sports

## MADRID OPEN 2026

News On AIR

[Marta Kostyuk Wins Madrid Open 2026](#)

Bengaluru: Marta Kostyuk of Aussie Mavericks KITES in action during the Women's Singles in the World Tennis League Season 4 at SM Krishna...



### Why in News

- Italy's **Jannik Sinner** won the **Madrid Open 2026** men's singles title by defeating **Alexander Zverev**.
- **Marta Kostyuk** won the women's singles title by defeating **Mirra Andreeva**.

### Sporting Achievements

- **Jannik Sinner** became the first player in history to win **five consecutive ATP Masters 1000 titles**.
- This was Sinner’s first-ever **Madrid Open** title.
- Sinner is currently ranked **World No. 1** in men’s tennis.

### Women’s Singles Highlights

- Ukraine’s **Marta Kostyuk** defeated **Mirra Andreeva** in the final.
- She extended her clay-court winning streak to **11 matches**.
- This victory marked her maiden **WTA 1000** title.
- The **Madrid Open** is one of the major clay-court tournaments in professional tennis.

### Awards in News

## TWO INDIAN JOURNALISTS WIN PULITZER PRIZE

 News On AIR

[Two Indian journalists win prestigious Pulitzer Prize for art reporting project](#)

Two Indian journalists have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for an art reporting project exposing cybercrime in India.



### Why in News

- Indian journalists **Anand RK** and **Suparna Sharma** won the **Pulitzer Prize** in the **Illustrated Reporting and Commentary** category.

### Award-Winning Project

- The journalists received the award for the project **“trAPPed”**, produced with **Natalie Obiko Pearson for Bloomberg**.
- The project exposed the growing threat of digital surveillance and cyber fraud in India.
- It focused on the case of an Indian neurologist allegedly trapped through technology-enabled intimidation tactics.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

## GURU GORAKHNATH SPIRITUAL CORRIDOR

### Why in News

- The Uttar Pradesh government plans to develop a dedicated **Guru Gorakhnath Spiritual Corridor** linked to the **Nath tradition**.

 The Indian Express

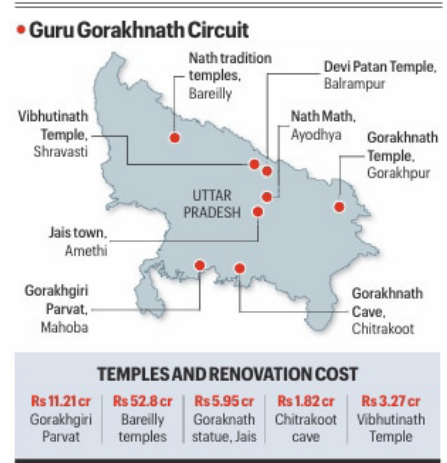
[After Ram, Shiva and Krishna, UP plans a Guru Gorakhnath spiritual corridor](#)

From a 25-foot statue to ancient caves, discover how the state is mapping the Nath tradition.



## Religious and Cultural Importance

- **Guru Gorakhnath** is regarded as the founder of the **Nath sect**.
- The corridor will connect temples, caves, monasteries, and meditation sites associated with the Nath tradition.
- The **Gorakhnath Temple, Gorakhpur** will serve as the central spiritual hub.
- Nath followers are spread across several Indian states and **Nepal**.



## Major Development Projects

- **Gorakhgiri Parvat** in Mahoba is being developed under **Swadesh Darshan 2.0** at a cost of ₹11.21 crore.
- In Bareilly, temples such as **Alakhnath Temple, Trivati Nath Temple,** and **Pashupatinath Temple** are being upgraded.
- A **25-foot bronze statue** of Guru Gorakhnath is under construction at **Jais (Amethi)**, considered his birthplace.

## Tourism and Connectivity

- The corridor will integrate sites across **Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Bareilly, Amethi, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, and Balrampur**.
- The project aims to improve pilgrim facilities, tourism infrastructure, and regional connectivity.
- **Devi Patan Temple** near the Nepal border is important for cross-border pilgrimage.
- The proposed **Ganga Expressway extension** may strengthen connectivity with Nath centres in Uttarakhand.

## Economic and Strategic Relevance

- The corridor is expected to boost religious tourism, local employment, and regional economies.
- Uttar Pradesh is expanding its spiritual tourism model beyond **Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura**.