

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

1st MAY 2026 DESCRIPTIVE

Watch Us On
You Tube

HEADLINES

- ❖ India wins 6 medals at Asian Beach Games 2026 in Sanya, China
- ❖ Bengaluru city police launch India's first multilingual AI system in Namma 112 emergency service
- ❖ Justice Anupinder Grewal appointed National Company Law Tribunal President
- ❖ Chhattisgarh CM Launches 'e-Shram Saathi' App to Connect Workers with Jobs and Welfare Benefits
- ❖ India, China to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lipulekh
- ❖ Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda to Inaugurate 10th National Public Health Summit
- ❖ APEDA to Set up Basmati and Organic Training Centre in Pilibhit
- ❖ UNESCO Adds 12 New Global Geoparks, Expanding Network to 241 Sites
- ❖ UN launches new AI-assisted platform to monitor hunger risks worldwide
- ❖ Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR, INS Sunayna, arrived at Changi Naval Base
- ❖ Shreyas Iyer named Brand Ambassador for Formula 1 Official Program in India
- ❖ Darjeeling conservationist Barkha Subba wins Whitley Award 2026

India wins 6 medals at Asian Beach Games 2026 in Sanya, China

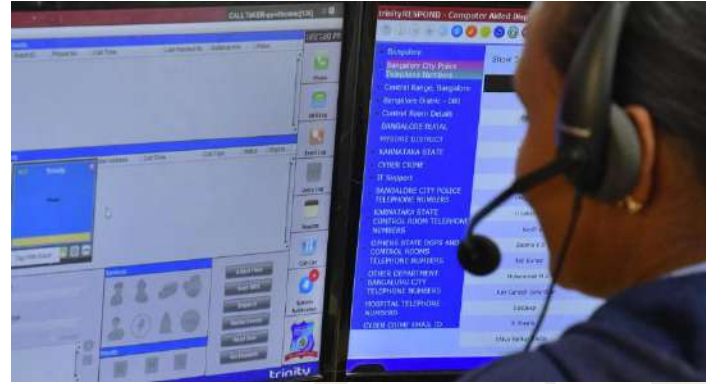


- India won a total of 6 medals (3 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze) at the 6th edition of the Asian Beach Games held in Sanya, China.
- The Games were organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and concluded on 30 April 2026.
- Pushpa Yadav won Gold medal in Women's 60 kg Beach Wrestling after defeating China's Xie Mengyu 3–0 in the final.
- Priya Malik won Gold medal in Women's 70+ kg Beach Wrestling after defeating Mongolia's Bolortungalag Zorigt 3–2 in the final.
- The Indian Women's Kabaddi Team won Gold medal.
- Siddharth secured Silver medal in Men's 70 kg Beach Wrestling after losing to Iran's Aliakbar Zaroudi in the final.
- The Indian Men's Kabaddi Team won Silver medal.
- Jaspreet Kaur won Bronze medal in Women's 70 kg Beach Wrestling.

- China topped the overall medal standings with 24 Gold, 18 Silver and 13 Bronze medals.
- Vietnam won the final Gold medal of the Games in women's beach handball after defeating China in a penalty shootout.
- Competitions were conducted across 14 sports, 15 disciplines and 62 events.
- China hosted the Asian Beach Games for the second time.
- The first Asian Beach Games were held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, and the Games focus on beach and coastal sports disciplines.

IAACE

Bengaluru city police launch India's first multilingual AI system in Namma 112 emergency service



- Bengaluru City Police launched India's first AI-powered multilingual emergency response system under Namma 112 in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 30 April 2026 to remove language barriers and improve emergency response efficiency.
- The AI-enabled system operates in coordination with human operators, ensuring that technology acts as a support tool rather than replacing existing personnel.
- In case of language mismatch, emergency calls are transferred to the AI module, which identifies the language, interacts with the caller, gathers critical details such as location and nature of emergency, and generates a real-time Call for Service (CFS).
- The entire AI-assisted interaction and generated CFS are monitored by human staff to ensure accuracy and effective emergency response.
- The system supports communication in more than 10 languages, including Indian languages such as Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Odia, Kashmiri, Manipuri and Bengali.
- The system also supports foreign languages like French, Arabic, Spanish and Nepali, with Japanese language support under consideration for future expansion.

