



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

30 April - 06 May, 2025

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30th APRIL 2025

Green Municipal Bond (GMB)

- **Context:** Under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Ghaziabad issued India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond, raising ₹ 50 crore for a state-of-the-art Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP).

About Green Municipal Bonds

- Municipal Bond is a debt instrument issued by urban local bodies (ULBs) or municipal corporations to finance infrastructure and public service projects.
- The Green Municipal Bond is a subtype of municipal bonds used exclusively to fund environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure projects, such as renewable energy, water treatment, and waste management.
- Article 243W of the Indian Constitution entrusts ULBs with functions like water supply, sanitation, and waste management — making them eligible to raise bonds.

Significance of GMBs

- **Sustainable Development:** Aligns with ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) investing principles, now integral to many global investors' strategies.
- **Low-Cost Capital:** Offers cost-effective, long-term financing, often more affordable than commercial bank loans.
- **Broadened Investor Base:** Attracts institutional and international investors, reducing over-reliance on traditional domestic loans.
- **Infrastructure Boost:** Ideal for urban capacity building in water treatment, sanitation, and waste management.

Gyan Post

- **Context:** Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced the launch of Gyan Post.

About Gyan Post

- It is a new India Post Service which will provide affordable delivery of educational, social, cultural, and religious books across the country.
- It will use trackable surface transport to keep costs low and ensure accessibility, reflecting a commitment to bridging educational gaps regardless of location or affordability.
- Only printed materials with clearly marked publishers or printers will be eligible.
- **Objectives:**
 - It reinforces India Post's role in public service and education empowerment.
 - It is aimed at enhancing access to learning, especially in remote areas.
 - It supports the goals of the new education policy by ensuring educational content reaches every corner of India.

First-ever Aquaculture Insurance Scheme

- **Context:** The Union Government has launched India's first-ever aquaculture insurance scheme.

About Aquaculture Insurance Scheme

- It comes under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) which is a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- It aims to provide risk mitigation and financial security to marginalised fish farmers.
- Eligible beneficiaries include registered aquafarmers and entities in the fisheries value chain.
- The scheme offers two options: basic insurance covering natural calamities and comprehensive insurance that also includes disease coverage. Each policy covers one crop cycle.

Other Related Announcements

- The government also launched the 5th Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) to comprehensively document marine fisher families, villages, fishing equipment, and related infrastructure across India.
 - For the first time, the census uses a geo-referenced, app-based digital system — the 'VyAS-NAV' mobile app developed by ICAR-CMFRI — for real-time data collection and validation.
 - It will cover 1.2 million fisher households across 3,500 villages and will gather detailed demographic, socio-economic, and livelihood data to guide government support.
- Additionally, projects worth ₹ 255 crore were inaugurated for seven coastal states and UTs under PMMSY.

1st MAY 2025

Caste Census

- **Context:** Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA), chaired by Prime Minister of India, has decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census exercise.

About Caste Based Enumeration

- **Historical Perspective:** The last caste-based enumeration in India was carried out in 1931 under British rule, recording 4,147 distinct castes.
 - Although caste details were gathered in 1941, they were never published due to the outbreak of World War II.
 - Post-Independence, only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been counted in the decennial Census.
 - In 1961 Directive, the Union Government authorized states to conduct their own surveys to identify OBCs (Other Backward Classes).

- In 2011, Socio-Economic Caste Census was conducted to obtain data about socio-economic status of various communities.

Constitutional Basis for the Decision

- **Union Subject:** As per Article 246 of the Constitution of India, the Census is a Union subject, listed in the Union List under the Seventh Schedule.
 - It ensures that caste enumeration, conducted as part of the main Census, will have a uniform and transparent framework across the country.
 - The Census Act, 1948 provides the legal framework for conducting population censuses in India. It outlines the procedures, duties, and penalties associated with census operations.

Chlorpyrifos

- **Context:** At meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions in Switzerland, India has opposed the inclusion of the insecticide Chlorpyrifos under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), citing concerns over food security due to the lack of alternatives.

About Chlorpyrifos

- Chlorpyrifos is an insecticide which is a chemical linked to adverse effects on neurodevelopment, reduced birth size, lung and prostate cancer upon chronic exposure.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified chlorpyrifos as a moderately hazardous pesticide. The chemical inhibits an enzyme called acetyl cholinesterase, which results in adverse nervous system effects.

