

NEWS-INSHORTS



- Green Nobel prize
- ISHAN Initiative
- The project 'i-DRONE'
- Festivals of Weapons
- India's First indigenous bomber UAV unveiled
- GROW Portal
- SARTHI Portal
- Samavesha Project
- 'Bambi Bucket' Operation
- Project BHISHM
- RudraM-II
- Chang'e-6
- India's first Constitution Park
- The R21/Matrix-M

FOCUS

- MCQ- Practice Questions -MAY 2024



KARNATAKA/INDIA/INTERNATIONAL-CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Forum for KAS/Group B&C- Exams

- **International Labour Day: 1st May**

In India, the observance of May Day began in 1923, inspired by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.

This year, the theme for International Labour Day is to "Ensure workplace safety and health amidst climate change."

On May 1st, 1886, labour unions in the United States initiated a strike advocating for an eight-hour workday, a pivotal moment in labour history.

- **Alok Shukla wins Goldman Environmental Prize 2024. (Green Nobel prize)**

Alok Shukla was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize 2024 for stopping 21 coal mines, safeguarding 4.45 lakh acres of Chhattisgarh forest.



- **ISHAN Initiative: Unifying India's Skies for Safer Flights: Airports Authority of India (AAI) has launched the ISHAN (Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management).**

To unify India's Flight Information Regions (FIRs) into 1 system managed from Nagpur

- **India to host 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kochi.** The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, through the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.

The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 and entered into force in 1961.

- **Purnima Devi Barman receives 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024.** A wildlife biologist from Assam has been honoured with a leading UK wildlife charity award for her conservation efforts of the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork (Hargila).

Dr Purnima Devi Barman won the GBP 1,00,000 Whitley Gold Award from the Whitley Fund for Nature.

- **EZTax introduced India's first AI-Powered Tax Filing App**

EZTax launched India's first AI-enabled mobile app for income tax filing, enhancing user experience and accuracy.

The app's AI features include a Creative Audit module to prevent costly errors and a Tax Optimiser to aid in saving on taxes.

- **KAVERI Online service** is a web based application of Department of Stamps & Registration, Government of Karnataka which provides interface to the citizen required for document & marriage registration. It enables citizens to know the details of stamp duty, property guidelines value, data entry for the document registration and marriage registration etc..

- **The project 'i-DRONE'**(ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach for North East) assessed the feasibility of using drone to deliver vaccines and medical supply. This was carried out in difficult geographical terrains including land, island, foothills and across the hills. Collaborations with the State Health Mission of Manipur and Nagaland were key to such assessment.

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- India at WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX - 2023- 161, 2024- 159, the global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Topped - Norway and Denmark
Bottom – Eritrea
- **Festivals of Weapons: (Kail-podh):** Festival of Weapons (Kodavas; Coorg/Kodagu district, Karnataka) , Kailpodh is celebrated within the Kodagu community where arms and weapons like guns, knives, swords, bows, and arrows are cleaned and prayer lamps are lit. The weapons used to protect the crop hence are taken and decorated on this day and pooja is offered.



- UNICEF India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.

- **India's First indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru(Karnataka)** : Indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft developed by Bengaluru firm unveiled. Flying Wedge Defence, a city based defence and aerospace technology firm on Friday unveiled the FWD-200B unmanned aircraft.

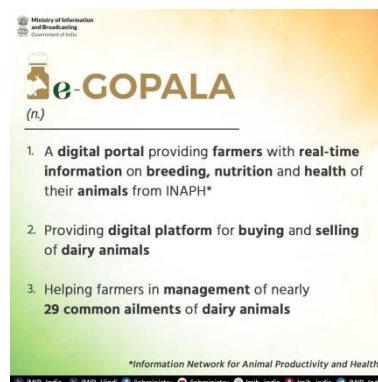


- **GROW Portal (By NITI Aayog.)**
The "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal allows universal access to state and district-level data.
GROW initiative aligns with national commitments, aiming to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
- **SARTHI Portal.** Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance (SARTHI) is the comprehensive digital insurance platform launched in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India.

- World's first person to receive newly approved sickle cell therapy: Kendric Cromer, a 12-year-old kid, from Washington, has become the first person in the world to receive licensed gene therapy for sickle cell disease.

- **e Gopala Portal:** E-GOPALA Portal is a digital platform to help dairy farmers for managing their animals

- **Samavesha Project:** The Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering Facilities Map (ISTEM) is launching the Samavesha project at IISc., Bengaluru. The project aims to enhance research collaboration in India by improving accessibility to facilities and labs.