- The initiative was developed under the Multilingual Voice AI for Nationwide Key Interventions (VANKI) project in collaboration with Monday Ventures and Aeos.
- Namma 112 currently handles around 9,000 to 10,000 calls daily.
- Nearly 2,000 calls are classified as actionable emergency cases.
- The system operates with around 200 personnel across three shifts.
- The initiative is significant as it enhances inclusivity, reduces response delays, minimises communication errors and strengthens emergency response services in a multilingual urban environment.

IAACE

Justice Anupinder Grewal appointed National Company Law Tribunal President



- Justice (Retired) Anupinder Singh Grewal has been appointed as the President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- The appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on 29 April 2026.
- He is a former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and succeeded Justice (Retired) Ramalingam Sudhakar, former Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.
- He will hold office for five years from the date of assuming charge or until attaining the age of 67 years, whichever is earlier.
- He became the first senior puisne judge of a High Court to be appointed as NCLT President, breaking the established convention of appointing only retired Chief Justices of High Courts to the post.

- He practised at the Punjab and Haryana High Court and held several law officer positions for the Punjab Government before elevation to the bench.
- He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 2014 and was later made a permanent judge after a brief stint at the Rajasthan High Court.
- He returned to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2016 and continued there until his retirement in March 2026.
- During his judicial career, he delivered significant rulings related to public contracts, procedural fairness and housing rights.
- Apart from his legal career, he represented Punjab in cricket in the Cooch Behar Trophy and is actively associated with golf.

About NCLT:

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was established under the Companies Act, 2013.
- NCLT is India's principal quasi-judicial body for adjudicating:
 - Company law disputes
 - Insolvency proceedings under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)
 - Mergers and amalgamations
 - Corporate oppression and mismanagement cases
- The tribunal plays a major role in handling insolvency and corporate restructuring matters across India.

Chhattisgarh CM Launches 'e-Shram Saathi' App to Connect Workers with Jobs and Welfare Benefits

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the e-Shram Saathi mobile application on 29 April 2026 in Raipur to digitally empower workers and improve access to employment opportunities and welfare schemes.
- The platform is designed as a “Digital Labour Chauk” enabling workers to search for jobs from home and access welfare schemes and employment updates through digital means.
- The initiative covers more than 33 lakh registered workers under various labour welfare programmes in the state.



- Key welfare schemes integrated with the platform include Mini Mata Mahtari Jatan Yojana, Noni Sashaktikaran Yojana and Atal Utkrisht Shiksha Yojana, with enhanced seats under the latter for workers' children.
- Early completion of e-KYC verification has been prioritised to ensure transparency and efficient delivery of welfare benefits.
- The state has introduced technology-driven surprise inspections of industrial units to ensure labour law compliance and strengthen workers' rights protection.
- Strict implementation of four labour codes—Code on Wages 2019, Industrial Relations Code 2020, Social Security Code 2020 and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020—has been emphasized for safer working conditions.
- The initiative strengthens digital governance by improving monitoring, accountability and welfare delivery systems for workers.

India, China to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lipulekh

- The Government of India has announced the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra for 2026.
- The Yatra will be conducted between June and August 2026 under the coordination of the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with China.
- The pilgrimage marks a key step in restoring cross-border religious travel between India and China.
- The Lipulekh Pass route in Uttarakhand is the traditional and more physically demanding route, involving trekking through high-altitude Himalayan terrain.
- The Nathu La Pass route in Sikkim offers a comparatively easier journey, with most travel facilitated by vehicles, making it suitable for elderly pilgrims.
- The Yatra will be conducted in 20 batches, each consisting of 50 pilgrims.
- 10 batches will travel via Lipulekh Pass and 10 batches via Nathu La Pass.