India's Stance

- Chlorpyrifos has been registered in India since 1977 and was the most used insecticide in the country in 2016-17.

- India argued that Chlorpyrifos is crucial for agriculture and pest control, particularly for urban pests and vector-borne diseases, and remains a commonly used pesticide in India.
- It is considered important in India for controlling urban pests like cockroaches and termites and for vector-borne disease control.
- Chlorpyrifos residues have been found in food products in India, with a 2024 study detecting the chemical in 33% of the samples tested.
- The Anupam Verma Committee, constituted in 2013 to review 66 pesticides that had been banned, restricted, or withdrawn in other countries, but still in use in India, submitted its report in 2015. It recognised that chlorpyrifos is toxic to fish and bees.

About Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

- It was adopted in May 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden, and entered into force on 17 May 2004, following the submission of the fiftieth ratification or accession.
- It aims to protect human health and the environment from harmful chemicals known as persistent organic pollutants.
- It also mandates the Conference of the Parties to establish arbitration and conciliation procedures for resolving disputes between member countries.
- The Stockholm Convention lists chemicals in three annexes. While Annex A lists chemicals to be eliminated, Annex B and C lists chemicals to be restricted, and minimising unintentional production and release of listed chemicals.

Shiv Shakti Point

- **Context:** India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has uncovered critical evidence of primitive lunar mantle materials at the Moon's Shiv Shakti Point.

Key Fact

- The findings reinforce the Shiv Shakti Point's value as a site for sampling primitive mantle materials, which could clarify the timing of lava crystallisation and volatile distribution during the Moon's early evolution.

About Shiv Shakti Point

- It is the internationally recognized site of the Chandrayaan 3's moon lander at the Moon's South Pole.
- Planetary nomenclature is like naming places on Earth.
- It helps to identify and talk about specific features on planets and moons.
- This list, created by the International Astronomical Union (IAU), includes all the names given to different spots on planets, moons, and even some ring systems since 1919.

2nd MAY 2025

World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), 2025

- **Context:** At the inaugural WAVES Summit 2025 held in Mumbai, the Prime Minister underscored the creative economy as a critical lever for India's future GDP growth, innovation, and inclusive development.

Key Highlights

- The Prime Minister announced the launch of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT), a National Centre of Excellence aimed at upskilling youth and fostering innovation in media, animation, gaming, and content creation.
- The IICT is being established by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in partnership with industry bodies FICCI and CII.
- The WAVES aims to unlock a \$50 billion market by 2029, expanding India's footprint in the global entertainment economy.

About Creative Economy (also called Orange Economy)

- The Creative Economy encompasses industries that rely on individual creativity, skill, and intellectual property (IP) to generate economic value. These include:
 - **Cultural industries:** Music, film, theatre, dance, crafts, literature
 - **Creative industries:** Advertising, fashion, design, architecture
 - **Digital creative sectors:** Animation, VFX, gaming, XR (Extended Reality), OTT platforms, YouTube/podcasts, influencer content
- John Howkins is credited for popularising the term “creative economy.” The term “Orange Economy” was coined by former Colombian President Iván Duque and Minister Felipe Buitrago.

■ DO YOU KNOW: _____

As of 2025, India's creative economy contributes approximately \$30 billion to the national GDP, employing about 8% of the workforce.

Vizhinjam International Seaport

- **Context:** PM Narendra Modi commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala, which was completed at an estimated cost of ₹8,867 crore.

Key Highlights

- The Seaport was developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, between the Kerala government and Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd (APSEZ).
- Vizhinjam is India's first dedicated transshipment port and also the country's first semi-automated port. It features fully automated yard cranes and remotely operated ship-to-shore cranes for efficient cargo handling.

- The port is equipped with India's first home-built, AI-powered Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).
- It is also being developed as a multi-modal hub, with direct road access to National Highway 66 and Kerala's first cloverleaf interchange to handle future cargo growth.
- Situated just 10 nautical miles from a key international shipping route, the port offers minimal deviation for transshipment, making it a strategic hub for global maritime trade.

National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

- **Context:** The government has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and appointed former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi as its new chairman.

About National Security Advisory Board

- The NSAB was constituted in 1998, as an advisory body of eminent persons outside the government to render advice on national security issues.
- It is headed by a Chairperson and composed of eminent persons from diverse fields. It draws people of diverse domains including industry, media and civil society, among others.
- **Key Functions:**
 - It advises the National Security Council (NSC) on policy matters related to national security.
 - Suggests measures and policy options on internal and external security, strategic and technological challenges.