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- IAF conducted 'Bambi Bucket' Operation to douse Nainital forest fire, The Indian Air Force had deployed its Mi-17 V5 helicopter to undertake Bambi Bucket operations to douse the forest fires near Nainital.
- Israel seizes key Gaza border crossing as it launches assault on Rafah, Rafah Crossing Point is the sole crossing point between Egypt and Palestine's Gaza Strip. The Rafah land port is known as the "Salah al Din Gate." This area is adjacent to the Mediterranean sea.
- Indian Air Force tests "BHISHM", a portable hospital for airdrop. Indian Air Force tested BHISHM portable cubes for emergency airdrops, part of "Project BHISHM" aimed at rapid response for up to 200 casualties.
- RBI unveils PRAVAAH portal, retail direct app, and fintech repository for enhanced public access
- RudraM-II air-to-surface missile successfully flight-tested by DRDO from Su-30 MK-I off the Odisha coast
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved a significant milestone with the successful flight test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system. This system enhances India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities by extending the range of lightweight torpedoes and incorporating advanced technologies for strategic advantage in naval operations.
- China's Chang'e-6 lunar probe mission aims to gather soil and rock samples from the Moon's far side, providing crucial insights into lunar evolution and the inner solar system.
- India's first Constitution Park was inaugurated in Pune, marking a significant collaboration between the Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group. Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh emphasized the importance of citizens understanding and fulfilling their duties outlined in the Constitution to drive India towards development by 2047.
- India has been selected as the host country for the prestigious 2025 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships, to be held at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.



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This event marks a significant opportunity for India to showcase its prowess in badminton on the global stage and promote the sport among young talents.

- Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board collaborated with Starscapes to launch the Nakshatra Sabha initiative, making Uttarakhand the first state in India to introduce Astro Tourism on such a scale.
- The Government of Nepal announced plans to introduce a new Rs-100 currency note featuring territories claimed by India, including Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura. This decision has led to tensions between Nepal and India due to long-standing border disputes
- The Government of India aims to replace the Explosives Act 1884 with the new Explosives Bill 2024, as proposed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This initiative seeks to update regulations, raise fines for violations, and streamline licensing procedures related to explosives, ensuring better compliance and safety standards.
- Manipur's government launched the "School on Wheels" program to address the educational needs of students in relief camps due to ethnic strife and natural disasters. This initiative, equipped with educational resources and a teacher, aims to deliver education to students amidst challenging circumstances.
- The Taam Ja' Blue Hole, identified as the world's deepest, is located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay. This discovery, detailed in Frontiers in Marine Science, presents an exciting opportunity for scientific exploration and the potential discovery of new marine life in the abyssal depths of this blue hole.
- Bajaj Auto, under Rajiv Bajaj's leadership, is gearing up to revolutionize transportation by introducing the world's first CNG-powered motorcycle
- India secured a total of 43 medals at the ASBC Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Indian contingent's impressive performance included 21 medals from the U-22 Team and 22 medals from the Youth Boxing Team, highlighting India's prowess in boxing at the international level.
- The "ASHVA" range of All-Terrain Vehicles with Military Potential was developed by All Terrain Private Limited (A-THON) in Bengaluru. These vehicles, designed for military purposes, offer effective transportation capabilities for troops and supplies, targeting challenging environments
- Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd signed an MoU with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for the 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project, aimed at empowering women in agriculture through drone technology.



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- NASA unveiled its ambitious plan to construct the first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon. This initiative aligns with NASA's Moon to Mars initiative and mission concepts like the Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2), showcasing NASA's commitment to advancing space exploration technologies specifically for lunar exploration.
- India and Iran signed a significant 10-year bilateral contract to enhance operations at the Chabahar Port, highlighting India's strategic interests in strengthening trade links with Central Asia and parts of Europe.
- Hanooman, a GenAI platform, supports 98 languages. This platform aims to expand to 200 million users in its first year and has established partnerships with various organizations to support AI startups and facilitate tech translations across multiple sectors like healthcare, governance, finance, and education.
- The Indian Air Force tested the BHISHM portable hospital in Agra, which is part of "Project BHISHM." This initiative aims to provide rapid and comprehensive medical aid during emergencies. The portable hospital includes modern technologies and can be set up quickly, emphasizing swift response and extensive care for up to 200 casualties
- Japan unveiled the prototype of the world's first high-speed 6G device, showcasing a data transmission rate of 100 gigabits per second (Gbps)
- Gopi Thotakura, an Indian entrepreneur and pilot, made history as the first Indian space tourist by joining the NS-25 mission aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft.
- The R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, endorsed by the WHO, was manufactured and scaled up by the Serum Institute of India (SII). This vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford, utilizes Novavax's adjuvant technology to enhance its effectiveness in combating malaria.
- India's "Mission ISHAN" aims to implement "One Nation, One Airspace" by centralizing air traffic management, and unifying four flight information regions (FIRs) into one controlled from Nagpur.
- Karnataka has implemented a policy mandating 33% reservation for women in outsourced government contract jobs across all departments. This initiative aims to promote gender equality and empower women in the workforce.
- DD Kisan, on its 9th anniversary on May 26, 2024, introduced Krish and Bhoomi, the first AI anchors in India's government broadcasting history
- The AK-203 assault rifles were delivered to the Indian Army from an Indo-Russian joint venture
- GAIL (India) Ltd., the leading natural gas transmission and distribution company in India, has achieved a significant milestone by commissioning