- A total of around 1,000 pilgrims are expected to participate in the 2026 Yatra.
- The application process has been made fully digital through the official portal kmy.gov.in.
- Selection of pilgrims will be done through a computer-generated random process.
- The system ensures transparency, fairness and gender balance in selection.
- Religious & Cultural Significance:
 - The Yatra centres around Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar located in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
 - Hindus regard Mount Kailash as the abode of Lord Shiva.
 - Buddhists associate it with Mount Meru, the centre of the universe.
 - Jains believe it is the site where Rishabhdev attained liberation.
 - The sacred parikrama (circumambulation) of Mount Kailash is believed to purify sins and lead to spiritual liberation.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda to Inaugurate 10th National Public Health Summit

- Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda will inaugurate the 10th National Summit on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Systems in Chandigarh, scheduled from 30 April to 1 May 2026.
- The summit is organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and represents the 10th edition of the National Public Health Summit, which was first launched in 2013.
- The summit focuses on strengthening primary healthcare systems, promoting digital health innovations and improving overall service delivery mechanisms in the public health sector.
- The 17th Common Review Mission (CRM) Report, conducted in November 2025 across 17 states, is set to be released during the summit.
- The report highlights key findings related to health system performance and implementation of national health programmes.
- The summit is linked with flagship schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, aimed at strengthening healthcare accessibility and digital integration.
- The 9th edition of the National Public Health Summit was held in Puri from 28 February to 1 March 2025.



APEDA to Set up Basmati and Organic Training Centre in Pilibhit



- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is setting up a Basmati and Organic Training Centre at Tanda Bijesi village in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.
- The centre is being developed on 7 acres of land with an estimated project cost of ₹15 crore to strengthen India's basmati and organic export ecosystem.
- The initiative aims to train farmers in premium basmati cultivation and improve scientific farming practices for better yield and quality.
- It also focuses on promoting organic farming practices among farmers to support sustainable agriculture.
- The training centre will provide guidance on seed production techniques and export-oriented farming standards.
- The overall objective of the project is to promote high-value agriculture and enhance export readiness among farmers.
- The project is being developed under the Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF) with support from the Public Works Department (PWD).

UNESCO Adds 12 New Global Geoparks, Expanding Network to 241 Sites



- The UNESCO Global Geoparks programme, declared by UNESCO, added 12 new geoparks in April 2026, taking the total to 241 sites across 51 countries covering 882,000 sq km.
- The new additions include countries such as China, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, Tunisia (first-ever geopark), Uruguay, along with first-time entries from Luxembourg and Suriname.
- UNESCO Global Geoparks were officially recognised as a UNESCO label in 2015 and are based on a “bottom-up approach” involving local communities, stakeholders and governments.
- China added Changshan and Mt. Siguniang, while France added Terres d’Hérault and Greece added Nisyros as part of the new geopark list.

- Ireland's Joyce Country & Western Lakes, Japan's Mine-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau, Malaysia's Lenggong and Sarawak Delta, Portugal's Algarvensis, Russia's Toratau and Tunisia's Dahar (first geopark) were also included, along with Uruguay's Manantiales Serranos.
- Additional geoparks include Kanawinka (Australia) known for volcanic landscapes, Hills of Ouro Preto (Brazil) for gold mining heritage, Biliu River (China) for karst formations, Wudalianchi (China) for volcanic features, Northeastern Iceland for tectonic activity, Mëllerdall (Luxembourg) as its first site, Southern Western Desert (Morocco) for fossils, Vulkaneifel (Germany) for volcanic lakes, Sierras de lo Natural (Suriname) as its first site, Buzău Land (Romania) for mud volcanoes and amber deposits, Araripe (Brazil) for paleontological sites, and Meteora-Pyli (Greece) for sandstone pillars.
- The UNESCO Global Geoparks programme was launched in November 2015 to promote geological heritage conservation and sustainable development.
- India currently does not have any officially designated UNESCO Global Geopark, though Geological Survey of India (GSI) has shortlisted Lonar Lake (Maharashtra) and St Mary's Island (Karnataka) for future nomination.
- China remains the country with the highest number of UNESCO Global Geoparks globally.