3rd MAY 2025

Brain-Computer Interface (BCI)

- **Context:** Researchers from the University of California, have developed a new brain-computer interface that enables movement for people who are paralysed.

About Brain-Computer Interface (BCI)

- A Brain-Computer Interface is a direct communication pathway between the brain's electrical activity and an external device.
- Typically, BCIs are used to assist, augment, or repair human cognitive or sensory-motor functions.
- In this case, the BCI records signals from the brain's motor cortex — the area responsible for movement — and decodes them using artificial intelligence to operate robotic limbs.

Types of BCIs

- **Invasive BCI:** The devices are surgically implanted into the brain to directly interact with the nervous system, enabling communication and control between the brain and external devices.
 - It offers the most accurate signals; used in cases of paralysis or locked-in syndrome.
 - **Example:** Neuralink's Blindsight
- **Partially Invasive BCI:** The devices are implanted within the skull but rest outside the brain, typically on the dura mater, a membrane surrounding the brain.
 - They are used to record electrical signals from the brain's surface using techniques like electrocorticography (ECoG).
- **Non-Invasive BCI:** These are systems that allow users to interact with external devices (like computers or robots) using their thoughts, without the need for surgery.
 - They typically use external sensors like **EEG electrodes** to detect brain signals, making them safer and more accessible than invasive BCIs.

Applications of BCIs

- **Medical and Rehabilitation:**
 - **Assistive Devices:** Control of wheelchairs, robotic arms, or computer cursors by people with paralysis.
 - **Neurorehabilitation:** Post-stroke motor recovery by training brain pathways through BCIs.

- **Prosthetic Control:** Artificial limbs operated via brain signals.

- **Education and Training:**

- **Attention Monitoring:** In classrooms to track student engagement.
- **Skill Development:** Feedback on focus or brain activity while learning complex tasks.

- **Industry and Automation:**

- **BCI in Human-Robot Interaction:** Enhancing collaborative robots in factories.
- **Hands-Free Control in Hazardous Work:** For miners or chemical plant workers where hands are occupied.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- **Context:** Olympians Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award.

About Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

- It is considered India's highest sporting honour and is named after the Indian hockey legend, Major Dhyan Chand (1905–79).
- It was established in 1991-92 and is given for outstanding performances in sports spanning over a period of four years.
- The winners receive a medallion, certificate and a cash prize.
- Legendary sports figures like MC Mary Kom, S. Mirabai Chanu, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, Vijender Singh, Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli amongst others have received this highest sporting honour in the past.

About Major Dhyan Chand

- He was the star of the Indian hockey team that dominated the sport in the years before World War II.



- He played a key role in India's three consecutive gold hauls at the Olympic Games – in 1928, 1932 and 1936.
- His mastery of the game and ball control was so dazzling that it earned him the epithets 'Hockey Wizard' and 'The Magician'.

4th MAY 2025

ECINET: ECI's One-Stop Electoral Tech Platform

- **Context:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced a single-point App ECINET for voters and other stakeholders such as election officials, political parties and the civil society.

About ECINET

- A one-stop platform that will integrate and streamline over 40 of the EC's existing mobile and web apps in a single and user-friendly platform, easing navigation by eliminating the need for multiple logins.
- To ensure that data are as accurate as possible, ECINET data will be entered solely by authorised EC officials.
- **Key Apps Being Merged:** Voter Helpline, Voter Turnout, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC – with over 5.5 crore total downloads.
- **Development Process:** Envisioned by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.
- The new initiative is expected to benefit nearly 100 crore electors and the entire electoral administration.

Chenab River

- **Context:** India has restricted the flow of waters of Chenab at the Baglihar and Salal hydro-electric dams in Jammu and Kashmir after the Indus Treaty suspension.

About Chenab River

- **Origin:** It is formed by the confluence of two rivers, Chandra and Bhaga, at Tandi in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. Known as Chandra-Bhaga in upper reaches, it becomes Chenab downstream.
- **Course:** It flows then through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir, joins the Sutlej River to form the Panjnad in Pakistan, which ultimately flows into the Indus River at Mithankot.
- **Tributaries:**
 - **Right Bank:** Marusudar (largest tributary), Miyar Nalla, Bhut Nalla, and Kalnai
 - **Left Bank:** Niru, Tawi, Neeru, and Lidrar
- **Major Hydroelectric Projects on Chenab River:** Salal Hydroelectric Project (at Reasi), Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project (at Ramban), Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant (Kishtwar district) & Ratle Hydroelectric Plant (Drabshalla in the Kishtwar district).