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the nation's first green hydrogen plant.

- World Hunger Day is observed annually on May 28th. The theme for World Hunger Day is "Thriving Mothers." It aims to raise awareness about the challenges millions of people face due to lack of access to adequate nutrition. The day also highlights the research by economist Amartya Sen, who demonstrated that hunger in the modern world is primarily due to distribution issues and government policies.
- The "PRAGATI-2024" initiative, launched by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), aims to foster collaborative research and innovation specifically in the field of Ayurveda.
- India's successful test of the Rudram-II anti-radiation missile marks a significant leap in Indigenous defence capabilities. Developed by DRDO, Rudram-II is designed to target enemy ground radars and communication stations, enhancing India's suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD) missions.
- Agnikul Cosmos, a Chennai-based startup, has accomplished the remarkable feat of successfully launching the world's first space rocket equipped with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine, known as Agnibaan. This breakthrough highlights the innovative prowess of Agnikul Cosmos in aerospace technology, particularly in the field of propulsion systems.



Title: Current Events in India: May-2024 Expected Questions

1. Which organization launched the ISHAN initiative to unify India's air traffic management system?
A) Indian Air Force
B) Airports Authority of India (AAI)
C) Ministry of Civil Aviation
D) National Aviation Company of India
2. What is the name of the digital platform launched to help dairy farmers manage their animals?
A) SARTHI
B) e Gopala
C) GROW
D) Samavesha
3. Which Indian state hosted the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting?
A) Goa
B) Kerala
C) Tamil Nadu

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D) Maharashtra

4. What is the name of the indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru?

- A) FWD-200B
- B) SARTHI
- C) GROW
- D) e Gopala

5. Which organization launched the 'Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)' portal?

- A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) UNDP India
- D) Indian Council of Agricultural Research

6. What is the name of the festival celebrated in Kodagu, Karnataka, where weapons are cleaned and decorated?

- A) Kailpodh
- B) Onam
- C) Diwali
- D) Holi



7. Who was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize 2024 for stopping 21 coal mines in Chhattisgarh?

- A) Purnima Devi Barman
- B) Alok Shukla
- C) Kareena Kapoor Khan
- D) Kendric Cromer

8. Which wildlife biologist from Assam won the Whitley Gold Award 2024 for her conservation efforts of the Greater Adjutant Stork?

- A) Alok Shukla
- B) Kareena Kapoor Khan
- C) Purnima Devi Barman
- D) Kendric Cromer

9. What is the name of the project launched by the Indian Science, Technology, and Engineering Facilities Map (ISTEM) to enhance research collaboration in India?

- A) SARTHI
- B) GROW
- C) e Gopala
- D) Samavesha

10. Which country topped the World Press Freedom Index in 2023 and 2024?

- A) India
- B) United States
- C) Norway
- D) China

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11. Which Indian state introduced Astro Tourism on a large scale?
A) Uttarakhand
B) Rajasthan
C) Karnataka
D) Maharashtra
12. What is the name of the portable hospital developed by the Indian Air Force?
A) BHISHM
B) ASHVA
C) SMART
D) FLOAT
13. Which country is developing the world's first high-speed 6G device?
A) Japan
B) China
C) United States
D) South Korea
14. What is the name of the world's deepest blue hole discovered in Mexico?
A) Taam Ja' Blue Hole
B) Great Blue Hole
C) Dean's Blue Hole
D) Dragon Hole
15. Which organization is behind the 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project aimed at empowering women in agriculture?
A) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
B) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
C) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)
D) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
16. What is the name of the lunar railway system being developed by NASA?
A) FLOAT
B) ASHVA
C) SMART
D) BHISHM
17. Which country is the host of the 2025 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships?
A) India
B) China
C) Indonesia
D) Malaysia
18. What is the name of the GenAI platform that supports 98 languages?
A) Hanooman
B) Krish
C) Bhoomi

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D) Agnibaan

19. Which company launched the world's first space rocket with a 3D printed engine?

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Blue Origin
- C) SpaceX
- D) ISRO

Solution

1. Answer: B

Explanation: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) launched the ISHAN initiative to unify India's Flight Information Regions (FIRs) into one system managed from Nagpur.