UN launches new AI-assisted platform to monitor hunger risks worldwide

- The World Food Programme (WFP) launched an AI-assisted global hunger monitoring platform called HungerMap Live in 2026 to function as an early warning system for famine and food insecurity.
- The platform uses artificial intelligence-based early warning systems to identify and track emerging hunger risks across regions.
- It integrates multiple data sources and applies predictive modelling to assess potential food insecurity scenarios.
- The system is designed to provide public access to real-time hunger risk information for improved global awareness and response.
- In 2026, alerts highlighted severe risks in Nigeria affecting around 35 million people due to funding shortages.
- Somalia reported rising cases of child malnutrition, indicating worsening food insecurity conditions.



➤ The Middle East region also showed increasing concerns due to conflict-driven disruptions in food supply systems.

About WFP:

- WFP was established in 1961 by United Nations General Assembly & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- The WFP is the largest humanitarian agency saving lives in emergencies & using assistance to help communities become self-sufficient and resilient to shocks.
- It has a presence in over 120 countries.

IAACE

Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR, INS Sunayna, arrived at Changi Naval Base



- The Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative, involving INS Sunayna, arrived at the Changi Naval Base in Singapore as part of India's maritime outreach.
- Changi Naval Base in Singapore provides a strategic location with direct access to the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.
- Under the 2017 Logistics Agreement between India and Singapore, the Indian Navy is granted access to the base for logistical support and operational requirements.
- India's overseas strategic maritime presence also includes the Port of Duqm in Oman, located in south-east Oman overlooking the Arabian Sea.
- Sabang Port in Indonesia is located at the northern tip of Sumatra near the entrance of the Strait of Malacca, strengthening India's Indo-Pacific outreach.
- Other key ports in India's strategic network include Chabahar Port in Iran, Haifa Port in Israel, Sitwee Port in Myanmar, and Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh.

Shreyas Iyer named Brand Ambassador for Formula 1 Official Program in India

- Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited has appointed Indian cricketer Shreyas Iyer as the Brand Ambassador for its F1 Programme in India.
- The initiative has been launched along with the F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026 to identify and nurture emerging esports and digital racing talent in the country.
- Mumbai Falcons Racing Limited has secured rights to host the official Formula 1-sanctioned sim racing competition in India, marking a key development in the country's esports ecosystem.
- The programme aims to create a structured national platform for sim racing and bridge the gap between gaming and professional motorsport.
- Sim racing, a digital version of real-world racing using advanced simulators, is rapidly gaining global popularity as a competitive sport.
- The collaboration reflects the convergence of traditional sports and esports, opening new opportunities for young, tech-driven athletes in India.
- Shreyas Iyer's appointment is aimed at connecting with India's youth audience, leveraging his leadership qualities, consistency and popularity among digital fans.
- The F1 Sim Racing India Open 2026 will provide a competitive pathway for aspiring athletes and strengthen India's presence in global esports racing platforms.



Darjeeling conservationist Barkha Subba wins Whitley Award 2026



- India's Barkha Subba and Parveen Shaikh have been among the seven winners of the Whitley Awards 2026, recognised for their work in grassroots conservation of threatened species and ecosystems.
- The awards are conferred by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) and were presented at the Royal Geographical Society, London by HRH The Princess Royal.
- Barkha Subba, Scientific Adviser at FOSEP (Darjeeling), was recognised for conservation of the rare Himalayan salamander and protection of wetland ecosystems in the Darjeeling region.
- The project focuses on community-led habitat restoration, monitoring of breeding sites and protection of fragile wetlands affected by land-use changes and tourism pressure.

- Parveen Shaikh was awarded for community-led conservation of the endangered Indian Skimmer along riverine ecosystems, with expansion of conservation efforts in the Ganga basin.
- The Whitley Awards 2026 recognized conservationists from India, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Ecuador and Ghana, while Indonesia's Farwiza Farhan received the Whitley Gold Award.
- The awards support grassroots conservation leaders across the Global South by funding community-based biodiversity protection projects.

About The Whitley Award:

- The award was established in 1993
- Whitley Award often called the "Green Oscars"
- Run by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)
- The 2026 Whitley Award winners each received £50,000.