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

- **Context:** India's National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has reported "irreparable damage" to the structures of three barrages in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).

Key Highlights

- The Kaleshwaram project on the Godavari is the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.
- In lift irrigation projects, water is not transported by gravity. Instead, it is lifted using pumps or surge pools to a main delivery chamber at the highest point of the project, from where it is distributed to the fields for irrigation.
- It aims to utilize the waters of the Godavari River, including its tributaries, for irrigation, industrial and other purposes.

- The Godavari River, also called the Dakshin Ganga or Ganga of the South, is the longest river in Peninsular India. It starts from the Western Ghats in Nashik district, Maharashtra, and flows eastward to drain into the Bay of Bengal. It spans 500 km through 13 districts, utilizing an extensive canal network of more than 1,800 km.
- NDSA is a statutory Body under National Dam Safety Act, 2021 established for dam safety regulation, coordination, and disaster resilience.

5th MAY 2025

Igla-S Missiles

- **Context:** The Indian Army has received fresh supplies of the Russian-made Igla-S missiles.

About Igla-S Missiles

- They are the Russian-made man-portable air-defense system (MANPADS) designed to engage low-flying aircraft, helicopters, drones, and cruise missiles.
- The missile uses infrared (IR) homing to lock onto the heat signatures of aerial targets.
- It has enhanced ability to resist jamming and decoy flares due to its dual-band IR seeker.
- It can engage targets at ranges up to 6 km and altitudes up to 3.5 km.
- The Igla-S is an advanced version of the Igla missile system, which has been in service since the 1990s.

Khelo India Youth Games

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games.

Key Highlights

- Khelo India Youth Games are part of the Khelo India program that was launched on October 14, 2017.
- Khelo India aims to achieve the twin objective of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports.
- The program has contributed immensely to India's sporting success with several Khelo India athletes representing the nation at global events, including the Olympics and the Asian Games.

About Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025

- It is a flagship event of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and is being held from May 4 to 15, with Bihar playing host across five cities – Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur and Begusarai. New Delhi will stage shooting, gymnastics and track cycling events.
- The 7th edition has the mascot "Gajsimha" — symbolizing an elephant's power and a lion's heart — draws inspiration from Pala dynasty carvings.
- It will feature 27 sports and for the first time, esports has been included as a demonstration sport. Also, for the first time in the KIYG program, sepaktakraw has been included as a medal sport.

Types of Khelo India Games

- There are four key events under the Khelo India movement:
 - Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) – For school and junior athletes
 - Khelo India University Games (KIUG) – For university-level athletes
 - Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) – For para-athletes
 - Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) – For winter sports enthusiasts

6th MAY 2025

National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme

- **Context:** A NAMASTE scheme event was held in Budaun, Uttar Pradesh and sanitation workers were honored.

About NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem)

- It was launched in July 2023 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It aims to ensure the safety, dignity, and rehabilitation of sanitation workers.
- It focuses on eliminating hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by promoting mechanized, safe, and skilled sanitation practices.
- The components include profiling of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs); Health Insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY; Occupational safety training of SSWs; upfront Capital Subsidy for procurement of Sanitation related Vehicles/ Equipments; PPE kits to SSWs; safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs) and IEC Campaign for awareness of safety and dignity of SSWs.
- In 2024, waste pickers were added under the scheme to support safe, dignified, and sustainable livelihoods

OPEC and OPEC+

- **Context:** Oil prices plunge to multi-year low as OPEC+ plans to accelerate production hikes.

About OPEC

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq.
- Currently, it has 12 members, viz. Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- The objective of the organisation is to coordinate policies with respect to petroleum demand and supply to ensure fair and stable prices and ensure a steady income to oil producing countries.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member state.

About OPEC+

- OPEC+ has 22 members, made up of 10 major oil producing countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Bahrain, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan and Malaysia), along with the 12 OPEC members.
- The OPEC+ was formed in 2016 after the adoption of the 'Algiers Accord' by OPEC countries in September 2016 and signing of the 'Vienna Agreement' in November 2016 between OPEC and other major oil exporting countries.
- The move was largely a response to sharply falling oil prices caused by a surge in U.S. shale oil production.