2. Answer: B

Explanation: The E-GOPALA Portal is a digital platform designed to assist dairy farmers in managing their animals.

3. Answer: B

Explanation: The 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting was held in Kochi, Kerala, from May 20 to 30, 2024.

4. Answer: A

Explanation: Flying Wedge Defence, a Bengaluru-based firm, unveiled the FWD-200B unmanned aircraft, India's first indigenous bomber UAV.

5. Answer: B

Explanation: The GROW portal was launched by NITI Aayog, providing universal access to state and district-level data for wasteland restoration.

6. Answer: A

Explanation: Kailpodh is a festival celebrated by the Kodava community in Kodagu, Karnataka, where weapons are cleaned and decorated.

7. Answer: B

Explanation: Alok Shukla received the Goldman Environmental Prize 2024 for his efforts in stopping 21 coal mines and safeguarding 4.45 lakh acres of Chhattisgarh forest.

8. Answer: C

Explanation: Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, was awarded the Whitley Gold Award 2024 for her work in conserving the endangered Greater Adjutant Stork.

9. Answer: D

Explanation: The Samavesha project, launched by ISTEM, aims to improve accessibility to research facilities and labs in India, fostering collaboration.

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10. Answer: C

Explanation: Norway and Denmark topped the World Press Freedom Index in both 2023 and 2024, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

11. Answer: A

Explanation: The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board collaborated with Starscapes to launch the Nakshatra Sabha initiative, making Uttarakhand the first state in India to introduce Astro Tourism on such a scale.

12. Answer: A

Explanation: The Indian Air Force tested BHISHM portable cubes for emergency airdrops, part of "Project BHISHM" aimed at rapid response for up to 200 casualties.

13. Answer: A

Explanation: Japan unveiled the prototype of the world's first high-speed 6G device, showcasing a data transmission rate of 100 gigabits per second (Gbps).

14. Answer: A

Explanation: The Taam Ja' Blue Hole, identified as the world's deepest, is located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay

15. Answer: A

Explanation: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd signed an MoU with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for the 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project, aimed at empowering women in agriculture through drone technology.

16. Answer: A

Explanation: NASA unveiled its ambitious plan to construct the first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon.

17. Answer: A

Explanation: India has been selected as the host country for the prestigious 2025 BWF World Junior Badminton Championships, to be held at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.

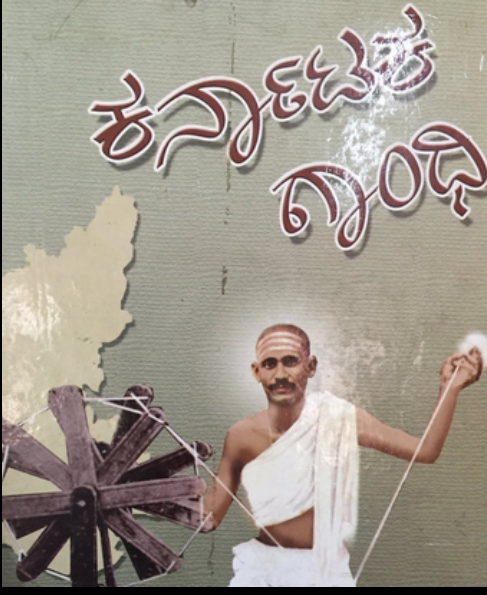
18. Answer: A

Explanation: Hanooman, a GenAI platform, supports 98 languages. This platform aims to expand to 200 million users in its first year and has established partnerships with various organizations to support AI startups and facilitate tech translations across multiple sectors like healthcare, governance, finance, and education.

19. Answer: A

Explanation: Agnikul Cosmos, a Chennai-based startup, has accomplished the remarkable feat of successfully launching the world's first space rocket

Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle



Hardekar Manjappa was a social reformer, journalist, writer and political thinker born in 1886 at village Banvasi in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka.

To broadcast the significance of the Belgaum Session of the Indian National Congress that launched on 26th December 1924 numerous district conferences were organized. Manjappa was the President of the Dharwad District Conference that conducted programs like Khadi exhibition, cattle show and recitation of nationalist songs etc.. A torch bearer of Gandhian thought Manjappa remained celibate in whole life and he promoted the use of hand-spun Khadi. Admired by the people as the 'Gandhi of Karnataka' Hardekar Manjappa breathed his last in 1947



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